

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **CONTINUING TO REFORM THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

Since my election in 2010, I have worked to improve and reform the development process. In many cases, we were able to find common ground between community groups and builders.

One of my very first bills as a Councilman required a [community input meeting near the site of a proposed development](#).

Several months later, the Baltimore County Council was embroiled in a dispute over a Planned Unit Development, which is a special project that gives a builder increased flexibility. In helping to resolve this dispute, [I offered an amendment that required broader community input when a Planned Unit Development is considered](#). The *Baltimore Sun* wrote that “Mr. Marks’ amendment adds some rigor and transparency to the early stages of the process — and makes the council member more accountable for the final result.”

In 2015, I modified the law to require open space fees for developments in Downtown Towson, a change

which increased funding for projects such as the expansion of Towson Manor Park. Last year, [I was the lead sponsor of the legislation that required developers to pay for improvements to schools and roads](#).



Today, a task force is reviewing the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which regulates development in school districts. I look forward to receiving those recommendations so we can continue to improve communities in Baltimore County.



FUNDRAISER RAISES MONEY FOR OFFICER CAPRIO PLAYGROUND

In 2018, Officer Amy Caprio was murdered while investigating an incident in Perry Hall. The neighbors impacted by this incident have organized to build a playground at Gunpowder Elementary School in her honor. Councilman Marks is working with state legislators to support that effort. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/caprioplayground/>.

FORGE ROAD PROJECT IS 75 PERCENT FINISHED

Councilman Marks has received many questions about the Forge Road water project. The project is currently approximately 75 percent completed. When the installation of the water main and services is completed, Baltimore County will be resurfacing the travel lane that includes the trench. Paving will either occur in the late fall or early spring, weather permitting.

PUTTY HILL BRIDGE TO BE RECONSTRUCTED IN 2021

Councilman Marks has also received many questions about the upcoming reconstruction of the Putty Hill Avenue bridge. Tree-trimming work is being performed in preparation of the utility relocation efforts that will be required prior to the start of construction. These relocation activities are occurring in late 2020 and early 2021. Once the utility relocations are complete, the construction will begin, probably around the summer of 2021.



LEARN ABOUT HOW TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Baltimore County is not banning Halloween. The

county does, however, encourage you and our family to follow guidance put out by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC has information about how to prepare for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and other holidays. Read about that guidance here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>.

RESULTS TO BE SHARED FROM SURVEY ON STONELEIGH SHOPPING DISTRICT

In late August, Councilman Marks commissioned a task force that included residents from southern Towson to survey their neighbors regarding their vision for the local shopping district. The primary purpose of the survey was to learn the community's preferences for the types of businesses it would like to see along York Road corridor between Dumbarton and Overlook Roads. The results of the survey were strong and clear. Councilman Marks read the results of the survey, took note of the desires of the community, and responded by rezoning York Road in southern Towson just days later.

Michael Boyes and Cristina Salazar did a terrific job compiling the results of the survey. They will be sharing those results in a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, September 30th at 7:30 p.m. In short:

- People from virtually every neighborhood were well represented.
- Women responded in greater numbers than men as is typical in market research.
- The current establishments in the shopping district are well suited to the community's wants.
- The addition of a locally owned coffee shop/bakery would please many residents, as would another locally owned dine-in restaurant, produce market or a bookstore. The community is unified over the height of buildings in the area should they be remodeled or replaced someday.

The public is invited to the Zoom presentation through <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84768840854>.