

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **VIRUS WILL IMPACT COUNTY FOR YEARS TO COME**

The 2020 coronavirus pandemic has been an unprecedented event for many of us.

The majority of Americans alive today have never experienced quarantines, the closure of public places, and shortages of basic materials.

I am using this edition of the Fifth District newsletter to outline the actions implemented by the state and county governments. Once this passes, life will resume—but not as normal. The coronavirus will impact Baltimore County for years to come.

For my entire tenure as Councilman, we have enjoyed budget surpluses and the benefits of a strong economy. Tougher times will mean fewer jobs, less tax revenue and a reprioritization of priorities.

Our restaurants, shopping centers, and other local businesses have been devastated by closures, and I will do what I can to support our entrepreneurs as they recover. In communities such as Downtown Towson, the presence of Towson University and Goucher

College helps us as institutions of higher learning tend to be more resilient during recessions.

If there has been one bit of good news over the past few weeks, it was [the passage of the Build to Learn Act](#) by the Maryland General Assembly, which will jumpstart our school construction process. Not only does the Build to Learn Act advance three new school projects that affect the Fifth District, but construction jobs will help our local economy.

The other silver lining has been the outpouring of goodness among so many of our neighbors who have wanted to help others,

Moving forward, I will do my best as your Councilman to provide steady leadership to support our businesses, families, and communities. Please stay safe during these difficult times.

KNOW HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Status of Baltimore County Services:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/coronavirus.html>

Updates from the State of Maryland:

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

County Hotline for Questions or Concerns: 410-887-3616



KNOW THE LATEST ACTIONS ON THE CORONAVIRUS

Mandatory Employee Telework: Baltimore County has mandated telework for all employees who are able to do so.

Department of Recreation and Parks Providing Meals: The Department of Recreation and Parks will be offering limited meal distribution to children 18 and under through the Maryland Food Bank and Healthy Food Access St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore. The Department will offer the take-away meals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays. Meals will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at the following locations in central and eastern Baltimore County:

Dundalk PAL Center, 15 Commerce Place, Dundalk, Maryland 21222

Mars Estates PAL Center, 1498 East Homberg Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21221

Shady Spring PAL Center, 8876 Goldenwood Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21237

Hillendale PAL Center, 1111 Halstead Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Cockeysville PAL Center, 9836 Greenside Drive, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

Baltimore County Public Schools Meals: [Free meals are available](#) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at three sites serving the Fifth District: Carney, Oakleigh, and Pleasant Plains Elementary Schools.

Water Shutoffs Halted: County Executive Johnny Olszewski and Mayor Young announced that neither municipality will turn off water service for failure to pay.

Evictions Suspended: All evictions have been suspended for the duration of the state of emergency in the County.

Government Building Restrictions: County government buildings are available to the public through appointment only.

Extension of Licenses and Permits: County Executive Olszewski issued an Executive Order providing an extension of all County licenses, permits, registrations and other authorizations until 30 days following the end of the local state of emergency. This applies to suspensions concerning payments of late fees owed to Baltimore County.

Baltimore County Public Libraries Closed: All Baltimore County Public Library branch locations are closed.

Baltimore County Senior Centers Closed: All Baltimore County Senior Centers will be closed to the public until further notice. Seniors can call the Maryland Access Point hotline at 410-887-2594. Calls are answered by a team of Certified Information and Assistance Specialists (CIRS), Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Department of Recreation and Parks Buildings Closed: All Department of Recreation and Parks buildings are closed to the public until further notice. County parks, trails and open spaces remain open to the public. All dog parks, playgrounds, skate parks, comfort stations and portable toilets are closed.

COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS FORM

Given how much time many of us are spending at home these days, there is plenty of time to complete the 2020 Census if you have not yet. This count is more important than ever given the ongoing public health situation. Baltimore County will need its fair share of federal dollars, which are distributed according to census numbers. This money supports emergency services, free and reduced school lunches, and much more.

The once per decade Census is now live and online at <https://www.2020census.gov>. It takes only a few minutes. You do not even need the 12-digit Census Access Code from the Census mailing. Just use your address. You can also complete the Census by telephone at 844-330-2020.