



America250PA Chester County (CC250) Commission  
Government Services Center – Room 171  
601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Hybrid Meeting  
April 2, 2026 – 4:00 pm

4:00 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chair's Welcome

*Michelle Kichline, Chair*

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

4:05 p.m. 3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2026.

*Action*

4:10 p.m. 4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

*Matt Edmond*

4:20 p.m. 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS, PLANS & BUDGETS

*Chair & Committee Officers  
Actions*

A. Heritage Sites Committee

B. Education Committee

C. Marketing and Communications Committee

1. Street banners – discussion and/or approval

2. Increasing flags quantity – discussion and/or approval

3. Copies of Declaration of Independence – discussion and/or approval

D. Fundraising Committee

E. Partnerships Committee

F. Technology Committee

G. Executive Committee

1. Micro Grants

5:00 p.m. 6. A250PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

*Chair & Matt Edmond*

A. Update on State Ethics Forms

B. Ad hoc Committee for events in 2026

1. Bus tours / lectures

C. Brandywine Symphony / “American Dream” composition

*Colin Hanna*

5:30 p.m. 7. PARTNER WORK UPDATES

A. Planning Commission

1) Kiosks – DCED grants for FY 26/27

2) Video Time Capsule

3) CC250 Traveling Exhibit

4) HIN Brochure Design

*Matt Edmond  
Jeannine Speirs  
David Blackburn  
Jeannine Speirs*

*(Agenda continues on next page)*



B. Community Partners

- 1) Chester County Community Foundation
- 2) Chester County Tourism
- 3) Chester County History Center
- 4) Chester County Parks Department

*Karen Simmons  
Susan Hamley  
Conor Hepp  
Dave Stauffer*

5:55 p.m. 8. NEW BUSINESS

*Chair*

6:00 p.m. 9. ADJOURN

*Chair*

**Next monthly meeting – May 7, 2026**

# Action Items



MINUTES: Chester County A250PA Commission Monthly Meeting  
Hybrid – Chester County Government Services Center, Room 171

March 5, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Jane Dorchester, Beverly Sheppard, Mark Slouf

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Sam Bissenbina, MarySue Boyle, James Christ, Jennifer Green, Susan Hamley, Larycia Hawkins, Tim Hennessey, Conor Hepp, Michelle Kichline, Laura Manion, MaryFrances McGarrity, Winifred Moran Sebastian, Krystine Sipple, Bruce Mowday, John Reynolds, Randell Spackman, Dr. tonya thames-taylor (T3), Robert Williams

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Karen Simmons (CCCF)

CCPC STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: Matt Edmond, David Blackburn, Carol Stauffer, Bronwen Barnett, Jeannine Speirs, Gene Huller

CCPC STAFF PRESENT VIA ZOOM: None

VISITORS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

VISITORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Deb Leach of Commissioner Moskowitz's office and April Nickel of Chester County Library

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the Chester County A250PA Commission held in person at the Chester County Government Services Center and via Zoom audio/video on Thursday, March 5, 2026, was called to order at 4:03 P.M. by Michelle Kichline, Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS MADE BY MARYFRANCES MCGARRITY, SECONDED BY MARY SUE BOYLE, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDED: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 5, 2026, MEETING OF THE CHESTER COUNTY A250PA COMMISSION.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Matt Edmond presented a snapshot of the America250 Chester County Commission Charitable Fund (CC250) showing donations to date.
- Matt then presented a new financial reporting template created by Bronwen Barnett of the Planning Commission, which tracks revenues, budget allocations, and expenditures across different funds.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS, PLANS & BUDGETS

### Heritage Sites Committee – Mark Slouf

- Mark Slouf, Chair, reported that the RFP for kiosk installations has been completed and is being reviewed by DCED and the Chester County Procurement office, who is additionally working with Matt on some adjustments to the RFP.
- A dual-party agreement has been drafted which will serve as the contract between the County and the individual sites on the kiosks; this is under review by the Chester County solicitors office and will be considered a living document with additional refinements depending on the site particulars and other considerations.
- Construction of the kiosks is to begin late 2026 and completed in 2027. As we are accepting money from the County and the State, the approval process is lengthier than if funds were from the private sector.
- Mark has drafted a general outline for implementation of the kiosks that will also transition to a structural document of the overall Heritage Interpretive Network. This is under review by the Committee and CCPC staff, and Mark plans to present at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. This document may also serve as a fundraising tool.

