

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **RECOGNIZING GOOD DEEDS IN TRYING TIMES**

This is the 120th edition of the Fifth District newsletter. Our office has published a newsletter every month for the decade I have served on the Baltimore County Council.

Times have changed. The district has been transformed in many places—eight new parks, school improvements, redevelopment in Downtown Towson, Perry Hall, and along the Joppa Road corridor. In 2010, the county was on the cusp of a booming economy that produced hundreds of millions of dollars in extra revenue.

Today, we are dealing with [a public health emergency](#), [a ransomware attack on our county computer system](#), and an economy reeling from closed businesses. This has been an extraordinarily challenging year.

As Councilman, I have done my best to support our frontline workers and those households and businesses impacted by this year's challenges. We are persevering, however, because of many people who are setting an example of generosity and kindness. Traditionally, our office honors outstanding volunteers as Citizens of the Year—but this year, many should be thanked.

To our frontline health and safety workers, *thank you.*

To county employees who have gone above and beyond to support our businesses and neighborhoods, *thank you.*



To educators and parents who are doing their best in an unconventional learning environment, *thank you.*

To our volunteers who distribute food and household goods—such as those in the Student Support Network—*thank you.*

Let's hope for a better 2021.

TRAFFIC CALMING APPROVED IN SEVEN COURTS DRIVE CORRIDOR



Baltimore County has approved a traffic calming plan for Hickoryhurst Drive in Perry Hall. The \$60,000 initiative will involve construction of five speed bumps and raised intersections. Signatures were collected by the Seven Courts Area Citizens on Patrol. For more information, visit: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/publicworks/traffic/traffic-calming.html>.

WEB SITE PROVIDES BASIC DETAILS ABOUT SCHOOL SYSTEM'S RESPONSE TO RANSOMWARE ATTACK

Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) is publishing updates for students and parents on how to access classes as a result of the recent ransomware attack. Updates may be found here:

<https://www.bcps.org/updates>.

As of December 7th, the Superintendent and his staff have provided very little information to the Baltimore County Council about the nature of this attack. The report in the *Baltimore Brew* provides an accurate summary of a recent meeting between the Superintendent and the County Council:

<https://www.baltimorebrew.com/2020/12/04/bcps-stonewalls-county-council-members-at-meeting-over-ransomware-attack>.

COUNCILMAN MARKS CREATES TASK FORCE TO FOCUS ON NORTHWEST PERRY HALL

Councilman Marks has created a community-based task force to develop recommendations for improving the look of new development near the intersection of Honeygo Boulevard and Belair Road.

Some of the area is already under construction. In 2000, Councilman Marks' predecessor zoned the southeastern corner for commercial development. The approved uses include a Wawa gasoline station, an Autobell car wash, and a Valvoline service center. Councilman Marks was able to persuade the Lidl supermarket to move elsewhere, re-purposing the Mars supermarket at Silver Spring Road.

The developer has subsequently proposed building four-story condominiums in back of the commercial development, which Councilman Marks has opposed.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON FINAL PHASE OF RADEBAUGH PARK

Construction has started on the final phase of Radebaugh Park in eastern Towson. Access to the park will be restricted while the county installs trails and makes other improvements. The project is expected to open by mid-2021, and will be the eighth new park to be completed in the Fifth District since 2010.

[Councilman Marks thanks the Green Towson Alliance and neighborhood leaders for their advocacy of this park](#), which will serve one of the most densely-populated areas in Towson. The following photograph was taken at Nathan Letocha's Eagle Scout project in 2019. Nathan raised funds and led a group of volunteers that installed trees and other landscaping at the park.



LEARN ABOUT COVID-19 RESOURCES AND RESTRICTIONS

Information about Baltimore County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/covid-19>. More specifically:

- The Department of Health operates a hotline to call with questions or concern at 410-887-3816.
- [COVID-19 tests are available at the Dundalk, Lansdowne, and Liberty health centers by appointment only. The Timonium location offers drive-through testing without appointments.](#)