

INDEPENDENCE DAY 1776

JULY 4, 2025

Countdown to
America 250
July 4, 2026
The 250th anniversary
of the signing of the
Declaration of Independence
and



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Welcome to American Village's Independence Day Celebration!

Happy 249th Birthday America! In just one year, America will celebrate its' 250th Birthday, or Semiquincentennial. This event on July 4th, 2026, will be a unique opportunity for all of us to rededicate ourselves and our families' efforts towards learning more about our country and fostering a renewed sense of patriotism and pride in our founding principles. There has never been a more appropriate time to inspire Americans to value, cherish and protect the ideals and principles of American liberty. And there is no better place than American Village in Montevallo, AL. THANK YOU for joining us today and participating in this, our celebration of America's 249th Birthday!

Col. Alan B. Miller, USMCR

President and CEO, American Village Citizenship Trust

American Village Citizenship Trust Board of Trustees:

Honorable W. Keith Watkins, Board Chair; Honorable Cam Ward, Deputy Board Chair; Ms. Carol Brown, Immediate Past Chair; Mr. Steve Pickett, Board Treasurer; Ms. Karen A. Kelly, Deputy Board Treasurer; Mr. Tom Walker, Founder and President Emeritus; Senator Tom Butler, Founding Board Chair Emeritus;

Col. Alan B. Miller, President & CEO and Ex-Officio Secretary

Members: Dr. Geri Albright, Judge Sharon Blackburn, Dr. Jim Day, Mr. CJ Duncan, Representative Danny Garrett, Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Mr. Jordan Howard, Ms. Anna Hovey, Ms. Michelle Hopson, Mr. Sam Johnson, Mr. Kirk Lightfoot, Senator Arthur Orr, Dr. Cathy J. Randall, Col. John W. Schmidt, Honorable Clay Scofield, Ms. Ada Katherine van Wyhe, Mr. R. B. Walker, Senator April Weaver



MARK AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

Order the commemorative **America 250 Alabama** license plate today, at the A250AL booth across from G on the map. Proceeds support the work of the A250AL Commission.



SHOW YOUR COLORS!

Order your distinctive, personalized **God Bless America** license plate today. Proceeds support the Alabama Veterans Living Legacy project at American Village.



Weather Warning:

In the event of stormy weather, please enter the nearest building and wait for an "All Clear" announcement from Village Staff. Please follow all weather warnings and alerts and follow all instructions when given. The American Village follows the National Weather Service advice to suspend outdoor activities for 30 minutes after seeing lightning or hearing thunder.

The American Village is a SMOKE FREE CAMPUS. Thank you for not smoking.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MAKE THIS DAY POSSIBLE.

AMERICAN VILLAGE STAFF AND SUPPORT TEAM

Jessica Averett, Tatum Barnhill, Michael Bass, Jon Crofts, Val Crofts, Ashley Crumpton, Andrew Davis, Timmi Epperson, Greg Farrell, Jennifer Frings, Chloe Funkhouser, Logan Ganey, Jennie Gregory, C.J. Guercio, Amy Heath, Mike Jones, Chris Long, Alan Miller, Barry Page, Kerri Pate, Melanie Poole, Jeff Scott, Natalie Steed, Jeff Stewart, Terilyn Stewart, Emily Stoves, Brandon Tyler, Pete Walker, Jodie Wasyluka

Special thanks to:

Southern Sky Fireworks, Steve Gilbert and CGS Entertainment, Rick Burgess, Shelby County Sheriff John Samaniego and the Sheriff's Office Deputies Security Detail, City of Montevallo Police Chief Jeremy Littleton and the Montevallo Police Department, Montevallo Fire Chief Brad Davis and Montevallo Fire & Rescue Squad, Joe Ardivino and the Montevallo Community Band, Madison Smith, Thompson High School JROTC, JaniKing, Equipment Share, Deborah's Party Rentals, A Plus Portable Restrooms, Regions Bank, Southland Golf Carts

MUSICIANS

The Colonial Consort

Lori Ardivino, Rick Ardivino, Katie York, Mia Kidd

Annesely Streets Violin, Independence Ball

Rita Allen USO Singer

Robbie Draper USO Pianist

James Quakenbush JQ's One Man Band

Crimson Pride Men's Barbershop Quartet

REENACTORS

First Pennsylvania Regiment

Voices of the Past

Fall Line Region Continentals

VOLUNTEERS

Dozens of men and women volunteer their time and service to help make your visit today enjoyable. Please join us in thanking anyone wearing a red VOLUNTEER shirt!

