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**Bernards Township Announces America 250 Commemoration Plans for 2026**

*Celebrating Revolutionary War Milestones, American Culture, and Community Spirit*

Bernards Township is proud to share an update on plans for the celebration for America 250 in 2026, marking the 250th anniversary of the United States. The Township's events will honor pivotal Revolutionary War milestones and showcase the ongoing achievements of American culture, reflecting both our local and national heritage.

To guide this historic commemoration, in 2025 Bernards Township established an America 250 Committee comprised of local residents, elected officials and township staff. The group was tasked with finding collaborative ways to leverage planning underway locally as well as connecting with America 250 efforts at the State and County levels.

The Bernards Township America 250 Committee is especially focused on partnering with local non-profits and historically minded citizens to create a fun and interesting ways for residents to participate in a variety of celebrations this year. With a goal to offer programming at multiple sites throughout the Township, sites hosting America 250 activities include the Bernards Township Library, The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills at the Brick Academy, the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Lord Stirling Stables and the Ross Farm.

Bernards Township is honored to serve as a Revolutionary New Jersey (RevNJ) partner as well as host of two Somerset County Parks sites that will also present historically oriented programming throughout the year.

Ana Duarte McCarthy, Mayor, Bernards Township and a member of the America 250 Committee, reflects, "Bernards Township played an important role in America's Revolution. Try to picture 5,000 soldiers encamped at English Farm, and traveling down North Maple Avenue on their way to Yorktown, Virginia. We hope that our planned events in the

community, such as the reenactment of the capture of General Charles Lee, happening in December, and throughout Somerset County, can bring our history to life, and become a lasting memory for residents of all ages.

David Becker, Chair of the America 250 Committee and President of the Friends of Ross Farm, adds: “Seizing this historic moment as a chance for our local non-profits, religious organizations, County and Municipal resources to come together to work in such a collaborative fashion has been inspiring. People want to find ways to work together, parents with their children alongside friends and neighbors. Reflecting on our Country’s origins and complex history reminds us we’ve worked through challenging times in the past and will always be searching for a ‘more perfect Union.’”

Official kick-off of Bernards’ America 250’ efforts will begin on Charter Day on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition to recognition of the Township’s 266<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, historical milestones and colonial residents will be celebrated. Other free, open to the public events this year include Flag Day at Ross Farm on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and a “Celebrate America 250” event at the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The 2026 programming will feature, as mentioned, a special commemoration of the capture of General Charles Lee, a pivotal Revolutionary War event that took place in Bernards Township. Residents and visitors can look forward to a reenactment at the Lord Stirling Stables and presentations at the Brick Academy and Bernards Township Library which will highlight the capture, its impact to the War effort as well as how local residents sense of safety was fundamentally altered by Lee’s capture.

Throughout the year, the Bernards Township Library and the Historical Society will host talks, workshops, and exhibitions exploring Revolutionary War history and American achievement. These programs will be updated regularly and are open to the entire community.

To assist local residents, Bernards has created a page on the Township’s website, [www.bernards.org/resident/250](http://www.bernards.org/resident/250), which includes information on our efforts and links to relevant events from local institutions.

Bernards Township invites all residents, historians, and members of the media to join in America 250 commemorations. Whether attending events, volunteering, or sharing stories, everyone is welcome to take part in this historic celebration of American independence, culture, and community spirit.