

City Rib Burnoff fires up Commons beginning today

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STRONGSVILLE — Rib lovers are expected to crowd onto the City Commons today through Saturday — possibly in record numbers.

Just how big the crowds will get for the 15th Annual City Club Rib Burnoff depends largely on the weather, says event chairman Tom Barum, who noted that blue skies and a lack of rain drew more than 25,000 to the commons in 2000.

He said last year's crowd was the biggest ever, but even if this year's burnoff attracts more, the vendors will be ready, Barum said.

The list of vendors includes Barbarino's Restaurant, Columbus Station; DD Stutz, Massillon; Mesperados BBQ & Rib Co., Cinckley; Geppetos of Strongsville; GoldDust BBQ Co., Stowe; Hanks Old Time BBQ Co., Mansfield; Mad Cactus, Strongsville; Porky-N-Beans, Jensen Beach, Fla.; Sgt. Oinks Pit BBQ, Tiffin; Stamp

and Sons, Kennesaw, Ga.; Tony Romas Catering, Oakwood Village and Texas Pit BBQ, Albion, Pa.

The entertainment lineup is as follows: Today, Bruno Brothers Band; Friday, Ramin' Cain and the Splash Show Band; on Saturday, Performances times are 6:30-10:30 nightly.

Not to be missed is the judging for best ribs and sauce. The Cleveland Culinary Guild will select its winners from among the top six People's Choice picks, arrived at by way of local patrons' ballots.

Barum said ballots are available on the commons and ballot boxes are placed at rib burnoff entrances and exits.

City Club President Bill Ritchie serves as the event's co-chairman. Approximately 150 volunteers, mostly City Club members and their friends and families staff the various concessions.



Terry O'Malley prepares ribs for Geppetos. The vendor is among many returning to the Commons this year.