



America250PA Chester County (CC250) Commission
Government Services Center – Room 351E
601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Hybrid Meeting
June 4, 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 – May 7, 2026

Action

4:10 p.m. 4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Matt Edmond

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

Chair & Committee Officers

- A. Heritage Sites Committee
- B. Education Committee
- C. Marketing and Communications Committee
- D. Fundraising Committee
- E. Partnerships Committee
 - 1) PA Day July 20th
- F. Technology Committee
- G. Events Committee
- H. Executive Committee

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

Chair & Matt Edmond

A. Website & Social Media Report

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

A. Planning Commission

- 1) Kiosks – Marshallton & Phoenixville upgrades
- 2) Kiosks – Phase 1 Project
- 3) HIN Brochure Design
- 4) Flag project update
 - i. Flag distribution policy

Matt Edmond

Matt Edmond

Matt Edmond

Matt Edmond

B. Community Partners

- 1) Chester County Community Foundation
- 2) Chester County Tourism

Karen Simmons

Susan Hamley



- 3) Chester County History Center
- 4) Chester County Parks Department
- 5) Keep Chester County Beautiful (KCCB)

*Conor Hepp
Dave Stauffer
Rachael Griffith*

5:55 p.m. 8. NEW BUSINESS

Chair

6:00 p.m. 9. ADJOURN

Chair

Next monthly meeting – July 9, 2026

Action Items





MINUTES: Chester County A250PA Commission Monthly Meeting
Hybrid – Chester County Government Services Center, Room 270

May 7, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: MarySue Boyle, Adam Desch, Fernando Fonseca, Susan Hamley, Colin Hanna, Tim Hennessey, Mark Slouf

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: James Christ, Jane Dorchester, Larycia Hawkins, Jennifer Green, Conor Hepp, Michelle Kichline, Winifred Moran Sebastian, Bruce Mowday, Beverly Sheppard, Randell Spackman, Dr. tonya thames-taylor (T3), Robert Williams

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Karen Simmons, Dave Stauffer

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

CCPC STAFF PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Beth Cunliffe

VISITORS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

VISITORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: County Commissioner Josh Maxwell, and Joseph Sherwood and April Nickel of Chester County Library System

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, May 7th, 2026, was called to order at 4:01 P.M. by Michelle Kichline, Chair.

Michelle and Matt Edmond presented this morning on the CC250 to the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry (CCCBI). Good connections have been made with the business community, and they are very interested in supporting our efforts and events, notably for the 2027 activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS MADE BY WINIFRED MORAN SEBASTIAN, SECONDED BY TIM HENNESSEY, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDED: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR APRIL 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 and authorized expenditures to date.
- Matt reviewed the financial reporting template tracking budget allocations, and expenditures across different funds.
 - There have been no new donations received and no invoices paid in the past month.
 - Under Partnerships, the money allocated for flags and pocket declarations has been noted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, PLANS & BUDGETS

Heritage Sites Committee – Mark Slouf

- Jeannine Speirs reported on the software updates to the existing kiosks (Marshallton, Schuylkill River) to connect them to the Brandywine Visitor Center. Marshallton is approved to proceed, and Schuylkill River is under review to be approved by its Board.
- The revised scope, planning work and timeline for Phase I and 2 for the new Kiosks (8 – 9 sites) and the RFP process was explained by Jeannine and Matt.
- Mark Slouf updated the Commission on The Pines, which was identified as a proposed gateway for Evolving Values theme of the Heritage Tourism Plan. A report had been created several years ago on the \$1.2M improvements needed, and grants were available at the time. However, the grants disappeared with the new administration and the project was halted. Potential budget is now pared down to \$400k and there is continuing hope of resurrecting the project.

Education Committee – Beverly Sheppard

- The Intermediate Unit has reached out to teachers requesting examples of any programs or activities created which are focused on the 250 themes and the materials distributed.
- The Chester County Ledger's most recent edition includes many of the educational and historical programs featuring 250 themes occurring in Chester County.

Marketing and Communication Committee – Jane Dorchester

- Jane reported on the popularity of marketing items (stickers, bookmarks, magnets, pins) at various events.
- Committee is determining where to boost social media marketing as far as promoting various 250 themed county events.

Fundraising Committee – Winifred Moran Sebastian

- There has been some outreach to law firms for potential sponsoring of the flags, but no firms have committed.

- The Committee has an opportunity to garner interest and support from the business community in our 2027 focus (Battle of Clouds, Paoli, Battle of Brandywine, Valley Forge.)
- A discussion ensued on the Events Committee interest and the current communications out on all the events focused on the 250.
 - Members suggested ramping up our social media and newsletters to actively communicate events for more engagement.
 - Matt Edmond highlighted our current social media efforts and proposed we could expand our reach by maintaining frequency of an in-person “roadshow” to engage with organizations.
 - Brandywine Valley Tourism has created a 2-page flyer highlighting the major upcoming events through to September. They have these available at their welcome center and at various hotels. Susan Hamley explained that tourists don’t necessarily want to research the events, but rather they would like them presented to them either verbally or by takeaway handouts.
 - An Events Committee will be formed as a sub-committee under MarCom, and an initial focus will be spreading awareness through social media. Tim Hennessey, MarySue Boyle, and Commissioner Josh Maxwell volunteered to join Colin Hanna and Adam Desch on this Committee.
 - John Reynolds on MarCom is working with news media (Daily Local News and Delaware Today) so printed communications is also a focus.
 - Each member of the Commission can be a conduit to communicate with their local organizations and municipalities. Using their contacts and relationships can be effective in growing awareness of CC250.
 - Michelle noted that the Chester County Commissioners would like to focus on 2027 as a “big deal” for Chester County as far as events and programs, so the Events Committee will have lead time and should begin the planning for 2027.
 - Conor Hepp noted that using Vista in Kennett could be a resource as they have a huge mailing list and a large reach.

Partnerships Committee – Matt Edmond for Randell Spackman

- Matt Edmond requested review from the Commission members present on the CC250 flag sample hanging in the conference room that had been produced by our proposed flag vendor. The Commission agreed that the quality of the flag construction was not as expected and a new vendor should be identified.
- The desired flag would be double-sided and the size of 4x6.
- Due to the quick turnaround time needed to obtain the flags, the Commission has pre-approved the purchase of these flags for approximately \$14,000 and do not need a formal action before ordering. If the cost is significantly higher an emergency meeting can be called.
- The next steps are for CCPC staff to identify turn-around time for production from potential vendors.

Technology Committee – Adam Desch for Sam Bissenbina

- The volunteering for events automation has been established on the site and is in use.

- The selected patriotic music by the Brandywine Symphony will be placed on the home page front and center once it is ready to be made public.
- A separate page has been established to identify County-sponsored events related to the 250th.

Executive Committee – Michelle Kichline

- No current update.

A250PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

- April Nickel, Youth Services District Coordinator of the Chester County Library System (CCLS), presented on the system's initiatives for CC250.
 - Decisions on the cohesive plan for the 18 libraries began in June 2025 with representatives from 8 libraries. All libraries voted on the plan.
 - Each library will have a booklet on events, 1 Dare to Declare event, 3 CC250 specific programs, a decorated Liberty Bell display (Bells Across CCLS), and an event to give away commemorative stickers.
 - Programs vary widely, with examples such as a Liberty Tea Party, arts and crafts events, movies, Colonial Science series, musical events and book discussions and lectures.
 - Michelle Kichline requested a link from the CCLS's site to our CC250 site. April will investigate next steps on this.
 - Any questions, please contact April at anickel@ccls.org.

PARTNER WORK UPDATES

Chester County Planning Commission

- Jeannine Speirs will have draft language next week of the HIN brochure for the Committees to review.
- The late afternoon event on April 30th (including the Town Tours kickoff, Dare to Declare and Bell unveiling) was well-attended and positive feedback has been received.

Community Partners

- Chester County Community Foundation – Karen Simmons
 - There has been great interest from the public in viewing the Bell.
 - There are currently 379 events across the County, and these are being pushed on to the CC250 website events page for the public to register.
 - A notable Dare to Declare event is being planned with the Brandywine Symphony at a concert at Longwood Gardens on June 25th.
- Chester County Tourism – Susan Hamley
 - Susan Hamley presented the organization's April 9th Partner Event, highlighting the America250 content, and the guest speakers, re-enactors and historical organizations who participated.
- Chester County History Center (CCHC) – Conor Hepp
 - Conor Hepp presented on their current programming, highlighting the Revolutionary War walking tours, podcasts, exhibit on the Revolutionary

War in Chester County, and the Author Series talk with H.W. Brands at West Chester University on May 15th.

- Chester County Parks Department - Dave Stauffer
 - Sheep and Wool Day on May 2nd at Springton Manor Farm had over 3,000 in attendance.
 - Park staff continue to work with CCHC to clean and update the Family Farm Museum located in the Great Barn at Springton Manor Farm.
 - Park staff have announced a photo contest; the first theme is the natural history of the parks, and the subsequent contest focuses on the history of the parks.
- Keep Chester County Beautiful (KCCB) - Rachael Griffith
 - Rachael Griffith gave an update on the KCCB program, highlighting the progress on the goal of 50 new volunteer groups by the end of 2026. Current count is 18 groups.
 - The program is using social media and in person events to promote the program, including an interactive weaving mural activity at the recent Sheep and Wool Day.

NEW BUSINESS

- Website and Social Media Report - Matt Edmond
 - This is a new agenda item to track the statistics on visitors and followers for the CC250 social media and website pages. This will be updated monthly and included in the monthly packet.
- Goshen Day 250th Celebration - Fred Fonseca
 - This May 30 joint celebration for East and West Goshen is a large event including demonstrations and reenactments, a parade, live music, food trucks, document signing, quilt display, weapons display, Dare to Declare, and a Battle of the Clouds memorial.
 - Jeannine Speirs reported that the Battle of the Clouds animation map technology has been updated and is now working in time for Goshen Day.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:55 PM WAS MADE BY SUSAN HAMLEY, SECONDED BY JANE DORCHESTER, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Kichline, Chair
Chester County A250PA Commission

MK/brb

Financial Report



America 250 Chester County Commission Charitable Fund (CC250)

Snapshot as of 5/26/2026

[FUNDS](#)
[PROFILE](#)
[LOGOUT](#)

FUND SUMMARY

Fund: America250 PA Chester County Commission

[CREATE GRANT REQUEST](#)

Please note that certain historical contributions may be included twice on this list due to limitations in converting the data from our prior system. This does not impact the financial statements - only this listing of donations.

