

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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Message from Councilman Marks

Reflecting on a Productive 2023

I would like to thank all those with whom we have worked over the past year. This has been an extraordinarily busy and productive year, and it would not have been possible without the partnership of so many community leaders, volunteers, and partners. Five important milestones stand out:



1. **We blocked an overdevelopment of the Lafarge Quarry,** listening to residents who were concerned about an increase in truck traffic on Ebenezer Road and changes to the rural quality of life in this part of eastern Baltimore County.
2. **Our White Marsh Town Center Task Force presented thoughtful recommendations** for the future of the mall and surrounding areas, and I passed legislation that eliminated more than 300 apartments near the library.
3. We worked with our County Executive, state legislators, and federal partners to **advance the acquisition of the former C.P. Crant plant in the Bowleys Quarters area for a new park.**
4. **We created the Middle River Commercial Revitalization District** to improve the look and economic vitality of Eastern Avenue, and passed legislation that bolstered the redevelopment of the Middle River Depot.
5. **We filed more than 140 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process issues** to ensure a good balance between future economic growth and the needs of our communities.

2024 promises to be an equally busy year. One of the most significant milestones will be the opening of the new middle school on King Avenue and completion of a major renovation at Pine Grove Middle School. The opening of these new schools will eliminate overcrowding at our northeastern middle schools.

No elected official is successful without community leaders who communicate their needs and improve those neighborhoods they represent. Since my election to the Baltimore County Council, I have implemented a Citizen of the Year program to recognize outstanding community volunteers. This year, our office is recognizing Bob Bendler and Josh Sines from the Essex-Middle River Civic Council; Jim and Joanne Hock from the Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association; Allen Robertson from the Bowleys Quarters Community Association; Heather Patti from the White Marsh Cowenton Community Association; and Bev German, our Fifth District Planning Board member.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and happy new year.

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

In this Issue

- ▶ **Councilman Marks Proposes to Block Development on Thousands of Acres**
- ▶ **Councilman Marks Passes Bill to Exempt Fast Food, Pharmacies from Paper Bag Fee**
- ▶ **Meeting Set for Wilson Point Sewer Project**
- ▶ **Intersection Improvements Planned at Bradshaw and Philadelphia Roads**
- ▶ **Learn More About the Honeygo/Cross Traffic Circle Project**

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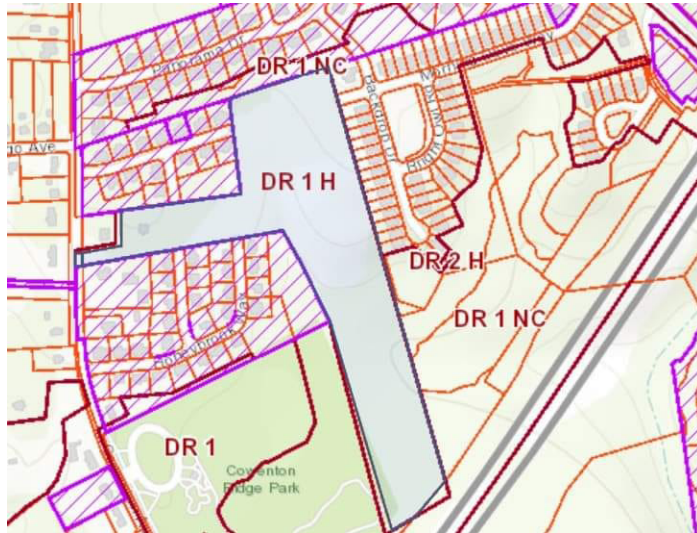
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Councilman Marks Proposes to Block Development on Thousands of Acres

As part of the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process, Councilman Marks has proposed downzoning thousands of acres of land to protect open space and limit development throughout the Fifth District. In other cases, he has raised issues so the community can help inform the Planning Board and County Council their preferences. **The rezoning initiative is the most extensive** ever undertaken in communities south of Pulaski Highway. Learn more [here](#).



Councilman Marks Passes Bill to Exempt Fast Food, Pharmacies from Paper Bag Fee

In November, Baltimore County Councilman David Marks passed Bill 72-23, which exempts fast food restaurants and pharmacies from any charges related to the Bring Your Own Bag Act. The legislation, which passed 6 to 1, can be [found here](#).

The legislation adds package bulk items, pharmacies and fast food restaurants to the list of exempted businesses. Restaurants often need paper bags to avoid food contamination.

Councilman Marks also supported exempting liquor stores and other small businesses.

Restaurants such as McDonalds and Chick-Fil-A are not required to charge anyone for a paper bag. They are wrongly assessing the fee, which they collect themselves. Baltimore County receives no revenue.

Meeting Set for Wilson Point Sewer Project

Baltimore County will hold a community meeting on Monday, December 11 at Victory Villa Community Center from 6 to 7 p.m. to discuss the Wilson Point sewer project. The center is located at 404 Compass Road in Middle River.

Intersection Improvements Planned at Bradshaw and Philadelphia Roads

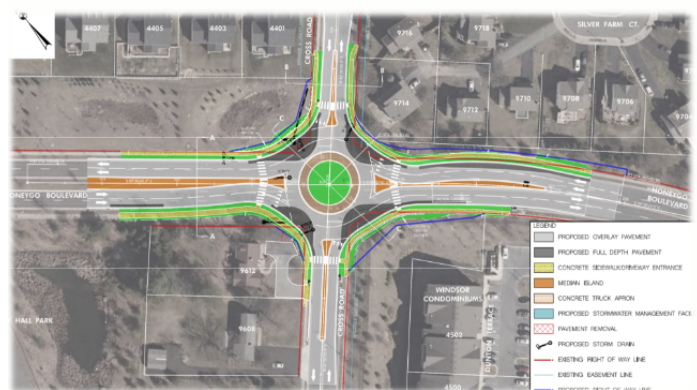
At the request of a Kingsville resident, Councilman David Marks contacted the Maryland State Highway Administration regarding safety issues at the intersection of Bradshaw Road and Philadelphia Road. The state will be replacing the existing advance intersection warning sign with a new, larger sign to enhance visibility along eastbound Philadelphia Road.

Learn More About the Honeygo/Cross Traffic Circle Project

In November, Councilman Marks and the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation held a community meeting to discuss the traffic circle planned for Honeygo Boulevard and Cross Road. If you missed the meeting, here are some key details.

For more than a decade, Councilman Marks and residents have pushed for improvements to this busy intersection, one heavily impacted by growing traffic from Harford County. In 2022, County Executive Olszewski and Councilman Marks announced funding in the capital budget to design and build the traffic circle. A traffic light was considered, but it does not meet the standards set by the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for this intersection.

The project is currently being designed. The new dual traffic circle will be able to accommodate all forms of traffic, including school buses and emergency vehicles. Four private properties and an existing fire hydrant will be impacted, requiring negotiation and consultation with propertyowners. Construction is set to begin in 2025 on the \$2 million project. Please keep updated on Councilman Marks's social media pages and future issues of this newsletter.



Plan of Proposed Roundabout