AMERICAN VILLAGE COSTUMED HISTORICAL INTERPRETERS

Charlie Bell Alexander Hamilton
Karen Marie Black* ** Cecily Swanson
Rush Brunson* ** Benjamin Rush
A.G. Crist Lucy Knox
Lydia Walker Davis Betsy Ross
John Dyess Ashley Bowen
Nancy Moore Estes Dolley Madison
Angel Evans* ** Martha Washington
Gabe Evans* Patrick Henry
Rebecca Evans Eliza Schuyler Hamilton
Jared Funderburg* ** Thomas Paine
Ella Johns* Cyril Swanson
Lesli Johnson* Phillis Wheatley
James Kitchens John Adams
Justin Lewis Alex Richmond
Isaiah Pierce* James Armistead Lafayette
Meredith Revel Angelica Schuyler Church
Noel Stewart Abigail Adams

GUEST PERFORMERS:

Ronald Dauphinee Dr. Benjamin Franklin

John McGinnis Thomas Jefferson

Dan McMichael President George Washington

*Independence Ball; **Choose Your George

2025 JUNIOR INTERPRETERS

Phoebe Abbott** Young Voices of the Revolution
Lauren Boyd Crime and Punishment
Mae Margaret Carden** Young Patriot Spies
Anne Chance Young Patriot Spies
Brooklynn Collins School of Etiquette
Savannah Corbett** Young Voices of the Revolution
Katelynn Do Puppet Show
Bishop Gilmore Paul Revere's Ride
Maggie Harrelson** Young Voices of the Revolution
Josiah Hester** Young Patriot Spies
Henry Houser School of Etiquette
Lily Madrigal Young Voices of the Revolution
Elijah McAfee School of Etiquette
Ella McAfee School of Etiquette
Amanda Orr Crime and Punishment
Anthony Pritchett Young Voices of the Revolution
Chloe Shaw Paul Revere's Ride
Luci Smith Paul Revere's Ride
Ruth Turner** Puppet Show
Andrew Vander Noot** Young Voices of the Revolution
**Choose Your George

Activities with Costumed Historical Interpreters

(most programs run 15 to 30 minutes)

Map Location

11:15, 1:00, 4:30, 6:30	John Adams <i>Assembly Room – Washington Hall</i>	N
11:30, 12:30, 2:30, 5:00, 6:00	Volley Fire and Battle Cry <i>Colonial Encampment</i>	U
11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30	Martha Washington <i>Mount Vernon Room – Washington Hall</i>	M
11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00	Abigail Adams <i>Meeting House</i>	L
11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30	Phillis Wheatley: A poet's journey <i>Founder's Hall</i>	K
11:30, 1:30, 3:00, 5:30, 6:30	Alex Richmond speaks "Common Sense" about Thomas Paine <i>Lucille Ryals Thompson Colonial Chapel</i>	H
11:30, 2:00, 3:00	Thomas Paine <i>Courthouse</i>	S
11:30, 1:30, 2:30	Benjamin Rush: A surgeon's stories from the front lines <i>Assembly Room – Washington Hall</i>	N
11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30	Cecily and Cyril Swanson's School of Societal Etiquette <i>The Barn</i>	Q
12:00, 1:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00	President George Washington <i>Mount Vernon Room – Washington Hall</i>	M
12:00, 2:00, 3:30, 6:00	Thomas Jefferson <i>Assembly Room – Washington Hall</i>	N
12:00, 1:30, 3:00	Dolley Madison <i>Founder's Hall</i>	K
12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 5:00	Schuyler Sisters: A revelation of the heart (Contains some content that may be unsuitable for younger audiences.) <i>Meeting House</i>	L
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30	James Armistead Lafayette <i>Courthouse</i>	S
12:30, 2:00, 4:00, 5:30, 6:30	Alexander Hamilton <i>Founders Hall</i>	K
12:30, 2:00, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30	Lucy Knox: Tales of a soldier's wife <i>Mount Vernon Room – Washington Hall</i>	M
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00	Patrick Henry: "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!" <i>Lucille Ryals Thompson Colonial Chapel</i>	H
12:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30	Young Voices of the Revolution <i>The Barn</i>	Q
12:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00	Benjamin Franklin <i>Assembly Room – Washington Hall</i>	N
12:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00	Ashley Bowen: A life of a seafarer <i>Courthouse</i>	S
12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:30, 6:30	Young Patriot Spies <i>Meeting House</i>	L
1:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30	Colonial Crime and Punishment <i>Courthouse</i>	S

