



County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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

Follow us Online:



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

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **PROVIDING INPUT ON THE NEXT COUNTY BUDGET**

Baltimore County has started planning for the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. [The budget not only finances police, firefighters, teachers, and other county employees, but also capital projects such as roads, schools, and parks.](#)

Since 2019, Baltimore County Olszewski and each of the seven Councilmembers have held town hall meetings to engage the public about what should be included in the budget.

Last year, [the strong support for safety improvements on Honeygo Boulevard convinced the county to fund a traffic circle at Cross Road.](#) That project is now being designed.

This year's town hall meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16th at 6 p.m. with a meeting of the County Executive's Cabinet, and the town hall at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will occur at Vincent Farm Elementary School (6019 Ebenezer Road).



In addition to countywide priorities like public safety, I am specifically pushing for road and infrastructure projects throughout the Fifth District, for new fire stations, and for preservation of open space at the C.P. Crane plant in Middle River—but please provide your own suggestions!

David Marks

SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO BEGIN AT GERST ROAD PARK PROPERTY



In 2021, Councilman Marks worked with the County Executive to negotiate the purchase of a 22-acre property on Gerst Road for a park. According to Baltimore County's Office of Property Management, the razing, stormwater management, and grading of the site is expected to begin on or around February 8th. The estimated completion date is May 10th, depending on weather. Uses will be determined after a public input process.

SCHOOL SYSTEM TO EXPAND LAND SEARCH FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL SITE

As a result of the resolution sponsored by Councilman Marks and passed unanimously by the Baltimore County Council, Baltimore County Public Schools has agreed to expand its search for a new high school site.

Previously, [the school system had reviewed park and existing school sites in Parkville, Loch Raven, and Perry Hall](#) while ignoring the possibility of a new school on undeveloped property in the Middle River area. Councilman Marks would like to thank those School Board members who agreed to look at the LaFarge property, which is described further below.

COUNCILMAN MARKS TAKES ACTION TO THOUGHTFULLY REVIEW THE LAFARGE DEVELOPMENT

The LaFarge Quarry on Earls Road is one of the largest unbuilt private properties in Middle River. In August 2022, the Council approved by a 5-to-2 vote the extension of public water along Earls Road (Councilman Marks opposed this motion). Two months later, the Council approved by a 4-to-3 margin the review of an industrial development at the LaFarge site (which Councilman Marks also opposed).



The resolution allowing this development to advance identified more than 220 acres for open space that may be transferred to the county for public uses, including a vocational school.

Councilman Marks opposed the resolution for four main reasons—it was rushed, there were no transportation and infrastructure commitments from the developer, there was no conclusive study on soil conditions, and the school system did not evaluate the feasibility of the site.

Councilman Marks now represents this area. Since the election:

- Councilman Marks created a task force of residents and other stakeholders to evaluate the resolution and help guide the future direction of the development.
- In January, Councilman Marks passed a resolution urging BCPS to evaluate the school option by February. The next week, the Board of Education acted on this request.
- Councilman Marks is working with Delegates Nawrocki and Szeliga to get findings from the Maryland Department of the Environment on environmental conditions.

There will be a Community Input Meeting on Thursday, February 23 at 7 p.m. at the Gunpowder VFW Post (6309 Ebenezer Road), after which time Councilman Marks has the ability to modify the existing resolution passed in October. Please attend this meeting to express your opinion.

KNOW WHERE TO ACCESS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

To learn about any legislation considered or adopted by the Baltimore County Council, visit the following site: www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil. This site also contains information about testifying at the work sessions or voting sessions.