

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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Message from Councilman Marks



Council Kills Poorly-Planned Lafarge Development

Earlier this month, the Baltimore County Council revoked the application and resolution that advanced the development of the Lafarge Quarry in Middle River. This ends any further consideration of the 2.8 million square feet of industrial warehouses proposed along Earls Road.

[The Lafarge Quarry development was prematurely supported by the previous County Council.](#) It was an unpopular project opposed by hundreds of residents at a Community Input Meeting in February. Even the legality of the original legislation was questionable. Furthermore, the developer and their attorneys acted in a way that, in my mind, reduces trust or goodwill moving forward.

I would like to thank the many residents and community leaders who testified in favor of revoking this Planned Unit Development, and my colleagues on the County Council for their support. Moving forward, we will be determining the future of this area as part of the 2030 Master Plan and the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process.

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

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Public Safety, Open Space Highlight New Budget

In May, the County Council passed a \$4.9 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2024 that includes, among other funding, resources to substantially upgrade public safety. The budget advances a new police precinct for the Middle River area. It also allows 100 additional vehicles to be added to the take home car program. Not only will this deter crime by allowing more police cars to be stationed in neighborhoods, but it will hopefully serve as a powerful hiring incentive.



The budget also includes transportation investments and funding to finish the new northeast middle school and the renovated Pine Grove Middle School. Open space is also a priority. The budget includes \$1.7 million to upgrade Marshy Point Nature Center; \$3 million to complete the new park at Days Cove; \$2.8 billion to upgrade Mount Vista Park as a result of the transfer of state-owned property to Baltimore County; and \$600,000 to design the new Gerst Road park site in Perry Hall.

Marks: Traffic Mess Unacceptable in Bowleys Quarters

On May 18th and 19th, motorists in Bowleys Quarters were ensnared in crippling traffic due to a county sewer improvement project. Councilman Marks received complaints from drivers who were stuck in traffic stretching for miles along Eastern Avenue and Earls Road.

With proper notice, the county could have alerted the community to avoid this intersection to the greatest extent possible, or to plan to leave earlier or later for destinations. Councilman Marks will be filing legislation that requires the Department of Public Works and Transportation to generate monthly updates on projects to the County Council.

Perry Hall Fair Set for June 24th

The Town Fair is set for Saturday, June 24th at Perry Hall High School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit thetownfair.net to learn about the vendors and activities planned for this Perry Hall tradition.

Council Approves Purchase of Land for New Essex Library

At its June meeting, the County Council approve purchase of property for a new Essex public library in the 1500 block of Old Eastern Avenue. Although located in the Seventh District, this library will help serve the Middle River area. Councilman Marks would like to thank County Executive John Olszewski, Jr., and Councilman Todd Crandell for their work to advance this project.

State Funding Advances Dunfield Community Center

Thanks to funding approved by the Maryland General Assembly, the Dunfield community is closer to the goal of a Recreation Activity Center to serve families in this densely-populated neighborhood. Sponsored by Delegate Carl Jackson, House Bill 201 provides \$150,000 for a Dunfield Recreational Activity Center to be constructed by Baltimore County, similar to the facility now under construction in Middle River. [Councilman Marks has been working with Delegate Jackson and other Eighth District legislators on this project for the past three years.](#)

Jerusalem Mills Kicks off Summer Concerts

Historic Jerusalem Mill Village hosts its summer concerts starting in early June. General admission to each concert is \$15 per person, with discounts for seniors, children, and those who belong to the organization. Historic Jerusalem Mill Village is a local treasure, and the concerts represent only one part of a fun-filled summer season.

Visit jerusalemmill.org/events for more information.

