



250th Semiquincentennial Celebration Plan – Working Draft

Assembled by: City Manager's Office

Prepared by: City Manager's Office, Parks & Recreation Department, Library, Police Department, Fire Department, and Public Works Department

Last revised: March 4, 2026

Staff has drafted a list of options for the year-long 250th Semiquincentennial Celebration. As we plan for these events, staff will be mindful to incorporate a diversity of celebrations so that we are consciously celebrating all American cultures.

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Draft List of Activities (by month)

January

- January 17 – [Hamilton Musical Film Screening](#)

February

- Black History Month programming at the Library
 - Movies and crafts all month long celebrating Black Americans
- Valentines for the Troops at the Senior Center
- February 25 – March 18 - Youth in Government

March

- Women's History Month programming at the Library
 - Movies and crafts all month long celebrating American women
- March 14, 3:00 p.m. - The Inquisitor – film screening at the Library
 - Biopic about Barbara Jordon, Texas congresswoman; Councilmember Flor Nicolas will speak on Women in Government and introduce the film
- Youth Baseball Parade with music, flags, and bunting

April

- April 24 – May 1: The American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit
- April 25, 1 p.m. - The Librarians – film screening at the Library
 - National Library Week event (19th – 25th)
 - PBS Documentary about book banning; addresses civil rights, freedom to read in America

May

- May 19, 6-8pm - America250 Trivia at the Library
- May 25 - Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast
- One Coast, One Book - *They Called Us Enemy*, by George Takei
 - History of Japanese American internment
 - Free copies of the book for the public
 - Media campaign
 - Virtual author event with author George Takei (Star Trek), Sunday, May 31, 2:00 p.m.
 - AAPI Month event

June

- Pride Month-long programming at the Library

July

- July 4 – 250th Celebration – *see more details in Attachment 1*
- July 4 - Patriotic Pet Costume Contest at Centennial Way Dog Park
- Red, White, and Blue Summer Camp Week
- Movie in the Park
- Americana at the Library
 - Americana-themed socials (arts & crafts, games, book and conversation clubs) all month long
 - Americana-themed storytimes
 - Performer/speaker TBD

August

- August 4 – National Night Out
- Movie in the Park

September

- September 11 – Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of 9/11 – event TBD; led by Police and Fire Departments
- September 12 – Concert in the Park, with recognition via Mayor’s remarks, signage, and branded merchandise.
- September 17 – Constitution Day at the Library – activity TBD

October

- Hispanic Heritage Month celebration w/ America 250 theme at the Library – TBD
- FilAm History Month celebration w/ America 250 theme at the Library – TBD
- Patriotic Pumpkin Decoration Contest at the Halloween Extravaganza

November

- November 14 - Ruby Bridges Day - opportunity for America250 theme
- Indigenous Peoples Day event at the Library – TBD
- Thanksgiving Fun Run

December

- More forthcoming

Date TBD

- Can consider a Mayor’s 250th Art Contest for Children either in the Parks and Recreation Department’s After School Program or citywide.
- Re-dedication of the Veterans Memorial at Orange Memorial Park

Year-Round Activities

- Parks and Recreation is looking to host monthly film screenings with America 250 themes in the Council Chambers (examples include Selma, Apollo 13, Glory, etc.)

Potential Signage Options

- Painting Sign Hill – anticipated cost: \$4,000 excluding labor
- Banner at City Hall – anticipated cost: \$195 +tax (includes grommets, wind slits. Price may vary depending on design / how much color printing.)
- Hang bunting at City Hall year-round – anticipated cost: \$500
- Red, white, and blue uplights at City Hall – No additional cost
- Posters on BigBelly trashcans (if we did all trashcans/both sides) - anticipated cost: \$1,400
- Banners on sign poles on Grand Avenue, Linden Avenue, Westborough Boulevard, and El Camino Real – around 240 signs; cost to print: \$14,000, cost to install banners: \$20,000 – total anticipated cost: \$34,000
- Electronic billboard on 101 – No additional cost
- LPR electronic sign – No additional cost

Communications

Begin City outreach about the event as soon as the date, time, and details are decided.

Branded Giveaways

Some giveaway ideas could include: water bottles, reusable bags, stickers, bouncy balls for kids – anticipated cost:

\$1 – unlimited

Budget

Category	Item	Budget	Notes
Signage Total cost for options presented: \$40,095	Painting Sign Hill letter	\$4,000	Excludes labor
	Banner at City Hall	\$195 + tax	
	Banners on sign poles (240) – cost to print banners	\$14,000	
	Banners on sign poles (240) – cost to install banners	\$20,000	
	Posters on BigBelly trashcans	\$1,400	
	Bunting on City Hall	\$500	
	Red, white, and blue uplights at City Hall	No add'l cost	
	Electronic billboard on 101	No add'l cost	
	LPR electronic sign	No add'l cost	
Communications	SSF eConnections Newsletter, print newsletter, social media, etc.	No add'l cost	
Branded Giveaways Total cost for options presented: \$1 – unlimited	TBD	\$1 - unlimited	
Activities Total cost for options presented: Built into budgets	See above for list of month-by-month activities. Staff anticipates that, overall, the activities will be paid for through existing Department budgets, grants, or the Friends of the Library (with the exception of the July 4 th celebration).	No add'l cost	
July 4 th Celebration Total cost for options presented: \$12,000 - \$74,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parade from City Hall to Orange Memorial Park Picnic celebration at Orange Memorial Park 	\$64K - \$74K	The budget will vary (as shown in the ranges) based on whether we have a band & a DJ, or only a band, or only a DJ.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parade around City Hall (Grand Avenue – Spruce Avenue – Miller Avenue – Maple Avenue) Picnic celebration on Grand Avenue 	\$41K - \$51K	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic celebration at Orange Memorial Park 	\$12K - \$22K	

