



Bring a bib: Rib burnoff will rock Strongsville June 23-25

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By [Brian Byrne, Sun News](#)



Under the Radar is set to perform June 25 at the Strongsville City Club's 25th Annual Rib Burnoff at the City Commons. The group is, from left, J.R. Silvestro, Strongsville resident Gary Willard, Mark Best, Ed Flannigan and Paul Silvestro. The Strongsville City Club's 25th Annual Rib Burnoff is set for June 23-25 at the City Commons. Deemed as "Not the Biggest . . . Just the Best", the event is set to feature the same world-class BBQ and entertainment that drew more than 20,000 attendees last year.

This year's lineup of "prime ribbers" includes Cowboys Barbeque and Rib Co. and Old Carolina Barbeque Company, winners of the 2010 awards for "Judge's Best Ribs" and "People's Choice Best Ribs" respectively. Also participating will be Desperado's BBQ and Rib Co., Hog Wild Barbeque and Armadillo's Rib and BBQ Co. Winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m. June 25, and attendees can also register at the ticket booth for a chance to be a judge.

Other traditional offerings will include roasted corn, fried vegetables, elephant ears and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

All three nights of the event will feature live music from 6:30-10:30 p.m., with Midnight Groove set to perform June 23, Funkology on June 24 and Under the Radar on June 25.

Under the Radar's show will serve as a reunion for Strongsville resident Gary Willard, Paul Silvestro and Mark Best. Throughout the 70s and 80s, the trio performed in the bands Breakout and Nasty Habits. With Willard and Silvestro on guitars and vocals and Best on bass, the group played premiere clubs, such as The Agora, in a seven-state area. Willard and Silvestro also played in The Evidence, an all-original group that went on to open for national acts like Cheap Trick, Belinda Carlisle and Southside Johnny.

Willard and Silvestro now perform frequently as a duo at area clubs, such as The Mad Cactus, but will be joined at the burnoff by Best for the first time in more than 20 years. The band will be rounded-out with Ed Flannigan,

who formerly performed at Cleveland Cavaliers games at Quicken Loans Arena, on keyboards J.R. Silvestro, Paul's brother, on drums.

Willard looks forward to seeing some familiar faces, and possibly their children, in the crowd.

"We'll be doing a little catch-up with everybody," he said.

Despite just a couple of practices with the new band, Willard is confident the quintet of "seasoned, veteran performers" will put on a lively show of up-tempo rock spanning the 80's to the present and including covers of artists such as Tom Petty and Kings of Leon.

"It just falls into place," he said.

Adult general admission to the burnoff is \$2, and children 10-and-under are free. All active members of the armed services will receive free admission, and admission is free to everyone from 12-3 p.m. June 25.

For more information, visit strongsvillecityclub.com.

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