

Did you vote in the chili fest at the Farmers Market last week? Eight vendors brought in their favourite chillies for a bit of gustatory judging, and even though the contest was all for fun, the tasting sessions were serious stuff. Here are the crowd's choices: Best Overall was #2 (Brenda from Maple-Lim Farms). Most Original - #4 - the one with the pasta (spinner Tracy Asselstine) and Spiciest - #7 - the vegetarian dish (Robin of Feed the Bear Designs). Robin says she used an authentic Mexican recipe with chocolate and chipotle powder for her unusual taste.

Parent Council President Nicki Gowdy tells us that after consulting with the staff they spent just over \$5000 on electronic equipment for the school. From Verona Computers they bought three laptop computers and a data projector. This machine will allow teachers to project material from the internet onto a large screen, and because of the large amount of available material there, is particularly helpful in literacy training. The Council also bought a supply of balls, skipping ropes and other fun stuff. "We emptied the coffers," says Nicki. And to start filling them up again council is hosting a couple of December fundraisers. First, a craft sale Dec. 1 at the school. For \$10 you can rent a table for your crafts, baking or whatever. Call Nicki at 374-3610 to reserve. Next is the popular Turkey Bingo. Fifteen games with turkeys for prizes plus a share the wealth game. Raffle tables and canteen are part of the evening. Tues. Dec. 4, 7:00 at the school.

And while you're at it, stop into the Heritage Society annual bake sale. This is definitely the place to stock up on Christmas goodies. The society welcomes your baking donations - cookies, candy, breads, Christmas cakes. Call Enid Bailey at 374-2596 if you can contribute. Dec. 1 Trinity United 1-4.

This Friday's PA day (Nov. 23) is the Verona Community Association's annual free skate at the arena from 12:30-2:00. We hear that some folks come to visit grandparents just for this special afternoon, which is sponsored by Revell Ford Lincoln. Bring non-perishable food for the Rural Visions coffers.

The following Friday, head over to McMullen lawn for the annual tree lighting ceremony. This year Bill Kendall and his daughter Colleen will lead the community carol sing. As usual there'll be hot dogs compliments of the Lions Club and hot chocolate thanks to the Verona Free Methodist Youth Group. Nov. 30, 7:00

This year the VCA is trying something special. They'd like to see Main Street lit up with luminaries (fancy name for tea lights set in sand inside paper bags). To help kick this off, they've bought the candles and the paper bags for you. Orser Construction has donated the sand. It's all available at Verona Hardware starting Nov. 26. So, if you live on Main Street, or have a business there, why don't you set out some luminaries by the walk in front of your place? Space them about every 3 feet and light them up at about 6:30 on tree lighting night. (Of course, you can make your own special luminaries if you like). Wouldn't it be terrific to see the path to the tree lighting all lit up - and done by many hands all working for the same effect?

After the tree lighting, head over to the Lions Hall for the second monthly music night. Open mike (mic?) from 8:30 on, with special guest Roger James at 10:00. \$5. Drinks of all kinds available.

The following weekend, the Land O' Lakes Artisans' Guild holds its Christmas Sale. Look for pottery, fused and stained glass work, polymer clay art, paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolour, fiber art, handmade paper and paper arts, turned wood, photography, gourd art, and unique jewelry from over 20 artists. And there'll be regular draws for door prizes donated by Guild members! This guild is an active and vital group with outstanding artists. Their informative website will give you a good idea of what you can find. www.landolakesartisans.org Don't miss this sale. Sunday December 9, 2007, 11am - 5pm, at the Verona Lion's Hall. Free admission.

At the Guild sale, you can buy your lunch - homemade soup and a bun, dessert and drink from the Verona Lions. Serving from 12 - 2 (or earlier if they run out!).

Two delightful Verona thespians are performing in "Aladdin" starting this week. Dick Miller is the storyteller "Wishy Washy", and Marg Addison is the genie. These are performances not to be missed. At the Octave Theatre Nov. 22- Dec. 1. Evenings at 7:30. Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2:00 (evening performances also on Sat. & Sun)