

Summer fun

Options for low-cost summer entertaining



Summer is a season for entertaining. But as the cost of consumer goods and even necessities like food has risen in recent years, some people may be hosting a lot less often than they used to. It's important to keep in mind that memorable entertaining options are not only defined by cost. Here are some strategies for budget-

friendly summer entertaining.

- Buffets and bars: A complex, multi-course meal will be expensive and some guests may even find it pretentious. Instead, reduce time spent in the kitchen and simplify meal service with buffet stations and food bars. Allow guests to customize their food with different toppings and ingredients, which can elevate even simple fare like tacos or burgers.

- Signature drinks: A full open bar is expensive. Keeping a few staples on hand, such as beer and red and white wine, should be sufficient. But hosts also can create a signature cocktail, make it in bulk and serve it

in a pitcher. Spritzers also can stretch wine or liquor further because they are mixed with sparkling water. Remember to also make non-alcoholic offerings available. A pitcher of mineral water with fruit or cucumber slices is affordable and refreshing.

- Affordable atmosphere: There's no need to hire a party planner to transform an entertaining space. Inexpensive tricks can go a long way. Lighting is important and repurposed holiday lights or bistro lights will make the space intimate as the sun goes down. Even tea candles in scattered mason jars will create a relaxing ambiance. Utilize found items for decor, like

seasonal fruits in a bowl for a vibrant centerpiece or clippings from the garden instead of costly bouquets picked up from the store.

- Music: Music can be used to set the mood and help guests feel comfortable, while silent space can be austere and awkward. Hosts can curate a party playlist via a free or paid music app rather than spending money on live entertainment.

- Encourage contributions: As a party host or hostess, it's tempting to want to do it all and take on all of the burden. But it's alright and cost-effective to accept help when guests want to contribute. If friends express a desire to help, ask them to bring a side dish, a favorite

beverage or a dessert to defray costs.

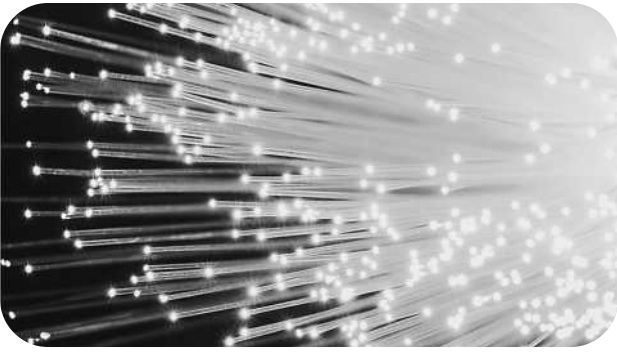
- Low-cost activities: Keeping guests occupied doesn't have to be expensive. Pass around lyrics to songs so everyone can join in on a group karaoke session featuring familiar favorites. Board games, lawn games like cornhole or even card games

are some additional low-cost options. Pool owners have an ultimate source of entertainment without any new expenses.

Entertaining during the summer doesn't have to be expensive. By focusing on company, fun and casual food, hosts and their guests are likely to have a good time.

Firework alternatives

Safer options for home celebrations



Fireworks are integral components of many large celebrations. Although fireworks can be impressive displays with their awe-inspiring designs and colors, they are best left to professionals and ideally avoided by amateur enthusiasts. In 2023, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimated that 9,700 individuals were treated in hospital emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries. The CPSC indicates

that the majority of fireworks injuries are burns that affect hands, fingers, head, face and ears. Leaving fireworks to professional pyrotechnics experts can reduce injuries and even deaths.

That leaves the question of what revelers can do to make their celebrations festive without relying on fireworks. There are plenty of options and fun alternatives to fireworks.

- Confetti: Throwing

confetti can simulate the different colors of fireworks displays. Choose recycled paper that will not have a detrimental effect on the environment and clean up thoroughly after the celebration.

- Noisemakers: Children can bang pots and pans or use other items to make noise in celebration to simulate the pops and bangs of fireworks.

- Sprinklers: Instead of sparklers, kids can use sprinklers and water features for fun. Some pools have water return jet additions that spray water up in the air or out over the pool. When paired with colorful underwater lights, this can make an impressive display to swim through on a hot evening.

- Snappers or caps: Depending on the area

where you live, smaller popping novelty items that make a loud popping noise when thrown or stepped on may be sold. They are generally safer to handle than traditional fireworks.

- Balloons: Everyone can play games involving water balloons or even regular balloons. Sitting or stomping on balloons can create loud pops reminiscent of fireworks.

- Fiber optic novelties: Celebrants can wave fiber optic wands or other novelties that cast bright lights. Additional options are glow sticks that also can light up the night.

Although fireworks can be impressive, it's best to watch them from afar and leave their handling to professionals. Safer alternatives are best for home celebrations.

Watering strategies to help a lawn thrive



A number of factors can affect how well a garden or lawn takes root. Watering is a key element of any landscape care strategy and one that homeowners should educate themselves about if they want to maintain a lush, healthy lawn throughout spring and summer.

Homeowners hoping to keep their lawns lush and green throughout summer can learn some effective watering strategies to achieve that goal.

