

New Children's Coloring Contest Added to 20th Annual Chili & Salsa Cook-off

Toms River - Organizers of the 20th Annual New Jersey State Chili & Salsa Cook-off are pleased to announce a new children's coloring contest in conjunction with the festival. In keeping with the theme of the festival, the contest entry form features a large chile pepper for contestants to decorate. Winners will receive recognition on the Downtown Toms River website, be introduced on stage at the festival and receive an art kit and \$25 gift certificate for Erickson's Framing and Art Supplies.

Michael Redpath, Executive Director for Downtown Toms River, the group that organizes the festival, says, "The coloring contest will create another way for children to enjoy the festival, and will add to the intergenerational fun of New Jersey's annual chili and salsa competition." He continues, "We encourage contestants to be as creative as possible when completing the entry form." All entries received by the May 15th deadline will be displayed in the windows of a Downtown business.

The contest is open to children ages 3 to 12 years of age. A panel of judges will select one winner in each age category based on entry creativity. Age categories are: 3 to 5 years, 6 - 8 years and 9 - 12 years. One winner will be selected for each age group. Entry forms can be printed from the Downtown Toms River website www.downtowntomsvriver.com or picked up at the following locations: Erickson's Framing & Art Supplies, the Community Connection booth at the Ocean County Mall, Downtown Toms River's office, the Toms River branch of the Ocean County Library and the information desk of Toms River's Town Hall. Deadline for entries is 5:00 pm on May 15, 2009. See entry form for complete contest rules.

The 20th Annual New Jersey State Chili & Salsa Cook-off is a fabulous family festival where attendees can indulge their spicy side while tasting a large assortment of chilies and salsas. Contestants from all over New Jersey and beyond will be cooking up a variety of fresh chili and salsas as they compete for prize money and the International Chili Society New Jersey "state champion" title. A panel of judges including food "celebrities" Chef Ariane Duarte, a recent

competitor on Bravo's "Top Chef", and Chef Michael Carrino, winner of the April 7, 2009 episode of the Food Network's "Chopped" will be helping determine the winners.

New this year is a guacamole competition that is open to

the general public and is free to enter. Details regarding the guacamole competition can be found at www.chili-nj.com. The festival kicks off with a fun parade down Washington Street featuring a live mariachi band, and offers something for the whole family, including

crafters, vendors, musical entertainment, children's inflatable rides, games and food.

The NJ State Chili & Salsa Cook-Off is sponsored by Comcast, United Water of Toms River, New Jersey

Natural Gas, Capone's Gourmet Pizza & Restaurant, Mr. Alan's Florist, Shore Photography, Extra Space Storage and radio stations WJRZ and The WRAT.

For information on registering to compete, contest rules and entry fees, visit www.chili-nj.com or call 732-946-2711. For additional information on this event or other events or to volunteer to assist with them, call 732-341-8738 or visit www.downtowntomsvriver.com.

Cub Scout Pack 92 Tours Town Hall



Mayor Kelaher showing Toms River Township Town Hall's Wall of Heroes to members of Cub Scout Pack 92, whom listened intently while the mayor explained the bravery each local resident had to have to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

TOWNSHIP OF TOMS RIVER - While walking through the corridors of Town Hall, members of Cub Scout Pack 92 stopped Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher to ask questions about paintings on the wall so they could find out as much local history as possible.

The 30-minute Town Hall tour gave the young boys an opportunity to see the heart of local government as the Mayor took them to different departments, explaining how each contributes to the quality of life here. As one question led to the next, the young men became more interested in the Mayor than the tour. "The boys thought Mayor Kelaher told them and showed

them more than they expected. They thought the Mayor was hard-working and intelligent and were impressed he was a scout himself," said Heather Pentifallo, who came along for the tour with her son, Douglas Pentifallo. "Douglas thinks the Mayor is amazing based on the things he has done in his life. They were especially impressed that he used to shovel out the fire hydrants when he was a scout to help out around his town when the men were away during World War II," she said.

Other members of Pack 92, Aaron Hergert, Michael Schwartz, Brendon Verderosa, Dean Sutphin and Den Leaders Russel Pentifallo and Lou

Hergert listened intently as the mayor spoke to them in his office on an array of subjects

"One of the most enjoyable experiences of being mayor is the opportunity to expose youngsters like members of Cub Scouts Pack 92 to the workings of town government so they have an appreciation of what it takes to run a town the size of Toms River."

According to Heather Pentifallo, when Pack 92 member left Town Hall, they carried their excitement with them.

"They were also impressed Mayor Kelaher takes time out of his life to respond in progress and thank the volunteer firefighters for



Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher saluting Cub Scout Pack 92 after they toured Toms River Town Hall, where they learned about local government.

their service. They also felt so honored he gave them the tour personally because they know he is very busy," she said. "The boys are looking forward to walking with their new friend, the mayor, in the parades."

OHI Medical Van Ready to Roll

The OHI (Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc.) mobile medical van is traveling to Long Beach Island, Manahawkin, and Manchester Township this May, bringing health care to people who might not have the transportation to seek medical services.

Dr. Theresa Berger, CEO of OHI, says, "The OHI van, a new community outreach program, is another step in breaking down barriers that keep people from accessing health care because they do not have transportation. If people cannot come to us, we'll bring medical services to them!"

To make an appointment or for more information about exact times and locations of the medical van, contact the Call Center of OHI at 732-363-6655.



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