

# Happy Birthday, U.S.A.!

It was a birthday celebration like no other — Independence Day, a celebration of our nation's birth and our freedoms for which it stands. Red, white, and blue, and stars and stripes were everywhere. U.S. flags waving in the breeze lined the streets, were on front porches, and more. Barbecues included blueberries and strawberries and other patriotic-colored desserts including cherry pies, flag-decorated cookies, rocket-shaped frozen treats, and cotton candy. Plates, napkins, cups, table coverings, and flow-

ers followed the same patriotic theme. Lightning bugs twinkled as night set in and stars dotted the skies with the moon peeking out. Meanwhile sparklers, candles, and flashlights lighted the way for spectators. Then what everyone waited for: Boom! and dazzling colors burst into the skies for pyrotechnics displays. Oohs and aahs were all one heard amid the silence, except the patriotic music that filled the air. Young and old, everyone was dazzled.



BARBARA HENDEL



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

▲ Becca Chowdhary, left, 5, and her sister Cecilia, 7, enjoy the holiday celebrations at Stone Oak Country Club on July 3.



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

▲ Ave Foor, 9, left, and Peyton Burnor, 10, during the Red, White, KABOOM at the Imagination Station.



◀ Erin and Jim Burnor, enjoy The Blade and Toledo Club's VIP party for Red, White, KABOOM at the Imagination Station.



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

▲ From left, Nancy Donovan-Lanier, and Hope and Dan Finch at the Stone Oak Country Club.



THE BLADE/BARBARA HENDEL

▲ Wayne Williamson and grandson, John D. Williamson, 4, enjoy the party at Belmont Country Club in Perrysburg on July 2.



THE BLADE/BARBARA HENDEL

▲ Kris Young and granddaughter Kensie Frankowiak, 2, at Belmont Country Club.



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

▲ From left: Julie Emerine, Mouhamad Adoure-Zehaim, Livviana King, 5, Kyle King, and Samara King, 12, prior to the fireworks at Red, White, KABOOM.



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

▲ Maureen Switala, left, and her daughter Beth Hermani, enjoy the celebrations at Stone Oak Country Club on July 3.



◀ Tara Stoll and daughter Ella enjoy the family-friendly festivities at Sylvania Country Club on July 2.



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

▲ Ava Newman, 6, held by Amber Baughman, Kylie Newman, 8, and Eric Baughman enjoy The Blade and Toledo Club's VIP party during Red, White, KABOOM at the Imagination Station on July 4.