

# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:** **IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE IN BALTIMORE COUNTY**

Last winter, despite more than a dozen complaints to Baltimore County, a chow-chow named Oscar was allowed to die from hypothermia at his Arbutus home. Working with several animal advocates, Councilman Tom Quirk and I introduced “Oscar’s Law” to help prevent this from happening again.



[The legislation moves animal abuse investigations to the Police Department and establishes common sense metrics by which they can judge whether are problems.](#) Animal lovers come in all types – Democrats,

Republicans, and Independents alike – and I am proud of this bipartisan legislation. In particular, I would like to thank Darla Feeheley, Joy Freedman, and Julianne Zimmer for their exceptional leadership on this bill.

[We have made progress in Baltimore County over the past several years on animal welfare issues.](#) In 2015, the Baltimore County Council created an animal services advisory commission, and I believe this panel—led by Deborah Stone Hess—has helped pushed for reforms.

The county constructed a new, state-of-the-art animal shelter in Baldwin. The \$6.6 million shelter includes 22,400 square feet of space—double the previous amount. In addition, Baltimore County has worked aggressively to increase pet adoption. Live release rates reported to the state are now higher than ever before, with euthanasia cut significantly. We will continue to work for a better Baltimore County for all—humans and pets alike. Please stay inform at the Baltimore County Animal Services Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BaltCoAnimalServices>.

## **COUNCILMAN MARKS SPONSORS BILL TO IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF SETTLEMENTS**

Councilman Marks is sponsoring legislation that will provide greater oversight of legal settlements negotiated by Baltimore County. Currently, major settlements—such as the affordable housing agreement—do not require County Council approval. For more information, see [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/).

## PERRY HALL LIBRARY TAX-AIDE IS A SECOND YEAR SUCCESS

The Perry Hall Library Tax-Aide 2018 program completed its second year on April 16, serving 367 clients with 324 tax returns (both federal and state). Services were provided free of charge thanks to the AARP Tax-Aide program.

Since 1968, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteer-based program have helped nearly 50 million taxpayers offering free tax preparation help. The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has more than 5,000 locations across the United States. Many thanks to the staff of the Perry Hall Library and AARP Tax-Aide tax counselors and client facilitator for making 2018 a successful Tax-Aide tax season.



## WITH DUMBARTON MIDDLE RENOVATION, ALL FIFTH DISTRICT SCHOOLS AIR CONDITIONED

Educators, parents, and students will celebrate the renovation of Dumbarton Middle School at a ceremony on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. [This has been a priority for Councilman Marks, who secured the county share of the \\$28 million cost.](#) With the renovation of Dumbarton Middle School, every Fifth District public school is now air conditioned. The County Council will consider tax credit legislation at its early June meeting. The first bill would allow a

property tax credit for a person who is (1) at least 65 and has lived in the same dwelling for the preceding 40 years; or (2) at least 65 and a retired veteran. The amount of the credit may not exceed 10 percent or \$300, whichever is less, for Fiscal Year 2019 and 20 percent

## PERRY HALL TURF FIELD SET FOR SUMMER INSTALLATION

Perry Hall High School is set to have a new artificial turf field installed this summer. Councilman Marks has been working with the Perry Hall High School Athletic Boosters and local recreation leaders on this project for more than two years.

The Athletic Boosters need to raise a final \$10,000 for this project. Please consider joining the 100 for \$100 campaign. Visit [www.phhsboosterclub.org](http://www.phhsboosterclub.org) to make your tax-deductible donation today. A confirmation of your charitable contribution can be provided upon request. The Perry Hall High School Athletic Booster Club is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization; its Maryland tax exempt number is 52-1250968.

## RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP SET FOR MAY 12TH

Your garden can have a positive impact on the health of our local streams! Join the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's Clear Creeks Project for a FREE rain garden workshop on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at Zion United Church of Christ. Learn about Bay-Wise landscaping with native plants and then get hands-on experience planting a rain garden at the church. A rain garden is a special, water loving garden that helps soak up rain water from your roof or driveway.

This workshop is set for Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Zion United Church of Christ (8701 Cottington Road). Dress for yard work (closed-toe shoes, hat, sunscreen) and bring your own water bottle. Contact Amy Young, *Clear Creeks Project* Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator at [ayoung@gunpowdervc.org](mailto:ayoung@gunpowdervc.org) or (410) 404-4748.