

NEWS

Ripe for the Pickin'

PG and Seaside consider farmers markets.

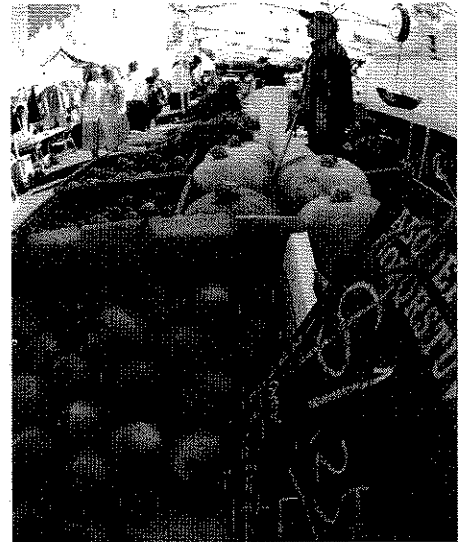
BY NIC COURY

Cars zip by on Reservation Road as a woman stands and greets a customer looking at her homemade jewelry. At a nearby booth, a man sells fresh tomatoes and giant avocados. It's a Sunday scene in Marina—locals strolling from table to table, picking out the best produce, eating kettle korn and looking after their kids at the farmers market.

Marina's is one of three newer farmers market in the county. Two other peninsula cities, Pacific Grove and Seaside, may soon follow suit. In early November, the PG Planning Commission will consider a weekly farmers market. Seaside officials, on the other hand, say they'll take a wait-and-see approach.

"If there is community support and people to facilitate a farmers market, than [Seaside] would be willing to host one," says Jill Anderson, Seaside's associate city manager. "But the city will not support it alone."

The last time Seaside hosted a farmers market was 1992. It opened on west Broadway Avenue, selling produce.



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Pound for Pound: The parties behind competing proposals for a market in Seaside stress divergent benefits: One champions the community created, the other celebrates access to fresh local produce for low-income residents.