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tomatoes. People are coming to the Market and there's a lot of folks that don't even know it's open yet.

"This Market is one of the best things that has ever happened to Union County and local farmers," he said. "We save money by not having to drive to Atlanta to sell our crops and we're able to allow local folks to come here and buy fresh vegetables cheaper than they can in the stores. It's a win-win situation - good for the farmers and good for the shoppers."

The Farmers Market isn't just about fresh vegetables. Vendors have everything from freshly harvested and bottled honey, to hand-

crafted items like Nywening's handbags of all sizes and Turner's spa creams.

"It's been a wonderful experience," Nywening said. "We're meeting a lot of new people and running into folks that we've known for a while. We're selling a lot of stuff and we're earning return customers. People like to come to the Market. It's such a great concept."

Turner was happy she's been making the trip from Suches to sell her wares.

"Business has been very good today," Turner said. "I look for business to pick up considerably in the next week or so. This place is wonderful."



Britt Turner of Suches shows off her crafted lotions and creams at the Market. Photo/Charles Duncan

Cummings

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have reserved booths at the Farmers Market. Cummings believes things will continue to pick up as more and more people are looking for savings and fresh vegetables as well as handcrafted gifts.

"I think when things get wound up in July, there will be a lot of people coming in here," he said.

Cummings likens the Farmers Market to an old time weekend social event when families come to town to do business and unwind from a week of hard labor.

"We've got some rocking chairs out here that Alexander's Store donated to us," he said. "People can come, sit and talk and do business. It's a family event, there are a lot of kids out here."

"It's like when we were little and our folks took us to town," he said.



Joy Nywening of Blairsville shows off her handcrafted handbags at the Market. Photo/Charles Duncan



Photos/Charles Duncan

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"What Judge Struble is saying is that procedurally, the ordinance wasn't adopted correctly," Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley said.

So this time, the city will do it the right way, Mayor Conley said.

"Essentially, it's the same ordinance that we had before," Mayor Conley said. "All that we're doing differently is revising the process of how we approve the ordinance."

Judge Struble ruled that the city's sign ordinance did not meet the criteria required for approving a zoning ordinance. He quickly ruled in the company's favor, simply because a sign ordinance meets the criteria of a zoning ordinance. Judge Struble ruled that the city did not satisfy the public notice or public hearing requirements prior to its approval of its sign ordinance. Judge Struble also ruled that the city must allow Allison Outdoor Advertising, Limited Partners to erect and operate its signs which resulted in legal action against the city. The city "shall complete any local paperwork necessary to obtain state permits for the signs." He also ruled that discovery is reopened to all remaining claims for a period of 90 days. Those claims include dam-

ages sought against the city. The day following the ruling by Judge Struble, the city of Blairsville implemented a 90-day moratorium on new sign applications. Basic interpretation: the city's ordinance implied that it was enforcing zoning.

This time the city will follow the rules for zoning. The city will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on July 10th, in the council meeting room at City Hall. The hearing is being held to allow for consideration and public comment on the proposed adoption of a sign ordinance for the City of Blairsville. The public hearing will begin with consideration and public comment on the proposed procedures for calling and conducting public hearings on the sign ordinance.

Next, the city will conduct a public hearing on the standards which govern the approval and adoption of the proposed sign ordinance. Following that, the City will conduct a public hearing on the proposed sign ordinance. Copies of the sign ordinance, the standards, and the procedures for public hearings will be available for review and copying at city hall.

The public is invited to attend, Mayor Conley said.