

# County Councilman David Marks

## Fifth District Newsletter

**Contact our Office:**  
 Historic Courthouse  
 400 Washington Avenue  
 Towson, MD 21204  
 (410) 887-3384  
[council5@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:council5@baltimorecountymd.gov)



**Click to Follow Online:**



Serving Towson, Loch Raven Village, Carney, Oak Crest Village, Fullerton, Perry Hall, and Kingsville

## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:** **TWO BIG CHALLENGES: PUBLIC SAFETY AND BUDGET**

The two biggest challenges facing Baltimore County relate to public safety and the budget.

Baltimore County needs to be continually vigilant in keeping our neighborhoods safe. [On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, I cosponsored a town hall meeting](#) with Senator Kathy Klausmeier in which more than 400 residents interacted with our police captains. We have an excellent police force, but I believe we must do a better job of attracting officers—particularly newer recruits—to live in Baltimore County neighborhoods. We need to strengthen our community relationships as well, which is why I encourage you to join the groups described below.

We also need to add more police positions—and that involves the budget. To avoid raising tax rates over the past three decades, the county has utilized either pay-as-you-go funding or debt financing. The county's strong bond rating means it can borrow at a lower rate, but the level of debt financing is unsustainable.



Our biggest costs are related to school construction. [Baltimore County must build at least three—and probably four—new high schools at a cost of at least \\$100 million each.](#) Two of these are Towson High School and a new campus that will be needed in northeastern Baltimore County

Governor Hogan's school construction announcement provides some hope that the state will be a partner as we try to identify ways of funding school construction. Please stay informed over the next few months.

## **BE AWARE OF POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS**

The best way to stay engaged with our safety efforts is through Police Community Relations Councils. The Towson precinct meets on fourth Tuesdays at the Hillendale Resource Center (1055 Taylor Avenue); Parkville meets on fourth Tuesdays at Christus Victor Lutheran Church (9833 Harford Road); and White Marsh meets second Tuesdays at the White Marsh precinct (9220 Perry Hall Boulevard). All meetings are at 7 p.m.

## JOIN THE BALTIMORE COUNTY CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizens' Police Academy is a 16-week program, held annually, that gives attendees the opportunity to learn about the challenges and demands associated with law enforcement. The 38<sup>th</sup> Citizens' Police Academy is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup> every Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. There is one Saturday session to be scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To learn more, contact (410) 887-5901 or [citizensacademy@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:citizensacademy@baltimorecountymd.gov).

To apply, visit the following link:

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/police/community/citizensacademy.html>.

## ENJOY BALTIMORE COUNTY RESTAURANT WEEK

Sixty-two restaurants are participating in Baltimore County's Winter Restaurant Week, offering specials from January 18 through February 2. The participating restaurants from across the County will feature special menus at discounted, fixed prices, offering one to three course brunch, lunch and dinner specials ranging from \$15 to \$35. Learn more at <https://www.baltimorecountyrestaurantweek.com>.

## HOW FREEZING ROADS ARE ADDRESSED IN THE COUNTY

Every winter, the Baltimore County Department of Public Works receives calls about water freezing on County roads. During the rest of the year, there is a steady stream of complaints about broken or leaking water mains, hydrants, and meters, and seeping groundwater—especially prevalent in recent years due to the extremely wet weather.

To report any water issue – whatever the season, whatever the reason – constituents should call the

Bureau of Utilities at (410) 887-7415. This number is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Bureau of Utilities investigates, logs, and monitors water problems. If a water main or meter is leaking or has failed, the Bureau of Utilities contacts Baltimore City's water maintenance division, which assigns crews to eventually fix the problem.

Baltimore City schedules repairs based on a priority list, and because the water system is operated by Baltimore City, emergency repairs are the City's responsibility. The County does keep in touch with City utility engineers to ensure that County streets get the attention they deserve.

If the water is determined to be groundwater, solutions are investigated. Groundwater issues tend to be much more difficult to quickly permanently resolve. In either case, Utilities coordinates with the Bureau of Highways on the necessary salting of County public roads for the maintenance of public safety.



## STAY UPDATED ON WEATHER EMERGENCIES

In the event of weather emergencies, stay informed through Baltimore County's Stormfighter page: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/StormFighter/index.html>. This is also the Internet site where residents can report storm-related issues such as downed trees. For an emergency, dial 911.