Music and Dance

Crimson Pride Men's Barbershop Chorus
11:15, 12:15, and 1:00 in Liberty Hall (A on the map)

The Colonial Consort
A little woodwind music. 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 in the Colonial Chapel (H on the map)

JQ's One Man Swing Band
A one-man band performance at 1:00, 2:30 and 5:30 in the Barn (Q on the map)

The USO Show with Rita Allen
1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 in Liberty Hall (A on the map)

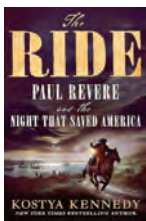
The Independence Ball
A celebration in dance, music and song!
5:00 and 6:00 in Liberty Hall (A on the map)

Book Talks with the Author



Oscar Visits Valley Forge: A Dynamic History Adventure by Dr. Jeff Scott
Join Oscar, a very curious and playful pug, and Dr. Scott as they travel to one of the greatest national parks in America, VALLEY FORGE!

12:00 in the Rotunda (VIP Pass holders only) and 1:30 in the Barn (Q on the map).



The Ride: Paul Revere and the Night That Saved America by Kostya Kennedy
Paul Revere's heroic ride, newly told with fresh research into little-known aspects of the story Americans have heard since childhood but hardly understood.
2:30 in the Rotunda (VIP Pass holders only) and 4:30 in the Barn (Q on the map).

Children's Activities

Located at "E" on the map:

From 11:00 - 6:00

Tickled Pink Petting Zoo

Face Painting

Balloon Artist

Giant Jenga

Hula Hoops

Alabama Wildlife Center (12:00 - 4:00)

Betsy Ross – A Star Spangled Craft
(Behind J on the map)

12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:30

Puppet Show (Behind J on the map)
11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:00

Table Games (F on the map)
11:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30

Colonial Games on the Green (F on the map)
11:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30

Paul Revere's Ride (near G on the map)
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30

From 11:00 - 6:00

Cornhole/Bag Toss (F on the map)

Sidewalk Chalk Art for Independence
(F on the map)

Other Things to See and Do

Colonial Encampment – U on the map

Hessian Encampment – Y on the map

Visit our Gift Shop – B on the map - Gift Shop closes at 7:00 p.m.

Visit Merchants' Coffee House – C on the map - Coffee House closes at 7:00 p.m.

Tour the Randall Museum and President's Oval Office – 10:00 - 7:00 (J and O on the map)

Tour the National Veterans Shrine – 10:00 - 7:00 (D on the map)

Tour the West Wing of Independence Hall – 10:00 - 7:00 (T on the map) Enjoy an immersive experience learning about the causes of the American Revolution, and see the film "Choosing to Be An American People." Movie show times are every hour on the hour.

Food Trucks – all day (behind R on the map) Enjoy Hey Bebe, Parasol Treats, Kona Ice, C's Cake and Coffee House, Sunshine Lemonade, Frios, Sip Magnolia, Chubbfather's, Ken Waites, Temper Coffee, Boho Tea, Wild Bill's Soda, Moe and Moore's, Chick-fil-A, Corn King, Dixie Dogs, Stephen's Hot Dog Wagon, and Dog Nation.

