

NEWSPAPERS THE POST

City Club Rib Burnoff turns 25

"Not the biggest...Just the best" takes place June 23-25 on the Strongsville Commons

By **TERRY BRLAS**

Updated: 6/29/2011

Strongsville Post editor

It's been a quarter of a century of finger licking, bone sucking, and sauce tasting fun in Strongsville.

The Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff marks its 25th year in 2011. The annual tradition is June 23-25 on the Commons.

Hours for the Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff are 4-11 p.m. on June 23, 3-11 p.m. on June 24 and noon-11 p.m. on June 25.

Ribbers come from as far away as Texas. This year's contingent are Armadillo's (Boardman), Cowboy's Barbeque & Ribs (Waterford, Tex.), Desperado's B-B-Q & Rib Co. (Hinckley), Old Carolina B-B-Q Co. (Massillon), Hog Wild B-B-Q (Mansfield), Smokin' B-B-Q (Northfield), Texas Pit (Willis, Tex.), Sgt. Mike's Oinks (Tiffin), and Jack on the Bone (Navarre).

The City Club has organized and been putting on this event for each of its 25 years. It's billed as "Not the biggest ...Just the best."

City Club member Dr. Glenn Goist was co-chair of the event the first year. It started to grow, but he and other members soon realized a limited number of rib vendors was the way to go.

"When we first started we had 12 ribbers, then took it to 19," he said. "Some of the ribbers weren't happy because they didn't sell as much from the previous year. Our idea isn't to get bigger. We want the ribbers to come back every year."

In addition to some of the best ribs you will ever taste there are other food items to get your taste buds jumping. Corn dogs, cotton candy, ice cream, French fries and funnel cakes, along with soda, smoothies and lemonade will be available.

Children under the age of 10 are admitted free. Speaking of the young ones, a Kid's Corner will have inflatables including a giant slide, bounce houses, climbing structures and mazes.

Guests do not need to worry about the weather. Large tents with comfortable seating and tables are on site to enjoy the food or just give your legs a rest.



Photo by TERRY BRLAS

The Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff is one of the premier events in Strongsville. The 2011 version is the 25th annual get together for friends and families on the Commons from June 23-25.



Photo by TERRY BRLAS

The 25th Annual Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff takes place June 23-25 on the Commons. Nine ribbers, some from as far away as Texas, will tantalize the tastebuds of attendees.

The Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff is a competition. Winners for "Best Ribs," "Best Sauce" and the "People's Choice" awards will be announced Saturday, June 25 at 7:30 p.m. Ballots for the "People's Choice" award are available at the gates.

If anyone would like to help determine who has the "Best Ribs," he or she can register either Thursday (June 23) or Friday (June 24) evening at the ticket booth. The Rib Burnoff Committee will draw names for judges each night. The winners from Thursday and Friday night judging will compete for the "Best Ribs" title on Saturday. Judges for the finals will be from the Culinary Institute, led by Chef O. The Final Judging will be held at 5:30 p.m. Saturday evening in the Judges Tent, next to the gazebo.

Entertainment headliners for each of the three nights of the Rib Burnoff are Midnight Groove on June 23, Funkology on June 24 and Under the Radar on June 25. All performances are 6:30-10:30 p.m. in the gazebo.

Under the Radar is a five-piece band playing 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.

"We're really looking forward to this event. The City Club does a fantastic job," Willard said.

Silvestro added, "This will really be fun. We hope a lot of our fans come out and see what we've been up to."

The Rib Burnoff is the major fundraising event for the Strongsville City Club. The organization supports 30-plus groups and projects including Special Olympics and Breakfast on the Bridge.

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