

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **MORE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES FOR SENIORS**

[More than 25 percent of Baltimore County's population is estimated to include senior citizens.](#) Put another way, there are more seniors than school-age children. The growth of our senior population is occurring throughout the United States, but especially in Baltimore County.

Our housing, unfortunately, does not reflect that dynamic. We have too few options for seniors who want either apartment-style living, or low-level villas. I hear from seniors all the time who feel forced to move to Harford County or other jurisdictions, leaving their children and grandchildren behind.

Senior housing not only provides for a growing part of our population, but it has no impact on our overcrowded schools.

For those reasons, I have urged developers to focus on senior communities instead of traditional housing. In Perry Hall, most of the units approved during my ten years on the Baltimore County Council have been in

senior housing, including the Brightview Perry Hall and Chapel Springs developments. There are now two proposed senior projects that could have easily been traditional housing. One is at Belair and Forge Roads, where the developer has proposed replacing a big-box parcel with a small senior community. Another is at the Gerst Farm, where 70 percent of the latest proposed development will include low-level senior villas. Originally, the developer wanted a much larger project with no age-restricted housing.

Other amenities and services are important for this population. In Towson, for instance, [we are creating a circulator](#) to improve mobility for all residents—including seniors—and [upgrades are occurring to the Seven Oaks Senior Center](#) to accommodate this growing location. I will continue to push for more services and communities to accommodate this growing population.

David Marks

TWO PROJECTS TO OPEN IN DOWNTOWN TOWSON



The 101 York and a significant portion of the Towson Row project in Downtown Towson project will open in August. At [the Altus apartments at Towson Row](#), first floor tenants will also include a wine and spirits store, a nail salon and a BurgerFi restaurant, the gourmet burger chain's second Baltimore County location.

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION ON WATER SHUTOFF, ADEQUATE FACILITIES

At its meeting on August 4th, the County Council [will consider legislation sponsored by Councilman Marks that would prohibit water shutoffs](#) without community notification unless there is an emergency. The bill was prompted by a situation in early June where hundreds of Seven Courts residents lacked water during 90 degree weather.

The County Council will also consider a resolution sponsored by Councilman Marks that will create a task force to review the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which regulates development in school districts.

To learn about all legislation sponsored by Councilman Marks and his colleagues, visit <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/index.html>.

TESTING, RESOURCES AVAILABLE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The most fundamental responsibility of local government is maintaining the public safety and health of its citizens. Please keep in mind COVID-19 testing opportunities, as well as the face mask requirement and social distancing. The county's COVID-19 response can be found here:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/COVID19/index.html>

Baltimore County is now partnering with the Maryland Food Bank to expand food access at seven locations throughout the county. Learn more [here](#). Additionally, the county continues to support the Student Support Network with its weekly distribution at Parkville High School and Loch Raven Technical Academy, every Friday at 11 a.m.

NEW COVID-19 GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Baltimore County has rolled out the Small Business COVID-19 Reimbursement Grant Program, a \$3 million grant fund to reimburse service industry businesses for investments to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The program will offer grants of up to \$10,000. This program started on July 15th. For more information about the COVID-19 Reimbursement Grant Program, please visit the [Small Business Reimbursement Grant Program page](#).

ONLINE DISCUSSION PLANNED ON TRASH AND RECYCLING

Baltimore County Councilman David Marks will sponsor an online discussion to allow residents to ask questions about trash and recycling.

The guest will be Scott Krell from Baltimore County's Department of Public Works. The meeting will be held on Monday, August 3rd at 3 p.m. and last for one hour. The meeting can be accessed through Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84856308899>. The meeting ID is 848 5630 8899. For those who need to call in, the number is 929 205 609.

Trash and recycling collection is a fundamental job for local government. At the same time, residents need to understand the rules for putting out materials, including when they are allowed to do so to reduce the likelihood of rats. Councilman Marks and Mr. Krell will be available to answer any questions during this online discussion.

