

Column 080327

It's happened again. With no fanfare or warning, someone has festooned the new Verona signs with holiday trappings – colourful Easter eggs hanging from the cross beam. The Halloween Jack-O'-Lanterns and Christmas garlands appear to have been placed by different folks. Who do you think the Easter Bunny was?

Check out the new Verona Drug Mart on the south side of Local Family Farms. It opens on April 3 in a quiet low-key way to ease into the community prior to the grand opening celebration later in April. Owner Hany Girgis also operates the drug store in Seeleys Bay, where he truly enjoys providing small-town pharmacy service. – so he's familiar with the needs of a place like Verona. From his home in Kingston, he will be able to travel easily to both stores. Working with Hany are Judy Sparling from the Godfrey/Verona area and technician Tasha MacDonald. With this new storefront, the south end of Verona becomes a hub of services to complement the mid-village core of bank, hardware and auto businesses. When you pit that together with north end gas, convenience and home décor businesses and the outlying grocery and liquor store, we are truly on the way to having a thriving village core.

This month's blood donor clinic broke a record for the Verona Lions-sponsored event. Canadian Blood Services reports that they collected 36 units of blood. The Lions provide the hall and volunteers to greet donors and help them rest and recuperate. Canadian Blood Services provide the nurses and expertise. Lions clinic coordinator Louis Day sends thanks from the community to all you fine donors.

This week's Farmers' Market features a Pirate theme in keeping with Pirate Rendezvous that night. All this week Lions members are building and decorating to set the hall into pirate mode for their annual theme extravaganza, and the bulk of it will be on display on Market Day. Bring the kids in to see the fun so they can have their pictures taken in costume on the pirate ship and get a chocolate doubloon.

Then come back for the adult fun that night - a yummy Caribbean-themed dinner, great entertainment from pirates and swabbies, and the fine music of Bauder Road. Arrrrggh! Get your tickets right away though, because there aren't many left. March 29 at the Lions Hall. Costumes optional. Tickets \$25 each at Verona Hardware.

Baseball registration begins this week. March 29 from 12-2 at the Princess Anne Building in Hartington. Call Les Moore at 374-3129 for details. Think warm summer evenings sitting on the – what's that green stuff called again?