

# Harbor Beach Chamber of Commerce

## 20th Annual Harvest Festival

### Merchants' Chili Cook Off

**When:** Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Where:** All around the business district of Harbor Beach

**Why:** To have fun, let our customers know how much we appreciate their business, and attract guests to our downtown.

- Each participating merchant makes enough chili for approximately 600 samples. The math, 2oz. sample x 600 equals 1200oz. or 9.3 gallons of chili.
- Serving from 11am until 3 pm, customers go from store to store to taste chili! Be sure to start heating your chili early in your crockpot or other heat source to ensure it is hot by 11am.
- The Chamber will provide spoons, & styro. containers for tasting and ballots for voting. (**You are responsible for picking these supplies up at the visitor's center starting at 10:00 am.**)
- Customers vote on their favorite chili and turn their ballots in to the Visitors Center by 3:30pm.
- The merchant with the most votes gets a "Traveling Trophy" to display until next year and \$50.00 in Harbor Beach Bucks.
- One Customer's ballot will be drawn for a prize!

#### **IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW.....**

- This is NOT A FREE LUNCH, only a taste test! (2 oz. is enough - 1/2 of a 4oz styro cup), or you will run out. Additionally, with so much to taste, customers will become full quickly.
- Chili MUST be kept at a temperature of 145 or higher to avoid any danger of food poisoning \*(Keep it in a crock pot set on HIGH).
- Chili MUST be served in individual containers... using a ladle. A 2oz ladle makes measuring samples quick and easy.
- Don't let 'em put their own spoons in the brew, germs!
- There is a \$25.00 fee for non-chamber businesses to participate.

**Important Event Information on Next Page**

Over the 19 years of this event, we have found that the more fun we put into this event, the bigger it gets. We would like to have every business and local organization participate in this event. Put up signs, offer great deals, do whatever it takes to capitalize on the traffic in your business on this day, because it is certainly a busy day downtown. We will also have additional traffic this year with the WLEW car giveaway on the Murphy Lawn again. Buttons will be available for the judges to purchase at the visitors center. We will be using the 2016 chili button designed by Julie Purdy. Those people who already have a Harbor Beach button can enter the chili contest for only \$2.00 if they bring in their button. Otherwise, buttons will be available at the visitor's center for \$3.00 each.

Depending on the number of participants, the venue for tasting of chili from the non-retail sector and those businesses from the surrounding community who wish to compete will be either in the Library entrance, or the Community Gymnasium. Tables and extension cords will be provided if you are assigned to this location. **The Visitors Center will be open at 10:00 am for you to pick up your sample cups.**

There are other events happening that you should be aware of: A pie baking contest will be held at the visitor's center. Pies should arrive at the Visitors Center by 10:30 am and judging will be at 11:00 so that individual pieces of pie may be purchased there. If you or someone you know would like to be a pie judge, please contact Barb Siemen at 989-550-6121. Vendors will also be set up at the Murphy Lawn with produce, crafts, and fine arts, in addition to the WLEW car giveaway. Three hundred key holders and their friends will be in town for the drawing at 1:00 at the corner of the Murphy Museum. See you all there.

**We need to know for certain if you will have a pot of chili to sample by Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We need this to produce a ballot and map of downtown. If you are going to offer more than one variety of chili, we also need to know that. Please contact Kelly Jo or Jenny if you have questions or wish to register.

Thanks,

**Kelly Jo Osentoski**

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