

# County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter



## Message from Councilman Marks

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### Our Priorities for 2026

As Councilman, my priority is always to deliver effective constituent service, support safe communities and schools, and look for ways to reform and streamline government. There are other initiatives, however, that we will be pursuing during this final year of the four-year term. There are also some important milestones we know will happen in 2026.

- Our office is working on legislation that will help condominium and homeowner associations take care of roads they own. This is a big problem in places like Belmont and Dunfield, where shortsighted decisions in the 1970s have now saddled homeowners with the costs of repairing their own streets.
- I sponsored legislation that seeks a change in state law to allow the Inspector General to review and investigate Baltimore County Public Schools. [Senator Carl Jackson and Delegate Ryan Nawrocki are advancing this bill in Annapolis](#). If passed, the Baltimore County Council would be able to vote on giving the Inspector General this authority. Please ask your state legislators to support this bill.
- Baltimore County voters will decide three charter amendments this fall. I urge adoption of all three: Question A, [which will strengthen the urban growth boundary](#); Question B, [which will establish a countywide Department of Agriculture](#); and Question C, [which reforms the selection process for the Inspector General](#).
- We will be pushing the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks to finalize a plan for the Gerst Road Park in Perry Hall and the former C.P. Crane plant in Middle River.
- We hope to pass [Small Area Plan 11, addressing areas such as Rossville, Middle River, and White Marsh](#), to better guide development in that area.
- Several capital projects will be finished this year, including the new track at Perry Hall High School and playgrounds at Andrea Avenue in Carney, at Beldale Court in Carney, and Kingsville Park. My hope is that the Mohrs Lane Bridge connection, modifications to Cowenton Avenue, water main upgrades in the Silver Spring Road area, and safety improvements at Honeygo Boulevard and Cross Road move significantly to completion. [We will also be aggressively pushing for a connection to White Marsh Boulevard near Earls Road](#).
- We hope to advance a financing plan for new fire stations on the Eastside.
- Finally, my hope is that we finally resolve the future of the Perry Hall Mansion this year. As we celebrate America's 250th birthday in 2026, it would be fitting to finally bring clarity and momentum to the restoration of this historic gem.



I look forward to working with my colleagues and all our residents and community leaders over the coming year.

Councilman David Marks

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

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## Discharge Proposal Withdrawn for Days Cove

Since the summer, Councilman Marks, state legislators, community leaders and residents have been fighting a proposal to double the discharge at the Days Cove Rubble Landfill. [That permit proposal has now been withdrawn](#), and the state has outlined a plan to close the landfill at the site. These steps will have a profound impact in improving the health of the Bird River and the Chesapeake Bay.



## County Council Honors Perry Hall High School Girls Soccer Team

The Baltimore County Council honored the Perry Hall High School Varsity Girls Soccer Team at its December meeting. The Gators won the 4A Girls Soccer State championships.

## Councilman Marks Sponsors Legislation Permanently Protecting Bengies-Walter Open Space

Councilman Marks has sponsored legislation to permanently protect the eight-acre "Bengies-Walters Park" on Eastern Avenue east of Earls Road. The site was eyed for a housing development, but Councilman Marks

blocked both the transfer and any future development through rezoning. [Learn more here.](#)



## Safety Improvements Planned at Walther Boulevard

Councilman Marks, Senator Jennings, and Delegates Nawrocki and Szeliga have been working with the Oak Crest community and the Baltimore County Department of Public Works to improve safety in the Walther Boulevard corridor. The following project will be implemented over the coming few weeks:

- First, flexi-posts and a designated turn lane will be added to delineate a safer entrance off Walther Boulevard southbound into Oak Crest.
- Second, a designated left hand turn out of the campus will be added onto northbound Walther Boulevard.
- Third, a new pedestrian crosswalk will connect the campus to the Food Lion Shopping Center across Walther Boulevard. The crosswalk will include a push button with yellow flashing lights that will alert drivers going both north and southbound.

If the traffic pattern is successful, the flexi-posts will be replaced with a permanent, concrete landscaped configuration next year.

## Councilman Marks Initiates Action to Investigate Warehouse Approval

Three days before Christmas, Councilman Marks received word that a warehouse project had been approved by Baltimore County Government on Eastern Avenue near Wilson Point Road despite his

clear downzoning of the property in 2024. The approval of the project is even more egregious in scale than a similar action by Baltimore County Government at the Evans Funeral Chapel site, which Councilman Marks also downzoned.

The Essex-Middle River Civic Council has promised potential legal action. Councilman Marks has introduced a resolution creating a special committee to investigate how and why Baltimore County Government approved permits for the project.

## Meeting to Review Silver Spring Road Traffic

The Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation will brief the Perry Hall Improvement Association on proposed traffic changes along the Silver Spring Road corridor at its meeting on Thursday, January 8th. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Brightview Perry Hall (9657 Belair Road). All are welcome. Councilman Marks has advocated for changes to improve safety along this corridor, as well as the replacement of the new water main.

## Stay Updated on Water Main Repairs

During the winter months, water main breaks tend to be more prevalent due to the rapid change in temperature. Baltimore City repairs these breaks. [Here is a good resource where you can make reports and learn of updates.](#)

## Playgrounds to be Upgraded in Carney, Kingsville

Playgrounds are scheduled to be replaced in 2026 at Andrea Avenue in Carney, the Beldale Court area in Dunfield, and at Kingsville Park. [Check out the county's playground dashboard for more details.](#)