



For Immediate Release

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What's Happening This July at Genesee Country Village & Museum? Join us for Independence Day celebrations, plus Freedom Day, our Centennial Expo and more!

Mumford, NY (June 18, 2026) – On our nation's 250th anniversary, Genesee Country Village & Museum continues its own 50th anniversary season in July with a month of history, tradition, and fun. Spanning over 600 scenic acres, GCV&M invites visitors of all ages to explore our Historic Village, world-class Gallery, and immersive Nature Center or attend one of the special programs offered throughout the month. Here's a look ahead to the month of July at GCV&M:

Independence Day – Saturday, July 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

It's America's 250th birthday, and you're invited to join Genesee Country Village & Museum's beloved Independence Day celebrations. Enjoy a full day of patriotic fun, immersive experiences, and good, old-fashioned revelry! Kids aged 12 and under receive free admission.

- Welcome our newest Americans at a naturalization ceremony, as individuals from around the world take their oath in the Village Square and are sworn in as new citizens.
- Take part in a traditional 4th of July parade, led by Uncle Sam.
- Listen to a reading of the Declaration of Independence and join in a series of historic toasts.
- Take in a ballgame as the Ladies Vintage Base Ball teams play Townball on the Great Meadow.
- Join in a pie-eating contest, or cheer on your favorite pie eater!
- Learn from Indigenous teacher and storyteller Perry Ground (Onondaga, Turtle Clan).
- Participate in our Wish Wall and share your hopes for America's next 250 years.

Independence Day events are sponsored by Monroe County, Wegmans and Liberty Pumps.

For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.gcv.org/july-4/>

Freedom Day: Sunday, July 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Freedom was not granted to all on the birthday of our nation. This Freedom Day, take a deeper dive into stories of freedom and the roots of American democracy. Through conversation and shared exploration, we'll consider how liberty was experienced differently across communities, and how its meaning has been debated, expanded, and reimaged over time. Kids aged 12 and under receive free admission.

- Join David Shakes to learn more about the history of Black freedom in Western New York.
- Listen as Perry Ground (Onondaga, Turtle Clan) describes the integral role the Haudenosaunee had in establishing democracy in the original 13 colonies.
- Take in a ladies vintage base ball game and learn about the role of base ball in the fight for women's suffrage.

Freedom Day events are sponsored by Wegmans and Liberty Pumps.

For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.gcv.org/july-5/>

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Saturday, July 11, 5:30 p.m.

We're excited to welcome the RPO back to Genesee Country Village & Museum for a special evening concert featuring a variety of pieces recognizing the 250th anniversary of the United States and the 50th anniversary of GCV&M. Bring your camp chairs and enjoy music under the stars on the Great Meadow! Food and drink will be available to purchase.

This performance is sponsored by Tom and Nan Hildebrandt.

For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.gcv.org/item/rpo-concert/>

Camp Hard Hat, Monday-Friday, July 20-25

Now in its 11th year, Camp Hard Hat is a week-long day camp that provides local students ages 12-15 the opportunity to participate in a community-based construction project. Camp Hard Hat has had a tremendous impact on the building trades industry, inspiring youth to pursue a career in the skilled trades.

To register a camper, visit: <https://www.gcv.org/item/camp-hard-hat/2026-07-20/>

Centennial Expo: Saturday, July 25 & Sunday, July 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

In 2026, we're celebrating America's 250th anniversary. But how did Americans in 1876 celebrate the country's first 100 years? With an expo for the ages! Explore what was brand new, cutting edge, and mind-blowing for Americans in the 19th century.

Our Centennial Expo events are sponsored by Canandaigua National Bank and Palmer's Direct To You Market, and media sponsor Kids Out and About.

For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.gcv.org/centennial-expo/>

Extended Evening Hours

For our 50th anniversary season, we are extending our opening hours for one evening each month, plus offering special after-hours tours. Experience the Museum after the sun goes down!

- **Friday, July 17** – Join us for an evening at the Museum, the third in our summer series of late-night hours. A dozen buildings in the Historic Village will be open, along with the Flint Hill Store, John L. Wehle Gallery, and the Genesee Country Nature Center and trails. Learn from costumed interpreters and tour spaces and buildings representing home, civic, social, economic, farm, and religious life throughout the 1800s.
- **Forbidden Fruits After-Hours Tours: Friday, July 10 and Friday & Saturday, July 17 & 18** – Embark on a guided, interactive tour following the stories for three couples, each intimately tied to 19th century Genesee Country through their heartfelt love letters and private correspondence. For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.gcv.org/series/forbidden-fruits-after-hours-tours/>

Historic Base Ball and the National Silver Ball Tournament

GCV&M offers the nation's most comprehensive 19th-century base ball program, featuring five men's teams and two women's teams. The vintage base ball teams unpack their woolen uniforms, brown balls, and double-knobbed bats to play in Silver Base Ball Park, the first replica 19th-century base ball park in the country.

The men's teams will play a double-header on Sunday, July 12, and a weekend of baseball against the Bovina Dairymen on Saturday & Sunday, July 25 & 26. Games are included with Museum admission.

The ladies teams play on Saturday & Sunday, July 4 & 5, and Sunday, July 26, and will travel to Seneca Falls for Convention Days on July 18. Games at GCV&M are included with Museum admission.

As the base ball season winds down, the National Silver Ball Tournament comes to town the weekend of July 31 through August 2. Eight national visiting vintage teams from the East Coast and Midwest will take the field at Silver Base Ball Park.

For the full base ball schedule, and to purchase tickets to the National Silver Ball Tournament, visit: <https://www.gcv.org/historic-village/base-ball/>

Summer Workshops

From cooking and wool spinning to heirloom flower arrangements and woodworking, GCV&M has a timeless skill for every interest! Museum experts guide participants to explore new hobbies and skills, and give a taste of life in the 19th century.

- 19th-Century Brewing Workshop – Saturday, July 25 <https://www.gcv.org/item/19th-century-brewing-workshop/2026-07-25/>

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Photo 1: Join us for Independence Day at Genesee Country Village & Museum!

Photo 2: Join us for Independence Day at Genesee Country Village & Museum!

Photo 3: Don't miss the National Silver Ball Tournament of vintage base ball at Genesee Country Village & Museum!

Additional photos and b-roll are available by request. To request an interview, or be removed from this mailing list, contact kburns@gcv.org

GCV&M is the largest living history museum in New York State with the largest collection of historic buildings in the Northeast. The Museum, with its John L. Wehle Gallery, working brewery, vintage base ball park, and Nature Center, is located in Mumford, NY, 20 miles southwest of Rochester and 45 miles east of Buffalo. Visit www.gcv.org for more information.