GRANTS

GRANT REQUEST

VENDOR INVOICES

INVOICES

RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

DONATE

DONATIONS

10

entries per page

Search:

ID	Date	Contributor	Type	Description	Amount
100205	02/12/2026	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	Internal Grant	Fund Transfer	40,000.00
99447	12/09/2025	CCCF America250 Let Freedom Ring DCED Promo - Provisional	Internal Grant		10,000.00
99001	10/23/2025	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	Internal Grant	Transfer Donation from Fidelity Charitable - Heaberg Family Charitable Fund	1,000.00
98951	10/16/2025	Anonymous	Stripe		2.50
96801	06/30/2025	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	Internal Grant	Transfer Donations: McGarrity, Hanna, Moskowitz	650.00

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

« < 1 > »

[FUNDS](#)
[PROFILE](#)
[LOGOUT](#)

FUND SUMMARY

Fund: America250 PA Chester County Commission

[CREATE GRANT REQUEST](#)

VOUCHERS

10

entries per page

Search:

ID	Date	Status	Profile	Amount
52107	05/20/2026	posted	Blue Dog Printing Inc.	3,328.68
52007	05/11/2026	posted	SpeedPro	13,500.00
51457	03/10/2026	paid	U.S. Bank	244.80

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

« < 1 > »

Committee	Budget Allocations
Education	\$ -
	\$ -
Total Budget Allocated	\$ -

Heritage Sites	HSN Brochure	\$ 10,000.00
Total Budget Allocated		\$ 10,000.00

MarCom - Media Social	Targeted Ads	\$	6,370.00
	Boosted Posts	\$	1,230.00
	Large Print Media Buys	\$	2,400.00
	Total Budget Allocated	\$	10,000.00

MarCom - Promotional	Stickers - 5,000 @ .14	\$ 700.00
Shipping added \$68.88	Magnets - 2500 @ .60	\$ 1,568.88
Revised price on pims \$1.06	Lapel Pins - 1,000 @ \$1.06	\$ 1,060.00
	Total Budget Allocated	\$ 3,328.88

Partnerships	1000 Pocket Declarations	\$	155.00
	150 Flags @ \$90.00	\$	13,500.00
Estimate: \$106 - updated price	Actual Large Envelopes	\$	118.92
Estimate \$120 - now getting extra ribbon	Actual Ribbon	\$	151.96
Estimate \$25.79 - CCPC discount applied	Actual Labels	\$	8.99
3 x 3 Business Cards for CC250 - 600 quantity	CC250 Business Cards	\$	13.26
	Total Budget Allocated	\$	13,948.13

KIOSKS	
Total Budget Allocated	\$ -

Technology	Website Domain	\$	33.00
	Jotform Bronze	\$	240.00
	Tockify Premium	\$	80.00
	Mailchimp	\$	600.00
	Metricool Starter *	\$	244.80
*\$240 original estimate			
	Total Budget Allocated	\$	1,197.80

Total funds for Cmtes (excluding kiosks)	\$ 60,143.47
Total allocated to date (excluding kiosks)	\$ 38,474.81
Amt remaining to be allocated (excluding kiosks)	\$ 21,668.66

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
No new donations as of 5/26/26				
Total funds received:	\$ 51,652.47	\$ 8,491.00	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES				
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			
Blue Dog - final invoice to CCCF 5/20	\$ 700.00			
Blue Dog - final invoice to CCCF 5/20	\$ 1,568.88			
Blue Dog - Final Invoice to CCCF 5/20	\$ 1,060.00			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ 3,328.88			

Pocket Declarations - 1000 pieces	\$ 155.00			
SpeedPro = 150 flags	\$ 13,500.00			
Amazon order 5/18 Envelopes	\$ 118.92			
Amazon order 5/18 Ribbon	\$ 151.96			
Amazon order 5/18 Labels	\$ 8.99			
In house printing - 3 x 3 cards	\$ 13.26			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ 13,948.13			

The original estimate for flag wrapping was total of \$252. Envelopes had updated price and we ordered extra roll of ribbon. New total price is \$279.87 (an increase of \$27.87)

TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ -			

Feb. 2026 Metricool Starter	\$ 244.80			
TOTAL AGAINST BUDGET	\$ 244.80			

BALANCE REMAINING (with pending payments)	\$ 20,630.66	\$ 8,042.87	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00
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Committee Reports



Chester County America250 Committees

As of 5/26/2026

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>	Colin Hanna	Ernie Holling	James Christ
<i>MaryFrances McGarrity, Secretary</i>	Larycia Hawkins		Barbara Cohen
Mark Slouf	Bruce Mowday		Fernando Fonseca
Randell Spackman	John Reynolds		Randell Spackman
Robert Williams	Savannah Flores		tonya thames-taylor
	Emma Brennan		Robert Williams
	Jack C. Martin		James Ziegler
CCPC Staff Liaisons	CCPC Staff Liaisons	CCPC Staff Liaisons	CCPC Staff Liaisons
Matt Edmond	Matt Edmond	David Blackburn	David Blackburn
David Blackburn	David Blackburn	Carolyn Oakley	Jeannine Speirs
	Carolyn 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	
CCPC Staff Liaison	CCPC Staff Liaison	CCPC Staff Liaison	
David Blackburn	Matt Edmond	David Blackburn	

Events Committee (Sub-Cmte of MarCom Cmte)
<i>Commissioner Josh Maxwell, Cmte Chair</i>
MarySue Boyle
Adam Desch
Colin Hanna
Tim Hennessey
CCPC Staff attendees
Beth Cunliffe
David Blackburn
<i>Purple shading = Committee member not member of CC250 Commission</i>

CC250 Business



CC250 Stats – May 2026

Newsletter

The newsletter, first released on February 11, 2026 and continuing weekly, has 660 subscribers (as of 5/26/26) which is an increase of 18 from April.

Website

Total page views in May were 3,048 with the top 3 viewed pages being:

1. Calendar of Events
2. Home
3. Events and Visits

Social Media

CC250 has accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

Facebook

Facebook currently has 987 followers which is an increase of 7.2% from January 1st.

