



**Beacon REV250 Celebration Committee**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 18, 2026

**BEACON REV250 COMMITTEE LAUNCHES EVENTS CELEBRATING 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AND LOCAL HISTORY**

Beacon, NY: A Beacon Committee representing a range of community volunteer groups has announced the launch of a “REV250” series of events in Beacon to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America’s independence. The REV250 theme will be woven into events scheduled throughout 2026 to celebrate, educate and inspire the community.

Activities in Beacon will connect to county, state and nationwide celebrations taking place throughout 2026 in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

“During the Revolution, Beacon and the Hudson River region, including West Point, were strategically important in preventing the British from gaining control of the Hudson and isolating New England from the Mid-Atlantic and Southern colonies. The Continental Army, quartered in our area under General George Washington, created the foundation of the U.S. Army, and a legacy of service to the Nation that continues through today. It’s important to honor and remember the service and sacrifice of our military,” said John MacEnroe, REV250 Committee co-chair and member of American Legion Post 203 in Beacon’s Veterans Memorial Building. Veterans’ groups in Beacon will incorporate educational storytelling about the Revolution into their annual ceremonies for Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. In addition, the Veterans Memorial Building will also host REV250 themed programming around the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and programs showcasing the history and music of the American Revolution.

“The Hudson Valley region, and Beacon in particular, played a pivotal role in our Nation’s history during the American Revolution,” said Denise Doring VanBuren, President of the Beacon Historical Society. “We hope to tell the stories of people who lived here to inspire the next generation of citizens. Beacon is the only town in the Hudson Valley named for its role in the Revolution – the site of Beacon fires ordered by General Washington to serve as signals for the Continental Army.” The Beacon Historical Society is hosting a yearlong exhibit entitled “From Mount Beacon to the Hudson: Beacon’s Role during the American Revolution.” To accompany the exhibit, the Society created a custom illustrated map highlighting historical sites in Beacon from the Revolution that can be visited today. The map is available at no charge.

Beacon’s REV250 festivities will include unique art installations popping up at locations around the City. Throughout June and early July, the BonfireWORKS Foundation will present “Rev250 Illuminated,” a series of outdoor digital light projections on municipal buildings and other iconic city locations. The illuminations will take place after sundown on June 14, June 19 & 20, June 26 & 27, and July 3 & 4, with additional dates planned in November. All projections will engage local professional artists to digitally “map” each building’s architecture and create customized content designed to delight and inspire residents and visitors alike at the height of the Rev250 Celebrations.

“Beacon’s creative community is a major contributor to the vibrancy of our City,” said Tim Parsaca of BonfireWORKS Foundation, organizers of the Beacon Bonfire, a major fall arts and creative festival that has put Beacon on the map. “BonfireWORKS is excited to bring our community’s unique creative talents to the

party with ‘REV250 Illuminated,’ an illuminated outdoor art installation over three weekends in June which will light up Beacon’s Main Street with bespoke building illuminations with Revolutionary themes and stories.”

City-wide REV250 festivities will also offer many opportunities for Beacon residents to be part of the celebration, including a patriotic garden contest sponsored by the Tioronda Garden Club, as well as public readings of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The Tioronda Garden Club will also be decorating Beacon’s Main Street and Washington’s bust with patriotic themed red, white and blue floral displays. Commemorative “Liberty Trees” will be planted and dedicated in partnership with the Beacon Tree Committee, and a series of performances and concerts will occur through 2026. The Melzingah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will host tours of the historic Madam Brett Homestead, an Independence Day Ice Cream Social and a fall concert by the Putnam Choral tracing the musical story of the U.S. from early Colonial roots to the anthems of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In October, the Beacon Historical Society and Howland Cultural Center will host “Music of the American Revolution” an interactive program highlighting music of the American Colonies, songs of the American Revolution and military field music played by armies on both sides of the War.

A fun “selfie station” for photo opportunities, depicting Alexander and Eliza Hamilton, who were Beacon residents during the Revolution, has been created by the Beacon Historical Society (BHS) and will be located on Main Street. Main Street businesses also plan to partner with the BHS to share various stories of Beacon’s unique Revolutionary War sites. Even the beloved Beacon Dummy Light will join in the fun – stay tuned!

“Our Beacon REV250 Committee has been meeting and working hard since February to plan a series of patriotic, fun, and family-friendly events for the Beacon Community to celebrate America’s independence. We are so grateful and impressed with the creativity and spirit of all the community groups that have come together to give their time and talent to this wonderful city-wide celebration.” said Elizabeth Barrett, REV250 Committee Co-Chair. “We can’t wait for you to join us!”

Link to view Beacon Calendar of REV250 events:

<https://sites.google.com/view/beacon-rev250-events-calendar?usp=sharing>

**About Beacon’s REV250 Committee:**

The Beacon REV250 Committee brings together community service groups with the shared mission to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and to celebrate our local region’s history in shaping our Nation during the American Revolution (1775-1783). Member organizations include the Veterans Memorial Building, the Beacon Historical Society, Beacon BonfireWORKS, the Melzingah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Tioronda Garden Club, Bannerman Castle Trust, Beacon Tree Committee, Beacon Elks, the City of Beacon and the Beacon Recreational Department, along with support from Destination Dutchess.

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Beacon REV250 Committee  
c/o Veterans Memorial Building | 413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508  
[Beacon REV250 Event Calendar](#)