

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter



Message from Councilman Marks

Volume 189 | September 2026



Safer Communities, Safer Schools

Everyone deserves to live, work, play, and be educated in a safe environment. Public safety takes many forms, and Baltimore Countians have rightfully said they want safer communities and schools.

Our neighborhoods deserve to be free from crime. [Baltimore County's Town Hall Meetings were well-attended](#), with many attendees demanding reforms to the state's juvenile justice laws and an increase in police presence. I have been a strong supporter of efforts to fill vacancies in the Baltimore County Police Department; the vacancy rate has been cut in about half.

National Night Out in early August also illustrated the importance of community connections. Thank you to the Dunfield, Woodcroft and Harwood Manor, and Perring Park communities, as well as the White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company, for hosting events that include police and other first responders.

Our firefighters and paramedics keep neighborhoods safe and rescue those in emergencies. [Baltimore County recently commemorated the addition of 12 battalion chiefs that should reduce response times](#) by career stations. I'm sponsoring legislation that will hopefully facilitate improvements at our volunteer fire companies.

Many of the crashes could be avoided with safer roads. Throughout the Eastside, the county and state transportation departments have unveiled plans to redesign corridors and add safety improvements. In Carney, for example, [the Maryland State Highway Administration will add a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at Harford Road and 5th Avenue](#). The county will also add a traffic signal at Honeygo Boulevard and Cross Road in Perry Hall.

Schools are reopening. I fully support the work of our School Resource Officers who ensure kids learn in a safe environment, but our principals and assistant principals need the ability to properly discipline or remove those who threaten other children. The Maryland General Assembly will hopefully take heed of those parents who want changes to our juvenile justice laws.

Councilman David Marks

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

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Councilman Marks Introduces Legislation to Allow Donation of County Surplus Equipment to Volunteer Fire Companies

Councilman Marks has introduced legislation that makes it easier for Baltimore County to donate or sell surplus vehicles or equipment to entities such as volunteer fire companies. The legislation is modeled after best practices in other jurisdictions.

There are 29 volunteer fire companies in Baltimore County that support the efforts of the county's career stations.

Testify for Projects in the Capital Improvement Program

Baltimore County's Capital Improvement Program includes funding for parks, roads, and other projects in the long-term budget. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 16 open to anyone to participate. [Learn more here.](#)

Pedestrian Improvements to be Made in Carney

Earlier this year, Councilman Marks joined with Senator Carl Jackson, Delegates Nick Allen, Harry Bhandari, and Kim Ross to urge a safety review of the Harford Road corridor. As a result of the review, the intersection of Harford Road at 5th Avenue has been approved for the replacement of the existing flashing beacon with a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB). A PHB uses a sequence of traffic signal indications that require motorists to stop when activated, providing pedestrians with a safer and more controlled opportunity

to cross the roadway. The PHB will also be coordinated with the nearby traffic signal at Harford Road and Joppa Road.

As part of this project, the eastbound left turn from 5th Avenue onto northbound Harford Road will be restricted to reduce potential conflicts between turning vehicles and pedestrians, further improving pedestrian safety.

The changes should improve the ability of pedestrians to access destinations such as the Parkville/Carney library.

Councilman Marks to Introduce Legislation Requiring Posting of Warehouse Proposals

Councilman Marks will introduce legislation that requires public posting of major warehouse proposals. The legislation comes after an investigation and public hearing into how a warehouse was approved in Wilson Point despite [Councilman Marks approving a downzoning of the parcel.](#)

The bill would require an applicant who is seeking a limited exemption or waiver from the normal development process for a warehouse of at least 50,000 square feet to post the notice of their request on the property. The notice must be posted in the same manner as the posting required for a petition for variance or special exception, and must be done prior to the consideration by the Development Review Committee.

There will also be a section of the bill that requests the Planning Board to review the County's limited exemption laws, including their purpose, intent, and function within the County's development process. The Planning Board will compare Baltimore County's to other peer jurisdictions in Maryland and around the country, and make recommendations on whether any changes to our limited exemption law should be made, and if so, give suggested changes. These recommendations should come to the County Council prior to the start of the next Comprehensive Zoning Map Process in September, 2027.



County Council to Hold Hearing on Odd Fellows Lodge Landmark Status

The County Council has scheduled a public hearing to consider historic landmark status for the Upper Falls Oddfellows Hall, located at Raphel and Bradshaw Roads. Adding the property to the county landmarks list prevents demolition of the structure.

The hearing will be held on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 5 p.m., immediately preceding the legislative session, at 400 Washington Avenue in Towson. Anyone can attend the hearing either in-person or virtually. [Learn more here.](#)



Community Celebrates Renovated Perry Hall School

On August 22, the Perry Hall community celebrated the opening of the renovated historic Perry Hall School at 9317 Belair Road, which will now be United Hearts Adult Medical Daycare.

Built in 1928, the school originally housed six classrooms to serve the growing Perry Hall community. The building was later used as an "annex" in the 1970s to address school overcrowding. It then served as a community center and the Gribbin Center from 1987 until the early 2020s.

In 2025, Councilman Marks worked with the owners and the [Preservation Alliance of Baltimore County](#) to have the property added to the inventory of historic properties in Baltimore County.