Lucy Knox

Tales of a soldier's wife

12:30, 2:00, 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30

Mount Vernon Room - Washington Hall
(M on the map)



Patrick Henry

"Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death"

12:00, 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00

Colonial Chapel (H on the map)



Alex Richmond

Speaks "Common Sense" about Thomas Paine

11:30, 1:30, 3:00, 5:30 and 6:30

Colonial Chapel (H on the map)



Benjamin Rush

A surgeon's stories from the front lines

11:30, 1:30 and 2:30

Assembly Room - Washington Hall (N on the map)



James Armistead Lafayette

One man's inspirational quest for freedom

12:00, 1:00, 2:30 and 3:30

Courthouse (S on the map)



Ashley Bowen

A life of a seafarer

12:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00

Courthouse (S on the map)



George Washington

Meet the "Father of our Country"

12:00, 1:30, 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00

Mount Vernon Room - Washington Hall
(M on the map)



Alexander Hamilton

A discussion of duty and family

12:30, 2:00, 4:00, 5:30 and 6:30

Founder's Hall (K on the map)



Abigail Adams

Remember the ladies

11:30, 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00

Meeting House (L on the map)



Thomas Jefferson

12:00, 2:00, 3:30, and 6:00

Assembly Room - Washington Hall
(N on the map)



John Adams

"Let Me Have a Country"

11:15, 1:00, 4:30 and 6:30

Assembly Room - Washington Hall
(N on the map)



Schuyler Sisters

A revelation of the heart

12:00, 1:30, 3:00 and 5:00

Meeting House (L on the map)

Contains some content that may be unsuitable for younger audiences.)



Battle at the Bridge

Colonials and Hessians

1:30 and 3:30 (weather permitting)

Concord Bridge (W on the map)



Volley, Fire & Battle Cry

11:30, 12:30, 2:30, 5:00 and 6:00

Colonial Encampment (U on the map)



Thomas Paine

The times that try men's souls

11:30, 2:00 and 3:00

Courthouse (S on the map)



Martha Washington

11:30, 1:00, 2:30 and 3:30

Mount Vernon Room - Washington Hall

(M on the map)



Phillis Wheatley

A poet's journey

11:30, 1:00, 2:30 and 3:30

Founder's Hall (K on the map)



Don't miss our
FIREWORKS
by Southern Sky!

At twilight's last
gleaming
(approximately 9pm)



You are cordially invited to the Independence Ball

5:00 and 6:00

Liberty Hall (A on the map)



Dr. Benjamin Franklin

Words from a wise sage of the Republic

12:30, 3:00, 4:00 and 5:00

Assembly Room - Washington Hall
(N on the map)



Cecily and Cyril Swanson's School of Societal Etiquette

A lesson in 18th century manners & clothing

11:30, 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30

The Barn (Q on the map)



Dolley Madison

The delightful and influential First Lady

12:00, 1:30 and 3:00

Founder's Hall (K on the map)



Betsy Ross

A star-spangled craft

12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30 and 6:30

Children's Area (Behind J on the map)



**Please join us again this summer
for more family-friendly fun!**

**Our summer program continues Tuesdays-
Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm through August 2
(closed July 5)**

Independence Day 1776 Main Stage Evening Program

Master of Ceremonies - *Rick Burgess, Host of The Rick Burgess Show, WZZK*

7:15 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson reads the Declaration of Independence

7:30 p.m.

Official One-Year Countdown to America's 250th Birthday

7:40 p.m.

American Village Costumed Historical Interpreters Present:
"Choose Your George"

8:00 p.m.

A Patriotic Musical Prelude - The Montevallo Community Band
Dr. Joseph Ardovino, Director

8:15 p.m.

