

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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Message from Councilman Marks



County to Preserve Open Space at C.P. Crane Property

In 2022, I pledged to the Bowleys Quarters and Seneca Park communities to do whatever I could to preserve as much open space at the former C.P. Crant plant as possible. We were able to block plans for commercial and development, and we worked with other elected officials to secure funding to purchase the land from the current owner, Forsite Development Partners.

I am very pleased that Baltimore County has signed a Letter of Intent to purchase the bulk of the property, with a small portion to remain privately-owned for a battery storage facility. The beautiful waterfront that surrounds Carroll Island and Seneca Creek will be free from any development that brings traffic and unwanted activities to this area.

I would like to thank County Executive Olszewski and his staff for their support. This Letter of Intent required months of negotiations, and the purchase will involve millions of dollars in open space acquisition funding. I would also like to acknowledge Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger for his efforts to obtain federal funding; Senator J.B. Jennings and Delegates Ryan Nawrocki and Kathy Szeliga for securing state resources; and the community leaders and residents who testified at numerous public meetings.

This purchase not only helps create a network of green space that stretches from Carroll Island to Gunpowder Falls State Park, but it reduces development and traffic congestion along the Eastern Avenue corridor.

Councilman David Marks

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

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New Master Plan Sets Overall Land Use Policy for Next Decade

At its meeting on February 20, the Baltimore County Council adopted a new Master Plan to help guide land use and budgeting decisions over the next decade. Councilman Marks has advocated for preserving green space and the county's farming areas, and redeveloping aging areas, such as communities along Belair and Harford Roads. The plan prioritizes the reform of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to address school overcrowding and traffic congestion.

The Plan includes several amendments sponsored by Councilman Marks to reflect the unique character of the Fifth District:

- The plan directs county government to initiate a separate planning effort for White Marsh Mall, the town center, and the Middle River area.
- Councilman Marks blocked a controversial industrial development at the Lafarge Quarry last spring; the Master Plan identifies conservation and compatible development for this site, as identified through a planning effort or an overlay zone, with the requirement that a connection be constructed to White Marsh Boulevard.
- The plan prohibits the expansion of Chapel Road in Perry Hall and Ebenezer Road in White Marsh and any connection of Gunview Road to Belair Road or Forge Road to Belair Road.
- The plan urges that sewer extensions be driven by health concerns—not development.
- One of Councilman Marks' amendments prioritizes investment in the Belmont-Dunfield community, an aging community.

For more information on the Master Plan, [click here](#).

Improvements Made to Wilson Point Park

Acting on a request from constituents, Councilman Marks requested changes to improve the appearance of the park and limit illegal access. The Department of Recreation and Parks and the county's Property Management Division installed four new benches and bollards to eliminate illegal access from the woods.



Community Celebrates New Aero Acres Tot Lot

Councilman Marks recently joined residents of Aero Acres and his colleagues from the state legislature and Department of Recreation and Parks at a ribbon-cutting for the new tot lot in Aero Acres.



Agreement Reached to Preserve Old Perry Hall School

An agreement has been reached to preserve the old Perry Hall School - known by many as the Annex - as a historical landmark, forever protected from demolition. The Kraus family, which now owns the property, will renovate and repurpose the building, and Councilman Marks will support rezoning it for appropriate uses.

Built around 1925, the structure housed students until Baltimore County Public Schools opened the current elementary school in 1956. It was also used to house students during several period of overcrowding in the 1970s, earning the name "the Perry Hall Annex." Most recently, it has been owned and operated by Catholic Charities of Baltimore as the Gribbin Center, serving those with developmental disabilities.



Councilman Marks Supports Crematorium Distance Requirements

Councilman Marks supports legislation that would establish statewide standards for cremation facilities. Bradley Lang from his office testified on behalf of Senate Bill 893. [Cremation facilities are proposed near residential neighborhoods along Philadelphia Road and Govans in north Baltimore.](#)

It's Official: Nottingham Middle School Opening in Fall 2024

In February, Baltimore County announced that Nottingham Middle School will be the name of the new middle school on King Avenue. The 1400-student campus will be the first middle school to open on the Eastside in a half-century, alleviating school overcrowding throughout the northeast.