### Education Committee –Beverly Sheppard

- The Committee is not asking for funds currently.
- A current project is determining channels for distributing educational materials to homeschoolers. Staff at the Cupola Academy have suggested using websites rather than printed materials for homeschoolers.
- The Founding Forward organization in Phoenixville (Valley Forge Chapter) offers educational programs and tours for students, teachers, and citizens. Randell Spackman has been speaking with them on possibly partnering with the Commission on programs for the 250<sup>th</sup>. They are also involved with the upcoming Naturalization Day in Chester County.

### Marketing and Communication Committee – Jane Dorchester

- Articles on the monthly themes are being submitted for publishing on the website.
- Jane presented a chart detailing the promotional materials (SWAG) budget for the MarCom Committee, which include stickers, magnets and lapel pins.
  - A decision was made to use one design for the stickers instead of three different designs to save money.
  - They also discussed distribution methods for the lapel pins, as they are the most expensive item. Commissioners may want to have them “in their pockets” to distribute to folks they meet, and a suggestion was that they

pins should be available April 9th at the Brandywine Valley Partner event at the History Center.

- The group agreed to proceed with ordering 5,000 stickers (\$700), 2,500 magnets (\$1,500) and 1,000 lapel pins (\$1,390) with Jane aiming to place the order as soon as possible to meet the April 9th deadline.
- A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCOM PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS (SWAG) BUDGET OF \$3,590.00 WAS MADE BY BEVERLY SHEPPARD, SECONDED BY MARY SUE BOYLE, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

#### Fundraising Committee – Winifred Moran Sebastian

- The Committee has been waiting for direction/selection on items - including costs and other particulars - for which to fundraise. Specifics need to be determined on asks and the benefits being provided to sponsors/donors.
- Commission members should email ideas for events and Chester County companies that may be interested in sponsorships or donations to CC250 to the Fundraising Committee members (the four officers plus Tim Hennessey).
- A higher quality tote bag – or other premium item - could be a thank you gift for a donation or sponsorship level.
- The DONATE button on our website continues to be linked to the Fund at the CCCF until the new fund has been created and approved by the County.
- A discussion ensued about local printers donating the stickers and/or magnets, but as the MarCom Committee is ready to order the items in time for April events around the county, it was decided that asking for a donation/sponsorship would be the approach for a second run of items and/or for other expenses.

#### Partnerships Committee – Randell Spackman

- Randall reported progress on the website volunteer recruitment system, with organizations already submitting requests for event volunteers.
- The Chester County Association of Township Officials (CCATO) has offered to assist with the distribution of flags to municipalities. Randell proposed that an idea sheet could be created to include with the flags that could provide municipalities ideas on flag raising events, media posts, etc. He additionally suggested handheld flags be created to give to libraries as an incentive/giveaway for youth to learn about the 250<sup>th</sup>.
- The costs/quotes for producing the flags were presented by David Blackburn, and the Commission agreed to proceed with ordering 100 of outdoor 4x6 flags to provide one to all 73 municipalities and have extras for indoor use at various locations such as libraries, History Center, historical sites, etc.
- The goal is to distribute the flags prior to Memorial Day.
- Donor funding – if available – could be used to support the cost.
- A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 100 4X6 OUTDOOR FLAGS FROM COLONIAL FLAG COMPANY WAS MADE BY MARY SUE BOYLE,

SECONDED BY JIM CHRIST, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

#### Technology Committee – Sam Bissenbina

- The website has been updated with new functionality, including submenus and a page for news updates & stories.
- The Volunteer page will be available next week.

#### A250PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

- Michelle Kichline and Matt Edmond reminded the Commission about the requirement to fill out the State of PA Ethics form for 2025. They are due May 1<sup>st</sup>, and so we request them to be completed and emailed to Nancy Shields by end of April.

#### PARTNER WORK UPDATES

##### Chester County Planning Commission

- Jeannine Speirs has met with Communication Director Andrew Kreider and his team to work on the revised outline of the Video Time Capsule. The project team meetings will now be monthly. A decision was made that the video be made in-house rather than using an outside entity.
- A subcommittee is being created for the content review of the HIN brochure. One member each from the MarCom and Heritage Sites committees will be included, as well as Jeannine, Cliff Parker from CC Archives, Elle Steinman from CCP. First order of business is wording consistency for the Heritage themes within the brochure and this consistency will extend to the themes content on the website, travelling exhibit, and the marketing for the Heritage Interpretive Network.
- The travelling exhibit is now fully booked, but if there is interest for a daylong event or a short period of time, requests should go to [ccarchives@chesco.org](mailto:ccarchives@chesco.org). If demand continues to increase, an additional exhibit set may be created.
- West Chester University is creating an exhibit, Becoming America in West Chester, opening at the end of April in the old library. It is a student project part of the WCU 250. Along with the History Center project and the travelling exhibit, there is an opportunity to link all three exhibits together later this year and into 2027 for promotion purposes.

