



# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:** **NATIONWIDE INCREASE IN CRASHES IMPACTS COUNTY**

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented increase in traffic crashes. [About 38,680 people died in vehicle crashes last year](#), the highest number since 2007. Locally, we have experienced crash after crash, on both state and local roads.

Our office has worked with the Department of Public Works and residents to implement traffic calming in all parts of the Fifth District, from Stevenson Lane in Towson to Ebenezer Road in Perry Hall. The article below describes a new project along Forge Road. We have also pushed to make traffic calming criteria more flexible.

I often hear that the answer is “more police enforcement,” and that is true to an extent. All three precincts have stepped up speed enforcement, but we simply do not have enough police to patrol every corridor all the time. There are also many routes, such as in Kingsville, where we have no shoulders where police can park their vehicles.



We need more traffic calming and better signage, including along state routes like Belair and York Roads. But I also want to pursue changes in policy, and to focus on specific projects, such as a new traffic circle or light at Cross Road and Honeygo Boulevard.

I encourage you to sign the petition at this Web Site: <https://www.change.org/p/baltimore-county-department-of-public-works-make-honeygo-boulevard-cross-road-safer>. You may also contact the County Executive’s office at [johnnyo@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:johnnyo@baltimorecountymd.gov).



## **TRAFFIC CALMING APPROVED FOR ALONG FORGE ROAD**

The Baltimore County Department of Public Works has approved a traffic calming project along the eastern end of Forge Road east of the Perry Hall Farms neighborhood. Seven speed bumps will be installed during the next construction season. To apply for traffic calming, please visit this page: [https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/publicworks/traffic/traffic\\_calming.html](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/publicworks/traffic/traffic_calming.html).

## COUNTY CONTINUES DISTRIBUTION OF FREE TESTING KITS

The Baltimore County Council has supported efforts to accelerate the purchase of COVID-19 testing kits, which are in short supply. More than 300,000 kits have been ordered for distribution to students and other county residents. Please visit the following Web Site to find a distribution site near you, as well as learn about testing and vaccination opportunities: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/covid-19/testing>

## TOWN HALL MEETING TO DISCUSS UPCOMING BUDGET

Baltimore County Executive Olszewski will hold town hall meetings with each of the seven Councilmembers to solicit feedback for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023 budget. The Fifth District town hall meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. It will be a virtual setting. Learn more here: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/executive/townhallmeetings.html>

## WHOLE FOODS MARKET OPENS, AN EXCITING MILESTONE FOR DOWNTOWN TOWSON

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Whole Foods Market opened in Downtown Towson, the commercial cornerstone of the Towson Row development. Whole Foods Market adds an exciting new option for consumers. The store sells more than 1,000 locally made seafood, artisan cheese and bakery items. Over the past decade, Downtown Towson has benefited from more than \$1 billion in private investment. A new park has been created at Patriot Plaza, and [the Towson Loop offers free transit service throughout the area.](#)

## NATIONAL RETAILER TO OPEN AT VACANT LOCATION AT NORTH PLAZA

Three years after [Floor & Decor opened a 1.5 million-square-foot warehouse in Baltimore County](#), the national retailer is launching its first big box store in Greater Baltimore at the North Plaza Shopping Center. Floor & Decor will fill 86,000 square feet of space where the Kmart has been shuttered for several years. The store is expected to open this summer.

## CONSTRUCTION ADVANCES ON TWO NEW SCHOOLS

Construction continues on the new elementary school at Rossville Boulevard, and on January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Baltimore County Board of Education approved \$96 million in construction contracts for the new middle school at King Avenue. Councilman Marks thanks Fifth District Board member Julie Henn and all state and local stakeholders for their support of this school, expected to open in 2024.

