



Kingsli Kraft, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
Alpena Downtown Development Authority
124 E. Chisholm St., Alpena, MI 49707
kingslik@alpena.mi.us

ALPENA DDA POSTPONES CHILI CHOWDER COOK-OFF FOR 2021

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ALPENA, MI – The Alpena Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has made the difficult decision to postpone the Chili Chowder Cook-Off for 2021.

Usually, the event takes place on the first Saturday in October and chefs from local restaurants as well as home cooks enter their best chilis and chowders to compete for a variety of awards, Best in Show, Best Chili, Best Chowder, Most Festive, and more. Official judges and those attending the event are invited to taste the entries and score their favorites.

Last year, the event was cancelled due to COVID-19. This year, due to staffing changes at the DDA, staffing difficulties at local restaurants, and a rise in COVID-19 cases, the Alpena DDA's Marketing and Promotions Committee made the decision to postpone the event this year.

"The Chili Chowder Cook-off started as a way to bring more people downtown in the fall, after summer was over. It started before events like Sunrise Suds Tap Takeover and Thunder Bay Winery's Harvest Festival. It's great because now we have those events which are amazing draws for both locals and visitors to come downtown in the fall and we can re-evaluate if autumn is the best time of year to have the Chili Chowder Cook-Off. In the past, our committee has talked about shifting the Chili Chowder Cook-Off to the late winter, closer to the Superbowl to spread out events that draw people downtown more. This year, because I'm leaving my role at the DDA and so many of our restaurants and usually competitors are struggling with staffing, we decided it would be a great time to push the event back and test it out in 2022," shared Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Kingsli Kraft.

An official announcement about Chili Chowder Cook-Off being rescheduled will be shared likely after the holiday season in Downtown Alpena. You can find information about all DDA-hosted or partnered events on our website at www.downtownalpenami.com/events.