

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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Message from Councilman Marks



WHITE MARSH TOWN CENTER CANNOT BECOME A SEA OF APARTMENTS

I inherited three major land use challenges after taking office: the potential development of the C.P. Crane plant in Bowleys Quarters, the proposed warehouse project at the Lafarge Quarry in Middle River, and a plan for hundreds of apartments at White Marsh Mall. We have been working to address all three issues.

I want to make it very clear—I **oppose making the White Marsh Town Center a sea of apartments**. Here is what we are going to do to stop that scenario.

First, we need to develop a vision for the White Marsh Town Center. [Even before I had taken office as Councilman for the area](#), our office has assembled a task force to look at White Marsh's future. Yes, White Marsh Mall is aging—but there are signs of excitement. The Avenue bursts with energy everywhere, and the fact that developers want to invest in the town center is very promising. The worst possible outcome for White Marsh would be an empty mall, as we see throughout the United States.

[The task force completed a survey](#) that recorded hundreds of comments from local residents, and it will help form the basis for what I hope will be a plan for reinvestment, development, and design standards in the Town Center. I would like to thank Chairman Pat Keller and all the members for their work.

Second, **we will reform the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance** so it becomes a proper tool for regulating development. These apartments will impact Overlea High School, one of the most overcrowded schools in the northeast.

Third, [I will not hesitate to use the rezoning process](#)—which starts this summer—to block apartments throughout the White Marsh Town Center. Rezoning can eliminate projects based upon where they are in the approval process.

You have my word I will do all I can to ensure that any new housing is as limited as possible and reflects good planning principles that enhance the White Marsh Town Center. There will be a Community Input Meeting for one of the projects on Tuesday, July 18 at 7 p.m. at the Community Christian Church, 8009 Corporate Drive. Please stay informed through upcoming newsletters and my Facebook posts.

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



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Contact Our Office

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

Follow Us Online

 @countycouncilmandavidmarks
 @david_s_marks

Councilman Marks Pushes for Vote on School Redistricting Plan

With the opening of the new King Avenue middle school in 2024, school boundaries will need to be adjusted throughout eastern and central Baltimore County. In June, the Board of Education postponed a motion offered by First District representative Julie Henn that would have finalized a middle school redistricting plan. The option that was the heart of this plan was supported by 71 percent of respondents in a survey. It was the culmination of months of public meetings, and tens of thousands of dollars, to design a proposal that respected historical community boundaries and neighborhood diversity.

Councilman Marks and three of his colleagues—a majority of the County Council—are pushing for a vote on the original plan. [Learn more here.](#)



From Miami Beach to Gunpowder Falls, Enjoy Summer Fun at Our Beautiful Parks

The Fifth District is fortunate to have some of the most beautiful, diverse parks in Baltimore County, from the Eastside waterfront to the hiking trails along the Gunpowder River in Kingsville. [Learn more here.](#)



Baltimore County Welcomes New Police Class

On June 15th, Councilman Marks joined the Baltimore County Police Department, proud family members, and others in recognizing the 166th police recruit class. These men and women will help replenish vacancies in our police force and immediately boost public safety in our neighborhoods. Many of the new officers have been assigned to our Eastside precincts.

New Pickleball, Tennis Courts Installed in Oliver Beach, Perry Hall

Councilman Marks is very happy to announce that new pickleball, tennis, and volleyball courts are being completed at two sites in the Fifth District, part of Baltimore County's emphasis on offering services to all residents, including older patrons.

Two freestanding pickleball courts and one freestanding tennis court are being completed at Oliver Beach Elementary School. This will become the second outdoor site featuring free standing pickle ball courts with nets.

In Perry Hall, three pickleball and two volleyball courts have been installed at Soukup Arena. Soukup Arena was constructed, through a partnership with Baltimore County, after decades of fundraising by Perry Hall Recreation Council volunteers.



Kingsville and Middle River Ready to Celebrate Independence Day

There are plenty of ways to celebrate our county's 247th birthday. In the Fifth District, [the Marine Trades Association of Baltimore County will illuminate the skies over Middle River with fireworks at dusk on Saturday, July 1st around 8 p.m.](#) Councilman Marks is a sponsor of the Middle River fireworks.

On Monday, July 3rd, fireworks will light up the night skies over Kingsville for the first time in decades! Councilman Marks has been working with the Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company and other volunteers to restart this tradition. The show begins around 9 p.m. at Mount Vista Park. Visit kingsvillefireworks.com for more details. Councilman Marks is also a sponsor of this event. On Independence Day, the Kingsville parade kicks off at 11 a.m. down Bradshaw and Jerusalem Roads.

Learn about Baltimore County fireworks safety rules [here](#), and please use good judgment in your neighborhoods.

Enjoy a Free Concert with the Middle River Concert Band

The Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association will hold a free concert with the Middle River Concert Band on Monday, July 17th at 7 p.m. at the Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association building (1124 Bowleys Quarters Road). Many thanks to the BQIA for offering this free event!