

The Verona and District Medical Services Committee has been quietly busy these last few months working to ensure the continuity of medical care here. The first goal is to bring a doctor immediately to help with the enormous patient load at the clinic, followed by another doctor who can practice when Dr. Dempsey retires. This involves looking at the whole health care scene – a timely challenge given the recent provincial restructuring of the way health care funds are distributed. Last week's committee meeting began on a very positive note as Doctors Lynn Wilson and Laurel Dempsey reported on a "warm lead" in the recruitment efforts. The committee is now reviewing a business plan which will guide the fundraising initiative. This means reviewing the nature of the clinic here, because the business of health care has changed enormously from the days of the doctor-owned single practice. Look for a public meeting in February where you can here first hand what our next steps as a community can be.

Saturday Dec. 1 brings a number of special Christmas outings: Start at the Market, where Kid's Secret Shopping Day is happening from 9 – 12. Shopping elves will help kids pick presents for their special folks – all \$5 and under. Free gift wrapping, cookie decorating and a puppet show. Do bring non perishables or a new, unwrapped toy for Rural VISIONS.

Next head over to the Prince Charles Parent Council craft sale at the school to pick up more treasures for giving and decorating.

Finally, round off your outing at the Verona Area Heritage Society's annual bake sale. This year the gang is creating a Victorian atmosphere in Trinity United Hall, and after you scoop up your Christmas cookies and cakes, you'll be able to have a quiet sit to recover from your busy day. 1 – 4.

Trinity United Church's Christmas concert is a treasured tradition. The church choir makes it their gift to the community by rehearsing throughout the fall for a free performance of wonderfully varied Christmas music from the newly composed to the traditional. Don't miss this very special gift. Dec. 9 7:00 Trinity United.

And of course this Friday (Nov. 30) is the annual tree lighting ceremony on McMullen lawn. Bring the kids and the aunts and uncles for a community carol sing. 7:00 o'clock start. Then head over to the Lions Hall to keep those pipes a hummin'. The second monthly open mic music night begins at 8:30, followed by Roger James at 10:00. \$5 admission.

Robin deKleine Stimpson sends this warning: she received notice in the mail of having won hundreds of thousands of dollars in a Spanish lottery. The notice required lots of personal information and was clearly the first salvo in a scam that would bilk her. She's very concerned that someone will take the bait and become one of those hapless people who lose their life savings. Keep an eagle eye out for yourself and your naïve loved ones.

This November has been an unusually dark month for many people, and one of them is Carl Collins who is facing a number of health issues. To begin with, he just had surgery of an aortic aneurism. Mary and Carl can use your good wishes.

For several reasons, we only put health related information into the column if we get a specific request. To all those whose November has been hard, we send our warmest sun-filled wishes. As the songwriter Gordon Bok writes: "It's so easy in the cold to feel the darkness of the year...[but] the world is always turning toward the morning."