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To: Village Board of Trustees
From: Bryan Healy, Village Manager
Date: February 5, 2026
Re: America 250 Celebration

As you are likely aware, the United States of America is celebrating its 250th Anniversary this year. Many communities throughout the country are planning to mark the occasion with various America 250 celebrations. Below are some thoughts that I have compiled (with input from various committees, board members and staff):

- **Continuation of annual Independence Day celebration:** I would recommend continuing the annual Independence Day celebration that is hosted in coordination with Historic Hudson Valley/Van Cortlandt Manor. Due to the progression of the entrance project at Van Cortlandt Manor, it may not be possible to host at their property this year. If that is the case, an alternate location (such as Senasqua Park) could be utilized.
- **Summerfest with America 250 Theme:** I would suggest that Summerfest be planned with America 250 in mind and the various organizations that take part in the Summerfest parade be encouraged to create floats with the anniversary in mind.
- **Planting of a Liberty Tree:** Various organizations, including NYCOM, have suggested the planting of a Liberty Tree in recognition of the 250th anniversary celebration. Some locations that could be picked for such a tree would be Vassallo Park (to replace the Merwin Oak), Senasqua Park (to recognize the importance of the Hudson River in the Revolution) or near Bethel Cemetery (to recognize the two Revolutionary War veterans buried there).
- **Placing of Historic Marker at Bethel Cemetery:** The Village in coordination with American Legion Fox-Eklof Post 505 will be receiving a historic marker to recognize the two Revolutionary War veterans buried at Bethel Cemetery. The placing of the marker should be scheduled for this summer in coordination with the America 250 Celebration.

I look forward to hearing other ideas that members of the Board may have, as well as additional ideas from members of the community. Please let me know if you have any questions.