In May, the most popular posts were the Kennett Square Memorial Day Parade and the H.W. Brands Book Discussion. Both of these posts were boosted and performed extremely well.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn currently has 37 followers which is an increase of 15.6% from January 1st.

In May, the most popular posts were the Shiloh African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery Historical Marker and the 5/7 Town Tours Lecture.

Instagram

Instagram currently has 323 followers which is an increase of 18.5% from January 1st.

In May, the most popular posts were both lists of upcoming events. The second list included a new graphic with CC250's branding on it.

WEBSITE	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	1st Quarter	
Total Page Views	3285	3313	2517	Total views: 9,115	Top viewed pages
Top 3 Viewed Pages	Home Calendar of Events Our Heritage	Home Calendar of Events Our Commission	Home Calendar of Events Events and Visits	35% traffic = searching 33% traffic = direct visits 30% traffic - referred from another site	Home Calendar of Events Our Heritage
	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026		
Total Page Views	3291	3048 (as of 5/26)			
Top 3 Viewed Pages	Home Calendar of Events Events and Visits	Calendar of Events Home Events and Visits			
	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026		
Total Page Views					
Top 3 Viewed Pages					
	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026		
Total Page Views					
Top 3 Viewed Pages					

FACEBOOK	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Followers	(not tracked)	(not tracked)	921
Top Posts	Kickoff Event - January 16 Newsletter Sign up	Submitting Events to Calendar Follow up to Kickoff Event	Speaker Series: Charlotte Moore Sitterly America250 at Goshen - Ned Donahue
	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
Followers	978	987	
Top Posts	Bell Unveiling/Dare to Declare Town Tours Kick-off	Kennett Square Memorial Parade (boosted) H.W. Brands Book Discussion (boosted)	
	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			
	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			

LINKEDIN	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Followers	(not tracked)	(not tracked)	36
Top Posts	Kickoff Event - January 16 Fighting for Philadelphia -book presentation	CC250 / KCCB Clean up campaign America250 at Goshen - Ned Donahue	Women in Revolution Book Discussion Speaker Series - Charlotte Moore
	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
Followers	37	37	
Top Posts	Community Page on CC250 Website Share your events - CC250 Calendar	Historic Marker 5/7 Town Tours	
	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			
	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			

INSTAGRAM	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Followers	(not tracked)	(not tracked)	301
Top Posts	Kickoff Event - January 16 Newsletter Sign up	CC250 / KCCB Clean up campaign America250 at Goshen - Noah Lewis	Old Caln Historical Society - Women's Patriotism Speaker Series -John E. Smith III
	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
Followers	311	323	
Top Posts	Bell Unveiling/Dare to Declare Town Tours Kick-off	List of Upcoming Events List of Upcoming Events (with new CC250 themed graphic)	
	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			
	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			

Work Updates





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

[America 250 Events – Working List](#)



Activity #1: COMMUNITY CONVENING & HYPER-LOCAL ACTIVATION

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

Municipal Heritage & Arts Comms
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
2. w/VF NHP support [Dare to Declare/Community Conversations w/Wish Walls](#)
[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
2. Paoli Battlefield Heritage Center: \$500K FR Goal
3. Thornbury Farm Heritage Center: \$375K FR Goal

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

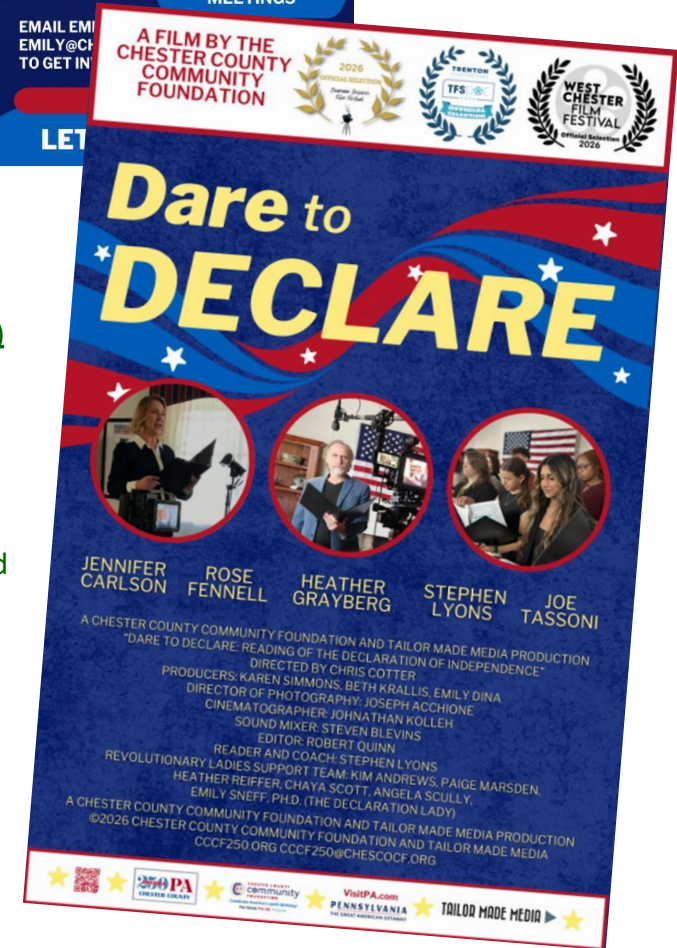
1. Let Freedom Ring & Dare to Declare: Events, Activities & Program Funding...allocated
2. Grant: Bells Across PA. Sponsor Bell for ChesCo/A250CC CVB \$10k 11/25
3. Grant: Special Request Grant to A250CC Comm \$50k 1/26

Karen Simmons, karen@chescofc.org

Heather Reiffer, Angela Scully, Kim Andrews, Paige Mardsen, Beth Krallis

<https://cccf250.org/> cccf250@chescofc.org

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



Bells Across PA: CC

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

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

Bell housed at
28 W. Market Street

Loew Courtyard  **LJOEW**

Behind fence

Due to County of Chester property
placement liability concerns

Can be easily seen by visitors

CCCF adding large sign to enhance
plaque explanation



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.



