

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

Message from Councilman Marks

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Inspector General Should Have Oversight of Public Schools

I have consistently supported a strong, robust office of the Inspector General. In August, I was one of five Councilmembers who opposed removing Kelly Madigan from the position she has ably served since 2019.

Now is the time to give the Inspector General oversight of the area that commands the bulk of Baltimore County's funding: its public schools.

In August, [I introduced a resolution requesting the Maryland General Assembly to 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 even though Baltimore County Public Schools receives over half of Baltimore County's budget as its funding. I believe the Council should also support an increase in funding to help with the new oversight responsibilities.

Years after the ransomware attack, we still lack all the answers about what occurred and the steps taken by the school system in its aftermath. We hear many complaints about how resources are spent. This was a major theme when educators sought the salary increase they were promised by the previous administration.

I would like to thank those state legislators who have commented favorably about our proposal, including Senator Carl Jackson and Delegate Ryan Nawrocki, as well as the Teachers Association of Baltimore County and the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County for their support.

In conclusion, I would like to thank those teachers and staff who, like me, have chosen public education as a career. More than 110,000 students are expected to enroll in Baltimore County Public Schools this year. These students, their parents and educators deserve the accountability that can come from an Inspector General.



Councilman David Marks



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

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Credit: Gunpowder Riverkeeper

Discharge Permit Sought for Days Cove

On Tuesday, September 16th, the Maryland Department of the Environment will hold a hearing at 5 p.m. at the Perry Hall public library to consider a new discharge permit for the Days Cove rubble landfill.

The landfill is located at 6425 Days Cove Road in White Marsh. The location is on top of a hill in a peninsula surrounded by Department of Natural Resources property. It takes concrete, brick, and other masonry debris, as well as materials such as wall coverings, roofing materials, and plumbing fixtures. The permit would allow for a discharge of an average of 12,500 gallons per day of treated leachate.

[Councilman Marks would like to thank the Gunpowder Riverkeeper for alerting his office to this proposal.](#) To the best of his knowledge, his office received no notification from the state government or the private operator. The lack of communication is an issue, since according to the neighboring community association, there have been no regular meetings since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eastern Baltimore County is linked to the tributaries and rivers that feed into the Chesapeake Bay, yet some of the county's most sensitive shoreline is very close to the highest concentration of landfills in the region. The most visible is the Eastern Sanitary Landfill. Baltimore County has proposed expanding the height of this landfill to add more than three million tons of additional capacity. There is also the Honeygo Run landfill on Philadelphia Road, which handles more than 1,000 tons of waste per day, or more than 250,000 tons annually.

It is this intense concentration of landfills and dumps that prompted Councilman Marks to strongly oppose an organic recycling facility planned for another location on Philadelphia

Road. In the fall of 2022, under community pressure, PEH Organics Recycling, Inc., announced that it would not be leasing the property at 11235-11239 Philadelphia Road for a composting facility.

Councilman Marks urges the community to learn the facts about the Days Cove proposal by attending the meeting on September 16th.



Loreley Community Center Playground Opens

On August 23rd, Councilman Marks joined other elected officials, neighbors, and community leaders at the Loreley Community Center to dedicate the new playground. [Seven new playgrounds have been built in the Fifth District in 2025](#), with two additional ones planned next year at the Andrea Avenue Park and Kingsville Park.

Expanded Pine Grove Middle School Begins First Full Year

Councilman Marks recently toured—along with School Board member Julie Henn—the newly-expanded and renovated Pine Grove Middle School. With the completion of the \$47 million project, overcrowding has been eliminated at middle schools throughout the northeast. Councilman Marks thanks his county and state partners for his support of this project.



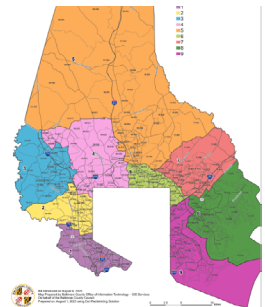
Belair Road Median Strip to Be Improved

The Maryland State Highway Administration will be replacing some of the bricks in the median strip along Belair Road in the Rossville area. Both Councilman Mike Ertel and Councilman Marks contacted SHA about this improvement, as the road divides the two districts.



Learn More About the Council Redistricting Proposal

In the 2024 election, voters approved the expansion of the Baltimore County Council from seven to nine members. That set into motion a redistricting process, as new districts must be created to accommodate the change in the size of the Council.



In August, Baltimore County Council Chair Mike Ertel introduced a proposed redistricting map.

The goal of any map must be to establish districts that are, in the words of the county charter, "compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population, and in which due regard is given to current natural, geographic, and community boundaries." On the Eastside, the redistricting map creates a northeastern district that unifies Carney, Kingsville, Perry Hall, and White Marsh. It establishes a new Essex-Middle River district anchored by the fast-growing Greenleigh community.

[Click here](#) to learn more. Comments may also be sent to countycouncil@baltimorecountymd.gov, and residents may testify through [here](#).