##### Community Partners

- Chester County Community Foundation – Karen Simmons reported on the current activities and efforts of the Foundation and the Friends of A250, notably the volume of events (257) listed on their website, the upcoming Bells Across PA unveiling on April 30 and a potential Dare to Declare reading at this same event.
- Costs of producing and displaying street banners in West Chester were discussed. The CCCF has reserved aerial space with the borough on behalf of the Commission and is seeking to coordinate with CC250 on potential banners. Any design would require approval from the borough of West Chester and must be produced by Goshen Signs. The Commission will discuss and determine next

steps, and the reservation will stay in place until the end of April pending our decision.

- The History Center is moving forward with speaker series, podcasts, a Philadelphia campaign outdoor cannon display and new walking tours.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- The team for the Keep Chester County Beautiful program will be crafting a “invitation to participate” communication email and attachment that will be sent to all Commission members. This can be used to then send to members’ connections at municipalities to promote involvement with the program.
- There are three major 250 themed events that staff at CCPC are working on and/or helping to promote:
  - April 30<sup>th</sup> -- unveiling of Chester County Bell with the kickoff of our town tours.
  - Naturalization ceremony June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Brandywine Valley Symphony performance June 25<sup>th</sup> at Longwood Gardens.
- Karen Simmons informed the group that several organizations have requested Declaration of Independence handouts for their events, including the Symphony, who is planning a Dare to Declare prior to their performance. Approximately 6,000 handouts will be needed, and Karen offered to send the potential joint logo design for consideration / approval if the Commission wanted to subsidize a portion of the handouts.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:49 PM WAS MADE BY JANE DORCHESTER, SECONDED BY MARK SLOUF, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryFrances McGarrity, Secretary  
Chester County A250PA Commission

MM/brb

# Financial Report



# metricool

February 23, 2026

Account: #4549595

Invoice number: 1297389

## Invoice

Description	Amount
Annual subscription: STARTER - 5 Brands From February 23, 2026 to February 23, 2027	240.00 USD 203.67 EUR
Taxes (0%)	0.00 USD 0.00 EUR
<b>Total</b>	<b>240.00 USD</b> 203.67 EUR

Customer:  
Chester County Planning Commission  
601 Westtown Road, Suite 270  
Country: US  
ID: 23-6003040  
Payment method: credit card

There was an additional foreign transaction fee in the amount of \$4.80. **Total paid was \$244.80 by the Community Foundation.**

### Currency exchange rates

The invoice currency is USD. For accounting purposes, the amounts are also provided in EUR. To make the equivalence was used the official exchange rate provided by ECB at the end of the day 2/23/26 that was 1.1784 USD

Provision of services not subject to VAT, according to the location rules of articles 69 and 70 of the VAT Law. Reverse charge

Committee	Budget Allocations	
Education		\$ -
		\$ -
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Heritage Sites	HSN Brochure	\$ 10,000.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
MarCom - Media Social	Targeted Ads	\$ 6,370.00
	Boosted Posts	\$ 1,230.00
	Large Print Media Buys	\$ 2,400.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
MarCom - Promotional	Stickers - 5,000 @ .14	\$ 700.00
	Magnets - 2500 @ .60	\$ 1,500.00
	Lapel Pins - 1,000 @ \$1.39	\$ 1,390.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 3,590.00</b>
Partnerships		\$ -
	100 Flags @ \$93.50	\$ 9,350.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 9,350.00</b>
KIOSKS		\$ -
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Technology	Website Domain	\$ 33.00
	Jotform Bronze	\$ 240.00
	Tockify Premium	\$ 80.00
	Mailchimp	\$ 600.00
	*ACTUAL INVOICE \$240 plus 2% CCCF FEE	
	Metricool Starter *	\$ 216.00
	<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 1,169.00</b>

<b>Total funds for Cmtes (excluding kiosks)</b>	<b>\$ 60,143.47</b>
Total allocated to date (excluding kiosks)	\$ 34,109.00
<b>Amt remaining to be allocated (excluding kiosks)</b>	<b>\$ 26,034.47</b>

