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Reenactors, Drones, Fireworks, a Concert, a Freedom Parade, and Dragon Boat Racing: New Hope and Lambertville Stage a Three-Day America 250 Festival on the Delaware

July 3 through 5, 2026. Friday opens with Revolutionary-era theater on both sides of the Delaware and closes with a fireworks display paired with a 200-drone sky show and synchronized patriotic music piped through speakers across both downtowns. Saturday brings a pub crawl led by Washington reenactors across the bridge between Lambertville and New Hope, followed by an evening concert at the New Hope American Legion lot opening with the Sam Ryan Band, fronted by New Hope native Sam Ryan, who tours nationally as lead singer of three-time Grammy-winning Blood, Sweat & Tears, and closing with Forever Donna: The Ultimate Donna Summer Tribute starring Rainere Martin and Dancing Dream, the New York City-based ABBA tribute featured on the Stephen Colbert Show. Sunday closes the festival with a cross-river Freedom Parade, a dragon-boat race between America and Great Britain, and church bells ringing in unison from both banks.

NEW HOPE, Pa. and LAMBERTVILLE, N.J. (April __, 2026). On the Delaware River this Fourth of July weekend, the twin towns of New Hope, Pennsylvania and Lambertville, New Jersey will host one of the country's most ambitious celebrations of America's 250th birthday. The three-day festival features theater, music, fireworks, drones, parades, and patriotism in a town where George Washington was a regular at the Logan Inn during the Revolution and where a future traitor named Benedict Arnold once headquartered the Continental Army. The Saturday concert opens with the Sam Ryan Band, fronted by New Hope's Sam Ryan, who tours nationally as lead singer of three-time Grammy-winning Blood, Sweat & Tears. The night closes with Forever Donna: The Ultimate Donna Summer Tribute starring Rainere Martin, who has toured the country reviving the Queen of Disco, and Dancing Dream, the New York City-based ABBA tribute band featured on the Stephen Colbert Show.

America Celebrates, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and the **Greater New Hope Chamber of Commerce** announced today the full schedule for *America Celebrates 250*, a Friday-through-Sunday festival running **July 3, 4, and 5, 2026** across the twin river towns of New Hope, Pennsylvania and Lambertville, New Jersey. More than a dozen regional non-profit and community partners are producing the festival together. Most events across the weekend are free to the public. Saturday's evening concert at the American Legion lot has a $10 entry, and the Saturday Revolutionary Pub Crawl is separately ticketed at americacelebrates.org.

Both towns played real, documented roles in the American Revolution. New Hope was then known as Coryell's Ferry, a strategic Delaware River crossing that Congress ordered defended in the spring of 1777. Major General Benedict Arnold, three years before his treason, established his Continental Army headquarters at the Logan Inn at the corner of Ferry and Main streets. George Washington stayed at the same tavern multiple times during the war. The Logan, originally built as the Ferry Tavern in 1727, still serves food and drinks today as one of the oldest continuously running inns in the country. The basement where dead Continental soldiers were stored through the frozen winters until the ground thawed for burial is still down there.

> *"Most people who pass through New Hope don't realize they're walking through Revolutionary history. The buildings are still here, the stories are still here, and 250 years later we're still here. Working with America Celebrates, we built this weekend so everyone gets to see the town the way we see it."*
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> Michael Sklar, President, Greater New Hope Chamber of Commerce

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The festival opens **Friday, July 3** with afternoon and evening performances on platform stages on both sides of the river. Children's author Abigale Readlinger will lead a discussion of *The Young Federalists* on the New Hope River Promenade beginning at 1:00 p.m., with free copies of the book provided to the public. Through the afternoon and evening, professional actors in full period costume will play George Washington, Martha Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Admiral DeGrasse, General Henry Knox, and other figures of the Revolutionary era. Roxey Ballet will perform *NJ Ballad*, a 30-minute recreation of Washington's Crossing and the road to Trenton, in two shows at the Lambertville Station stage at 5:00 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Music Mountain Theatre will perform "Stars and Stripes" between the two ballet shows.

