



## Magic City Grill Fest Brings on the Heat

Colon, MI – Perfect summer temperatures and sunny skies served as the backdrop for the 4th Annual Magic City Grill Fest, a culinary grilling competition and festival for enthusiasts of premium barbecue. 22 grilling teams competed in the festival Saturday, on June 17, 2023 in Colon, MI, the Magic Capital of the World. The event featured several rounds of grilling, including ribs, chicken, wagyu beef sliders, and an open round where teams were allowed to let their creative grilling juices flow and grill their own culinary delights. The top teams in each category were awarded trophies, prizes, and bragging rights for the best barbecue in the region. A single elimination cornhole tournament was also held. “We were thrilled with the turnout for the Magic City Grill Fest,” said Tim Taylor, Grill Master and Chair of the longstanding event. “The competition was fierce, the food was delicious, and the local community and surrounding areas absolutely love the event.”

Teams from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Indiana competed in the three-round competition using a diverse range of wood and charcoal fired grills and smokers. “Teams cooked on grills ranging from old fashioned Weber Grills to high end premium Silver Rocket Grills. There were offset smokers, barrel smokers, and large kettle grills. The diverse style of grills gave us all a tremendous variety of grilled meats and the overall size of the grills increased our grilling capacity by five times.”, said Taylor.

“This year was more flavorful than ever!” said three time judge, Laura Kurella. “The competitors really stepped up their grilling skills and brought their best game to compete in this year’s match. It was quite the pleasure to serve as a judge. The fest was filled with fabulous flavors and wafted with so many uplifting aromas. I felt like it was BBQ heaven.

Standouts in the competition included Grand Rapids natives, Grill Friends, who took home four trophies in the competition. Other multiple winners were event sponsors Black Gold Charcoal and Silver Rockets, Chicago-natives, the OH JJJJ's and local favorites, Main Street Smokehouse, Get the Pork Outta Here, Embers and long-time favorite, Sand Lake Party Store. "We love this grilling festival" said Shawn Fabian, team captain of Sand Lake Party Store owner. "This is our third year competing and the event gets better and better each year."

Proceeds from the event benefited the Colon American Legion Post 454, which supports our veterans, their families, and the local community. For more information on the festival you can go their website at [www.magiccitygrillfest.com](http://www.magiccitygrillfest.com)

The winners of the 4th Annual Magic City Grill Fest were:

**Clemens Food Group Rib Round:**

1st – Grill Friends

2nd – Main Street Smokehouse

3rd – OH JJJJ's

Honorable Mention – Embers

Honorable Mention – Get the Pork Outta Here

**Miller Amish Country Poultry Chicken Round:**

1st – Black Gold Charcoal

2nd – Sand Lake Party Store

3rd – Get the Pork Outta Here

Honorable Mention – Grill Friends

Honorable Mention – Main Street Smoke House

**Vander Farms Wagyu Beef Sliders Round:**

1st – Black Gold Charcoal

2nd – Busy Beavers

3rd – Magic Capital Grillers

Honorable Mention – Grill Friends

Honorable Mention – Spice Boys

**Open Round:**

1st – Sand Lake Party Store

2nd – Silver Rocket Grills

3rd – OH JJJJ's

**Taster's Choice:**

1st – Station Two BBQ

2nd – Pork-A-Holics

3rd – Grill Friends

**Davis and Davis Cornhole Tournament**

1st Place - Rodger Kauffman and Steve Kaufmann

2nd Place - Chris Bigham and Kelly Bigham



1st Place Clemens Food Group Rib Round  
Grill Friends



2nd Place Clemens Food Group Rib Round  
Main Street Smokehouse



3rd Place Clemens Food Group Rib Round  
The OH-JJJJ's



Honorable Mention Clemens Food Group Rib Round  
Embers



Honorable Mention Clemens Food Group Rib Round  
Get The Pork Otta Here



1st Place Miller Amish Country Poultry Chicken Round  
Black Gold Charcoal (Not Pictured)



2nd Place Miller Amish Country Poultry Chicken Round  
Sand Lake Party Store



3rd Place Miller Amish Country Poultry Chicken Round  
Get The Pork Outta Here



Honorable Mention Miller Amish Country Poultry Chicken Round Grill Friends



Honorable Mention Miller Amish Country Poultry  
Main Street Smokehouse



1st Place Vander Farms Waygu Beef Sliders Round  
Black Gold Charcoal (Not Pictured)



2nd Place Vander Farms Waygu Beef Sliders Round  
Busy Beavers (Not Pictured)



3rd Place Vander Farms Waygu Beef Sliders Round  
Magic Capital Grillers



Honorable Mention Vander Farms Waygu Beef Sliders Round  
Grill Friends



Honorable Mention Vander Farms Waygu Beef Sliders Round  
Spice Boys



1st Place Open Round  
Sand Lake Party Store



2nd Place Open Round  
Silver Rockets (Not Pictured)



3rd Place Open Round  
OH JJJJ's



1st Place Taster's Choice Award  
Station Two BBQ



2nd Place Taster's Choice Award  
Pork-A-Holics



3rd Place Taster's Choice Award  
Grill Friends



1st and 2nd Place Winners of the Davis and Davis Cornhole Tournament  
Rodger Kauffman & Steve Kaufmann and Kelly Bigham