REVENUES	KIOSK FUNDING			
	CC250 Charitable Fund	CCPC - General Fund	DCED Grants	Planning Commission
Starting balance Feb. 2026	\$ 51,652.47	\$ 8,491.00	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00
Totals:	\$ 51,652.47	\$ 8,491.00	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES				
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
Pending final invoice - stickers	\$ 700.00			
Pending final invoice - Magnets	\$ 1,500.00			
Pending final invoice - Pins @ \$1.06	\$ 1,060.00			
<b>TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 3,260.00</b>			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
Feb. 2026 Metricool Starter	\$ 244.80			
<b>TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 244.80</b>			
<b>BALANCE REMAINING</b>	<b>\$ 48,147.67</b>	<b>\$ 8,491.00</b>	<b>\$ 333,540.00</b>	<b>\$ 152,937.00</b>

# Committee Reports

## Chester County America250 Committees

As of 3/19/2026

Executive Committee	Mar Com Committee	Technology Committee	Heritage Sites Committee
<i>Michelle Kichline, Chair</i>	<i>Jane Dorchester, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Sam Bissenbina, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Mark Slouf, Cmte Chair</i>
<i>Winifred Moran Sebastian, Vice Chair</i>	Nicole Flamer	Adam Desch	Mary Sue Boyle
<i>Krys Sipple, Vice Chair</i>	Larycia Hawkins	Ernie Holling	James Christ
<i>MaryFrances McGarrity, Corporate Secretary</i>	Bruce Mowday		Barbara Cohen
Mark Slouf	John Reynolds		Fernando Fonseca
Randell Spackman	Savannah Flores		Randell Spackman
Robert Williams	Emma Brennan		tonya thames-taylor
			Robert Williams
			James Ziegler
<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>
Matt Edmond	Matt Edmond	David Blackburn	David Blackburn
David Blackburn	David Blackburn	Carolyn Oakley	Jeannine Speirs
	Carotyn Oakley	Beth Cunliffe	
	Beth Cunliffe		
Education Committee	Fundraising Committee	Partnerships Committee	Nominating Committee
<i>Beverly Sheppard, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Michelle Kichline, CC250 Chair</i>	<i>Randell Spackman, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Randell Spackman, Cmte Chair</i>
Fernando Fonseca	<i>Winifred Moran Sebastian, Cmte Chair</i>	Adam Desch	Jane Dorchester
Jennifer Green	Tim Hennessey	Conor Hepp	tonya thames-taylor
Lisa Doan Harley	MaryFrances McGarrity	Laura Manion	
	Laura Manion	MaryFrances McGarrity	
	Krys Sipple	Winifred Moran Sebastian	
		Beverly Sheppard	
		Brandi Levine	
<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	<b>CCPC Staff Liaisons</b>	
David Blackburn	Matt Edmond	David Blackburn	

Purple shading = Committee member not member of CC250 Commission

**In 2024, the Chester County Commissioners adopted the Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan which recommends the creation of a Heritage Interpretive Network (HIN) of interconnected sites across multiple County Themes. Such sites could be Gateway and Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, Main streets and County parks.**

**Following is an implementation plan for the Kiosk project, a component of the HIN which includes structural elements that can be incorporated in a future overall Countywide HIN plan.**

**RFP #1-** see attached (tasks by consultant).

- 1) Select Kiosk Manufacturer. Design spec's for install
- 2) Design of Infrastructure and Utilities.
- 3) Content Development, Interface Design, and programming.

Possibly using Marshallton as a template, the content should include-

- 1) Local and County History- Supplied by individual sites and County. Inclusive of an HIN Map.
- 2) Wayfaring- Supplied by Brandywine Valley Tourism (BVT).
- 3) Local & County Events- Supplied by sites and BVT.
- 4) Advertising- By sites.
- 4) Services During Construction.

**RFP #2-** Spec's from consultant to be put into RFP for solicitation of bids from Contractors.

**Concurrent tasks toward implementation and HIN structure.**

- 1) Assist and oversee Design Consultant in developing the graphic design look of the kiosk screens, including the tabs for the content components as listed above, promoting Heritage Tourism. Marshallton could be a starting point with updated technology. Note: Content will differentiate between Heritage Sites and Main streets.  
Interface with sites and consultant in specific Kiosk location and infrastructure.
- 2) Historical Content- Work with the sites, and the County, in developing specifically local and countywide historical narrative. Assistance by Chester

County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN) with Beverly Sheppard as point person, fact check by County, editing by MarCom.

