ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
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NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

No. 2026 – 079
April 6, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Raise a Glass to Revolution: Rebels & Redcoats Tavern Night Enhances America's 250th Anniversary in Southern Maryland

LEONARDTOWN, MD – Ever wondered how the Founding Fathers might have spent a night at the tavern discussing revolutionary ideas? It likely started with a pint and a song! On **Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**, the Southern Maryland 250th Committee invites the public to step back into the 18th century for ***Rebels & Redcoats Tavern Night***, a spirited celebration of America's 250th birthday.

This is not your typical night at the pub—it's a high-energy, period-inspired evening of music and merriment designed to transport guests to a time when taverns served as the social and political heart of the colonies. Whether you're a staunch Patriot or a clandestine Loyalist, the evening promises a lively blend of history and humor.

The event features a dynamic lineup of entertainment and authentic 18th-century experiences:

- ***Lively Music:*** Acclaimed musicians David & Ginger Hildebrand will perform period-accurate glees and tavern songs. Songbooks will be provided, and guests are encouraged to join the chorus.
- ***In-Character News:*** Stay informed—or misinformed—as Lord Dunmore delivers the latest "1776 current events" in full character.
- ***Games & Toasts:*** Take part in competitive toasting (may the boldest win) and try your hand at tavern games from the colonial era.
- ***The History of Hops:*** Learn about the history of beer and cocktails in British America and the tavern culture that helped shape revolutionary ideas.

Food & Provisions
To keep the "army" well fed, local favorites Ruddy Duck and Olde Towne Pub Wing Wagon will be on-site with food available for purchase. Guests can enjoy a selection of beers, ciders, and meads from an on-site brewer demonstrating 18th-century brewing techniques.

– MORE –

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Tickets & Attire
Costumes are highly encouraged, though your political allegiance remains optional. Tickets are limited and include the first drink on the house, along with a limited-edition commemorative pin marking the 250th anniversary.

"We wanted to celebrate this milestone the way our founders would have—with laughter, debate, and a bit of tavern-induced bravado," said Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. "It's a chance to experience history you can truly see, hear, and taste."

Secure your tickets before they disappear like a full tankard. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit https://TavernNightSOMD250.eventbrite.com.

This event is part of the Southern Maryland Semiquincentennial, Maryland's 250th and America 250th celebrations, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding. Event made possible by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County Museum Division, Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, Maryland Public Television, Visit St. Mary's MD, Southern Maryland Semi Quincentennial Committee, and other area civic organizations.

About the St. Mary's County Museum Division
The St. Mary's County Museum Division was established by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the historic sites and artifacts which illustrate the natural and cultural histories of St. Mary's County and the Potomac River. These sites include St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, the Old Jail Museum, and the Drayden African American Schoolhouse. With this as its charter, the Museum Division serves as a resource, liaison, and community advocate for all St. Mary's County public and private cultural assets. For more information, please visit: museums.stmarysmd.com.

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