

# VILLAGE OF ROSCOE

## AGENDA ITEM - STAFF REPORT



**Agenda Item:** Discussion of the Village’s Participation in the Illinois America250 Commemoration

**Date:** October 30, 2025

**Meeting:** Village Board – 11/4/2025

**Prepared by:** Josef Kurlinkus

**Department:** Administration

### Overview/Background Information

The Illinois Municipal League (IML) has invited all municipalities to participate in the statewide **Illinois America250 Commemoration**, marking the **250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026**.

As part of this initiative, IML is encouraging communities to plan local events and activities that celebrate local history, promote civic pride, and engage residents in reflecting on the role their community has played in the broader story of America. Municipalities are also invited to adopt a **model resolution** signifying their intent to participate and to notify the **Illinois America250 Commission** and **IML** of their involvement.

IML is also organizing a statewide **time capsule** to be buried at its Springfield headquarters, containing contributions from municipalities across Illinois. Communities are invited to submit a small item or message representing their local history or community identity for inclusion before **December 31, 2025**.

Village staff has discussed this initiative internally and recommends that the Village of Roscoe participate in the Illinois America250 Commemoration. To commemorate this milestone locally, staff proposes the creation of a **Village-wide community time capsule** to be **buried at Porter Park**.

This project would be designed as a collaborative community effort, with invitations extended to local **schools, civic organizations, faith groups, and community partners** to contribute items, messages, or artifacts that represent Roscoe in 2025. The time capsule could be formally sealed and buried during a **public ceremony in summer 2026**, potentially as part of the Village’s Independence Day celebration.

Participation in the Illinois America250 program would align Roscoe with statewide and national efforts to recognize this historic anniversary, while providing a meaningful local opportunity for residents of all ages to contribute to a project that will be opened 50 years from now.

### Action Required/Recommendation

This item is presented for discussion. The Village Board is asked to provide direction regarding the Village’s desired level of participation in the Illinois America250 Commemoration and feedback on the proposed concept for a community time capsule at Porter Park.

### Attachments

1. **Proposed Resolution** – Authorizing the Village’s participation in the Illinois America250 Commemoration.
2. **Illinois Municipal League Memo (July 8, 2025)** – Commemoration of America’s 250th Anniversary.