3) Kiosks are a Tourism product- Connect with BVT on content (this will be for initial and ongoing updates for wayfaring/events), coding, connectivity, website.

4) Monitoring/Administration- Determine the entity that will monitor and administer both content, connectivity, website and administration within the Kiosk/HIN. This could be the County Preservation Officer, BVT, CCHPN, an outside firm, or a combination.

5) Secure Agreement between sites and County- Matt has completed a 2nd draft with additional comments from Mark.

6) Funding for operational expenses and website- Some thoughts

- 1) County budget allocation into a fund
- 2) Future hotel tax proceeds
- 3) Sponsorships for the overall HIN. Possibly initiated by the CC 250 Fundraising Committee.
- 4) Site specific advertising- Marshallton as an example.

7) Promotion of the HIN- Through BVT, other.

8) Continuing the HIN Legacy- Using this first step, develop a comprehensive HIN structure for future expansion into other Heritage sites and themes. Create a select group as outlined in the Heritage Tourism plan to implement this Legacy project.

**Marketing and Communications Committee Report  
For the April 2, 2026 Chester County 250<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting  
March 23, 2026**

The Marketing and Communications (MarCom) Committee met on March 3, 2026.

**Website Content**

1. We have published our first article on the website. It is about Ann Preston, MD in celebration of Women's History Month.
2. We will be publishing articles in April in celebration of Natural Landscape and Keep Chester County Beautiful

**Logo Sharing**

1. We are waiting to hear back from Chester County's solicitor about our logo sharing agreement.

**Events Promotion**

1. John Reynolds has spoken with the Chester County Communications Director and is working with various members of the media on best media opps.
2. We are working on sorting out for which events we will buy targeted ads and boosted social media posts. We will be reviewing possible recipients at our March 31, 20126 meeting.

**250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Promotion**

1. The swag (magnets and stickers), has been ordered. Delivery Time: TBA
2. We are still awaiting the Ok for the lapel pins.

We would still be happy to have a few more members.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane E. Dorchester, Chairman

# CC250 Business



## Monthly Historic Articles

Our [article series](#) explores the rich and diverse history of Chester County. Presented as part of the America250 celebration, these short articles highlight stories, people, and places that have shaped the county's past and continue to inspire its communities today. Each month features one or two historical themes and throughout the month, two to four articles will be published examining different aspects of the theme. Each article includes illustrations and a brief biography of the author.

We are starting out the series with March's theme of Women's History Month with "**Ann Preston, Medical Pioneer and Women's Rights Advocate**" - One hundred and seventy-four years ago, West Chester hosted Pennsylvania's first Women's Rights Convention and author Laurie A. Rofini delves into the life of keynote speaker Ann Preston. This article examines her journey from a Quaker upbringing to her instrumental role in establishing the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia. [Read the full article.](#)



Photo: Ann Preston, MD. Carte-de-visite by J. W. Hurn, Philadelphia, 1867. Courtesy Chester County History Center, West Chester, PA.

## Share Your America250 Program or Event

Municipalities and heritage organizations throughout Chester County are planning a wide variety of programs and events for this celebratory year of 2026. Do you have activities planned? If so, we would like to share your work with a larger audience as a highlight in the monthly CC250 newsletter. All proposals are welcome and we will select one or more each month to spotlight different celebrations around Chester County. Please send us the details of your event including the title, description, location, date and time, and an image if possible. Send submissions to [america250chesco@chesco.org](mailto:america250chesco@chesco.org).



## Publicizing Events for America250

We've heard from many municipalities that their Historic Commissions have been tasked to plan events, programs, and activities. CC250 has a way of sharing information for your programs far and wide — our 250th event calendar. [Submit your events to be included on the calendar.](#)

The [CC250 website also includes resources](#) that may be of use to you, your program partners, community, and educators.

## America250PA Chester County

The Chester County America250 Commission (CC250) was created by the Chester County Commissioners to focus on the coordination and planning of our commemoration and celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The

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Chester County Planning Commission supports CC250 through projects, monthly meetings, outreach, website management, and more.

If you'd like to get in touch with us regarding CC250, please reach out at [america250chesco@chesco.org](mailto:america250chesco@chesco.org).

## Sign Up for the America250 PA Newsletter

Did someone forward this newsletter to you? If you'd like to receive this monthly newsletter, [sign up now!](#)



You are receiving this email because you opted in either through our website or a meeting.

[Unsubscribe](#) <<Email Address>> from this list.

