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HOWELL TOWNSHIP

# Two more officials resign

**Tess Ware**  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

HOWELL TWP. — There's been a shakeup in leadership in Howell Township, after two officials resigned and a new official was appointed.  
Planning Commissioner Mike New-

stead submitted a letter of resignation Dec. 3, accepted by the Howell Township Board on Jan. 12.  
“After careful consideration and discussion with my family, I have concluded that I must devote my time and attention to other priorities and, as such, cannot give this role the focus it deserves,” Newstead wrote.

Newstead was appointed to the Howell Township Board in August 2021, according to municipal records, then moved to the Planning Commission. He was reappointed for a three-year term in January 2025.  
Applicants to fill the seat were interviewed Jan. 12, and trustees voted to appoint Corey Alchin, a member of the da-

ta center-focused Resident Research Committee. Alchin will no longer be able to sit on the committee, now that he's been tapped for the Planning Commission.  
Trustees also voted to accept the resignation of board member Shane Fagan,  
**See OFFICIALS, Page 4A**

# States map out celebrations

## A look at America250 as communities prepare to share their stories

Years of work by national organizations, states, local governments and nonprofits will culminate in what is expected to be a symphony of reflection and celebration across the country. ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**Karissa Waddick**  
USA TODAY

This year, Arizona will ferry a replica of the Liberty Bell through its 15 counties; New Jersey will host a slate of history-themed 5K races; Kentucky will plant a tulip-poplar tree in each of its 120 counties, and Colorado will dazzle nearly 150 of its communities with drone shows.  
Across the country, Americans will walk into mobile Airstream studios to tell their stories; children will write about what America means to them for a chance to win a historical trip, and charity organizations will attempt to log the most volunteer service hours in history.

These are but a sampling of the dizzying array of initiatives planned to mark the semiquincentennial, the 250-year anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.  
Years of work by national organizations, states, local governments and nonprofits will culminate in what is expected to be a symphony of reflection and celebration across the country.  
America250, the official commission designated by Congress to organize the commemoration, deliberately planned a wide range of programs – from grand parades and fireworks, to reflective essay contests, town halls and newly commissioned works of art. Every state had a different path to becoming part of the United States of America.

“If you look at our country, where we were in 1776, Alaska was (part of) Russia. Hawaii was its own kingdom. California was Spain,” Chair Rosie Rios told USA TODAY. “Our goal is really to empower the states to also tell their stories.”  
“We want to make this as grassroots and community-driven as possible,” Rios said, adding that “optionality” is among the key ways the group plans to engage all of the nearly 350 million people living in the country.  
America250 has organized a lineup of national programming to guide the yearlong red, white and blue extravaganza.  
**See AMERICA250, Page 4A**

# Students of the Week for Jan. 16

**Evan Sasiela**  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

We're back with another group of outstanding high schoolers in Livingston County.  
Each week, high school principals and staffers in Livingston County share their nominees for Student of the Week with The Daily. We share those honorees online Fridays and in print Sundays.  
This week's students were nominated for academic achievements, personal growth, setting an example for others and a commitment to service.

**Sarah Langley, Brighton High School**

Sarah is a driven, kind and goal-oriented student who's worked intentionally to shape both her academic and personal future. With a strong 4.13 GPA, Sarah has excelled academically while clarifying her passion for nursing, a career path rooted in her genuine desire to help others and serve in the medical field. She's already taken an exciting step toward that future by committing to Grand Valley State University, a milestone she's rightfully proud of.  
Beyond academics, Sarah's impact is felt strongly through athletics, leadership and service. A three-year member of Student Council and an elite soccer player, Sarah has learned invaluable lessons in grit, accountability and teamwork, culminating in a national championship with her club team. She credits soccer with shaping her work ethic and confidence, especially through the demanding recruiting

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