Friday closes at 9:00 p.m. with a 20-minute spectacular over the Delaware River. Fireworks launched from two boats anchored mid-river will pair with a 200-drone patriotic light show and a fully synchronized soundtrack of patriotic music. The drone show is twice the size of the Greater New Hope Chamber of Commerce's annual display. Stadium-quality speakers will be installed throughout downtown New Hope and downtown Lambertville so that everyone walking either side of the river hears the same music at the same moment, as the same fireworks burst overhead and the same drones form patriotic images in the sky. The whole of both downtowns becomes a single open-air theater for twenty minutes.

Saturday, July 4, America's actual 250th birthday, opens at 2:00 p.m. with a ticketed Revolutionary Pub Crawl presented by Revolutionary Crawls and Events, leaving Lambertville Station. Reenactors playing George Washington, Anna Strong, Samuel Adams, and a Continental Army soldier in full kit lead the crawl across the bridge into New Hope. Crawl-goers stop at the Promenade Stage for first-person accounts of wartime leadership, the Culper spy ring, and revolutionary tavern culture, and arrive at the New Hope American Legion lower parking lot at 41 New Street around 4:00 p.m., in time for the concert. Tickets are available at americacelebrates.org.

The evening concert at the Legion lot runs from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. The Sam Ryan Band opens the night, fronted by New Hope native Sam Ryan, who tours nationally as lead singer of the three-time Grammy-winning band Blood, Sweat & Tears. Forever Donna: The Ultimate Donna Summer Tribute starring Rainere Martin follows, and Dancing Dream, a New York City-based ABBA tribute band founded in 2009 and featured on the Stephen Colbert Show, closes the show. Entry to the concert area is $10. Food tents and a full bar will be on site.

> *"In addition to the fantastic concert at the New Hope American Legion lot, we have planned three days of wonderful educational and celebration events over the July 4th weekend. The activities of the twin river towns of New Hope and Lambertville 250th celebrations can be seen on their website:* ***www.americacelebrates.org****, which includes the link to an America 250 pub crawl from Lambertville to New Hope and the 'revolutionary tavern' set up at the concert area at the Legion lot. The crawl-goers can stay for the concert and enjoy the entertainment."*
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> Dick Creter, President, America Celebrates, Inc.

The festival closes **Sunday, July 5** with the 10:00 a.m. Freedom Parade. The march steps off from the New Hope American Legion lot, crosses the bridge, and ends at Lambertville Station. Actors in period dress with fife and drum lead the column, followed by veterans of both American Legion posts, scout troops, the Tri-County Band under director Karen Reavy, and the New Hope Eagle Fire Company's antique Mack truck engine alongside the Lambertville Fire Department.

At 11:30 a.m., the Relentless Dragon Boat Race launches under the bridge that connects the two towns. Two crews compete on the same river that decided so many of the founding battles. One boat will carry the colors of America. The other will carry the colors of Great Britain. Mayors and dignitaries will deliver dramatic readings of the Declaration of Independence on platform stages on both shores. At 12:00 noon, singers from Bucks County Playhouse and Music Mountain Theatre will perform "God Bless America" simultaneously, one chorus from each side of the river, while church bells ring in unison across both towns to mark America's 250th. One sound, one river, two states.

For more on the Greater New Hope Chamber of Commerce and area events, follow **@visitnewhope** on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, visit **visitnewhope.com**, or join the "New Hope, PA" Facebook community

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group. For festival schedule and pub crawl tickets, visit **americacelebrates.org**.

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PARTICIPATING NON-PROFIT & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

America Celebrates, Inc. (501(c)(3)) · Greater New Hope Chamber of Commerce · Lambertville Chamber of Commerce · New Hope Celebrates · New Hope Historical Society · Friends of the Delaware Canal · Friends of Washington Crossing Park · Music Mountain Theatre · Roxey Ballet · Bucks County Herald Foundation · Ladies for Liberty Foundation · Visit Bucks County · Revolutionary Crawls and Events · Bucks County Playhouse · American Legion Post #79 (New Hope) · New Hope Eagle Fire Company

ABOUT AMERICA CELEBRATES, INC.

America Celebrates, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to preserving and celebrating the American story through public, educational events. Founded by Dick Creter, the organization is headquartered at 504 Waterview Place, New Hope, PA 18938. Visit **americacelebrates.org**.

ABOUT THE GREATER NEW HOPE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Greater New Hope Chamber of Commerce works to advance the general welfare of the greater New Hope area by empowering the community to thrive and its businesses to prosper. Reach the Chamber at **newhopechamber@gmail.com** or **visitnewhope.com**.

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