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Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Us!

Get ready for a star-spangled extravaganza right here in Wallingford as we honor America's rich history and vibrant future during our Semiquincentennial celebration!



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Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Us!

1776-2026

Wallingford Events 2026

Thursday, June 18 Flag Day Celebration

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

Take part in a special Flag Day celebration 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 All Day

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 and instruction will be available on the Wallingford 250 website.

Red, White & Hue

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Paul 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.

Movie Night

8:30 p.m., Parade Grounds

Celebrate America's 250th with a **family movie night** under the stars on the Parade Grounds! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, picnic baskets, and the whole family for a fun-filled evening featuring a giant 40-foot outdoor screen and free popcorn for all to enjoy.

Join adventurer Benjamin Franklin Gates, played by Nicolas Cage, in the action-packed film **National Treasure** as he races to uncover a centuries-old mystery and decode clues hidden within the Declaration of Independence itself. Packed with history, suspense, and adventure, this unforgettable movie night is the perfect way to celebrate our nation's past while creating new memories together as a community.

Saturday, June 20 Red, White & YOU Parade

10:00 a.m.-12:00 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**. Bring your family and friends for a day of celebration.

Shop, Sip & Stroll

1:00 p.m.-5:00 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.

Classic Car Show

1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Stroll down to North 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.

American Dance Revolution

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

After a full day, there's still more activities to keep the good times rolling! Head to the **Parade Grounds** 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** – from classic hits to current chart-toppers.

Sunday, June 21 Porch Beats & Patriotic Seats

12:00 p.m.-5:00 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.

Red, White & Hue

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Family Fun Day

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Choate Rosemary Hall Campus at the Corner of Christian St. & North Main St.

Celebrate the start of summer 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.

WSO Patriotic Pops Concert

7:00 p.m. Lawn in Front of St. John Chapel on the Choate Rosemary Hall Campus
(Shuttle buses will be running for parking)

Get ready for an unforgettable **evening of music** under the summer sky! Celebrate the spirit of America with rousing marches, beloved folk tunes, Broadway and jazz favorites, and iconic movie themes performed by the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra. Bring your picnic blankets, your patriotic spirit—and take advantage of the convenient shuttle bus for easy, stress-free parking. **A night of celebration** you won't want to miss!

Saturday, July 4 Independence Day Festivities

12:00 p.m. Wallingford Historical Society, Parsons House

Bring a blanket or chair and a picnic lunch, gather with family and neighbors, and at 1:30 p.m. hear a **reading of the Declaration of Independence**. A ceremonial **bell ringing** and a display of photos and **stories of the signers** bring history to life. The Historical Society will also be open for tours.

Friday, August 14 Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony

6:00 p.m. Center Street Cemetery

Join us for a ceremony marking **America's 250th birthday** with a plaque unveiling 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. The Liberty Tree and bronze memorial plaque will serve as a lasting landmark for Wallingford.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC