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MY TOWN

Annual Brentwood event grows each year but remains dedicated to family fun

By Paula King

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BRENTWOOD -- Organizers of the fifth annual Brentwood Cookoff and Car Show said they are proud that the event continues to grow each year, while remaining family-friendly with a safe and relaxing ambience.

At Saturday's event, attendees can sample savory barbecue bites while helping a local charity, the Special Kids Foundation. All of the proceeds from \$2 ribs will go to Special Kids, a nonprofit organization that benefits children in East Contra Costa with special needs.

"We want to give back to the community and support something locally," said organizer Steve LaRocque. "Kids are the most important part of our community. We felt it was something that we could really rally around."

Special Kids Executive Director Lisa McBride said being the charity recipient for this annual event allows her organization to continue to provide scholarships for its various programs. Recently, Special Kids provided some scholarships for a summer camp program at Zia Ranch, which offers therapeutic horse riding in Brentwood. "The funds will be used to continue to provide support for special needs families wherever those needs might be," she said.

Both professional and amateur barbecue masters will compete at the cook-off and car show. The professionals will serve up beef brisket, pork ribs, chicken and pulled pork. The amateurs will barbecue ribs, chicken and tri-tip in the backyard division. Tastings will cost just \$1 per serving. Prizes will be awarded to the top barbecue kings in each division, according to LaRocque.

A record number of local car owners have registered for the show. There will be eight awards for the car show, including best in show and best engine.

"We already have 60 vehicles registered," LaRocque said.

While the adults are listening to live music and checking out cars, children can enjoy a children's play area with bounce houses and a video game truck for teens.

Cornerstone Fellowship hosts the event each year on its site at 6651 Lone Tree Way.

"It is the church's chance to give back," LaRocque said. "We love our city. It is a fun city."

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IF YOU GO

What: Brentwood Cookoff and Car Show

When: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 9

Where: 6651 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood (across from Winco Foods)

Details: The festivities will include live music, barbecue cook-off, car show, chili competition and a kid's play area. Proceeds from the event will support the Special Kids Foundation. To register for the car show or cook-off, check out www.cookoffandcarshow.com.