

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter



Message from Councilman Marks

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Extend the Moratorium on Data Centers in Baltimore County

New data centers are currently not allowed anywhere in Baltimore County. The Baltimore County Council unanimously supported legislation that paused new data centers until the Planning Board could issue a final report, which is expected in September. [I encourage you to learn about that process and provide your input.](#)

An initial draft of the report recommends that if the moratorium is lifted, approvals should be conditional, rather than by-right, with facilities limited to industrial areas and kept away from residential neighborhoods and agricultural land. The report also recommends setbacks from homes, schools, parks, and day care centers. It discusses whether to require developers to provide community benefits and pay for infrastructure costs.

The debate over data centers has intensified over the past several years. While some contend that data centers are essential to computing and streaming services, there are concerns about the impact of these facilities on water and power consumption.

It's clear the current moratorium must be extended to allow for broader public input. This debate is about more than land use—there are complex questions about taxes, regulation, and energy that will not be resolved in the next few weeks.

We also need to lead in a bipartisan manner, not just as Republicans or Democrats.

Please continue to follow this issue and make your thoughts known on this difficult public policy issue.

Councilman David Marks

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

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Councilman Marks Sponsors Bipartisan Legislation to Limit Smokeshops

[Councilman Marks is sponsoring bipartisan legislation with Councilman Mike Ertel to regulate smoke shops.](#)

The bill establishes proximity standards for smoke shops, similar to those recently enacted by the Baltimore City Council. The legislation also prohibits certain lighting for smoke shops, particularly LED flashing lights and certain string lighting.



New Playground Dedicated at Eastern Regional Park

On June 27, [the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks "cut the ribbon" on the new playground](#) at Eastern Regional Park. This new playground has many features for children with disabilities.

The Eastern Regional Park playground is the latest playground project in the Fifth District. The new Kingsville Park playground is currently under construction, and plans are underway for new playgrounds at Woodcroft Park and in Dunfield.

Volunteers Repaint Vandalized Perry Hall Recreation Building



On Monday, June 29, Councilman Marks and a dozen school age volunteers repainted the vandalized Recreation Council building at Perry Hall Elementary School.

Every year, Councilman Marks' office partners with Rock City Church's Compassion Commission on a service project for school age children. Councilman Marks thanks Tropical Smoothie Cafe in Perry Hall for donating some much-needed shakes.



Learn About Honeygo Glen, Perry Hall's Newest Park

[A new concept plan has been published](#) for the 22-acre Gerst Road park site, now known as "Honeygo Glen." The plan reflects feedback from more than 200 residents who scored what they liked in four earlier designs. It includes mostly passive and natural elements, as well as pickleball courts, a pavilion, and trails.

The Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks will hold an in-person community input meeting on Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Honeygo Run Regional Park's multipurpose room (9033 Honeygo Boulevard).



Councilman Marks Welcomes New School Superintendent

Councilman Marks welcomes Dr. William Heiser as the new Superintendent for Baltimore County Public Schools. [He brings more than a decade of service in both the Anne Arundel and Baltimore County School systems to the table.](#) Dr. Heiser inherits significant challenges, but also an incredible potential for growth and success. Councilman Marks joined Dr. Heiser and School Board member Julie Henn at the recent community input meeting at Pine Grove Middle School.

National Night Out Planned for Tuesday, August 4

Baltimore County will once again celebrate National Night Out, this year set for Tuesday, August 4. This year's National Night Out includes neighborhood block parties, cookouts, outdoor movies, face painting, and Back-to-School giveaways.

National Night Out is an annual community-building event that aims to strengthen partnerships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. [Learn more here.](#)

Support Country in the Quarters



Key West meets country at the "Country in the Quarters" concert planned for Sunday, August 16 at the Tarr Family Farm. Proceeds benefit Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Rescue & Marine. This will be a terrific event, so please [learn more here](#) or [the ticket information center](#).

Nearly 600 Street Trees to be Planted in Woodcroft and Harwood Manor

Baltimore County will plant nearly 600 street trees in Carney's Woodcroft and Harwood Manor neighborhoods this fall. Durable root barriers will be installed to protect sidewalks. As these street trees grow, research shows that they will help with improving local air and water quality, reducing stormwater runoff, calming traffic, and increasing community walkability during hotter months.

[Learn more about the program here.](#)