

Put on your high heeled sneakers, cause there's going to be a hot time at Prince Charles PS on Friday night. Panther Palooza kicks off at 6:30 and goes till who knows when, featuring Bauder Road (Verona's favourite house band) Condies All Stars, with our own Bill Lansdell, and Slick Trickster, with Don Cox. Don, a bus driver at PCPS, wowed the crowd when he sang with Bauder Road at the recent Lions Theme Night. This will be an evening of the fine music of the kind you pay big bucks to see in town – but it only costs \$2 for kids, \$5 for adults or \$10 a family. Palooza is a fundraiser for PCPS, with 25% of the profits going to Christmas For Kids, the Verona Community Association program which helps kids at PCPS at Christmas and throughout the year. Now that the playground equipment is paid off, the other 75% of the take will go to other school needs, such as grade eight graduation expenses. The parent council hopes to be able to give \$100 to each teacher for their end of year activity. Besides great bands, the top five Prince Charles Idol winners will perform. And there'll be a silent auction, so bring your checkbook. One special item is a signed cap from the Ottawa Senators.

Good news on the health prevention front. Leona Andrews at the Rural Visions Centre tells us that as of this writing, 10 people have signed up for transportation to the Breast Screening Clinic in Kingston on June 8. The Centre has booked two vans, and director Beth Freeland will also drive folks, so there's probably still room for you. If you need a ride, call Rural VISIONS 613-376-6477, and if there's still room, book your appointment at Breast Screening Clinic: 613-384-4284. At a Verona Community Association meeting last fall, Dr. Laurel Dempsey identified this as a need in our community and VCA director Doug MacIntyre got the ball rolling until Rural Visions picked it up. Bravo to all!

We had a chat with Pam Marno the other day, whom hundreds of readers know as the ever-bustling and helpful proprietor of the former Pam's Country Bulk. Pam's going through some rough times just now. On the health front, she's dealing with a benign tumour near her brain stem, which is the cause of much pain. The good news is that it's not malignant. She's seeing a neurosurgeon, and will soon have word about steps that may be taken to help alleviate the pain. Pam says her church has been a source of strength, and daughter Rebecca is a great help and comfort, but the drastic change from her busy people-filled days is a hard adjustment. The staff at Brooks IGA have set up a box in the front entrance where you can drop a card or note of support and they will see that it gets to Pam.

John McDougall reports that the following folks have agreed to sit on the Verona and District Health Services Committee: Carolyn Brown, Louise Day, Dr. Laurel Dempsey, Karl Hansen, Jim Lansdell, John McDougall, Tammy Parr, Inie Platenius, and Dr. Lynn Wilson. This committee of the Verona Community Association will be active for the next several years working out the logistics for continuity of excellent health care here in the village. Translation: finding ways to attract doctors.

Take the kiddies to the farmers market Saturday for "Barnyard Babies Day". All sorts of furry little critters will be there for their edification, and Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Library will sponsor a puppet show at 10:30. We recently checked out a farmers market in Newmarket, a town of 70,000 near the Holland Marsh in the heart of Ontario's agricultural richlands. What we have here in little Verona is as vibrant and full as what we saw there, and unlike their market, ours sells 100% locally produced products. Check it out. People who make the market part of their Saturday shopping routine can't imagine how they ate before it came.