Licking County AM250 Patriotic Decorating Contest

July 4th Weekend 2026

===== Contest Information =====

For generations, the Fourth of July has brought neighbors together across Licking County to celebrate freedom, community, and pride of place. From small and large businesses, historic homes and village streets, to rural farmhouses and modern neighborhoods, patriotic decorations have long been a visible expression of our shared American story.

The ***Licking County America 250 Patriotic Decorating Contest*** was created to honor that tradition, in celebration of the America's 250 anniversary. This contest celebrates creativity, craftsmanship, employees, and community spirit, while encouraging residents of all ages to reflect on the meaning of Independence Day. Each flag, light, banner, and handmade display tells a story - of service, sacrifice, hope, honor, dignity, and love of country.

By participating, residents help create a countywide celebration that connects past and present, highlights the unique character of our communities, and reminds us that history is not only preserved in museums, but lived every day in our homes and neighborhoods.

We invite you to join us in celebrating Licking County's patriotic spirit and to help us recognize the homes and businesses that make our Country's 250th Anniversary and Independence Day shine a little brighter.

Celebrate Independence Day by showcasing your patriotic spirit! Submit your patriotic decorated home or business by July 1st, for consideration in the ***Licking County America 250 Patriotic Decorating Contest***.

Our panel of judges will review the applications and possibly drive by your home / business over the July 3rd – 5th Holiday Weekend.

Winners will be contacted and announced the week of July 5th on LCHS's Facebook Page, Explore Licking County, and other TBD media.

===== Contestant Application Information =====

Name: _____
(☐ Homeowner ☐ Contact Person)

Business Name: _____

Neighborhood / Community Name: _____

Address (must be located in Licking County):

Street: _____

City/Township: _____ **Zip Code**: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

===== Entry Details =====

Are you the homeowner or a tenant?
☐ Homeowner / Business Owner ☐ Tenant (landlord permission assumed)

Brief Description of Decorations (themes, special features, history, etc.):

_____

_____

_____

How long have you decorated for July 4th at this location?
☐ First year ☐ 2–5 years ☐ 6–10 years ☐ 10+ years

Photo Submission (must be June / July 2026 pictures)

Please attach **3–5 clear photos** (JPG format) of your decorated home / business / neighborhood (daytime and/or nighttime views encouraged).

☐ Photos attached / included
☐ Photos will be emailed separately

If emailing photos, send to: info@lchsohio.org
(with subject AM250 Decorating Contest)

Judging Criteria (Applicants will be judged on)

- Overall creativity and visual impact
- Use of patriotic colors and themes
- Originality
- Craftsmanship and attention to detail
- Best "DIY" & homemade decorations
- Community spirit

Categories (If you wish to apply for a certain category)

☐ Best Overall / Most Patriotic
☐ Best Historic Home
☐ Best Primitive / Country Style Theme
☐ Best Veteran / Military Theme
☐ Best use of lights (Red-White-Blue)
☐ Most Creative / Original
☐ Best Patriotic flowers or landscape
☐ Best DIY (homemade) Decorations
☐ Best Neighborhood & Community spirit
☐ Best County Farm
☐ Best Apartment / loft home
☐ Best Business

===== Permissions & Acknowledgment =====

By submitting this form, I certify that the information provided is accurate and that the decorations are safe and family-friendly. I grant permission for photos of my property to be used for promotional purposes related to this contest, including social media, websites, and printed materials. I grant permission for the contest judges to stop, view, and take pictures of my property.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Entry Deadline: July 1, 2026

Submit completed forms and photos to:
(You may register first, then send pictures at a later date)

LCHS (Licking County Historical Society)
P.O. Box 785
Newark, OH 43058

Email: info@lchsohio.org

Questions? Contact: LCHS @ 740-345-4898 or info@lchsohio.org