

Column 070712

Last week showed us in glorious ways just what a fine place Verona is for young people. During the week, we watched young employees throughout the village as they plied their new skills – assembling a BBQ at the hardware store, brewing coffee in the convenience store., hulling strawberries at the newest store in town, weighing produce at the grocery store. Then, passing by the Lions Mini Park on Friday evening, we saw a little gaggle of teens at a picnic table in the shelter of a big tree. Remember when you wanted to be alone with your friends, but only in places where people could **see** you be alone with your friends? Later on that evening those same teens were prowling the Jamboree grounds, stretching their wings at the midway. They were definitely being seen there! And to add to our sense of hometown warmth, we watched a new generation of helpers at the Jamboree. Children of Lions and children of Lions' friends volunteered at the Bingo, the canteen and the booths. A particularly heart tugging sight was at the Over and Under booth, where Bill, Sam and Ben Asselstine, arrive from out of town every year to volunteer where their late dad Lion Bill Sr. used to stand. And as if the "Look at the youth of Verona" message wasn't clear enough, on Sunday morning we watched young dads and grandpas shepherd their charges on the swings and slides back at the Mini Park.

And here's another opportunity for Verona youth. Scout Committee Member Terry Freeland tells us that it looks like there'll be a Cub pack in the village next year to join the Beavers and Scouts. Leaders Bobbie Rose, Maggie Dalmas and Michelle Peebles are keen to get a move on, so call Terry at 374-2703 or Group Commissioner Harold Dalmas 372-2050 to register. By the way, did you know that every year the Lions give the Jamboree soft drink concession to the Scouts? Terry tells us it's their biggest fundraiser. District Treasurer Beth Freeland organized a whole whack of volunteers, and they made over \$550 this year.

The Jamboree is a happy memory, and now the village is gearing up for the Verona Festival August 10-12. Organizer Carol Anne Fazackerly says she still has room for vendors at the Marketplace. In years past we've bought some of the loveliest things there, from one-of-a-kind cloth bags and greeting cards to a very happy little cast Buddha. Got something to sell? From baked goods to flea market items, you can get a spot at the Marketplace. Call Carol Anne at 374-1721 to book a spot for Friday, Saturday or Sunday or all three.

Have you been watching the house demolition on Road 38 near Bravo? A small oil leak there seeped into the foundation and the house had to go. We hear a new one will go up, once the rubble is cleared away.