

TOWN OF CHESHIRE

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December 17, 2025

To our Cheshire Community,

The 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is approaching, and the Town of Cheshire is planning to join the celebration of this historic event as a community. The Town Council has appointed a Semiquincentennial Steering Committee (say that three times fast!) to plan municipal events and support activities and programs initiated by local groups.

On the morning of July 4, 2026, the Committee will be hosting its signature event, the reading of the Declaration of Independence by the Bennett family. They have been hosting this annual event for the past fifteen years and this year the production will be brought to Bartlem Park and expanded to signify this momentous occasion! In addition to a morning of recognition and celebration on July 4, 2026, at Bartlem Park, the Committee is planning other events celebrating our founding document and promoting the history of Cheshire as a lead-up to the main event. There will be multiple opportunities for local organizations, businesses, and individuals to get involved, at whatever level of participation is comfortable for them.

Community members are encouraged to develop relevant programs or events, large or small, to celebrate this important historical milestone. The Committee will create a calendar of all events on the Town of Cheshire website to assist with promotion. Following is a list of suggestions, and creativity is encouraged.

If you wish to be involved, already have something in mind, or are looking for ideas, please contact us at celebrate250@cheshirect.gov and watch for updates on our [webpage](http://www.cheshirect.gov) at www.cheshirect.gov (look for America 250 Celebration and Steering Committee located under the Government tab).

We look forward to rediscovering the rich history of both our country and of Cheshire over the next several months. We hope you, as a vital member of our community, will help make this a fun and educational celebration.

Semiquincentennially yours,


Ray Bennett


Diane Calabro


Ron Gagliardi

Town of Cheshire Semiquincentennial Steering Committee
List of Suggestions / Ways to get involved

- Colonial Soldiers Recognition Program
- Recognition of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence
- Submission of local history stories
- Planting Red, White, and Blue Flowers
- Participation in new time capsule projects
- Participation in the Historic Graphic Memoir Project
- Participation in the 2026 Memorial Day Parade 250th float
- Townwide Scavenger Hunt
- Themed Historic Walks
- Themed music events featuring authentic / period pieces
- Themed dessert or drink at local restaurants
- Family or historic figures genealogy projects
- Ecumenical services
- Historical decorations and displays
- Family History Project
- Look for displays at the Cheshire Public Library featuring suggested 250th themed reading materials
- Visit the Town Hall for monthly 250th themed displays
- Other ideas that **YOU** might like to celebrate this event!

Please mark your calendar to be at Bartlem Park to celebrate the 4th of July activities that morning, details to follow.

Contact the Committee: Celebrate250@cheshirect.gov

More information about the America 250 Celebration and Steering Committee located under the Government tab on the Town of Cheshire's website at: www.cheshirect.gov