



Thursday, January 1

Let Freedom Ring!

12 p.m. Parson's House

Join us on **Thursday, January 1st**, as Wallingford rings in both the New Year and our nation's Semiquincentennial. Gather at the **Wallingford Historical Society, 180 South Main Street**, for the ceremonial ringing of the bells—a powerful tribute to the spirit of 1776 and the enduring promise of liberty.

Saturday, April 25

Powder House Day Reenactment

10 a.m. Parson's House

Powder House Day brings Wallingford's Revolutionary past to life. In April 1775, as news of the fighting at Lexington spread, more than 4,000 Connecticut men answered the call—including **101 from Wallingford**. Leading the charge was **Captain Benedict Arnold**, Commander of Connecticut's Second Company Governor's Foot Guard, whose bold demand for the keys to the **king's** powder house in New Haven ensured troops could move forward to Boston. Experience history by watching the **2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard** reenact this dramatic moment, marching from the Parsons' house to the Congregational Church, **where the troops will be blessed by Jonathan Edwards**, and **then to the Town Hall, where Arnold will demand the keys**. It concludes with historic artifacts on display **at the Parsons' house**, offering a powerful glimpse into Wallingford's role in the birth of our nation.

Thursday, June 18

Flag Day Celebration

6:30 p.m. Parisi Auditorium, Town Hall

Bring the family and take part in a special Flag Day program that explores the **story of the American flag** and the values it represents. Hosted by the Wallingford Elks Lodge #1365—advocates for Flag Day since 1908—this presentation traces the evolution of our nation's flags through the years. Through **engaging stories and historical insight**, attendees of all ages will gain a greater understanding of the symbols that have united Americans across generations.

Friday, June 19

Juneteenth

Explore Wallingford's **Witness Stones** through a **self-guided walking tour and companion podcast** that shares the stories of several enslaved individuals who lived in our community. This Juneteenth experience invites reflection, learning, and remembrance as we **honor the full history of our nation**.

Information will be available on the Wallingford 250 website with instructions for downloading the podcast and map.

Red, White & Hue

1 p.m.-5 p.m. Mellon Humanities Rotunda, Choate Rosemary Hall

Celebrate the **colorful creativity of our community**. The Wallingford Arts & Cultural Alliance's **Semiquincentennial Art Show** will showcase **works from local artists** across mediums—from painting and photography to mixed media and sculpture presented by the Wallingford Arts & Cultural Alliance (WACA).

Saturday, June 20

Red, White & YOU Parade

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Dutton Park to Prince Street

Step into a world of red, white, and blue as Wallingford hosts a **patriotic parade!** Floats adorned with Americana flair created by local businesses, nonprofits, community members, and talented student groups. Enjoy local **Fife and Drum Corps**. Our youngest patriots are invited to join the **Kids' Bike and Four Wheel Parade**. Children and youth can deck out their vehicles in dazzling decorations, and parents can even spruce up strollers and wagons to join in the fun. Bring your family and friends for a day of celebration.

Shop, Sip & Stroll

1 p.m. -5 p.m.

Don't dash after the parade—**stay and celebrate** the best of Wallingford! Keep the spirit alive with our **Shop, Sip & Stroll** at the many sidewalk sales and stay to **Dine & Unwind** at one of the many cafés, restaurants, or pubs. Grab a bite, raise a toast, and soak in the festive atmosphere with friends and family. Enjoy Americana **signature drinks and appetizers** created for the occasion.

American Dance Revolution & Classic Car Show

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

After a full day of parades, art, food, and fun, there's still more activities to keep the energy high and the good times rolling! Head **uptown to Simpson Court** for a high-spirited **Block Dance under the stars**. Dance into the evening with crowd favorite **DJ Johnny Rozz**, spinning feel-good tunes for **all ages**. Stroll down to South Main Street and check out the **Classic Car Show** that reflects **America's proud legacy of automotive innovation** and the era when U.S. manufacturing set the standard for the world.

Sunday, June 21

Porch Beats & Patriotic Seats

12 p.m.-5 p.m. Uptown Wallingford

Bring your lawn chairs, walking shoes, and patriotic spirit for Porch Beats & Patriotic Seats—**Wallingford's own Porchfest!** From front stoops to shaded porches, local bands and performers will fill the air with the sounds of many of the traditions that reflect the cultures and customs woven into our nation. Each performance space will be decked out in **Americana décor**, from bunting to flags, creating a picture-perfect backdrop for this **open-air community concert**.

Red, White & Hue

12 p.m.-5 p.m. Mellon Humanities Rotunda, Choate Rosemary Hall

Celebrate the **colorful creativity of our community**. The Wallingford Arts & Cultural Alliance's **Semiquincentennial Art Show** will showcase **works from local artists** across mediums—from painting and photography to mixed media and sculpture presented by the Wallingford Arts & Cultural Alliance (**WACA**).

Family Day Fun

1 p.m. -4 p.m. Choate Campus at the Corner of Christian St. & North Main St.

Wrap up a weekend of celebration with a big dose of **family fun** with a **Food Truck Festival** and kid-friendly activities. Kids of all ages can enjoy an afternoon of **face painting, magical entertainers, and stilt walkers**—all coordinated by the **Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department** and the **Wallingford Family YMCA**. **Food trucks** and **ice cream trucks** will be on-site to keep everyone happy and well-fed as they enjoy the festivities.

Saturday, July 4

Independence Day Festivities

12 p.m. Wallingford Historical Society, Parson's House

Let's celebrate Independence Day together. Bring a blanket or chair and a picnic lunch, settle in with family and neighbors, and at 1:30 p.m. listen to a **reading of the Declaration of Independence**—hearing the very words that marked the birth of our nation. A ceremonial **bell ringing** and a special display of **photos and stories of the signers** bring history to life for all ages. The Historical Society will be open for tours, offering families a chance to explore, learn, and celebrate America's beginnings together.

Friday, August 14

Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony

6 p.m. Center Street Cemetery

Join us for a meaningful ceremony **marking America's 250th birthday** with the planting and dedication of a Liberty Elm Tree donated by the Wallingford Historical society, on this, the 261st anniversary of America's 1st Liberty Tree. This rare, disease-resistant **American Liberty Elm**—descended from the iconic trees that became gathering places for colonists before the Revolution—stands as a living symbol of freedom, resilience, and civic pride. Accompanied by a **cast bronze memorial plaque** commemorating the Semiquincentennial, the Liberty Tree will serve as a lasting landmark for Wallingford, honoring our shared past while growing toward the future.