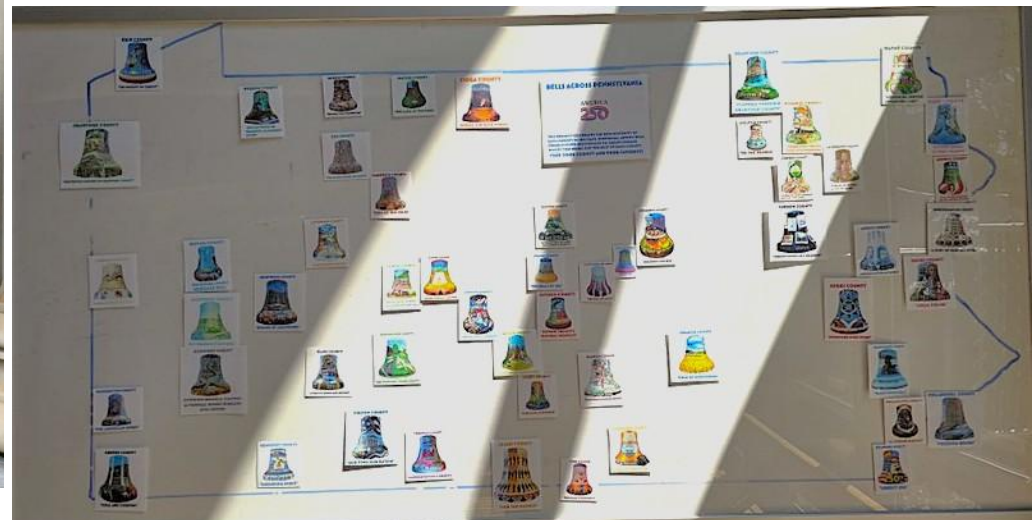
AMERICA 250 PA
WWW.AMERICA250PA.ORG

BELLS ACROSS PA

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:
 **CHESTER COUNTY community FOUNDATION**
 **AMERICA 250 PA**
CHESTER COUNTY



DARE TO DECLARE

Let us help you host
a community Dare to Declare event



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
610.696.8211



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.



GET INVOLVED!

1-Review Dare to Declare webpage & videos



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



Teaser video (30 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXjzGkl3stM>



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

https://youtu.be/2lkdxr4_MHA

2-Watch Kennett livestream from 2/10/26

https://youtu.be/uBwL_jANK7M

3-Open doors to Dare to Declare host sites

hpreiffer@gmail.com

4-Zoom in & join weekly activation meetings

hpreiffer@gmail.com

 **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.**



06/02/2026	Tues	5:30 PM	Tasting History with Cook & Connect Cookbook Club	Paoli Library
6/4/2026	Thurs	6:30 PM	Songs and Stories of the American Revolution	Phoenixville Public Library
06/04/2026	Thurs	5:00 PM	CC Town Tours & Village Walks	CC Planning Comm
06/06/2026	Sat	7:00 PM	CC Concert Band Performance and Picnic at Malvern Memorial Park	Paoli Memorial & CC Concert Band
06/06/2026	Sat	11:00 A	Waterways, Wells, and Wash: Colonial Science	Colonial PA Farmstead
06/06/2026	Sat	1:00 PM	Dare to Declare!	Atglen Public Library
06/06/2026	Sat	2:00 PM	Revolutionary Lives, with "Hear Ye, Congress Declares Independence!"	Kennett Heritage Center & Twnshp Historical Comm
06/06/2026	Sat		Spy Camp	America 250 at Goshen
06/06/2026	Sat	2:00 PM	Many Nations, CC	Penn Twnshp
06/07/2026	Sun	3:00 PM	Jazz at the Springs with Dare to Declare	Historic Yellow Springs
06/07/2026	Sun	Noon	Underground Railroad event	Brandywine Baptist Church
06/09/2026	Tues	11:00 AM	"Clara in time of War" author CJ McGroarty	Advent Lutheran Church
06/10/2026	Wed	6:00 PM	Unearth a Story: Meet Betsy Ross	CC Library
06/10/2026	Wed	7:00 PM	Speaker: Nancy Loane, Valley Forge Park Alliance	West Caln Twnshp Historical Comm
06/11/2026	Thurs	6:30 PM	Masterclass Series: American Wine History	Penn Woods Winery
06/11/2026	Thurs	6:00 PM	2026 A250 Trail Blazer Run	East Bradford Twnshp
06/11/2026	Thurs	5:00 PM	CC Town Tours & Village Walks	CC Planning Comm
06/12/2026	Fri	5:30 PM	Patriotic Paint and Sip	Penn Wds Winery
06/12/2026	Fri		World Cup Broadcast the Park	WC Parks and Rec
06/13/2026	Sat	12:30 PM	Dare to Declare/Phoenixville Strawberry Festival	Historical Society of Phoenixville
06/13/2026	Sat	1:30 P	Paoli Massacre Walking Tour of the Paoli Battlefield	Paoli Battlefield Historical Park,
06/13/2026	Sat	6:00 PM	Community Concert & Picnic	Borough of Malvern
06/13/2026	Sat	5:00 PM	Brews at the Battlefield	Brandywine Battlefield Park
06/13/2026	Sat	2:00 PM	The Underground Railroad	Penn Twnshp
06/13/2026	Sat	10:00 AM	Dare to Declare	Founding Forward
06/14/2026	Sun		FLAG DAY	
06/14/2026	Sun	7:00 PM	Flag Day Patriotic Concert	Phoenixville Ch of Commerce
06/14/2026	Sun	2:00 PM	Lecture Series: Karen Slyman Talks about Lionville History	Uwchlan Twnshp
06/14/2026	Sun	11:00 AM	From Fields to Fabric	Colonial PA Farmstead
06/14/2026	Sun	11:30 AM	Dare to Declare reading and birthday party for America	Christ Church Christiana Hundred
06/14/2026	Sun	10:00 AM	Kennett Underground RR Bus Tour	Kennett Underground RR Center
06/14/2026	Sun	2:00 PM	Phoenixville Celebrates Juneteenth	Phoenixville Juneteenth Committee

