

# Family adds 'crackle' to fireworks

If you want a family with pop, a clan that crackles, it's hard to go wrong with the Zambellis.

The First Family of Fireworks is considered this country's leading manufacturer and exhibitor of domestic and international pyrotechnic displays.

Zambelli fireworks have been used at such events as the Queen Elizabeth II Falklands return, the papal visit and the Canadian National Exhibition.

Closer to home, Zambelli exhibitions have been seen alongside the Washington Monument during Fourth of July festivities, at White House concerts and at the inaugurations of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Carter and Reagan.

FOR THE FIFTH consecutive year, Zambelli Fireworks will be used at the "Star Spangled Southfield" Festival at 10:15 p.m. Saturday, June 30.

The fireworks display will follow the Up With People concert, which starts at 8 p.m. and is free to the public. The works are co-sponsored by WWJ-AM and Avis Ford in Southfield.

"Should be a goose bumper," said Brian Sprague, president of Metrogroup Inc., the entertainment organizers for the festival.

SPRAGUE RECENTLY previewed the shells that will be fired up over the skies of Southfield.

As in years past, the show will open on a bang with a finale-styled introduction and conclude in a big way as well. Some of the shells are 12 inches, breaking into a multitude of colors and covering thousands of feet in the sky.

What makes the Zambellis among the best in the business is their ability to provide a wide array of displays and dazzling colors, Sprague said. The company manufactures a majority of its fireworks at its New Castle, Pa.-based factory.

"The recipe is highly secret," Sprague said.

Very few of the fireworks in the Zambelli displays are imported. Some are brought in from Spain, Japan and Taiwan.

"If they don't manufacture the shells, they will build their own lift charge so the shells can go higher in the air," Sprague said. "That's important."

ANOTHER IMPORTANT aspect is the safety measures that are taken at such exhibits.

Licensed pyrotechnists will be used to send off the fireworks. Other precautions include digging steel mortars into the ground to prevent any shell from going off course. Also, fireworks on the ground are covered by a tarpaulin so they are not ignited prematurely.

The Zambellis sport a rich tradition



The Zambelli fireworks show will light up skies over Southfield at 10:15 p.m. Saturday, June 30.

in pyrotechnics. The fireworks company was started by Antonio Zambelli after he arrived in the United States from Italy in 1893.

His sons, Joseph, Louis and George, promptly followed him into the business. Today, George is the president of the company.

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