Attachment 1. July 4th Celebration

Event: July 4, 2026 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Budget

Initial Draft Options & Budget

Option	Location	Budget*
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parade from City Hall to Orange Memorial ParkPicnic celebration at Orange Memorial Park	\$64K - \$74K
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parade around City Hall (Grand Avenue – Spruce Avenue – Miller Avenue – Maple Avenue)Picnic celebration on Grand Avenue	\$41K - \$51K
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Picnic celebration at Orange Memorial Park	\$12K - \$22K

*The budget will vary (as shown in the ranges) based on whether we have a band & a DJ, or only a band, or only a DJ.

Budget includes:

- Staff time – Police, Fire, Parks & Recreation (does not include time for salaried staff)
- Renting barricades for the parade options
- Food and supplies
- Activities
- Band or DJ

Fire Support

- Anticipate having about 15-20 CERT members volunteer for the event.
- Ken Anderson, Emergency Services Captain, and the mobile emergency response trailer to support.

Option 1: Parade from City Hall to Orange Memorial Park & Picnic Celebration at Orange Memorial Park

Budget: \$64K - \$74K

Street closure

- Approximate street closure for the parade: 7:00 – 11:00 am
- This will require 25 streets be barricaded between City Hall and OMP.
- Staff anticipates renting the barricades because the County barricades are already spoken for.
- Each barricade would be staffed by Police, CERT, and others, if needed.
- 314 residential addresses within 100 feet of the parade route – City would notify residents who live on the route that access to their house will be very limited during street closure period.

Option 2: Parade around City Hall & Picnic Celebration on Grand Avenue

Budget: \$41K - \$51K

Street closure

- Approximate street closure for the parade: 7:00 – 11:00 am ; approximate Grand Ave street closure for the picnic celebration: 7:00 am – 3:00 pm
- This will require 10 streets be barricaded around City Hall

- Staff anticipates renting the barricades because the County barricades are already spoken for.
- Each barricade would be staffed by Police, CERT, and others, if needed.
- 96 residential addresses within 100 feet of the parade route – City would notify residents who live on the route that access to their house will be very limited during street closure period.

Option 3: Picnic Celebration at Orange Memorial Park (no parade)

Budget: \$12K - \$22K

Street closure

- No street closure needed.
- No / limited communication to nearby residents – same as other events, such as Concert in the Park.

Draft Parade & Picnic Celebration Details

Parade

- Set-Up: 7:00 am – 10:00 am
 - Clear streets of vehicles & mark street for parade
 - Check Sound System (speakers/microphones)
 - Move Chairs to patio/landing
- Program: 10:00 am – 10:15 am
 - Welcome (Mayor)
 - Reading of the Declaration of Independence
 - Other (Singing of National Anthem, American the Beautiful, etc.)
- Parade: 10:30 am – 11:00 am
 - Potential Parade Participants:
 - City Officials in vehicles
 - Fire captain SUV
 - Fire truck
 - Police Corvette
 - Police Vehicle (other)
 - Car club vehicles
 - SSFUSD:
 - SSFHS Marching Band
 - ECHS Marching Band
 - Service Clubs
 - Rotary
 - Kiwanis
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Italian-American Citizens Club
 - Maltese-American Club
 - Women’s Club
 - Others?
 - Others?

- Picnic Celebration 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
 - Set-up: 8:00 – 11:00 am; Breakdown: 2:00 –3:30 pm
 - Free activities:
 - Swimming at Orange Pool (or New Aquatic Center)
 - Lawn Games:
 - Sack Races
 - 3-Legged Race
 - Water Balloon Toss (weather pending)
 - Tug-of-war
 - Cornhole
 - Obstacle Course
 - Softball games (baseball field)
 - Ring Toss
 - Egg Race
 - Face Painting
 - Balloon Animals
 - Jump Houses
 - Free food:
 - Hot Dogs
 - Chips
 - Watermelon
 - Water/Juice
 - Popsicle (firecracker-red, white, blue)
 - Cotton Candy
 - Popcorn
 - Music/Entertainment:
 - Paid band or DJ
 - Potential P&R class performances:
 - Belly Dance
 - Mexican Folk Dance
 - Hawaiian Hula
 - Salsa/Bachata
 - E. Coast Swing/Waltz
 - Free flags to attendees
- Parking & Transportation
 - Shuttle - Parking Company of America is willing to donate their shuttle services for the event for free (assuming for sponsorship recognition).
 - Public Parking:
 - Fernekes Building Parking Lot
 - Eucalyptus Avenue & W. Orange Avenue
 - SSF High School
 - Miller Garage (shuttle)
 - Downtown Street parking