06/14/2026	Sun	2:00 PM	How PA's Ann Preston Blazed the Trails for Women Doctors	Penn Twnshp
06/15/2026	Mon	2:00 PM	Unearth a Story: John, Paul, George & Ben	CC Library
06/16/2026	Tues	5:15 PM	Footprints in the Snow - George Washington's Continental Army 1776	Paoli Battlefield Historical Park
06/16/2026	Tues	6:00 PM	We Hold These Truths To Be Self Evident	Malvern Public Library
06/17/2026	Wed	9:00 AM	"Forged in Freedom" CC America250 exhibit at Nottingham County Park	Nottingham County Park
06/18/2026	Thurs	5:00 PM	CC Town Tours & Village Walks	CC Planning Comm
6/18/2026	Thurs	1:00 PM	Get Inspired	Oxford Library
6/18/2026	Thurs	12:00 PM	Slavery & Freedom/Delaware-PA Border	CC History Center
6/18/2026	Thurs	5:00 PM	3rd Thurs State Street: Dare to Declare	Kennett Collaborative
06/19/2026	Fri		JUNETEENTH	
06/20/2026	Sat	1:00 PM	3rd Annual Historic Longest Table Picnic at the Spackman-Davis Farm	Caln Twnshp Historical Comm
06/20/2026	Sat		Juneteenth at Kennett	Kennett Juneteenth
06/20/2026	Sat		Upper Uwchlan Twnshp's 16th annual Block Party and Fireworks	Upper Uwchlan
06/21/2026	Sun	1:00 PM	Trolley Tour through Caln Twnshp	Old Caln Historical Society
06/21/2026	Sun	11:00 AM	Open House - Barnard Station & Locust Grove Schoolhouse & Dare to Declare	Barnard Station
06/22/2026	Mon	9:00 AM	Messy Mondays: Wish Wall	CC Library
06/22/2026	Mon	2:00 PM	Unearth a Story: Colonial Science Series	CC Library
06/24/2026	Wed	11:00 PM	The Amazing Magi presents: The American Story	Avon Grove Library
06/24/2026	Wed	6:00 PM	Unearth a Story: Meet Ned Hector	CC Library
06/24/2026	Wed	5:30 PM	Westtown A250 Summer Concert	Westtown Twnshp Parks&Rec
06/25/2026	Thurs	6:30 PM	DARE to Declare: We Hold These Truths to Be Self-Evident	Avon Grove Library
06/25/2026	Thurs	7:00 PM	Made in America: Brandywine Valley Symphony presents an original work of America's favorite patriotic tunes: The American Dream	Brandywine Valley Symphony
06/25/2026	Thurs	4:00 PM	John, Paul, George & Ben: With CC History Center	Paoli Library
06/26/2026	Fri	10:00 AM	Naturalization Ceremony & Reception	CC Bar Association
06/27/2026	Sat	10:00 AM	History Lecture - Voices of the Founding Fathers	Westtown Twnshp
06/27/2026	Sat	3:00 PM	Nottingham Country Fair	CC Parks + Preservation
06/27/2026	Sat	4:00 PM	Anselma 250 Lectures: Breadbasket of the World	Mill at Anselma
6/27/2026	Sat	10:30 AM	Dare to Declare: Explore the Declaration SESSION ONE	Paoli Library/ Willistown Twnshp
6/27/2026	Sat	12:30 PM	Dare to Declare: Explore the Declaration SESSION TWO	Paoli Library/ Willistown Twnshp



