

Harbor Beach Chamber of Commerce

22nd Annual Harvest Festival

Merchants' Chili Cook Off

When: September 15, 2018 11:00am – 3:00pm

Where: Business District of Harbor Beach

Why: To show our appreciation to our customers, promote our businesses, and to give the townspeople a chance to participate in a fun promotion/competition.

- Each participating merchant makes enough chili for approximately 600 samples.
- Serving from 11am until 3pm. Customers go from store to store to taste the chili. Be sure your chili is hot and ready to serve by 11am!
- The Chamber will provide spoons & Styrofoam containers for tasting and ballots for voting. (Each business is responsible for picking up their own cups and spoons at the Visitor's Center starting at 10:00am)
- 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 \$75 Harbor Beach Bucks, 2nd place receives \$50 Harbor Beach Bucks and 3rd place receives \$25 in Harbor Beach Bucks
- One Customer's ballot will be drawn for a prize

Things to Keep in Mind

- Chili must be kept at a temperature of 145 or higher to avoid any danger of food poisoning
- Chili must be served in individual containers, using a ladle.
- Be sure to keep serving area clean
- \$25.00 fee for non-chamber businesses to participate

Important Event Info

Over the many years of putting on this event, we have found that the more fun and enthusiasm we put into this event, the bigger it gets. Use this cook-off as an opportunity to further promote your business. Put up signs, offer deals, capitalize on the abundance of traffic that will be throughout town this day. There will be extra traffic than just the taste testers because we are having the WLEW car giveaway on the Murphy Museum Lawn once again. Buttons will be available for the judges to purchase at the visitor's center. We will be using the 2018 chili button. Those who already have a button may enter the contest for only \$2.00 if they can show their button. Otherwise, buttons will be available at the visitor's center for \$3.00 each.

The venue for tasting of chili from non-retail participants and businesses from the surrounding community will be either at the Library entrance, or the Community Gymnasium, dependent of the number of participants.

There are other events that you should be aware of. A dessert baking contest will be held at the visitor's center. For those who wish to participate: desserts should arrive at the Visitor's Center by 10:30 am and judging will be at 11:00. If you or someone you know would like to be a judge, please contact Charlotte Jahn at 989-479-3388. 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 spectators will be in town for the drawing at 1:00.

We need to know for certain if you will be putting in a pot of chili to the running by Friday, September 7th. This is necessary in order to produce a proper ballot and a map with proper chili tasting locations. If you are going to offer more than one type of chili, we also need to know. Please contact Allison if you have any questions or wish to sign up!

Thanks,

Allison Hudson

989-553-2554

Hudsona17@northwood.edu