

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter



Message from Councilman Marks

Volume 179 | November 2025



Should the County Have Special Elections for Vacancies?

Throughout the United States, states and local jurisdictions have special elections when there are vacancies. Maryland is somewhat of an anomaly—vacancies for the state legislature are filled by the governor after the recommendation of the local political party, and open seats in places like Baltimore County are resolved through appointment.

Earlier this year, I proposed a bill that would have modified the way Council vacancies are filled, but it failed due to opposition from one of the two major party committees. I think an argument can also be made that we need to reform the way that vacancies are filled for County Executive.

Under the charter, the County Council picks a replacement when there is a vacancy for County Executive. That has happened three times—when County Executive Dale Anderson was removed due to corruption in 1974, when Kevin Kamenetz died in 2018, and when John Olszewski, Jr., was elected to Congress in 2024.

Should the voters have a direct say in who serves as County Executive?

When there is a vacancy with only a few months remaining in a term, it seems impractical and costly for Baltimore County to order an election. When County Executive Kamenetz passed away, for example, there was about six months remaining in his term. Holding an election would have cut the actual term of an elected County Executive to two or three months, given the time for primary and general contests. But what if there is a vacancy that results in an interim County Executive who serves for a year or more?

I fully understand that elections cost money, which is an argument for keeping the current system. If a vacancy occurs before a Presidential election, however, there may be a way to time the race so there are minimal expenses and give voters their say at the same time they are voting in a federal election.

I am exploring this concept with my colleagues and appreciate your insight. Please feel free to contact me at dmarks@baltimorecountymd.gov with your thoughts. Any change would require an amendment to the county charter—and ultimately, approval by the voters.

A handwritten signature of David Marks in black ink.

Councilman David Marks

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

In this Issue

- ▶ Councilman Marks Sponsors Bill to Increase Transparency During Sanitary Sewer Process
- ▶ Carney Celebrates New Community Park
- ▶ Nominations Sought for Citizens of the Year Program
- ▶ Baltimore County Dedicates \$4 Million for Assistance
- ▶ Upper Falls Dedicate Welcome Sign
- ▶ Perry Halls Wraps Up 250th Birthday with Time Capsule Burial
- ▶ Thanksgiving Food and Clothing Drive Underway
- ▶ Begin Planning for Holiday Events

Contact Our Office

Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 887-3384
council5@baltimorecountymd.gov

Follow Us Online

@countycouncilmandavidmarks

@david_s_marks

Councilman Marks Sponsors Bill to Increase Transparency During Sanitary Sewer Process

Councilman Marks is sponsoring Bill 77-25, which modifies the process for connecting properties to the sanitary sewer system when the area does not have a failing septic system. Under this bill, before the county executes a contract for the construction of or the financial responsibilities for a project, the Directors of the Departments of Public Works and Transportation and Environmental Protection and Sustainability must identify any participating property that does not have a failing septic system. The legislation also requires the county to provide those property owners with a full disclosure of estimated project costs and a schedule of the anticipated assessments and financial responsibilities in a legal agreement in a form sufficient for recordation in the land records of the county.



Carney Celebrates New Community Park

On October 18, Councilman Marks joined residents of Carney's Jomat Avenue at the dedication of Jennifer Run Park. The four-acre property is the first new park in Carney in a generation. It was among more than 60 acres of county land redesignated as parkland thanks to a resolution sponsored by Councilman Marks in 2024.

Nominations Sought for Citizens of the Year Program

Every year he has been in office, Councilman Marks has recognized outstanding community volunteers as "Fifth District Citizens of the Year." Nominations may be sent to dmarks@baltimorecountymd.gov by November 20th.

Baltimore County Dedicates \$4 Million for Assistance

[Baltimore County Government will draw more than \\$4 million](#) from its supplemental fund balance to support food assistance for residents and federal workers affected by the federal government shutdown. In Baltimore County, approximately 50,000 households, representing 100,000 residents, receive approximately \$18.6 million in SNAP benefits each month.



Upper Falls Dedicate Welcome Sign

On October 25, Councilman Marks joined residents of the Upper Falls community in dedicating the historic town's new welcome sign. The sign was paid for by Upper Falls Odd Fellows Lodge 175, celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. The sign was manufactured by Image360 Middle River and designed by Chelsey Armstrong Marks.



Perry Halls Wraps Up 250th Birthday with Time Capsule Burial

On November 3, [Perry Hall's community leaders and residents buried a time capsule](#) at Gough Park that will be unearthed in 2075. The ceremony wrapped up Perry Hall's 250th birthday, a celebration that also included a performance by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and decorative banners along Belair Road.

Thanksgiving Food and Clothing Drive Underway

Marian Preparatory Academy is collecting non-perishable food items and personal care items on Friday, November 14th and Saturday, November 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Weis Markets at Fullerton Plaza (7923 Belair Road). The event will benefit the Perry Hall United Methodist Church food pantry.

Begin Planning for Holiday Events

There are several big holiday events planned in northeastern Baltimore County:

[The Avenue at White Marsh sponsors its Christmas Tree Lighting](#) on Friday, November 21 around 7 p.m.

[Beltway Lending sponsors a Christmas Tree Lighting](#) at the corner of Bradshaw and Jerusalem Roads in Kingsville at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, December 5.

The **Perry Hall Improvement Association** sponsors the [Perry Hall Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony](#) on Friday, December 5 at 6:45 p.m. at Belair and Joppa Road.

On Saturday, December 6 at 10 a.m., the [White Marsh Holiday Parade](#) kicks off at **The Avenue at White Marsh**.

The **50th Annual Essex Community Tree Lighting** is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 at 5 p.m. at 516 Eastern Boulevard. The event is hosted by the [Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River](#) and is expected to include a tree and the original Essex Cube lighting.

Chabad of White Marsh sponsors the [White Marsh Menorah Lighting](#) on Sunday, December 14 around sunset at The Avenue at White Marsh.