6/27/2026Sat	2:00 PM	America Offers Hope - What does Liberty Mean to you? "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"	People's Hall
6/27/2026		Paranormal Tour - Paoli Battlefield	
6/27/2026Sat	9:00 AM	Freedom Fest	East Fallowfield Twnshp Parks and Recreation
6/27/2026Sat	2:00 PM	Covered Bridges by the Wood Brothers	Penn Twnshp
6/28/2026Sun	8:45 AM	Authentic 1776 Style Worship	Advent Lutheran Church
6/28/2026Sun	1:00 PM	Tiny Art Show Paint Day	CC Library
06/28/2026Sun	1:00 PM	America 250 Pop Up: Quill Writing	Penn Woods Winery
06/28/2026Sun	6:00 PM	Celebration of the Declaration of Independence	St. David's Church
06/28/2026Sun		Upper Uwchlan Twnshp's Self-Driving Tour of Twnshp's Oldest Buildings	Upper Uwchlan
06/29/2026Mon	2:00 PM	Unearth a Story: Colonial Science Series	CC Library
06/29/2026Mon		Revolutionary Farmers Summer Camp	Colonial PA Farmstead
06/30/2026Tues	10:00 AM	Unearth a Story: John, Paul, George & Ben	Henrietta Hankin Library
07/01/2026		Forged in Freedom: The Land, the People and the Promise that Shaped a Nation" traveling exhibit	CC Archives
07/01/2026Wed	10:30 AM	Unearth a Story: Party Like It's 1776	Henrietta Hankin Library
07/01/2026Wed	11:00 AM	Bald Eagle Story Time	Avon Grove Library
07/01/2026Wed	tbd	Dare to Declare	WC NAACP/PFLAG
07/01/2026Wed	9:30 AM	World Association of Marching Band National Championship	West Chester University
07/01/2026Wed		World Association of Marching Band Shows' USA Regional Competition	World Association of Marching Show Bands
7/2/2026Thurs	1:00 PM	Get Inspired	Oxford Library
7/2/2026Thurs	3:00 PM	Unearth a Story: The Amazing Magi Presents the American Story "Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness"	Henrietta Hankin Library
7/2/2026Thurs	6:30 PM	Happiness"	Phoenixville Public Library
07/03/2026Fri	2:00 PM	America's Birthday Party Storytime!	Paoli Library
07/03/2026Fri	9:00 AM	Celebrating 50 years of Valley Forge National Historical Park: Visitor Center & Muhlenberg Brigade	Valley Forge National Historical Park
07/03/2026Fri	12:00 PM	Semiquincentennial Parade in Philadelphia	Philadelphia Olde City
07/01/2026Wed		Parkesburg 250	Parkesburg Free Library



07/04/2026Sat	INDEPENDENCE DAY		
07/04/2026Fri	9:00 AM	Celebrating 50 years of VFNHP: Visitor Center & Muhlenberg Brigade	Valley Forge National Historical Park
07/04/2026Sat	9:00 AM	Celebrating 50 years of VFNHP: National Memorial Arch	Valley Forge National Historical Park
07/04/2026Sat	9:00 AM	Commemoration Ceremony at the Revolutionary Soldiers Cemetery	East Vincent Twnshp
07/04/2026Sat		Dare to Declare at the Maurice Stephens House	Valley Forge Park Alliance
07/04/2026Sat	11:00 AM	Revolutionary Farmers	Colonial PA Farmstead
07/04/2026Sat		Dare to Declare	Kennett Heritage Center
07/04/2026Sat		Dare to Declare at the Duportail House	Tredyffrin
07/04/2026Sat		Self-Driving Tour of Twnshp's Oldest Buildings	Upper Uwchlan
07/04/2026Sat		Let Freedom Ring Celebration	PA Society Sons of Revolution
07/04/2026Sat	11:00 AM	Happy 250th Birthday America!!	Tredyffrin Twnshp
07/04/2026Sat	10:00 AM	July 4th Celebration	The Mill at Anselma
07/04/2026Sat		Declaration Reading	Brandywine Battlefield Park
07/04/2026Sat	8:00 AM	Good Neighbor Day	Downingtown Borough
07/05/2026Sun	1:00 PM	Blue Star Memorial Rededication at 1756 Uwchlan Meeting House	1756 Uwchlan Meeting House
07/05/2026Sun	11:00 AM	Colonial Toys and Games	Colonial PA Farmstead,
07/05/2026Sun		America 250 Celebration	East Whiteland Twnshp
07/06/2026Mon	2:00 PM	Unearth a Story: Colonial Science Series	CC Library
07/06/2026Mon	1pm	Book Club: Dare to Declare Reading	Upper Main Line YMCA
07/07/2026Tues		Tasting History with Cook & Connect	
07/07/2026Tues	5:30 PM	Cookbook Club	Paoli Library
07/09/2026Thurs	5:00 PM	CC Town Tours & Village Walks	CC Planning Comm
07/09/2026Thurs	1:00 PM	Get Inspired	Oxford Library
07/10/2026Fri		Rockin' Through the Revolution: Music with Damien Drago	Paoli Library
07/11/2026Sat	2:00 PM	Exton Community Day	CC Parks + Preservation
07/11/2026Sat	10:00 AM	Dare to Declare at Founding Forward	Founding Forward
07/12/2026Sun		We the People at Hibernia County Park	
07/12/2026Sun	2:00 PM	at Fiddler's Stage	CC Parks + Preservation
07/12/2026Sun		Dare to Declare and Fireworks	East Brandywine Twnshp
07/12/2026Sun		America 250: Summer Concert - Echoes of the British Invasion	East Bradford Twnshp
07/13/2026Mon	7:00 PM	Unearth a Story: Colonial Science Series	CC Library
07/16/2026Thurs	2:00 PM	Unearth a Story: Colonial Science Series	CC Library
07/16/2026Thurs	5:00 PM	CC Town Tours & Village Walks	CC Planning Comm
07/16/2026Thurs	1:00 PM	Get Inspired	Oxford Library
07/16/2026Thurs		45-min Screening of Ken Burns' "The American Revolution"	Historic Sugartown
07/18/2026Sat		Farmers & Artisans Market, Flag Dedication and Festival	Charlestown Twnshp
07/18/2026Sat	7:00 PM	Meet Martha Washington	East Vincent Twnshp



