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City Club Rib Burnoff returns for 27th year

Billed 'Not the biggest...Just the best'

By TERRY BRILAS

Strongsville Post editor

STRONGSVILLE - The Strongsville Commons will come alive Thursday, June 20 through Saturday, June 22 when the Strongsville City Club 27th Annual Rib Burnoff takes place.

The event's reputation has grown through the years, but the scope remains the same after more than a quarter century. Billed as "Not the biggest...Just the best," the Rib Burnoff includes eight of the top rib vendors in the country, nightly entertainment at the gazebo on the Commons, a Kids Korner with inflatables for young attendees and other food offerings to accompany some of the best tasting ribs to be found anywhere.

The ribbers will have a familiar look, as all eight return from 2012. There is a waiting list, as numerous vendors want

a chance to participate. The Rib Burnoff is so popular, it's a bit like getting Green Bay Packer seasons tickets. You get on the waiting list, but it will be a long time before your number is called.

"We had four or five new ribbers inquire this year and had to be placed on the waiting list," Strongsville City Club President Terry Toth said.

Returning to the Commons are Desperado's BBQ & Rib Co.; Hog Wild Barbeque; Armadillo's Rib & BBQ Co.; Sgt. Oink's BBQ Co. Ltd.; Old Carolina Barbecue Company; Pigfoot; Texas Pit; and Smokin' Buckeye BBQ Co., which was called Twist N' Shout BBQ in 2012.

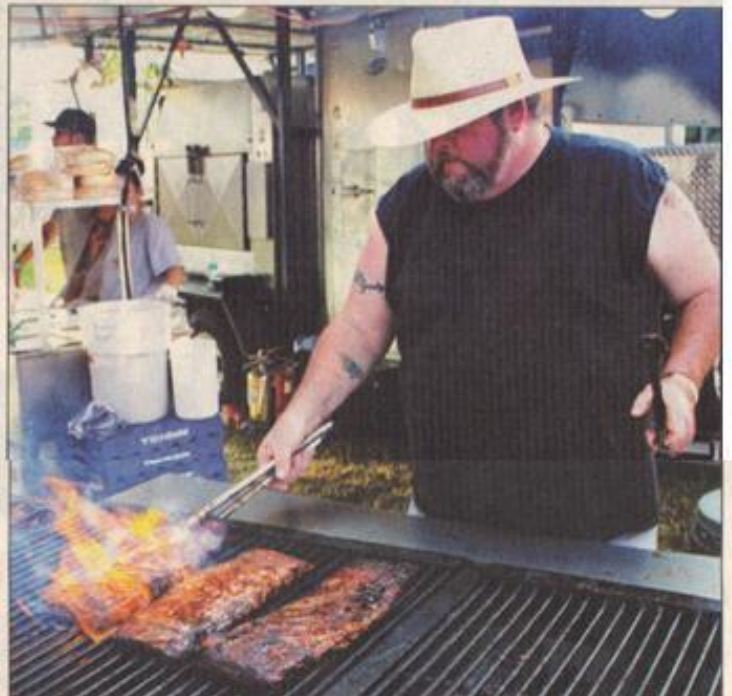
Attendees get to eat some of the best ribs on the planet, but for the ribbers, there is competition. Local celebrity judges will give their marks during Thursday and Friday judging. Culinary judges from Polaris will taste and appraise on Saturday. Winners in the "Best Ribs," "Best Sauce" and "People's Choice" awards will be announced June 22 at 7:30 p.m.

People come for the ribs, but don't ignore other food offerings at the event. There are funnel cakes, kettle corn, lemonade, ice cream, deep fried veggies, sweet corn, corn dogs, fried Twinkies and more to tempt the taste buds.

Evening entertainment includes 2012 returnees Midnite Groove on June 20 and Funkology on June 21. New this year is Dr. Mo., featuring Monica Robins from WKYC-TV. All three are scheduled to perform from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Solo performer Victor Samalot will entertain from 1 to 4 p.m. on June 22.

"We try to change things a little bit every year. Our entertainment committee decided Dr. Mo would be a good fit," Toth said.

The entertainment sponsor this year is Architectural Justice. Gold sponsors are Professional Roofing, Stifel Nicolaus, Mark Vavruska and Southwest General Health Center. Silver sponsors are *The Post Newspapers*, Boosters for Perciak, Coca-Cola, Pat Catan's Craft Stores, Pinzone Financial and Sheetz.



Photos by TERRY BRILAS

The eight rib vendors are back from last year to cook and compete at the 27th Annual Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff. The event takes place on the Commons June 20-22.

Rib Burnoff hours are 4 to 11 p.m. on June 20, 3 to 11 p.m. on June 21 and noon to 11 p.m. on June 22. Admission is \$2 for adults. Children 10 and under are free. Everyone gets in free before 4 p.m. on June 22. Tickets are available from any City Club member. You can also pay the day of the event.

A shuttle bus will run from the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center parking lot to the Commons from 5 to 10:30 p.m. each evening.

"It's one of the best values in town," Toth said.

This will be the last year in an official capacity for Bob Jirik, City Club treasurer and co-chair of the Rib Burnoff.

"We're excited about doing it again, and we're going to continue doing it, but I'm hanging it up after the event. We need to get some young blood in there," he said. "Our membership is on hand to

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put it on because so many people enjoy it. We're proud of it."

Proceeds from the event are funneled back to a number of Strongsville City Club initiatives including Special Olympics. Visit www.strongsvilleyclub.org/Rib_Burnoff/General_Info for coupons and more information.



If Ribs are your thing, then get ready. The Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff is back for its 27th year on the Commons.