

# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:** **TAKING STEPS TO MAKE OUR SCHOOLS SAFER**

On the first day of classes in 2012, my alma mater—Perry Hall High School—experienced a horrific shooting that injured one person and traumatized students and the wider community. I was there that afternoon, and it is one of the most vivid memories I have of my tenure on the County Council.



No child or educator should have to experience a shooting. While Washington and Annapolis deal with the debate over firearms, the County Council has taken steps to improve school safety.

Acting on a request from the County Executive, [the Council has approved \\$13.6 million on school safety technology](#). This has helped control visitors to schools, and allowed police officers to see school security camera video in real time.

School Resource Officers are essential. At Perry Hall High School, the two School Resource Officers have a new computer system that allows them to view data from more than sixty cameras at the campus. I am pushing for more School Resource Officers at some of our larger campuses.

I have attended numerous meetings on school discipline. There is an overwhelming concern about bullying and the need to address students with repeat offenses. I simply do not believe there is a culture of discipline throughout all our schools, and am looking for the Board of Education to provide leadership. There is amazing work being done at our public schools—few other Council districts can point to so many Blue Ribbon campuses, from Towson to Kingsville—but safety is a fundamental concern that needs to be addressed.

## **COUNCILMAN MARKS SPONSORS BILL TO TIGHTEN ANIMAL ABUSE STANDARDS**

Councilman Marks is a cosponsor with Councilman Tom Quirk of legislation that will tighten animal abuse standards and move investigations to the Police Department. Visit [here](#) to learn more about Oscar's Law, or review the legislation at [www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov).



## OAK CREST COMMUNITY CELEBRATES RENOVATIONS

Councilman Marks joined residents of the Oak Crest Community in celebrating the opening of the new fitness and aquatic center at the retirement community. The improvements are part of a \$15 million renovation project. Councilman Marks supported the bond that helped provide funding for this project—money that will be repaid.



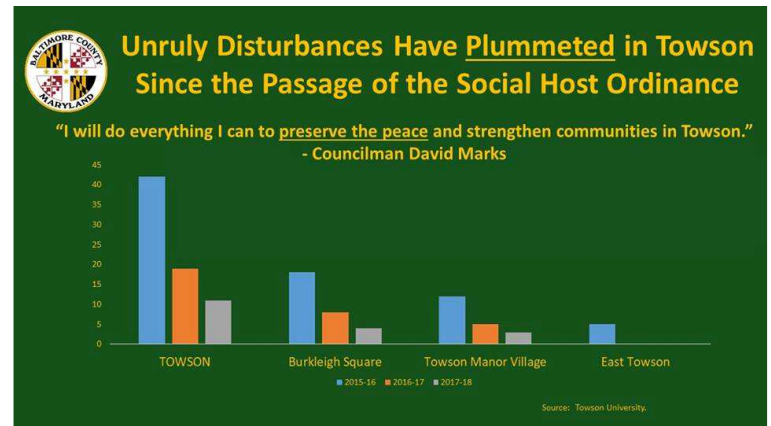
## COUNCIL PASSES LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE INPUT IN BUDGET PROCESS

Councilman Marks [cosponsored legislation that requires the County Executive](#) to hold two public meetings prior to the introduction of a budget proposal. The legislation was sponsored by Councilman Wade Kach and passed unanimously.

## UNRULY DISTURBANCES CONTINUE TO DECLINE IN TOWSON

More than two years ago, the County Council passed the social host ordinance, legislation designed to reduce unruly disturbances near colleges and

universities in Towson. The social host ordinance is working—this bill has helped cut unruly disturbances from 44 two years ago to 11 this academic year.



## WEIS MARKETS AT RENOVATED FULLERTON PLAZA TO OCCUR ON APRIL 12TH

The new Weis Markets at Fullerton Plaza will open on Thursday, April 12 at 6 a.m. The 67,500 square-foot store replaces a closed K-Mart location. Weis Markets estimates the project will create 140 new full- and part-time jobs. In addition to the employment impacts, the renovated Fullerton Plaza will greatly improve the appearance of this aging corridor.

## RIDGELEIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ADDED TO RAT ERADICATION PROGRAM

At the request of the Ridgeleigh Community Association, Councilman Marks advocated for this neighborhood to be added to the county's rat eradication program. [The County Executive subsequently announced the program](#) will be expanded to the Loch Raven Boulevard corridor. Communities receive two eight-week extermination treatments, increased garbage pickup, and educational outreach on rat control tips. Councilman Marks also recently arranged for several piles of garbage to be removed in Ridgeleigh, as well as the Planet-Aid bin that seemed to be a magnet for some of the dumping.