

★★★ THE GREAT ★★★ SUMMER FUN GUIDE



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH

2026 marks the Semiquincentennial
– the 250th anniversary of the
United States of America.

BY CARYN R. SAGAL

To commemorate this major milestone, the Baltimore region will offer everything from exhibits, tours and talks to fireworks, flyovers and fun. Here are our favorites among the festivities.

PASSPORT TO THE AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION

Ongoing

Uncover Baltimore County's historic sites, museums, landmarks and local favorites where the past comes to life. Pick up a printed "passport" at any Baltimore County Public Library branch or download it.

BE REVOLUTIONARY: AMERICA 250 EXPLORATION TRAIL PASS

Ongoing

This mobile exclusive pass features revolutionary stories from 50 historical and community sites in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. Visit 13 sites for a limited-edition sticker, 25 for a gift bag of keepsakes and all 50 for a limited-edition YETI mug.

UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

Maryland Center for History and Culture

Ongoing

Discover Maryland's pivotal role in securing American independence. This exhibit examines the state's contributions to the Revolutionary War and the ongoing struggle for liberty.

WE ARE REVOLUTIONARY

Maryland Center for History and Culture

June 4 – TBD

View the personal items, chairs, biographies and imagery of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence: Charles Carroll, Samuel Chase, William Paca and Thomas Stone.

COOL DELIBERATE COURAGE: JOHN EAGER HOWARD IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Historic Waverly Mansion

June 13

Step into the story of the Revolutionary War hero, statesman and the very person for whom Howard County is named. Connect the dots between the county we know today and the remarkable life behind its namesake by attending this talk by author John Beakes that takes place at a property once owned by Howard himself!

FLAG DAY AT THE HOGSHEAD

Hogshead Trades Museum

June 14

Celebrate the 249th anniversary of the adoption of the U.S. flag by exploring the Stars and Stripes, Flag of Maryland, John Shaw Flag and more at this drop-in style program. While there, try becoming a vexillologist for the day or channel Betsy Ross by sewing a star or designing a flag.

SAIL 250 MARYLAND & AIRSHOW BALTIMORE

Baltimore Inner Harbor, Fells Point, North Locust

Point, Baltimore Peninsula and Martin State Airport

June 23–July 1

A global gathering of international and U.S. tall ships, historic character vessels, modern military ships and aircraft like this is 250 years in the making!

As part of a five-city national event, Baltimore will host the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron and additional aviation performers in an Inner Harbor air show, Inner Harbor flyovers, public ship visitations, Baltimore's Big Apple Pie Bake-Off, Crab Soup Cook-Offs among pros and home chefs, an open house at Martin State Airport and festivals throughout the week.

All are invited to the Kids on the Bay "Parade of Nations" on June 27, including kids and pets in costume. Led by the Quantico Marine Ceremonial Band, the parade will feature crews from the tall ships, plus Baltimore's own Marching Elite, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, Betsy Ross, Ben Franklin, George and Martha Washington, Uncle Sam, the Ravens Cheer Team and other special guests.



**REFLECTIONS ON INDEPENDENCE:
THEN AND NOW**

*Howard Community College, Monteabaro Hall
June 28*

Inspired by Richard Henry Lee’s historic Resolution for Independence and the Declaration of Independence, this program will examine what these founding documents meant in 1776 — and what they continue to mean for us today. A moderator-led reading of key excerpts will precede a panel discussion with audience Q&A.

**MARYLAND’S AMERICA:
250 YEARS OF AMERICAN HISTORY
THROUGH MARYLANDER EYES**

*Star-Spangled Banner Flag House
July 2026 - July 2028*

This exhibit from eight Maryland artists will reflect on the ongoing evolution of American democracy, Maryland’s integral role in that process and the impact of Marylanders on our nation’s past, present and future.



STAR-SPANGLED 250!

*Oregon Ridge Park
July 3-4*

Join the BSO led by Music Director Jonathon Heyward in his inaugural concerts at Oregon Ridge. Enjoy the Star-Spangled Banner – performed with the winner of the BSO’s “O, Say Can You Sing?” competition — the Armed Forces Salute, Star Wars, Copland’s Hoe-Down and a spectacular 12-minute fireworks finale with the 1812 Overture.

**REVOLUTION & REMEMBRANCE BUS TOUR:
BALTIMORE’S PATRIOTS & THE POE FAMILY
FOR AMERICA 250**

*Departing from the Baltimore Visitor Center
July 4*

Journey with Poe Baltimore through Baltimore’s Revolutionary past, where the fight for independence lives on in our streets, headstones and stories. This

immersive experience travels to Westminster Hall, Old St. Paul’s Cemetery and Carroll Mansion, and honors the diverse individuals who shaped the nation.

**B&O UNLOCKED: AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN (AFT)
NO. 1**

*B&O Railroad Museum
July 4, 15, 18, & 19*

The American Freedom Train toured the nation between April 1, 1975, and Dec. 31, 1976, to celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial. Fifty years later, you can step aboard the cosmetically-restored “T-Hog” to commemorate the Semiquincentennial.

**VOICES OF THE MARYLAND 400: MARYLAND’S
REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS AT THE BATTLE
OF BROOKLYN IN 1776**

*Historic Waverly Mansion
July 22*

In August 1776, the Continental Army lost the Battle of Brooklyn, the first major battle of the Revolutionary War. A contingent of soldiers known as the Maryland 400 helped to stave off the British and allow the Americans to fight another day. Learn about these soldiers in a talk by Owen Lourie, senior archivist at the Maryland State Archives.

**WHAT’S THE TEA: ALTERNATE TEA SOURCES
AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

*Historic London Town & Gardens
July 25*

Two hundred fifty years ago, the colonists were spilling the tea into the waterways and drinking some alternatives. Learn about the role of tea in the revolution while sipping on some of the interesting beverages the colonists tried in lieu of tea.

**25 ARTIFACTS
FOR 250
YEARS OF
HOWARD
COUNTY
HISTORY**

*Howard County
Government
Sept. 12*

Explore the past 250 years of Howard

County history through unearthed objects. Howard County Parks Archaeologist Kelly Palich will present these artifacts and the stories they tell about the lives of Howard County citizens from the birth of the new nation to the 20th century.



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