



Honoring America's 250th in Old Lyme

Presented by the
Old Lyme Economic Development Commission
March 4, 2024





Recommendation by the EDC:

- The Board of Selectmen Appoints an “Old Lyme America250” Committee
- Purpose is to Engage, Encourage, and Coordinate Old Lyme residents and organizations celebrating our country’s 250th anniversary
- Appointees should represent cultural organizations, boards & commissions, historians, artists, and residents with a diversity of strengths and experiences



America's Semiquincentennial Takes Place July 4, 2026

- Signing of the Declaration of Independence and Founding of our Country took place 250 years ago
- Leading up to 1976, the Town had an Old Lyme Bicentennial Commission
 - March 1974 recognized as a “bicentennial community” by the Federal American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration
- National **America250** effort began in 2016
- America250|CT appointed in 2022



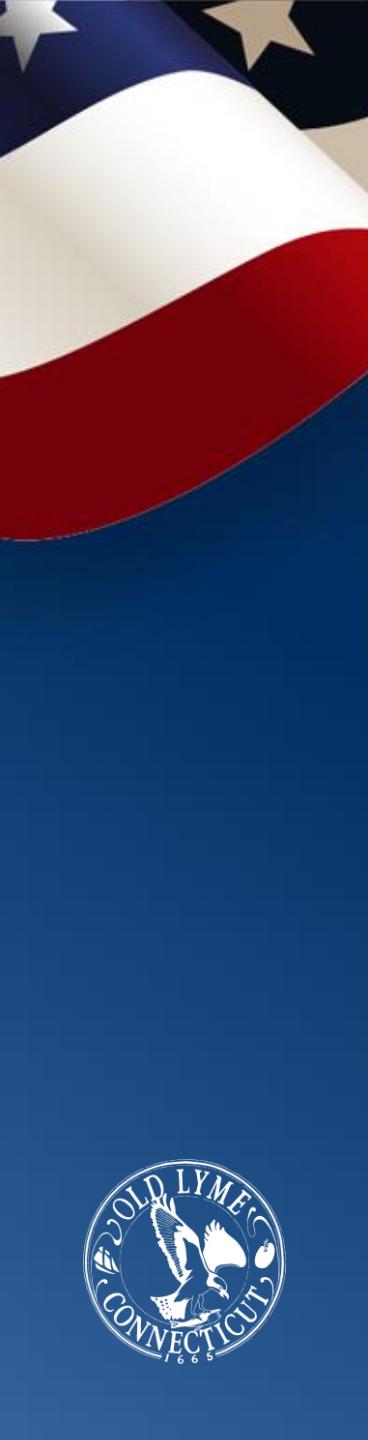


America**250**: “Engage Americans across the country in designing the largest and most inclusive anniversary observance in our nation’s history”

- “The US Semiquincentennial Commission” established by Congress in 2016
- Inclusive programs will inspire Americans to renew and strengthen our daring experiment in democracy
- Will ignite imaginations, elevate each of our own stories, and inspire service in our community, demonstrating the lasting durability of the American project



AMERICA
250



America250|CT

- July 2022: Governor Lamont established a statewide commission responsible for planning multi-year commemorations, celebrations, and reflections
- Commission chaired by Former CT Secretary of State Denise Merrill, and administered by CT Humanities
- Commission members include representation from:
 - CT Department of Education
 - Dept of Economic and Community Development|Office of the Arts
 - Department of Aging and Disability Services
 - Connecticut Historical Society
 - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
 - Mohegan Tribe
 - State Historic Preservation Officer
 - State Historian
 - State Librarian
 - Connecticut Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas



America250|CT Mission

- Plan and Coordinate Activities that commemorate the 250th Anniversary
- Enhance Tourism, Economic Development, Historic Education & Preservation, Outdoor Recreation
- Coordinate, Engage, and Liaise with US Commission, and other participants including nonprofits and local or municipal efforts
- Promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historic resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the semiquincentennial period



AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT



Old Lyme holds a
historically significant place
in America's history.





Old Lyme Bicentennial Commission

in 1974-76...

- Coordinated efforts among organizations including the Lyme Historical Society (archives held at the Florence Griswold Museum)
- Three Themes: Heritage, Horizons, and Festivities
- Created historical literacy content for Old Lyme elementary school students (2,000 copies also purchased by the NY Dept of Education)
- Republished a 100-year-old account of life in Old Lyme
- Produced the historical play *“Lyme in the Revolution”* (performed on Lyme Street and broadcast on local radio), sponsored artisan craft shows and town band concerts, LHS sponsored a quilting contest
- Received and planted a descendant planting of the original Charter Oak (still growing on the grounds of the Florence Griswold Museum)



Old Lyme is represented in the State's bicentennial archives
housed at the Connecticut State Library.

Old Lyme Receives Bicentennial Status

OLD LYME — The federal American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration has named Old Lyme a bicentennial community. First Selectman Maurice McCarthy announced at Thursday's Board of Selectmen meeting.

The designation entitles the town to apply for federal funds for bicentennial projects.

Ronald J. Wojcik, town Bicentennial Commission chairman, has sent a letter of resignation to

New London, Conn., Monday, June 28, 1976

Bicentennial Band offers free concerts

OLD LYME — The Old Lyme Bicentennial Town Band will present two free concerts of marches, show music and American medleys to commemorate the nation's bicentennial on July 3 and 4.

The band will play at 7 p.m. July 3 in front of Center School. The concert will follow a chicken barbecue from 5 to 7, sponsored by the Republican Town Committee. If it rains, the concert will be conducted in the high school auditorium.

