



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA TESAR/SPECIAL TO SUN NEWS

Despite the heat, Pearl Road was packed with people from Progress Drive to Strongsville Commons for the annual Strongsville Homecoming Parade.

Heat can't squash Homecoming

Crowds down, business participation up for annual festival

By Samantha Laros
Correspondent

While visitor turnout was slightly lower than expected at this year's Strongsville Homecoming, a record number of local businesses turned out as participants and sponsors.

"That's certainly a good sign for our event and more importantly for our community," said Tom Burichin, a Strongsville Chamber of Commerce member and Homecoming chairman.

This year, Homecoming festivities commandeered Strongsville Commons July 17-20 and despite temperatures in the 90's and high humidity, the streets were lined Wednesday for the parade that kicked off the fun.

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Strongsville's Special Olympics team members wave at the crowd and proudly display their medals in the Strongsville Homecoming Parade. See more photos from the parade at cleveland.com/strongsville.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA TESAR/
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Pearl Road in Strongsville was lined with people for the July 17 parade.

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"The crowd was definitely heavier on the shaded side of the street," Burichin joked.

Food vendors and rides including fun houses and miniature roller coasters stayed open throughout the event, while entertainment rotated through the main stage. Groups included the Strongsville Elementary Summer Band, The Breakfast Club, the Studio 82 Dance Team and the Yumi-Daiko Japanese Drum Group.

The final day, devoted as "kid's day," featured a School of Rock performance, a magic



Roman, owned by Strongsville resident Michelle Hill, cools off under an awning while watching the parade through his shades.

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