

EVENT PREVIEW Festival of Food • Monday, Sept. 20 • Rochester Public Market

Festival of Food to satiate visitors

By **ALYSA STRYKER**

astryker@messengerpostmedia.com

More than 100 local restaurants, wineries, breweries, bakeries and farm vendors will set up shop in the heart of Rochester's award-winning public market for this year's 7th annual "Savor Rochester: A Festival of Food" event to raise money for local hunger relief organization **Foodlink** — all while serving up some of the region's best food and drink.

The festival, unique and eclectic, is the largest local food and wine tasting of its kind in the region, and this year, Foodlink Resource Development Manager Maria Oberst said the goal is to surpass 1,000 attendees.

"Normally we have a little under 1,000 people, but this year we're hoping to break the 1,000 mark," said Oberst.

The best part about an event like this, said Oberst, is being able to have a mass array vendors — whom you would typically have to check out individually — all in one spot, and all for one price at the door.

"It really is just a great event, it's so unique," said Oberst. "You're outside at the award-winning public market, and the history of food in Rochester is right there."

Of all the vendors to sign on, Oberst said she is

particularly excited about the addition of Next Door Bar and Grill, which is becoming one of the hot spots in Rochester.

Executive chef and owner of Otto Tomotto's in Victor, Tim Archetko, said he is ecstatic about being a part of the event this year, where he will be bringing a batch of mini meatballs and fresh homemade cannolis filled with a lemon zest ricotta cheese.

"I go to it every year and this is the first year that Otto Tomotto's is participating," said Archetko. "We're going to have a very fun booth."

Other vendors, who have been with the festival since the beginning, are excited to return, and to see the event grow more each year.

"We've been doing it since the very first year, since it was a fairly small event," said Wholesale Manager of Heron Hill Winery Christina Bowe. "Not very often do all the restaurants and wineries come together. All of us bring our best; it's a nice opportunity to work together as a team to support (Foodlink)."

In addition to Heron Hill, 26 other local breweries and wineries will be setting up shop, including Americana Vineyards and Winery, Dundee Ales & Lagers, Red Tail Ridge Winery, Standing Stone Vineyards and Damiani Wine Cellars — just to

name a few.

Specialty foods will also be in the mix, including items from AgriAmerica, the Karma Sauce Company, Moonlight Creamery and the Incredible Edible Cookie Company.

Jennifer Posey, owner of Hedonist Artisan Chocolates in the South Wedge, will be introducing three items: chocolate barks (with interesting flavors like milk chocolate sesame and ginger pistachio), dipped fruits and fresh truffles.

"We try to introduce people to the three main things that we do," said Posey. "We love the event and people seem to love us there, and we always try to bring extra."

For those who head out to the event, it's a one-time payment. Once you're in, it's an all-you-can-eat-and-drink event.

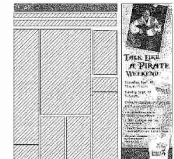
IF YOU GO

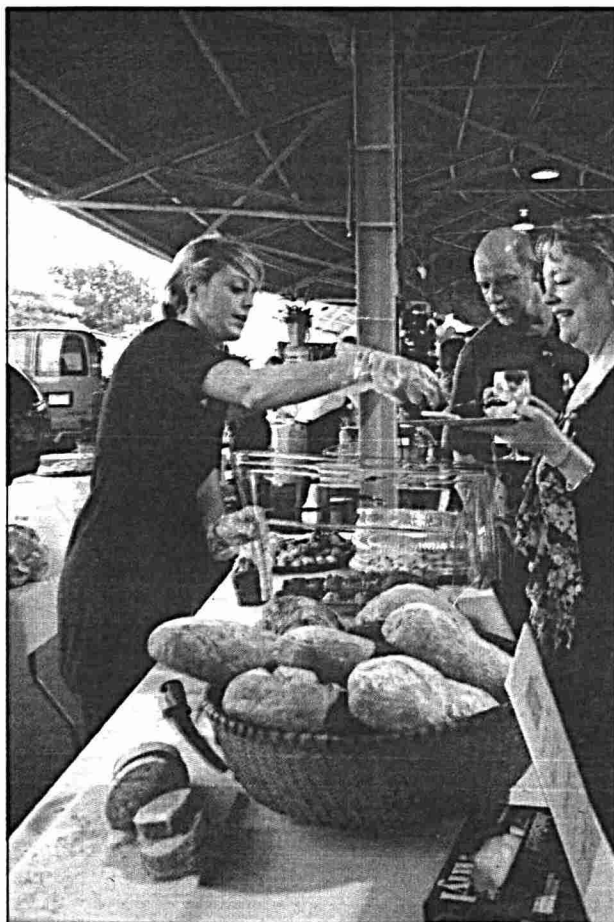
WHEN 5-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20

WHERE Rochester Public Market, 280 Union Street North

COST \$40/advance, \$50/door

DETAILS Tickets sold at Wegmans ticket counters, the Rochester Public Market's Veggie Valet booth or at Foodlink at (585) 328-3380 ext. 156. For a full listing of vendors, or more information about the event, check out www.festivaloffood.org





SUBMITTED

Visitors to Foodlink's Festival of Food will get to sample menu items from more than 100 restaurants, bakeries and wineries from the area.