

NEWSPAPERS THE POST

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Write in the Crossroads

with Editor Terry Brlas

tbrlas@thepostnewspapers.com
330-322-3664

Did you make it to the City Club Rib Burnoff last weekend? I am guessing you were probably one of the approximately 25,000 people that enjoyed the great weather, ribs and atmosphere that only this event can conjure. The cover photo this week is from the event and you can read about the Riboff on page 19.

The event got off to a fantastic start as the Strongsville Commons was packed in June 20, the first evening of the three-day event. A number of people got an early start on their weekend as the Thursday evening crowds were tremendous. And attendance continued strong through the weekend under blue skies and warm temperatures.

Everyone has his or her own reasons for attending the event, but the heart of the event is in the name - ribs. I don't know how many different ribs you tried. Odds if you sampled from all the ribbers. And I hope you took the opportunity to vote for the People's Choice Award for Best Ribs and Best Sauce. The respective winners in these categories were Texas Pit from Willis, Texas and Desperado's from Hinckley.

I was at the City Club Rib Burnoff all three days and was with my 9-year-old daughter on June 22, the final day of the event. As everyone had their reasons for attending, I imagine most people had his or her particular reasons for dining on the ribs they did. I let my daughter choose the ribs we ate that Saturday evening. "Let's go over there, dad. They've got the most trophies," she said. I guess it is all in the marketing.

Having said that, there wasn't a bad rib to be found. The ribbers at the City Club Rib Burnoff return year after year because they enjoy the event and do a



good business. Any ribber who wants to be part of the event goes on a waiting list because everyone wants to return. That says a lot about the Riboff, people of Strongsville and City Club.

The Riboff has become known as one of the premiere events of its kind in the area. That kind of positive reputation did not happen by accident. City Club members and the myriad of volunteers that work the event are the lifeblood of this late June food and fun festival.

The event also could not take place without its numerous sponsors, of which *The Post Newspapers* was one. It is a symbiotic relationship for the City Club and those sponsoring businesses.

This was the 27th Annual City Club Rib Burnoff. Community events that reach that kind of longevity are rare. There is a simple reason that the event is fast-approaching three decades of existence. Individuals and families show up in droves to sample ribs and other food offerings, listen to high-end entertainment, allow their children to play on inflatables, renew acquaintances and make new friends.

The City Club has hit on a recipe for success that has and continues to work. As the organization states about the event, "Not the biggest... Just the best." Based on my experience, I would have to agree.



Safety Town graduate

Gabby Serina, daughter of Heidi Serina, recently graduated from Strongsville Safety Town. Gabby's proud grandparents, Ron and Dolores Burlinghaus, submitted this photo. You can read about Safety Town on page 32 in this edition of *The Strongsville Post*.



Scholarship recipient

Allison McGhee, of Strongsville, was awarded the 2013 Ruth M. Aikey Memorial Scholarship, worth an estimated \$38,688 over four years.

McGhee recently completed her freshman year at Kent State University. The scholarship pays full tuition for a student attending Kent State and majoring in early childhood education or middle

childhood education.

Pictured are (left to right) Aikey Foundation Executive Director Janice L. Krisko, McGhee and Aikey Foundation Treasurer Ronald B. Krisko.

The Aikey foundation has awarded more than \$237,721 in scholarships to promising students with financial need since 2033. Student applicants must be a current resident of either Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Berea, Birmingham, Brookpark, Columbia Station, Elyria, Grafton, Kipton, LaGrange, Lorain, Middleburg Heights, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Olmsted Falls, Rochester, Sheffield Lake, South Amherst, Strongsville or Wellington in the state of Ohio and have a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average. For more information please write to Aikey Foundation; 18651 West Road, Suite B; Wellington, OH 44090 or visit www.aikeyfoundation.org.



Blessings in a Backpack

Strongsville's Kemper House hosted a yard sale referred to as a "Junk and Gems Sale" at the Prospect Road facility May 16 through 18 to raise money for the nonprofit Blessings in a Backpack organization. The event raised more than \$2,000 with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the initiative.

"It (Junks and Gems) was a huge success. I think we're going to make it an annual event," said Jennifer Nance, vice president of marketing at the Kemper House. "People from Strongsville and surrounding cities donated items to be sold. The more money we make, the more food we're able to provide the students at Drake."

Residents of Kemper House, an Alzheimer's care facility, filled bags with food this past school year that were delivered every Thursday to students at Drake Elementary School. The intergenerational Blessings in a Backpack initiative provided weekend meals for more than 130 students that received free or reduced lunches during the school day. The bags provided enough sustenance for two full days. Drake was chosen because the school is located in the same neighborhood as Kemper House.

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