

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter



Message from Councilman Marks

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Budget Funds Open Space, School, and Public Safety Priorities

On April 16, [County Executive Klausmeier announced a Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal that keeps property and income tax rates constant while investing in priorities like public safety and education.](#) I am particularly pleased with the funding for teacher positions that was announced recently, as well as the addition of 12 new battalion chiefs in the Baltimore County Fire Department, which should greatly enhance our ability to respond to emergencies.

I am pleased with several key projects that were included for our district:

- Funding to replace the rubberized surface at Angel Park, now celebrating its 10th year.
- Funding to acquire open space along the Chapel Road corridor.
- Improvements to the Seven Courts Elementary School tennis and multipurpose courts.
- A feasibility study for a new bridge over Honeygo Boulevard.
- Funding to redesign and rebuild the Joppa View Elementary School parking lot.
- Money to replace the Woodcroft Park playground in Carney and the Seneca Harbour playground in Middle River and upgrade the Oliver Beach Elementary School recreation space.
- Midge control funding.
- Funding to improve Mount Vista Park in Kingsville.

In earlier budgets, we were able to secure funding to acquire more than 80 acres of open space at Carroll Island, [renovate and expand Pine Grove Middle School](#) and [build Nottingham Middle School](#).

I would like to thank our community leaders and partners from throughout government for their support of these initiatives. The Baltimore County Council can only cut from the budget, not add money or move funding around.

Councilman David Marks

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

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Council Passes Legislation to Lower Housing Costs, Limit Panhandle Development

On April 6, the Baltimore County Council passed legislation sponsored by Councilman David Marks that will place a cap on development impact fees pending a review by the Department of Planning.

The legislation caps fees at \$30,000 per unit pending an evaluation by planners to determine the appropriateness of calculating these assessments. The legislation would restrict the methodology to areas that are occupiable, and it would exempt any construction on a single lot recorded before the original impact fee legislation was enacted in 2019.

The County Council also passed legislation that prohibits the development of panhandle lots throughout the Perry Hall area. Right now, panhandle lots are only prohibited in Perry Hall's Honeygo area. Panhandle lots are real estate parcels with a narrow strip of land that provide access from a street to a buildable, back area. They are sometimes used to cram homes into areas that provide greater density.

Councilman Marks Seeks PSC Intervention in Power Line Case

Baltimore County Councilman David Marks is supporting intervention by the Public Service Commission to modify or reject the recent order issued by the Public Utility Law Judge in the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project.

"Significant portions of the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project are proposed to be constructed within Baltimore County, including areas I represent on the County Council. As an elected official of that governing body, I have a direct statutory interest in this proceeding," Marks wrote to the PSC on April 2, 2026. "I sponsored and supported Baltimore County Council Resolutions 37 24 and 21 25, which raised serious concerns regarding unresolved land and easement rights, public safety

risks in rural communities, impacts to residential and agricultural properties, and the absence of the meaningful consideration of less intrusive alternatives."

The Brandon Shores Mitigation Project would allow for 37 miles of new power lines in communities such as Kingsville and Perry Hall.

Parking and Traffic Plan Being Developed at Joppa View Elementary



Councilman Marks and Board of Education member Julie Henn have advocated for a traffic and parking project at Joppa View Elementary School, which is scheduled for construction in the summer of 2028.

Joppa View Elementary School opened in the early 1990s along one of the busiest corridors in Baltimore County. It has been unsafe for children to walk to school, and despite bus transportation, many parents pick students up in the afternoon. As a result, vehicles often block the right lane along Honeygo Boulevard.

[The Baltimore County Public Schools Facilities Department has been working with the Department of Public Works and Transportation on a parking and traffic plan.](#) The proposal currently involves consolidating the two entry/exit points, increasing the number of parking spaces, and reconfiguring the drive loops to increase the stacking onsite. It is hoped that the increase in traffic from the Magnolia Hill development will help this area qualify for a new traffic signal, a possibility being incorporated into plans.

Waltham Woods Road/Perring Parkway Set for Traffic Signal

[The Maryland State Highway Administration is finalizing a plan to install a traffic signal and](#)

[crosswalks, along with Americans With Disabilities Act ramps, at the intersection of Perring Parkway and Waltham Woods Road.](#) This project is in the design phase and the anticipated completion time for construction is late fall 2026. Councilman Marks will update the community as the project advances.



Baltimore County Celebrates Andrea Avenue Playground

On April 25, the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks dedicated the new playground at Andrea Avenue in Carney. Councilman Marks joined the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, the Parkville Recreation Council, the Carney Improvement Association, and Delegates Ryan Nawrocki and Kathy Szeliga at the ceremony. [Additional playground renovations for this year are planned at Beldale Court, Kingsville Park, and Miami Beach Park.](#)

Learn About Baltimore County's Moratorium and Review of Data Centers

In February, the Baltimore County Council enacted a moratorium on data centers until the Department of Planning could develop recommendations for the future siting of these facilities. [Learn more here.](#) Councilman Marks led an effort to have a majority of the Baltimore County Council urge a similar effort in Harford County, where a data center has been proposed at the Mountain Branch Golf Course.