Our mailing address is:

America250PA Chester County  
601 Westtown Rd Ste 270  
West Chester, PA 19382

[Add us to your address book](#)

**DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.**

Email [america250chesco@chesco.org](mailto:america250chesco@chesco.org) or call 610-344-6285 with inquiries.

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# Work Updates



<https://cccf250.org/planning/>

[America 250 Events – Working List](#)



## Activity #1: COMMUNITY CONVENING & HYPER-LOCAL ACTIVATION

1. Greater West Chester 4<sup>th</sup> Mon 2-3
2. Main Line 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon noon
3. Phoenixville: 4<sup>th</sup> Tues 3-4
4. Southern ChesCo 4<sup>th</sup> Wed 2-3
5. Coatesville

Municipal Heritage & Arts Commissions  
Heritage, History  
Civic & Social Justice; Legal Community  
Arts, Culture, Community NPOs  
Chambers of Commerce, Main St Assoc,  
Businesses, Education, Schools, Libraries  
Scouts, Ys, Veterans groups, Senior Living  
Communities, Service Clubs, Places of Worship

## Activity #2: CONVENE “LET FREEDOM RING” COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

1. w/National Constitution Center & WHYY PBS  
co-promote free Ken Burns “The American Revolution” watch-parties in ChesCo
2. w/VF NHP support [Dare to Declare/Community Conversations w/Wish Walls](#)  
Dare to Declare **Video Red Carpet Premieres**...Jan & Feb 2026  
Dare to Declare **Video promotion**: view, use, discuss...all 2026  
Dare to Declare **Events**: promote host scheduling, support discussions...all 2026

## Activity #3: GRANTMAKING

### New Heritage Centers: Capital Fundraising Capacity Building Grant Projects (~\$15k/site)

1. Tredyffrin Heritage Center at Duportail House: \$350K FR Goal (\$180k pledged)
2. Paoli Battlefield Heritage Center: \$500K FR Goal (\$325k pledged)
3. Thornbury Farm Heritage Center: \$375K FR Goal (\$100k pledged)

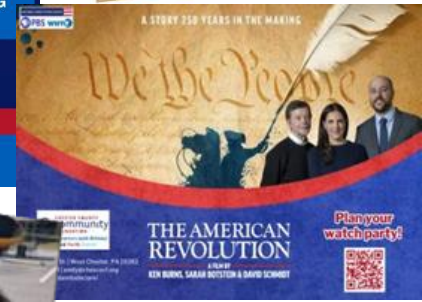
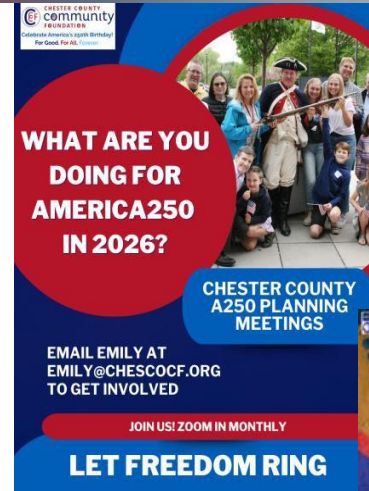
### Let Freedom Ring & Dare to Declare Fast-track & Mini-Grants

1. Let Freedom Ring & Dare to Declare: Events, Activities & Program Funding  
Eligible to apply: Orgs participating in hyper-local regional activation groups  
Fast-track grant applications; weekly decisions: \$1,250 - \$2,500 - \$5,250 - \$10,250
2. Grant: Bells Across PA Sponsor Bell for ChesCo/A250CC CVB \$10k 11/25
3. Grant: Special Request Grant to A250CC Commission \$50k 1/26

Karen Simmons, [karen@chescofcf.org](mailto:karen@chescofcf.org)

Heather Reiffer, Angela Scully, Kim Andrews, Emily Dina, Beth Krallis

<https://cccf250.org/> [cccf250@chescofcf.org](mailto:cccf250@chescofcf.org)



CHESTER COUNTY  
community  
FOUNDATION  
Celebrate America's  
250th Birthday!  
For Good.  
For All.  
Forever.



