

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

Message from Councilman Marks

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A Renewed Focus on Saving Baltimore County's Heritage

Baltimore County is one of the oldest settled places in Maryland. It's time for a renewed appreciation of its heritage.

In the Fifth District that I represent, we know that parts of the Gunpowder River Valley were explored by Captain John Smith as early as 1608. The Perry Hall community, [celebrating its 250th birthday this year](#), has been known as a "cradle of Methodism" since colonial times. We also celebrate places like Historic Jerusalem Mill Village, [our smaller neighborhoods like Chase and the Loreley Road corridor that have been home to historic Black settlements](#), and of course the aviation history of Middle River.

We are working on the following initiatives:

- We created a task force to explore ways to create awareness of the history of the Bengies-Chase community.
- Following a public hearing on May 13th, I introduced legislation that will [formally designate the Perry Hall School as a protected Baltimore County landmark](#).
- We are working with the Preservation Alliance of Baltimore County on a possible plan to advance the renovation of the Perry Hall Mansion.
- We continue to support the [relocation of the Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum](#).
- Over the summer, our office will be looking at the statutes that govern the preservation of some of our oldest places. We will also be examining possible historic district status for Upper Falls.

The United States celebrates its 250th birthday in 2026. I hope that many of these ideas will bear some fruit in time to add to this exciting national milestone.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Marks'.

Councilman David Marks

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

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With End of School Year, All Trailers Removed from Perry Hall Middle

The last of the trailers have been removed from Perry Hall Middle School. With the opening of Nottingham Middle School and the expansion of Pine Grove Middle School, the enrollment at Perry Hall Middle has dropped well below its state-rated capacity. [Councilman Marks, School Board member Julie Henn, state legislators, and parents began working on the overcrowding problem at Perry Hall Middle School as early as 2017.](#) School overcrowding has now been largely eliminated throughout much of the Eastside.

Angel Park Closed for Repairs

[Angel Park](#) will be closed from Monday, June 23 to Friday, July 4 for repairs. The park is expected to fully reopen on July 5. For more information on this community-built playground and amphitheater, visit the [Angel Park Facebook page](#).



Renovation Set at Soukup Arena

More than \$162,000 was included in Fiscal Year 2026 budget to replace the heating, ventilation, and air condition at [Soukup Arena](#) in Perry Hall. The Perry Hall Recreation Council raised more than \$1.5 million to construct Soukup Arena, and the facility is named in honor of longtime president, Jerry Soukup. Additionally, new signage will be erected in July.

State Allocates Funding Upgrade to Miami Beach Park

Maryland's Board of Public Works recently awarded \$1.3 million to upgrade the trail system at [Miami Beach Park](#). Baltimore County is also constructing the new pavilion at [Marshy Point Nature Center](#).

Resurfacing Occurs Along Ridgelys Choice Drive

In June, the Ridgelys Choice Drive corridor and numerous streets were resurfaced in White Marsh's Berryhill Circle area. Plans call for additional resurfacing in 2025 and 2026, including along Seven Courts Drive and Honeygo Boulevard.



Celebrate America's Independence

2025 marks the 249th Independence Day. In addition to activities with family and friends, there are several community events scheduled, including the [Kingsville Independence Day Parade](#), the [Kingsville Fireworks](#), and the [Middle River Fireworks](#). Learn about regulations governing fireworks [here](#).

Family Fest Scheduled for July 12

The Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Family Fest @ 43 on Saturday, July 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Greenleigh Business Center (415 Williams Court, in Middle River). This is a terrific event for the entire family! [Learn more here](#).

Middle River Concert Band to Perform

The [Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association](#) will host the Middle River Concert Band on Monday, July 14 at 7 p.m. at its hall at 1124 Bowleys Quarters Road. This is a free performance.



New Flag Unveiled for Essex-Middle River

Councilman Marks joined the Heritage Society of Essex-Middle River at the organization's 50th anniversary. Congratulations to Kenwood High School student Lilyanna "Max" Cotton for submitting the winning design!

Fields of Fire Benefit Concert Scheduled for September 20

Mark your calendars for Friday, September 20 as the Fields of Fire benefit concert returns to White Marsh, headlined by country music star Russell Dickerson! Hosted by the White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company, this exciting community event not only supports our dedicated volunteer firefighters—it also boosts local small businesses and promotes tourism right here in Baltimore County.

With food trucks, vendors, and local sponsors participating, Fields of Fire is a great example of how we can come together to celebrate community, support public safety, and drive local economic impact.

Tickets and sponsorships are available now. [Learn more at this link](#).