

# County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter



## Message from Councilman Marks

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### Celebrating the Spirit of Community

This is the season when we are acutely reminded of the spirit of neighborliness and community. I am constantly reminded of the generosity of local residents.



- In August, Evan Jones and Josh Sines spent a Sunday afternoon hauling away storm debris from the Harewood Park beach.
- In November, [volunteers from Marian Preparatory Academy led a food and personal hygiene collection](#) that produced 1,000 pounds of items for the Perry Hall United Methodist Church food pantry.
- Throughout the year, Ruth Hens quietly collects litter from throughout her Carney community.
- This year, the Perry Hall 250 Committee carried out numerous events that celebrated the community's milestone birthday. Many thanks to Jean Borne, Bev German, Pat and Vicki Keller, Margot Kopera, and Renee Streib for all their work.

These are some of the individuals we will be recognizing as Citizens of the Year, an initiative our office created in 2011 to acknowledge outstanding volunteers.

This is also the season when we gather with family and friends for many holiday traditions. Eastside, these include:

- Two Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies in Kingsville—[at the corner of Bradshaw and Jerusalem Roads in Kingsville at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 5](#), and at St. John's Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 7.
- [The Perry Hall Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, December 5 at Belair and Joppa Roads.](#)
- [The White Marsh Holiday Parade](#) at The Avenue at White Marsh at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 5.
- [The Essex Christmas Tree Lighting](#) at 516 Eastern Boulevard at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 5.
- [The White Marsh Menorah Lighting](#) on Sunday, December 14 at 4:30 p.m. at The Avenue at White Marsh.

I wish you and your family the happiest of holidays!

Councilman David Marks

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

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## 2025: Progress on Land Preservation, Government Accountability, and Community Improvements

Councilman Marks thanks those community leaders, residents, and elected officials who worked with him throughout the year.

**Land Preservation.** Since 1967, the Urban–Rural Demarcation Line has directed growth toward areas with existing infrastructure. This urban boundary protects Baltimore County’s reservoirs, which supply 86 billion gallons of drinking water, and it prevents farmland from being consumed by urban sprawl. [Councilman Marks sponsored a charter change](#)—on the ballot next November—that strengthens Baltimore County’s urban boundary.

**Supporting Baltimore County’s Farmers.** Another charter change will consolidate farm-related agencies under [a permanent Baltimore County Department of Agriculture](#).

**Protecting the Gunpowder.** Councilman Marks helped lead the opposition [when the Days Cove Rubble Landfill wanted permission from the state to increase its discharge](#) into the Gunpowder River. Both Baltimore and Harford Counties oppose this permit, and opponents will be prepared to act if the state approves the permit.



**Regulating Solar Facilities.** The County Council passed Councilman Marks’ legislation that enacts distance requirements for solar facilities reviewed by the county.

**No New Taxes.** While Annapolis sticks Baltimore Countians with higher taxes and fees, Baltimore County enacted [a local budget that contains no property tax rate hikes](#).

**Choice and Transparency During the Sewerage Process.** The County Council passed Councilman Marks’ legislation that provides propertyowners with a full accounting of costs when considering connection to the sewerage system—and a choice to opt-out if there is no public health issue.

**Protecting the Inspector General.** Councilman Marks joined four of his colleagues to retain the current Inspector General when others wanted her gone. The County Council also passed Councilman Marks’ resolution urging the state legislature to expand the Inspector General’s jurisdiction to include the school system, which is responsible for half the county’s budget.

**A Fair Redistricting Map.** [The Baltimore County Council said “no” to partisan activists](#) who pushed for a gerrymandered redistricting map. Baltimore County’s map is fair, competitive, and bipartisan.

**An End to Middle School Overcrowding.** With the opening of Nottingham Middle School and the expanded Pine Grove Middle School, [overcrowding throughout much of the Eastside has largely been eliminated](#).



**Preserving our History.** Councilman Marks sponsored legislation that expands the appeals process for historic properties. The county announced the [creation of a new pocket park near the Glenn L.](#)

[Martin complex in Middle River](#). The Upper Falls community celebrated erection of a new gateway at Upper Falls. Councilman Marks partnered with Senator Carl Jackson and local residents to start the restoration of the Dowden Chapel in Rossville. [The County Council enacted historic landmark status for the former Perry Hall School](#), and Perry Hall celebrated its 250th birthday.

**Road Resurfacing.** Baltimore County resurfaced two major corridors, Honeygo Boulevard and Ridgelys Choice Drive, as well as numerous local routes in the district.

**New Traffic Lights.** Baltimore County flipped the switch on traffic signals at Bucks Schoolhouse Road and Perry Hall Boulevard, and at Bird River Road and Campbell Boulevard.

**Playgrounds, Parks, and Community Improvements.** From Ridgely Park to Belmont Park to Philadelphia Road, the county completed new playgrounds, pickleball courts, and multipurpose courts. New parks were created at the Jennifer Run in Carney and along the Seven Courts Drive corridor, and acreage was added at Honeygo and Indian Rock Parks. The Oliver Beach Community Hall—ravaged by fire a year before—celebrated a grand reopening.

