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Rib Burnoff entertains

Music and Kids Korner give everyone a chance to move their feet

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The 25th Annual Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff had a bit of something for everyone. In addition to fantastic food, there was entertainment for all ages.

Mother Nature gave the Rib Burnoff a break by keeping the rains at bay for the most part, but music flooded the grounds of the Commons all three nights of the event, June 23 to 25.

The bands that entertained Rib Burnoff attendees were Midnite Groove (June 23), Funkology (June 24) and Under the Radar (June 25).

The City Club receives inquiries from bands on its Web site. There is a committee that travels to various venues to listen to potential Rib Burnoff bands.

The music is as much a part of the event as good food, according to City Club President David Knowles.

"The bands really play to the crowd. The vendors and people in attendance remark to us how good the bands are," he said. "They play the kind of music that people like. Many of the songs are sing-a-long. You can see people mouthing the words with the band and that makes it special."

Midnite Groove has been making music together for 11 years.

"It's a fun gig. We're noise at the end of the room," John Glock, guitarist/vocalist with Midnite Groove, said. "You can tell people are having fun. As long as they're eating the ribs, that's all that matters."

Funkology played the Rib Burnoff during the evening of June 24. The 11-piece band that started out with four high school music teachers includes a number of horns. The group has a Chicago (the band) type of vibe for obvious reasons.

It was a unique listening experience because 11-piece bands are unusual due to the fact that the paycheck must be split 11 ways. Simple math would dictate that money is not plentiful for a part-time band of that size.



Photo by TERRY BRLAS
Funkology, an 11-member band, entertained at the Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff on June 24.



Photo by TERRY BRLAS
Michael Fink of Strongsville attempts to negotiate an inflatable maze at the City Club Rib Burnoff on June 25 on the Commons.

"We love to hang out and play together," Bryan Keller, drummer and Funkology leader, said. "We try to find arrangements for horns that people wouldn't necessarily associate with that musical instrument."

A lot of the band members are from Brunswick, but the opportunities to play in this area are somewhat limited.

"We don't get to play Strongsville a lot so it's nice to be out here. This is a great event," Keller said.

"We want everybody to have a great time, eat and enjoy," Ed Basich, guitarist with Funkology, said. "We are background music. We like the big sound."

Under the Radar is a five-piece band that plays high-energy music from the 1980s to the present. Strongsville resident Gary Willard and band mate Paul Silvestro performed in The Evidence that opened for such acts as Cheap Trick, Belinda Carlisle and Southside Johnny.

"Paul and I have been playing as a duo in local, smaller clubs," Willard said. "The opportunity presented itself through the City Club and asked if we could expand to a full band. We made a couple of calls and like The Blues Brothers got the band together."

Kid's Korner

There was plenty for the young ones to do at the Rib Burnoff. Inflatables including a giant slide, bounce house, climbing structure and maze adorned the end of the Commons closest to the police headquarters.

There was also food more to the liking of the young ones including corn dogs, cotton candy, ice cream, elephant ears and funnel cakes.

"The area with the inflatables makes the night more enjoyable for families and helps them stay here longer," Knowles said.

Strongsville residents Bill and Donna Fink have lived in Strongsville for 12 years. Their sons, Michael and Evan, were having a great time at Kids Korner.

"We love the community, the people and this type of activity," she said. "It's a great place to live."

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