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# Dexter Kids Celebrate Nation's Independence

JULY 05TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

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The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth of July Kiddie Parade feature kids decked in red, white and blue, decorated scooters, bikes, wagons and battery-powered vehicles, and even pets ready to celebrate the national holiday.

The parade, hosted by Jason and Kristi Banken, is a community tradition on the July 4 Independence Day holiday. The children and their families gather in the Banken's front yard, near the intersection of Elm and Vine streets. The patriotic parade steps off on Elm, heads north to Stoddard Street.

On Stoddard, the group pauses at the Post Office for photos, and an Independence Day celebration. Kids and adults alike join together to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, and raise voices in song – the year the repertoire included “Yankee Doodle” and “You’re A Grand Old Flag.”

The ensemble then begins its march again on Stoddard, heading to Poplar and turning south and marching to Vine, and back to the intersection with Elm.

The kids and families then enjoyed cool lemonade and cookies and celebrate the special day.

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