The horizons facet center around Hartung's architectur plans to add a landscap walking path along Lyme Str and reinstall utility w underground.

Both the Connecticut Lig Power Co. and the Sou New England Telep Company are preparing on the feasibility and moving their undergroun

has estima of a wal \$6,000, not transfe

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Artists To Display Wares at 2-Day Show

Old Lyme

OLD LYME — Professional craftsmen will display, demonstrate and sell their craft creations at the first two-day festival Aug. 21 and

22. The high school audit

and powder making, quilting and silk-screening.

Mrs. Brown invites parents to bring their children to learn how skilled artisans made Colonial wares nearly 200 years ago. Refreshments will be available during the

Group Selling 1876 Magazine

Old Lyme

Book Sold to New York University

Crosby Brown, commission chairwoman said.

The publication contains an essay entitled "Lyme — A Chapter of American Geography," which captures the heritage of area

OLD LYME — The New York State Department of Education has purchased 2,000 copies of the book "A New Look at History," by Mary Lohmann and published by the Bicentennial Commission here, a commission spokesman said.

historical events to young people.

"A New Look at History" was published by the Old Lyme Bicentennial Commission in December 1975, funded by a federal grant from the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, and

matched by the town

The booklet was designed by James Grunbaum, former art director of the Scientific American magazine.

The town of Old Lyme and the Lyme-Old Lyme Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the sale. Copies

are \$3, plus 25 cents postage

and available from the

Com-

Copies of both publications may be obtained from the Bicentennial Commission. "A New Look at History" is \$4.75, plus 25 cents postage, and "Lyme, a Chapter in American Genealogy" is \$3, plus 25 cents postage.

Historical Unit Seeks 'Squares' for Contest

Old Lyme

art," society Director Ann Smith, said.

Contestants from Lyme and Old Lyme are asked to submit an appliqued square showing historical scenes or landmarks from either town. The quilted squares will be judged after Aug. 16 and may be submitted until that date.

The society will provide materials for the squares and "a supply of suggestions and illustrations" at the Florence Griswold House on Main Street from 10 a.m.

OLD LYME — Two local radio stations will broadcast a bicentennial program entitled "Lyme in the Revolution" here this weekend.

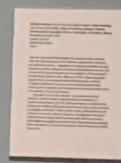
WLIS radio station 1420 will air the 15-minute program at 12:44 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday and at 11:05 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

WCNX radio station 1150 will present the broadcast at 3:15 p.m. on Saturday and at 4:15 p.m. on Sunday.

Brenda Milkofsky of Essex and Margaret C. Brown of Old Lyme wrote the program which was produced,

Radio Stations To Broadcast History Show

Old Lyme





1776 OLD LYME, CT. 1976

STARS AND STRIPES
Bill Stevens



Today's America250|Old Lyme Committee Could...

- Educate OL organizations and residents about the National and Statewide efforts to illuminate the Country's 250th
- Encourage and coordinate projects and programs across Old Lyme to ensure an understanding and appreciation of Old Lyme and our country's history
- Collaborate with surrounding towns, particularly Old Saybrook (*Saybrook Colony*), and Lyme, East Lyme, and Salem (with OL "*the Lymes*")
- Work to ensure Old Lyme programming and celebrations are recognized at the State level and included in marketing





Today's America250 | Old Lyme Committee Could.... *[continued]*

- Find ways to include all Old Lyme residents in seeing how their own personal history is part of America's history. This includes the four key themes of the 250th celebration:
 1. **Telling Inclusive Stories:** Both our own and those of people overlooked in Old Lyme's history
 2. **Power of Place:** Ensuring Old Lyme's unique history is shared and celebrated
 3. **Doing History:** Inviting the public to fully engage with history
 4. **For the Common Good:** Encourage Civic Engagement to continue to build our community using the democratic ideals outlined in our founding documents





Potential Appointees

- Key cultural organizations in town
 - OL-PGN Library, Old Lyme Historical Society, Florence Griswold Museum, Witness Stone Project, and others
- Curriculum Development/Special Projects Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
- Town Boards or Commissions
 - Economic Development, Historic District Commission, Parks & Recreation, Sound View Commission (4th of July parade)
- Town Historian
- Old Lyme residents with an interest in history, culture, and/or event planning

Will also collaborate with or include Senior Center, Open Space, Land Trust, Town Band, Memorial Day Parade Committee, Midsummer Festival Committee, Scouts, Artisan's Guild, additional arts & cultural organizations, businesses, beach communities, religious organizations, among others





Committee Budget?

- Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 in finalizing stages now
- Fiscal Year 2025-2026 – (Includes leadup to 7/4/26) Requests by November 2024
- Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (Covers July 4, 2026) – Requests by November 2025

In future fiscal years it is possible the Committee could request Town funds (or even seek grants) for some planned activities or projects, but individual organizations could also seek grants and funding opportunities as they typically do.

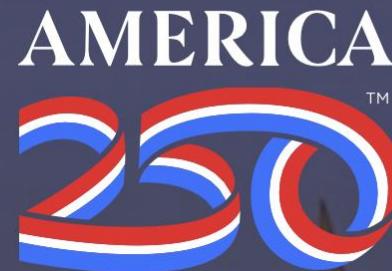




The EDC recommends to the Board of Selectmen that an “Old Lyme America 250 Committee” be formed.

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- Appointees should represent cultural organizations, boards & commissions, historians, artists, and residents with a diversity of strengths and experiences





A MILESTONE 250 YEARS IN THE MAKING

2
YEARS

4
MONTHS

0
DAYS

For More Information

America250.org

CT250.org

