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Cooks Corner: Green Drinks group forming

Also, chili helps animals, ghostly dinners planned

Want to converse and imbibe with like-minded, green-thinking people?

A new group, Green Drinks, gathers each month for drinks (not necessarily green) and conversation about the environment. The next gathering is Thursday, 5-7 p.m., at Aerie at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa. Chef Ted Cizma will talk about what the resort's restaurants are doing to minimize their impact on the environment.

Green Drinks Traverse City has a Facebook page and a Web site linked off the international group's Web site. Go to www.greendrinks.org or e-mail Jon Prins at the Grand Traverse Conservation District, jprins@gtcd.org.

A chili cookoff in Alden will benefit Antrim County Pets.

The cookoff, scheduled for 4-7 p.m. Sunday, will be held at the Helena Township Hall. Restaurants and chefs from around Antrim County have donated chili for the fundraiser. Admission of \$8, \$4 for children 5-12 years old, buys all-you-can-eat dinner with beverage and dessert. There will also be a bake sale and silent auction.

Bowers Harbor Inn Chef Paul Olson won the Best Taste award at the Oct. 12 March of Dimes auction.

The award, one of three given out during the seventh annual event, is the second time Olson has won. The event raised \$2,000 for the March of Dimes.