

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

Message from Councilman Marks

Volume 176 | August 2025



Putting Public Safety First

Over the past month, we have been reminded of the importance of our first responders in many ways.

Summer storms have pounded the Eastside, leading to emergencies where our utility crews, career and volunteer fire companies have responded to fires, blackouts, and flooding.

We have also had criminal events that have tested the resolve of our communities. The most visible of these was the juvenile shooting at the Carroll Island Shopping Center on July 16th. I would like to thank the Baltimore County Police Department for its response and for keeping my office, Senator Jennings, Delegates Ryan Nawrocki and Kathy Szeliga informed throughout the situation.

Let me be very clear: those responsible should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Unfortunately, over the past decade, legislators who do not represent the Eastside have pushed legislation that weakens the ability of our police and prosecutors to hold many teenagers responsible when they commit crimes. Reforming these laws should be a priority for the Maryland General Assembly.

We need to continue to recruit first responders to replenish the ranks of those police, firefighters, and police who are retiring, and we need to give them the tools and facilities to do their jobs. [The current capital budget includes more than \\$25 million to build a new Essex police precinct.](#) Both the Bowleys Quarters and Middle River fire companies are actively raising funds for new headquarters.

We also need to step up the involvement of our residents and community organizations.

On Tuesday, August 5th, neighborhoods throughout the United States will celebrate National Night Out, which recognizes the relationships between residents and law enforcement, but firefighters and paramedics often participate. In the Fifth District, National Night Out activities are scheduled in at the [White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company](#), [Harford Hills Elementary School](#), and for the first time at [Woodcroft Park](#).

[Each police precinct in Baltimore County usually has a community relations council.](#) I encourage you to learn about the community relations councils at the Essex, Parkville, and White Marsh precincts.

I am a firm believer in the broken windows theory, which suggests that neglecting seemingly minor issues can attract more serious criminal activity. Our office will continue to focus on both smaller quality-of-life concerns and bigger issues such as public safety personnel, facilities, and deterring and punishing crime.

Councilman David Marks

Serving the Eastside: Carney, Perry Hall, Kingsville, White Marsh, Chase, Bowleys Quarters, and Middle River

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Councilman Marks Urges Expansion of Inspector General Powers

Councilman Marks has consistently supported a strong, robust office of the Inspector General. In August, [Councilman Marks introduced a resolution requesting the Maryland General Assembly pass legislation giving oversight of the Baltimore County Public Schools system to the county government](#). This will allow the Office of the Inspector General to oversee and investigate waste, fraud, and abuse in the school system.

The OIG currently has no authority to investigate complaints pertaining to the school system, which receives over half of Baltimore County's budget as its funding. Councilman Marks would also support an increase in funding to help with the new oversight responsibilities.

Virtual Meeting to Review Status of Honeygo/Cross Intersection



Councilman Marks will hold a virtual public meeting with the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation to discuss the progress of safety improvements at the intersection at Honeygo Boulevard and Cross Road. A WebEx meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13 at 5pm. [The virtual meeting can be joined here](#). Meeting password: cGx2NurmC44

County to Expand Flood Proofing Program

Baltimore County has expanded its flood proofing program to expand the number of eligible participants. The program information is available under the ["Water in Your Home" section of the Flooding Resources web page](#).

The Department of Public Works and Transportation currently offers up to \$10,000 for private properties to mitigate only tidal or riverine flooding issues. The updates will expand the program to also include overland

flooding, which represents the basis of many complaints the county receives

Baltimore County is also expanding the program to incentivize flood proofing. The new language adds the potential for up to an additional \$5,000 for the project if it creates a community benefit beyond the individual's property. The new potential maximum grant will now be a total of \$15,000 for projects that serve as a community benefit.

Old Perry Hall School Becomes Perry Hall's 400th Landmark



The old Perry Hall School is now Baltimore County's 400th historic landmark! The Baltimore County Council passed the legislation at its July meeting. Constructed nearly a century ago, the building housed schoolchildren until the opening of Perry Hall Elementary School in 1956, and again as an "annex" in the 1970s. Designation as a historic landmark means that the building cannot be demolished. Councilman Marks thanks the Kraus family, the Perry Hall Improvement Association, and the Preservation Alliance of Baltimore County for their support. [He is the sponsor of legislation](#) that would increase public access to the historic landmarking process.



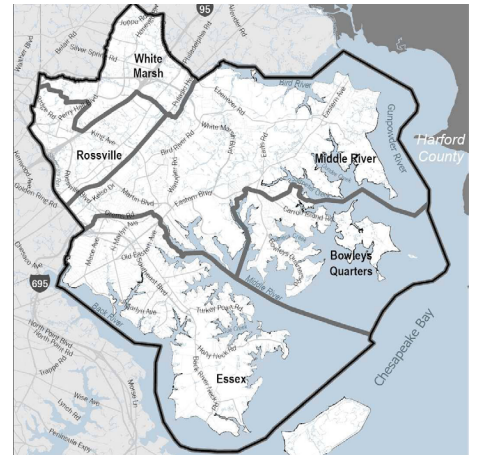
White Marsh Library Reopens

The White Marsh branch of the Baltimore County Public Library has reopened! Councilman Marks stopped by to meet with staff and tour the improvements to the community room, children's section, entryway, restrooms, and flooring. [The \\$580,000 project was funded through state and county resources](#).



Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Concert Celebrates Perry Hall's Birthday

On July 10th, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and nearly 800 attendees celebrated Perry Hall's 250th birthday with a performance at Perry Hall Baptist Church. Councilman Marks thanks County Executive Klausmeier and Baltimore County Government for their financial support, as well as the other donors and volunteers, especially Renee Streib who coordinated the program on behalf of the [Perry Hall 250 Committee](#).



Baltimore County Seeks Further Input on Small Area Plan

The Baltimore County Department of Planning continues to accept input on the Small Area Plan for White Marsh, Chase, Middle River, Bowleys Quarters, Essex, and Rossville. The survey focuses on the community, economy, open space, and connectivity. [Learn more](#).