



## **NEWS RELEASE – Lexington, N.C.**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*The 36th Annual Barbecue Festival announces entertainment lineup and more*

On Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> more than 160,000 people will gather in Uptown Lexington to enjoy food, entertainment, vendors, and much more during the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Barbecue Festival.

The family-friendly festival, celebrating one style of barbecue – Lexington Style, stretches nine blocks down Main St. and features several official barbecue tents and Pepsi booths along with approximately 300 merchants selling a variety of crafts, art, food, clothing and jewelry.

Six outdoor stages throughout the festival 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 Hardy, Caylee Hammack, Walker Hayes and Thompson Square. Immediately following the "Q-Jam" Stephanie Quayle and her full band will perform. The stage will also feature festival favorites, Chairmen of the Board as well as Maggie Baugh.

The NC Songwriter's Stage, located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., will have music from Tony Low, Stevan Jackson, High Fall Risk, Kirby Heard, Leah Kaufman, Michael Daughtry, Ryan Bonner, Judson Hair, David Wiseman and Michael Melia.

Sam's Car Wash on Main St. between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets will house Festival Stage Three. Jim Quick & Coastline, Smitty & The JumpStarters, Radio Revolver, and Bristolina will provide music throughout the morning and afternoon.

On E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., the Breeden Amphitheater will be home to the Amphitheater Stage. Musical sounds will be provided by Band of Oz, SILKGROOVE and The Lilly Brothers. There will also be a Hospitality Garden featuring the Bud Light Mobile Experience. YARN and 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. DJ-New York Sound Machine will serve as host.

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

The Local Stage on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. will showcase local artists including DJ-Street Dance, Tony Corner, Trinity Quartet, Lexington Live, JJ Blue, Ken McIver Davis and Rude City Project. DJ Tommy Rock will host.

A Pop-Up Stage will be located on E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Brown Mountain Lightning Bugs, Sweet Dreams Trio, Crawford & Power, Taylor Mason and Matt Walsh will be featured on it.

Visit [BarbecueFestival.com](http://BarbecueFestival.com) for a full schedule of events and performances.

Special attractions include the 20th annual pig sand sculpture on the lawn of the old Lexington Post Office located on the corner of W. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, a rock climbing wall, a Barbecue Festival Fly-In, and more. Families 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.

Carolina Propane of Lexington has teamed with the Barbecue Festival to produce the Juried Arts and Crafts Section. This special section located on S. Main St. between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aves. will feature talented artisans.

New to the festival is a live mural painting that will be composed by Britt Flood. It will take place on S. Main St. between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.

The festival wine garden will be presented by Our State Magazine and sponsored by Kinetic by Windstream. It will feature NC wineries. Admission is \$12 in advance at [www.barbecuefestival.com](http://www.barbecuefestival.com), \$15 at the gate. Admission includes a commemorative glass and access to upscale bathrooms. Wine will be available by the glass and bottle for purchase. It will be open from 11:00am until 8:30pm.

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 15<sup>th</sup> annual blend will be sold on the Square at the Childress Vineyards booth with a portion of sales benefitting the Barbecue Festival. Timberlake and award-winning wine maker, Mark Friszolowski, will be available to sign bottles at the booth from 9:30am-10:30am.

The American Red Cross will again host a blood drive at the J. Smith Young YMCA on W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. from 10:00a.m. - 3:30p.m. This year the drive will honor the memory of beloved, local educators, the

late Charles and Julia England. Schedule appointments at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org). Enter keyword: BBQ Festival.

The City of Lexington will again partner with the Barbecue Festival to continue the festival-wide “green” initiative; the goal for 2019 is to recycle 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](http://www.ridencbytrain.org), on the mobile app 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, music, and the Budlight Beer Garden Experience on Thursday, October 24th from 5:30–9:30p.m. at Breeden Amphitheater.

A special Pre-Pig Shindig on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> runs from 6:00-10:00p.m. at Childress Vineyards featuring. Tickets available \$15 in advance and \$20 day of at [www.childressvineyards.com](http://www.childressvineyards.com).

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#### **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](mailto: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.

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*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.*