



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

**No. 2026 – 141**

**June 29, 2026, 2 p.m.**

**"Sharing the Spirit of America": Community Invited to Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8**

**LEONARDTOWN, MD** – In honor of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the community is invited to gather for a **public reading** of the **Declaration of Independence** on **Wednesday, July 8, 2026**, at **6 p.m.** as part of the nationwide "Sharing the Spirit of America" initiative.

While July 4, 1776, marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress, it was July 8, 1776, when the Declaration was first read publicly to citizens in Philadelphia. To commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that historic moment, communities in all 50 states and U.S. territories will gather simultaneously to read the Declaration aloud.

This free community event will be presented from the steps of the **Potomac Building**, facing the Governmental Center Lawn, and will feature elected officials, community leaders, and more.

Community members are encouraged to attend, bring lawn chairs or blankets, and enjoy this unique commemoration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A light reception with refreshments will immediately follow the reading.

**Event Details**

- Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2026
- Time: 6 p.m. (Guests are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m.)
- Location: Potomac Building, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650

In the event of inclement weather, the reading will be held inside the Potomac Building in Meeting Room 14. Parking is available throughout the St. Mary's County Government campus.

Those unable to attend in person may watch the event live on SMCG TV Channel 95 or via YouTube at [www.youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov](https://www.youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov).

This commemorative event is presented in partnership by St. Mary's County Government, the Town of Leonardtown, the St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks Museum Division, and Visit St. Mary's MD as part of the nationwide "Sharing the Spirit of America" initiative.

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