Invocation, Washington's Prayer for the Country *President George Washington*
Welcoming Remarks *Col. Alan Miller, President and CEO, American Village Citizenship Trust*
Presentation of the Colors *Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard*
Introduction of the Junior Interpreters *Rebecca Evans, Junior Interpreter Co-Director*
The Pledge of Allegiance *Led by Junior Interpreter Anthony Pritchett*
The National Anthem *Madison Smith and the Montevallo Community Band*
Salute to America's Veterans . . . *SAR Color Guard, accompanied by the Montevallo Community Band*
Mr. John Adams *Let Me Have a Country*

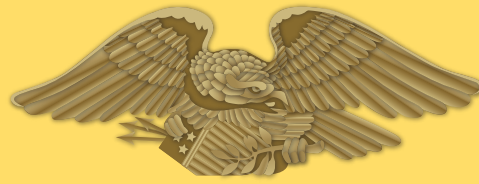
A Patriotic Interlude by the Montevallo Community Band

9:00 p.m.

FIREWORKS by Southern Sky. Presented by ABC 3340

Grand Illuminations in celebration of America's 249th Birthday.**

***Fireworks are best viewed directly in front of Washington Hall on Constitution Green. Please respect that golf cart rides are only for assisting those people with disabilities in returning to their vehicles.*



Get Involved at the American Village!

Volunteer ✨ Donate ✨ Advocate

Since 1999, the American Village has been committed to telling the amazing stories of America's revolutionary beginning, to encourage citizens to cherish the founding principles of our Nation and the timeless ideals of liberty, and to inspire our fellow Americans to serve our country as stewards of liberty.

While the American Village focuses heavily on the invaluable lessons of America's past, we are also constantly looking to the future. As we celebrate America's 249th Birthday this July 4th, we are excitedly planning for America's 250th Birthday in 2026 - just one year away! New public events, educational programs and on-campus facilities are all being developed, and we need your help to make them a reality.

The Daniel Foundation of Alabama has generously offered to MATCH, dollar for dollar, all contributions made in support of the Independence Hall Education Project up to \$100,000 per year over each of the next three years through a challenge grant. Please consider making a contribution to American Village today and taking this incredible opportunity to have your donation doubled.

Together we can prepare a new generation of citizens and leaders to strengthen and renew the foundations of American liberty and constitutional self-government.

Visit our website at americanvillage.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Visit www.america250al.org to learn more about America's 250th Birthday.

The American Village Citizenship Trust is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed under Federal law.



BE A JUNIOR INTERPRETER

Each spring, students in grades 6 through 12 who are interested in performance and history may audition for our summer Junior Interpreter program. Those selected receive professional training and assist our educational interpreters in presenting the customs and times of the 18th century, including performing in various historical vignettes that you see today.

Auditions for next year's program will be held in February, 2026. Apply online at americanvillage.org, call Rebecca Evans at 205-665-3535 x 1048 or e-mail revans@americanvillage.org. The program is free, but participants are required to purchase their 18th century costume.



Junior Interpreter Class of 2025



AMERICAN VILLAGE

CITIZENSHIP TRUST

P.O. Box 6 • MONTEVALLO, AL 35115
(205) 665-3535 • WWW.AMERICANVILLAGE.ORG



- | | |
|---|---|
| A Liberty Hall | N Washington Hall (Assembly Room) |
| B Visitor Center and Seaman Plaza | O Oval Office |
| C The Merchants' Coffee House | P Colonial Garden |
| D National Veterans Shrine | Q Barn |
| E Children's Activities and Petting Zoo | R Trade Buildings |
| F Children's Activities | S Courthouse, Stocks and Pillory |
| G Rotunda (VIP Hospitality Area) | T Independence Hall |
| H Colonial Chapel | U Colonial Encampment |
| I Liberty Bell Garden | V Battle at Concord Bridge Viewing Area |
| J Randall Museum | W Concord Old North Bridge |
| K Founders Hall | X Embattled Farmer Statue |
| L Meeting House | Y Hessian Encampment |
| M Washington Hall (Mount Vernon Room) | Z Freedom Trail (Military Monuments) |

First Aid / Paramedics Information Tent Restrooms

→ To downtown Montevallo

To Interstate 65 (Exit 234) →