

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

Volume 161
May 2024

Message from Councilman Marks



Reforming Our Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance

One of the most persistent problems impacting schools has been overcrowding. As Councilman, I have worked to reduce overcrowding by [downzoning land](#), pushing for more senior-restricted development, and working with other elected officials to open more schools - [three in the northeast](#), as well as [an expansion of Pine Grove Middle School](#).

Despite all these efforts, there are serious structural issues that need to be addressed through legislation. That is why I am cosponsoring legislation that reforms the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO), the statute that governs how development is approved in school districts. The bill is sponsored by Councilman Izzy Patoka, chair of the County Council.

The current APFO has been widely criticized by many community leaders and parents as allowing development in areas where schools exceed their state-rated capacities.

The legislation has several important elements, all of which reflect the recommendations of the task force we created to look at overcrowding.

- The bill shifts the timing of the school capacity adequacy test so that it occurs prior to the issuing of a building permit.
- It adjusts the definition of an overcrowded school district from 115 to 100 percent of State Rated Capacity.
- The bill eliminates the “adjacent district” exception that has allowed development to proceed if there is a capacity in another school zone.
- The legislation also creates an intergovernmental committee to address school overcrowding, to be staffed by the Department of Planning.

As an educator, I have experienced the impact of larger classes on academic achievement—and as a parent and Baltimore County Public Schools graduate, know firsthand that we need smaller classes in the future. You can learn more [about the bill here](#).

Councilman David Marks

Serving the Eastside: Carney, Perry Hall, Kingsville, White Marsh, Chase, Bowleys Quarters, and Middle River

In this Issue

- ▶ **Budget Advances New Perry Hall Park, Road Safety Projects**
- ▶ **Second Medic Unit to Be Installed at White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company**
- ▶ **Councilman Marks Proposes Charter Change to Improve Input on Planning Board Appointees**
- ▶ **Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association Celebrates 85th Birthday**
- ▶ **Councilman Marks Pushes for Review of Traffic Calming Program**
- ▶ **Family Fest @ 43 Planned for May 18th**
- ▶ **Congratulation, Kingsville Patriots and Defenders!**

Contact Our Office

Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 887-3384
council5@baltimorecountymd.gov

Follow Us Online



@countycouncilmandavidmarks



@david_s_marks

Budget Advances New Perry Hall Park, Road Safety Projects

In April, County Executive Olszewski presented his proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget. Among other items, the administration has proposed funding for the following projects:

- The initial phase of funding to purchase most of the C.P. Crane property in Bowleys Quarters for a new park;
- Funding to complete the new Nottingham Middle School;
- \$400,000 to design and engineer the 22-acre Gerst Road Park in Perry Hall;
- \$400,000 to construct traffic calming on Campbell Boulevard near the Windlass Run community;
- \$400,000 to construct a traffic signal at Campbell Boulevard and Bird River Road; and
- \$400,000 to assess drainage problems in the Oliver Beach community.

Councilman Marks has also confirmed that Honeygo Boulevard will be resurfaced from Joppa to Ebenezer Roads in the spring of 2025.

Second Medic Unit to Be Installed at White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company

One of Councilman Marks' top priorities has been to establish more ambulance and fire services throughout the Eastside. Last year, he was approached by the White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company about securing a second medic unit at the station, one of the busiest in eastern Baltimore County. Thanks to support in the county budget, a donation from the developer of Pulaski Crossing, and donations from businesses and families, the second medic unit will soon become a reality.

Councilman Marks Proposes Charter Changes to Improve Input on Planning Board Appointees

Councilman Marks has introduced legislation that would allow for the public and the County Council to review those individuals nominated for the Planning Board, an important body that makes land use and zoning recommendations. Right now, almost all the Planning Board members are nominated without public review. The legislation has five sponsors, which means that if the County Council approves the measure, it would advance to the general election for approval as a charter change.

Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association Celebrates 85th Birthday

On May 4th, Councilman Marks joined community members and other elected officials at the 85th birthday celebration for the Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association. The BQIA is now one of the busiest community organizations on the waterfront.



Councilman Marks Pushes for Review of Traffic Calming Program

Councilman Marks has asked the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation to review the county's traffic calming program to improve transparency and openness. Right now, there is a third-party review underway. Last month, the county ignored Councilman Marks' proposal for a "middle ground" when the Kingsville community was divided on whether to install seven speed humps on the eastern side of Mount Vista Road.

Family Fest @ 43 Planned for May 18th

The Family Fest @ 43 is set for Saturday, May 18th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 415 Williams Court in the Greenleigh community. The festival is sponsored by the Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce. [Learn more here.](#)

Congratulations, Kingsville Patriots!

On May 4th, Councilman Marks joined Delegates Ryan Nawrocki and Kathy Szeliga in honoring 28 students who completed the Kingsville Elementary School Patriotic Program. The program—one of the oldest of its kind in the kind in Baltimore County—recognizes students who have an outstanding knowledge of history and citizenship.

