

If you love food, check out contests

Whether you love cooking or just enjoy eating the results, you should check out the festival's baking contests.

You can find everything from a chili cook-off, to a baked apple dessert contest, to a whole selection of chocolate competitions.

And for the true eating connoisseurs, the festival will also have two eating contests: one for pies and another for spaghetti.

All of the contests will be held at "contest central" on Main Street. They will be taking place at various times throughout the weekend.

All of the entries in the various cooking contests will be assigned a number rather than having names on them, to ensure anonymity.

Contestants are also asked to submit their entries in disposable dishes. That's because after the contest is held, and prizes are handed out, the remainder of the entries will be auctioned off to benefit local organizations such as Mount Airy NET.

The fun kicks off on Saturday with the pie eating contest on Main Street at about 11:45. That's followed at 12 noon by the chili contest, which is being sponsored by Christi's.

Then you can join in the race to slurp down spaghetti at 1 p.m., at an

event which is being sponsored by Frank Illiano of New York J&P Pizza.

At 1:30 the first of three chocolate contest will be starting. There will be a chocolate cake or pie contest, a chocolate cookie or brownie contest and a chocolate confection contest. All three contests are being sponsored by the Chocolate Treasure Chest.

Then at about 2:30 the real fun starts, as the entries to those contests are auctioned off from stage one, at Park Avenue.

There's more food to be seen and enjoyed on Sunday.

Look for another exciting spaghetti contest at 1 p.m. and an apple desert contest, sponsored by Loretta Clarke of Pampered Chef at 1:30, followed by an auctioning off of those deserts at 2:45.

Organizers hope for a great turn out at the auctions on both days.

Buying from the auction provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy your favorite treats or try a new and exciting taste sensation.

It's also a great way to show a little family pride, by placing a nice high bid on a spouse's offering.

And of course, it also provides a great way to get some wonderful homemade goodies, while supporting a good cause at the same time.