Check the irrigation system.

Water Sense®, an EPA Partnership Program, advises following four steps at the start of spring: inspect, connect, direct and select for clock timer-controlled irrigation systems. Make sure the system doesn't have any clogged, broken or missing

sprinkler heads. Examine points where the sprinkler heads attach to pipes or hoses to make sure there are no leaks. The EPA says even a leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste 6,300 gallons of water per month. Adjust the sprinkler heads so that they only hit the landscape elements rather than sidewalks or driveways. Align the watering schedule with the seasons.

Invest in an impact sprinkler.

An impact sprinkler on a tripod can be an effective option for those without built-in irrigation systems. These sprinklers rotate in circles to help deliver an even spray of water that mimics rainfall. It's easy to adjust their spray pattern and a sprinkler on a tripod can spray over the top of

bushes and flower gardens. **Drip irrigation systems are superior.**

According to Rain-bird.com, drip irrigation tubing and emitters slowly distribute water to the right spots of a landscape. They can be placed at ground level or buried underground. Water soaks directly to the roots, minimizing water loss from runoff and evaporation. Some research suggests drip irrigation can effectively cover 25 percent more area than the average sprinkler system. It also tends to deliver more than 95 percent water efficiency. **Skip the schedule.**

Watering a lawn or garden should not be ruled by a schedule, but other factors that will determine when water is needed, suggests Family Handyman. Day-

time temperatures, wind conditions, soil type, lawn type and recent rainfall will determine how much water the landscape really needs. Overwatering can be just as bad as underwatering. For those with underground watering systems, water sensors can trigger the system to turn on rather than a time on a clock. **Avoid midday watering.**

The sun is hottest in the middle of the day. Watering during this time means that much of the water will be lost to evaporation before it can get to thirsty lawns and plants.

It pays to be smart about watering. Homeowners also can consider rain collection barrels to offset municipal or well water usage and be more eco-conscious about their watering efforts.



Wyanstock

Friday and Saturday,
July 3 and 4

Vanlue Fest

Thursday, July 23,
through Saturday, July 25

St. Mary's/Kirby Fest

Saturday and Sunday,
Aug. 1 and 2

Carey Fest

pre-fest Thursday, Aug. 6,
at Waterworks Park;
Friday and Saturday,
Aug. 7 and 8, downtown



HARDWARE, LUMBER AND RENTAL

1201 E. Findlay Street • Carey, Ohio • 419-396-9988
www.careyacehardware.com

GARDEN FRESH VALUES

HOOURS:
Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Celebrate Summer with great deals at your Carey Ace Hardware!

Check the store for details on our **Red Hot Buys & Summertime Savings!**



CAREY

Chamber of Commerce

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @Carey Chamber.

Get in Good Thing

Join in the Fun!

- Food Truck & Sidewalk Sales - June 4-6, all day, uptown Carey
- Eventwith a Bang! - June 13, 1 p.m., Carey Conservation
- Carey Business Expo - Aug. 6, 6-8 p.m., Waterworks Park
- Murder Mystery Dinner - Oct. 17, 6 p.m., Carey VFW
- Christmas In Carey - Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Carey



Summertime is fun time!

Shop Gray Mare & Co.

Come in & sign up for our summer drawing for a \$25 gift certificate

Drawings monthly • June, July & August

Local artisans, crafters & collectors!



ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

114 E. Findlay Street • Carey • 419-396-1144

Reg. hours Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

We will be closed Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4 - enjoy the holiday!

WYANSTOCK

AMERICA 250



MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY 3RD
2:00-11:00PM

UPRISING
FRITZ ACOUSTIC
BACON
BOURBON & VINYL
TON'S KITCHEN TABLE
GREY DECEPTIVE
BROTHER BELIEVE ME

2 DAYS OF LIVE MUSIC

FIREWORKS, LOCAL CRAFT BREWS, FOODS, ARTS, CAMPING

Wyanot County Young Professionals

JULY 4TH
NOON-MIDNIGHT

THE FRET WASHERS
JAMES ADKINS
VIOLET VINYL
JIMI VINCENT BAND
LAST MINUTE
NY COUSIN EDDIE
MODERN RELICS
ANALOG YOUTH
BASSNOTIK

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

CLOUSE CONSTRUCTION CORP. • COMPOSITES SOLUTION PARTNER • FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SYCAMORE • HEMPHY WATER • LAWRENCE INSURANCE AGENCY • MENNEL MILLING COMPANY • REGINA VENT REALTY • ROTH BACON MOON ATTORNEYS • ROWE SELF STORAGE • SUNSHINE INSURANCE AGENCY • THRIVE LOCAL • UPPER CAR WASH & PET SPA • UPPER SANDUSKY ELKS LODGE #83 • WILSON TIRE COMPANY • THE ANDERSONS • COMMUNITY FIRST BANK • LINCOLN WAY ANIMAL HOSPITAL • LITE STAR MARATHON • MIZICK MILLER & COMPANY INC. • PHOENIX BREWING COMPANY • SCHILLING PROPANE SERVICE • WOVEN YOGA