# Bells Across PA: Chester County

Bell Unveiling Ceremony: April 30, 2026 at 5:00 at the Historic Courthouse

Directly before West Chester Town Tours & Village Walks at 5:30



This bell was placed as part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's celebrations for the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

### "Scenes From Chester County"

Presented in Chester County  
Artist: Ashley Kolpak

Sponsored by:



**please join us!**

- ★ **Dare to Declare**
- ★ **America250 Bell Unveiling**
- ★ **Town Tours & Village Walks**

**Free & open to the public**

**Historic Chester County Courthouse Steps**

**Thurs. April 30<sup>th</sup> 5pm**



[cccf250.org/daretodeclare/](https://cccf250.org/daretodeclare/)



[chescoplanning.org/historic/towntours/](https://chescoplanning.org/historic/towntours/)

**5 - Declaration Reading 5:15 - Bell Unveiling 5:30 - Town Tours & Village Walks**



Ashley Kolpak  
County: **CHESTER**

### "Scenes From Chester County"

#### Design Description:

My bell focuses on the natural and historical aspects of Chester County, both in notable historical moments as well as featuring famous local artists. I wanted to include many aspects of the America250PA focus areas, agriculture, arts and culture, history, and nature/environment. Longwood Gardens is a huge nature focus in Chester County and extremely notable for the plants they have helped cultivate and preserve. Kennett Square is the mushroom capital of the world. The Wyeth's and Warton Esherick are important artists that came from Chester County. I wanted to capture air and sky, so I felt it was important to note the Helicopter Museum from West Chester, and to feature hot air balloons which are seen across Chester County along with a hot air balloon festival. I included nature by including the PA state bird, the ruffed grouse, and other animals frequently seen in our county; the White-tailed deer, turkey, and red fox most predominantly. I want to complete the design in paint, giving a collaged look to the piece, combining all these objects of note, along with some possible mixed media elements added to it.



## DARE TO DECLARE

Let us help you host  
a community Dare to Declare event

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776  
A DECLARATION  
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.



The Declaration isn't long,  
but its impact is immeasurable.



**SUMMER 2026**  
MEMORIAL DAY thru LABOR DAY

28 W Market St, West Chester, PA 19382  
ccc250.org/daretodeclare  
ccc250@chescof.org  
610.696.8221



**Red Carpet Premieres**

**COLONIAL THEATRE**  
WED, JAN 28  
6:30-8pm

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**  
**DARE TO DECLARE**

**UPTOWN! KNAUER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
TUES, JAN 27, 5-6:30PM

**KENNETT LIBRARY**  
TUES, FEB 10  
6-7:30pm

*In just 10 minutes, hear the words that built our nation.*

*The Declaration isn't long, but its impact is immeasurable.*

Logos for Chester County PA, community foundation, VisitPA, UPCIOWN, and Kennett Library.

### GET INVOLVED!

1-Review Dare to Declare webpage & videos



<https://ccc250.org/daretodeclare/>



**Teaser video** (30 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXjzGkI3stM>



**Dare to Declare: All-County video** (15 min)

[https://youtu.be/2lkdxr4\\_MHA](https://youtu.be/2lkdxr4_MHA)

2-Watch Kennett livestream from 2/10/26

[https://youtu.be/uBwL\\_jANK7M](https://youtu.be/uBwL_jANK7M)

3-Open doors to Dare to Declare host sites

[hpreiffer@gmail.com](mailto:hpreiffer@gmail.com)

4-Zoom in & join weekly activation meetings

[emily@chescof.org](mailto:emily@chescof.org)

**CHESTER COUNTY**  
community  
FOUNDATION

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR AMERICA250 IN 2026?**

**CHESTER COUNTY A250 PLANNING MEETINGS**

EMAIL EMILY AT  
EMILY@CHESCOF.ORG  
TO GET INVOLVED

JOIN US! ZOOM IN MONTHLY

**LET FREEDOM RING**

**CHESTER COUNTY**  
community  
FOUNDATION

Celebrate America's  
250th Birthday!  
For Good.  
For All.  
Forever.

# West Chester Street Banners: coordination desired w/CC250 Commission

## Chester County Street Banners

- Per our community activation meetings, it seems that **each region is taking care of its own street banners for A250** (*reserving space, coming up with their own message/design unique to their community, printing & hanging the street banner/s*)
- In **West Chester** activation meetings, we have been asked to hang a **Dare to Declare** banner for A250
- **The Community Foundation seeks to coordinate West Chester street banner signs with CC250**
- The Community Foundation aims to **reserve the street banner areas**, so they are available for us to coordinate Dare to Declare messaging with the CC250's A250 messaging.

