



NEWS RELEASE – Lexington, N.C.

**October 4, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Stephanie K. Saintsing Naset
Executive Director, Barbecue Festival
Email: ss@barbecuefestival.com
Phone: (336)956-1880
www.BarbecueFestival.com

The 35th Annual Barbecue Festival announces entertainment lineup and more

On Saturday, October 27th more than 150,000 people will gather in Uptown Lexington to enjoy food, shopping, entertainment, and much more during the 35th Annual Barbecue Festival.

The family-friendly festival stretches nine blocks down Main St. and features several official barbecue tents and Pepsi booths along with approximately 300 vendors selling a variety of crafts, foods, art, clothing and jewelry.

Seven outdoor stages throughout the festival and one indoor stage at the historic Edward C. Smith Civic Center will each feature a full lineup of entertainment to please every taste.

The Grandstand on the Square is the site for the opening ceremony at 9:00a.m. and Q104's popular "Q-Jam," which will feature Danielle Bradbery, Maddie & Tea, and Tyler Rich. The stage will also feature festival favorites, Chairmen of the Board as well as Jason D. Williams, and MamaDear.

Festival Stage Two, located between 4th and 5th streets on Main St., will have music from The LeBeaus, Lauren Light, Chelsea Sorrell, Marble Alley Band, and Snyder Family Band.

Sam's Car Wash on Main St. between 3rd and 4th streets will house Festival Stage Three. Jim Quick & Coastline, Smitty & The JumpStarters, Jive Mother Mary, and The CopperStill Band will provide music throughout the morning and afternoon.

On E. 3rd Ave. at the Breeden Amphitheater is Festival Stage Four. Musical sounds will be provided by Band of Oz, SILKGROOVE, The Lilly Brothers, and Departure – A Journey Tribute Band. There will also be a Hospitality Garden featuring the Bud Light Mobile Experience at Stage Four. The Ultimate Eagles Tribute – On The Border will be the featured acts for the Grand Finale Concert which begins at 6:00p.m. and ends with fireworks at 9:00p.m. New York Sound Machine DJ will serve as host.

The Children’s Stage on the corner of Main St. and 4th Ave. will feature interactive entertainment from Dakota & Friends Dinosaur Show, Mark Lippard – Juggling Extraordinaire, Lexington Youth Theater, and The Spin Man.

Festival Stage Six on 1st Ave. showcases local artists including Tony Corner, Trinity Quartet, JJ Blue, Ken McIver Davis, Gates of Redemption, and The Pop Guns. DJ Tommy Rock will host.

A Pop-Up Stage will be located on E. 2nd Ave. Kenya Safari Acrobats, Maggie Baugh, Matt Walsh, and Fogle Brothers will be featured on it. The Kenya Safari Acrobats will also perform at the Indoor Stage at the Edward C. Smith Civic Center.

Visit BarbecueFestival.com for a full schedule of events and performances.

Special attractions include the 19th annual pig sand sculpture on the lawn of the old Lexington Post Office located on the corner of W. 3rd Ave. and Main St., the “Festival Chop Shop” Lumberjack Sports Show, Bicycle Stunt Shows, the Hogway Speedway, the Kids Casting Competition, a car show extravaganza, the Purina Pro Plan Performance Team dog show, Trampoline Quad Power Jump, Rock Climbing Wall, a Barbecue Festival Fly-In, and more. Children will be able to enjoy activities such as the Barbecue Carnival/Family Fun Area and the Scrap Exchange’s Make-N-Take event where attendees will have an opportunity to create crafts from a variety of recycled materials.

New to the festival is The Fruit Ninja who will be carving fruits and vegetables to create unique sculptures.

Our State Magazine is the Presenting Sponsor for the festival wine garden featuring seven NC wineries. Admission is \$12 in advance at www.barbecuefestival.com, \$15 at the gate. Admission includes a commemorative glass and access to upscale bathrooms.

Fine Swine Wine will be available for purchase; the blend is specially crafted to complement Lexington-style barbecue and is a collaboration between artist Bob Timberlake and NASCAR legend Richard Childress. The 14th annual blend will be sold on the Square with a portion of sales benefitting the Barbecue Festival in memory of festival founder, Kay Saintsing.

The American Red Cross will again host a blood drive at the J. Smith Young YMCA on W. 3rd Ave. from 10:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. This year the drive will honor the memory of the late Richard Thomas who was the Mayor of Lexington for 14 years. Schedule appointments at RedCrossBlood.org. Enter keyword BBQ Festival.

North Davidson Garbage Service & Recycling Center will again partner with the Barbecue Festival to continue the festival-wide recycling initiative; the goal for 2018 is 4,500 lbs.

Getting to and from the Barbecue Festival is easy with several transportation options and ample parking throughout Uptown Lexington managed by area civic groups. Shuttle and trolley service from satellite parking lots at Childress Vineyards and Walmart (Lowes Blvd.) is available from 8:00a.m. – 6:00p.m. for \$2-3 per rider. Children under 12 can ride the shuttle for free. Amtrak trains running from Charlotte and Raleigh will stop in Lexington in the morning and afternoon with return service offered in the evening. Tickets can be booked at www.ridencbytrain.org or by calling Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL. Use station code LEX to secure your ride to the festival.

Pre-festival Activities: Festival fans are invited for an early evening of Que Up! Brew Up!, a family friendly experience with free admission and music on Thursday, October 25 from 5:30–9:30p.m. The event will be held at the Breeden Amphitheater on E. 3rd Avenue.

A special Pre-Pig Shindig on Friday, October 26 runs from 6:00-10:00p.m. at Childress Vineyards featuring. Tickets available \$10 in advance and \$15 day of at www.bit.ly/PrePigShindig.

Media Note:

Additional press information including high-resolution photos, logos, and all media releases is available. Requests for access should be directed to ss@barbecuefestival.com.

Festival media representatives are available to assist with feature ideas, scheduling on-site visits, interviews, photography, and video footage. Members of the media are invited to take advantage of private facilities with refreshments and restrooms on day of festival at Lexington Tourism Authority.

Established in 1983, the first Barbecue Festival was held October 27, 1984. The Barbecue Festival has achieved regional, statewide, and national recognition for its excellence. Accolades and recognitions include: Top Ten Food Festivals in America by Travel & Leisure Magazine, Top 20 October Event by Southeast Tourism Society, Library of Congress Local Legacies project, 50-plus awards through the N.C. Association of Festivals and Events awards program, Top Ten Great Places to Celebrate Food by USA Today.