

**Correction!** The wonderful Trinity United Choir concert in Verona is **this Friday, Dec. 7** at 8:00. We goofed last week and gave the date of their performance in Moscow, which you are welcome to attend as well. That is Sunday Dec. 9 at 7:00 in Moscow United Church, but to hear them in Verona go on Friday!

An astonishing number of folks braved the bitter wind to enjoy the annual tree lighting ceremony last Friday. Complicating the evening was the long and detour-filled commute in ugly weather that caused so many people to be late home. In spite of all that, about 100 hardy souls gathered to watch councilor Jim Hicks give the countdown and pull the switch that lit up the huge spruce in McMullen Park. (Councilor Bill Robinson & Mayor Gary Davison were attending the firefighters' banquet, to which Jim hastened after graciously performing his ceremonial duty.) Wayne Conway had spent hours with various crews exchanging the old tree lights for energy efficient LED's. Bill Kendall and his daughter Colleen led the caroling while Lions Ed Botting and Don Kelsey served up hot dogs and the Verona Free Methodist Youth ladled hot chocolate to the chilled but cheerful crowd. Ron Snider, as always, lent his smiling self and his sound gear – first there, and nearly last to leave. Scouter Bob Rose brought the troop in for fire pit control and Maggie Dalmas' cubs helped gather the nonperishables for Rural VISIONS. And Charlie Stewart rounded out the crew by taking care of the trash barrels. A particularly heartening sight was the number of teens who arrived just to be part of the tradition. And what a tradition it is! Congratulations to Verona Community Association committee members Marcel Quenneville and Joyce Casement for keeping it alive.

Not only does Marcel chair the VCA, he gets right down to the nitty gritty work. It was he and his daughter Danielle who made the swags that adorn both the new Verona signs. Thanks from the community and in particular the many people who have remarked on their beautiful work. (The Quennevilles are not, however, the phantom jack-o'-lantern carvers. That identity remains a delightful mystery.)

By all means, head to the Lions Hall this Sunday for the Land O' Lakes Artisans Guild show and sale. This area is blessed with extraordinarily talented artisans, and we don't often get to see so many of them in one place. You will be astounded. Dec. 9, 11:00 – 5:00. Sit down lunch available – homemade soup & bun, dessert & drink for \$7.