07/18/2026	Sat		Battle of the Clouds & Paoli Massacre Presentation & Bus Tour	America 250 at Goshen
07/18/2026	Sat	11:00 AM	Preservation Day at Colonial PA Farmstead	Colonial PA Farmstead
07/18/2026	Sat	8:45 AM	Battle of Brandywine Bus Tours	East Bradford Twnshp
07/18/2026	Sat	4:00 PM	Anselma 250 Lectures: Origins: The Lenape, William Penn, and the Colonists	The Mill at Anselma
07/18/2026	Sun		Upper Uwchlan Twnshp's Self-Driving Tour of Twnshp's Oldest Buildings	Upper Uwchlan
07/18/2026	Sun	10:00 AM	Kennett Underground Railroad Bus Tour	Kennett Underground Railroad Center
07/19/2026	Sun	1:00 PM	A Most Patriotic Celebration in Marshallton	Friends of Martin's Tavern, Bradford Meeting & West Bradford Twnshp
07/19/2026	Sun	11:00 AM	Ice Cream Sundae	Colonial PA Farmstead
07/19/2026	Sun	2:00 PM	Ice Cream Social	CC Parks + Preservation
07/23/2026	Thurs	5:30 PM	CC Town Tours & Village Walks - Armchair Lecture	CC Planning Comm
07/23/2026	Thurs	6:30 PM	Remember Paoli! The Battle of Paoli	Easttown Library
07/23/2026	Thurs	2:00 PM	Indigenous Beadwork with Rain Black & Robin Gow	Paoli Library
07/24/2026	Fri	1:00 PM	Family Feature Day: National Treasure	Paoli Library
07/25/2026	Sat	8:45 AM	Battle of Brandywine Bus Tours	East Bradford Twnshp
07/25/2026	Sat	tba	Dare to Declare with the William Taylor Sea Cadets at Mount America	American Legion Post 491 and William Taylor Sea Cadets
07/25/2026	Sat	tbd	East Marlborough 250/Ned Hector performance	East Marlborough Twnshp
07/26/2026	Sun		America 250 themed concert series at East Bradford Twnshp Park	East Bradford Twnshp
07/26/2026	Sun	1:00 PM	America 250 Pop Up: Carding & Wool Spinning	Penn Woods Winery
07/26/2026	Sun	7:00 PM	America 250: Summer Concert at East Bradford Park - West Chester Band	East Bradford Twnshp
07/30/2026	Thurs	1:00 PM	Get Inspired	Oxford Library
TBD			Parlour Reading Series production of CATO, a Tragedy by Joseph Addison	Colonial Theatre
08/01/2026			Forged in Freedom: The Land, the People and the Promise that Shaped a Nation" traveling exhibit	CC Archives
08/01/2026	Sat	11:00 AM	Lammas	Colonial PA Farmstead
08/01/2026	Sat	5:00 P	Voices of Brandywine	Brandywine Battlefield Park with Delaware Theatre Company
08/01/2026	Sat		Penn Twnshp Days	Penn Twnshp
08/01/2026	Sat		Annual Uwchlan Twnshp Community Day	Uwchlan Twnshp
08/02/2026	Sun		Penn Twnshp Days	Penn Twnshp

08/02/2026	Sun	4:00 P	West Chester Area Council of Governments presents America 250: A Stroll Through West Chester	West Goshen Twnshp
08/06/2026	Thurs	5:00 PM	CC Town Tours & Village Walks	CC Planning Comm
08/06/2026	Thurs	tbd	Boston Tea-Themed Puppet Show	American Legion Post 491 & Kennett Library
08/06/2026	Thurs	1:00 PM	Get Inspired	Oxford Library
08/06/2026	Thurs	6:00 PM	Dare to Declare Book Discussion	Henrietta Hankin Branch Library
08/08/2026	Sat	10:00 AM	Dare to Declare at Founding Forward	Founding Forward
08/08/2026	Sat	3:00 PM	2nd Annual Malvern Community Day	Malvern Parks & Rec
08/08/2026	Sat	10:00 A	Old Fiddlers Picnic	CC Parks + Preservation
08/09/2026	Sun	7:00 PM	America250: Summer Concert at East Bradford Park - Achilles Heart	East Bradford Twnshp
08/09/2026	Sun	1:00 PM	America 250 Teen Photo Contest	CC Library
08/13/2026	Thurs	1:00 PM	Reception	Oxford Library
08/13/2026	Thurs	1:00 PM	Get Inspired	Colonial PA Farmstead
08/15/2026	Sat	11:00 AM	Founders Day	Kennett Underground Railroad Center
08/16/2026	Sun	10:00 AM	Kennett Underground Railroad Bus Tour	Kennett Underground Railroad Center
08/20/2026	Thurs	7:00 PM	An Evening with Inventor Ben Franklin	America 250 at Goshen
08/20/2026	Thurs		West Bradford Twnshp Third Thursday Concert Series -- Special America 250	
08/20/2026	Thurs	6:00 PM	Edition with Lenni Brass	West Bradford Twnshp
08/20/2026	Thurs	1:00 PM	Get Inspired	Oxford Library
08/20/2026	Thurs	5:00 PM	CC Town Tours & Village Walks	CC Planning Comm
08/22/2026	Sat		CC Assoc for the Blind's video screening	CC Assoc for the Blind
08/27/2026	Thurs	12:00 PM	Walking Warwick County Park	CC Archives
8/29/26	Sat		Picnic in the Preserve: Kennett Twnshp Celebrates America 250	Kennett Twnshp
8/29/26	Sat	11:00 AM	Revolutionary Science	Colonial PA Farmstead
9/1/26			Forged in Freedom: The Land, the People and the Promise that Shaped a Nation" traveling exhibit	CC Archives
09/07/2026	Mon		LABOR DAY	

