



Nicole Sytsma of Antioch helps her son, Jacob, 1, get ready to build with some tubes from the mobile Busy Brains Children's Museum.

Taste of Summer kicks off in Antioch

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After horseback riding at the Chain O' Lakes State Park, Billy Ignatowicz of Gurnee hunkered down with a steak burrito and beer on Thursday during Antioch's 18th annual Taste of Summer, which continues through the weekend.

"We got lucky. Today is gorgeous," said Ignatowicz, who was celebrating his 32nd birthday.

Daily Taste
Today

Noon-11p.m.: Food booths

All Day: Sidewalk sales

Noon-5 p.m.: Bingo

Noon-5 p.m.: Busy Brains Toddler Fun

Noon-2 p.m.: Michael Lescher on keyboards

2 & 4 p.m.: Freckles the Clown

3-4 p.m.: Michael Lescher on keyboards

5-11 p.m.: Carnival

5-7 p.m.: Barstool Soldiers

8-11 p.m.: World Class Noise

Saturday

Noon-11p.m.: Food booths

All Day: Sidewalk sales

Noon-5 p.m.: Bingo

Noon-5 p.m.: Busy Brains Toddler Fun

Noon-11 p.m.: Carnival (unlimited wristbands 12-5)

Noon-2 p.m.: The August Band

2 & 4 p.m.: Freckles the Clown

3 p.m.: Cheer Cats - Gymnastic Zone

3-5 p.m.: 95 WIIL ROCK live remote

5-7 p.m.: Little Nashville band

8-11 p.m.: BBI Live

Sunday

Noon-6 p.m.: Food booths

All Day: Sidewalk sales

Noon-7 p.m.: Carnival (unlimited wristbands 12-5)

Noon-1: Out of the Way band

2:30-5 p.m.: American English

5-5:30: Meet & Greet w/ American English

The tantalizing smells of grilling brats, ribs and fried funnel cakes waft from the dozen vendor tents, reaching people a block away shopping the sidewalk sales on Main and Lake streets.

Between 25,000 and 30,000 visitors are expected at the four-day festival, held in the park at Orchard and Skidmore streets east of Main Street, said Barbara Porch, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce which sponsors the festival and the beer garden tent.

This is the first year Sequoit Creek Lodge restaurant in Antioch has joined the Taste, offering fried cheese curds and sandwiches of Italian beef, Italian sausage or meatballs. The restaurant also made some homemade Italian lemonade just for the event, said owner Mike Cascone of Antioch.

He opened Sequoit Creek Lodge on Main Street about two and a half years ago. It's reminiscent of the North Woods in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where Cascone likes to fish.

Chris Smith, a retired Navy cook turned caterer in Zion, brought back The Brat Shop, offering brats, turkey legs and cheese fries back to the festival this year. He's also introducing ribs for the first time.

Smith estimates he goes through about 450 pounds of turkey legs and about 1,000 brats during the festival each year.

Jacob "Grande Jake" Rodriguez is selling burritos and nachos from Grande Jake's Mexican Grill, which will be opening up its third location in Buffalo Grove, in addition to its Antioch and Lindenhurst locations.

Besides food, there's also live entertainment and carnival rides.

Nicole Sytsma of Antioch brought her two boys, 1-year-old Jacob and 2-year-old Tristan, to see a clown and play with a traveling exhibit provided by Busy Brains Children's Museum in Lake Villa.

"We'll come back tonight and get some food when daddy comes home," Sytsma said.