### Banner Timing: Just after Juneteenth til Labor Day (6/20/26 – 9/6/26)

West Chester (4 total)	Size @3' wide	Up & Down Cost	Goshen Signs Print cost @\$15/sq ft	Total \$ Estimate	Dates reserved already (Keith at Borough books in 2-week increments)
3 W Gay St	L=28' 3"	\$1,400	28x3=84x\$15=\$1,260	<b>\$2,660</b>	7/20-8/3 reserved by WC COG A250
22 W Market St	L=42' 10"	\$1,400	43x3=129x\$15=\$1,935	<b>\$3,335</b>	CCCF reserving for D2D June, July, some of Aug
2 N High St	L=45' 3"	\$1,400	46x3=138x\$15=\$2,070	<b>\$3,470</b>	5/25-6/22 CCCF reserved for Juneteenth CCCF trying to reserve for CC250 June 22-July 6; July 6-July 20; July 20-Aug 3; Aug 3-Aug 17; Aug 17-Aug 31
36 E Market St	L=36' 1'	\$1,400	36x3=108x\$15=\$1,620	<b>\$3,020</b>	July open as of 2/25/26 per Keith at Borough



Who will work with our team of Emily, Paige &/or BethK on this?

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**From:** Karen A. Simmons  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 7:06 PM  
**To:** Michelle Kichline ([Michellekichline@yahoo.com](mailto:Michellekichline@yahoo.com)); David Blackburn; [medmond@chesco.org](mailto:medmond@chesco.org); Barnett, Bronwen; Jane Dorchester; [mmcgarrity@ccedcpa.com](mailto:mmcgarrity@ccedcpa.com); Krys Sipple; Winifred Moran Sebastian ([wsebastian@lambmcerlane.com](mailto:wsebastian@lambmcerlane.com)); Beverly Sheppard ([sheppard0641@gmail.com](mailto:sheppard0641@gmail.com)); Mark Slouf; Randell Spackman  
**Cc:** Heather Reiffer; Emily Dina; Beth Krallis  
**Subject:** Handheld Declaration of Independence - with customized logos on back cover / almost ready to place a CommFdtn DaretoDeclare custom order ... CC250 order soon as well?  
**Attachments:** All ChesCo A250 Events.xlsx

Howdy CC250 Partners:

As I mentioned on today's CC250 zoom, thru our America250 weekly activation organizing calls, we now over 257 events happening throughout Chester County related to America250. HUZZZZAHHHHH!!!!!!

Heather Reiffer has been updating the online excel spreadsheet so we know what's coming & can provide support, and so you can select the ones you wish to co-promote: [America 250 Events – Working List](#)

People have been mentioning on the Feb & March activation calls of their desire for copies of the Declaration of Independence.

For groups holding **Dare to Declare readings**, the Community Foundation is about to place another order for 2,000 of the handheld Declarations from Dr. Emily Sneff. She has designed the most user-friendly, readable, affordable version (pictured below). Dr. Sneff also told us at last month's Dare to Declare premieres that her print co. can print the back cover with a customized logo. The logo design we have just about decided for Dare to Declare on is a 2x3' rectangle, here. We will wait til our Tues 3/10 call at 1pm to get any comments from you:

**We hope that the CC250 Commission might also consider placing an order**, to distribute to non-Dare to Declare A250 events throughout the region—especially at the Town Tours & Village Walks, larger events such as various Symphony events focused on patriotic music, selected community festivals with a heritage theme & heritage giveaway tables, and the Libraries. With this or a logo of your choice & design.

Attached is today's A250 events listing. Heather is updating it for our Tues 3/10 1pm coordination call. Right now, it indicates a desire for more than **8,000 copies of a handheld Declaration of Independence**.

Once again, here is Dr. Sneff's website: <https://www.emilysneff.com/>  
 And ordering info: <https://www.declarationstories.org/handheld-declaration>  
 6" x 6" full color booklet includes:

A short introduction by a leading expert on the Declaration of Independence  
 The full text of the Declaration as printed by John Dunlap in Philadelphia on July 4–5, 1776  
 A brief timeline of the summer of 1776 from the debates to the signing  
 A list of the signers of the Declaration  
 Pricing:  
 20 booklets = \$1.00 ea.  
 50 booklets = \$0.86 ea.  
 100 booklets = \$0.80 ea.  
 250 booklets = \$0.76 ea.  
 500+ booklets = \$0.70 ea.

If you are interested in more than 500 booklets or a custom amount, please contact [emily@declarationstories.org](mailto:emily@declarationstories.org) before ordering.  
 The Handheld Declaration of Independence is designed and printed in Pennsylvania.

