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Brentwood's attempt at breaking the Guinness World Record for the most people husking corn simultaneously will only take about three minutes as 500 attendees of this weekend's CornFest husk one ear of corn each Saturday afternoon.

As the first 500 people to sign up husk away at 1 p.m., 12 to 14 stewards will be assigned to watch over each group of 50 participants while Contra Costa County Supervisor Mary Piepho and Congressman Jerry McNerney will act as official witnesses of the event.

The current Guinness World Record for corn husking was set last summer at Knott's Berry Farm in Southern California when 351 people husked corn to celebrate the agricultural roots of the park's founders, according to the Guinness' website.

CornFest chair Dirk Zeigler said that the record-breaking attempt is a great way to put the city and the event in honor of Brentwood 's sweet corn on the map, but it is also something memorable for the regional festival's 20th anniversary.

"I want the kids to have fun husking corn," Zeigler said. "It is all about Brentwood showing its true agricultural roots, and you can take home your ear of corn afterward."

Piepho said she is excited to be a guest witness because the event perpetuates Brentwood's small-town charm and honors East County's agricultural roots, which add to the area's quality of life and economy.

"It could put us in the history books, which is very exciting, and I'm happy to have some small

part of it," she said.

Those interested in the corn husking can sign up Friday at the CornFest information booth. Another highlight of the festival is Friday night's fireworks display, which is being paid for by the city through a grant, Zeigler noted.

But the real heart of the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce event, he said, is the 26 local nonprofits that raise money by selling beverages all weekend. Zeigler said that at least \$50,000 was distributed among these organizations last year and organizers hope to raise more money this summer.

This year's CornFest is expected to draw about 40,000 people and there will be more food vendors, Zeigler said. Amid complaints from last year, he said that the vendors will be located on concrete instead of dirt and the layout will be more intimate and less spread out since the new site at Brentwood Boulevard and Technology Way is smaller. "It will be more condensed this year," he said.

Zeigler also added that CornFest organizers have addressed the concerns of the surrounding neighbors regarding noise, security and parking.

"You will have more volunteer support, police and private security in place than any other time," he said.