



# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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

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

## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:** **BOOSTING PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY**

There is no higher responsibility for local government than public safety, something we are reminded of every day. In Baltimore County, we are fortunate to have a strong and well-regarded police force and an invaluable network of career and volunteer fire stations. Here are some initiatives we can pursue to make sure we have the strongest public safety possible.

- **Work to eliminate the causes of crime** by improving job opportunities, helping vulnerable residents, and strengthening our neighborhoods.
- **Provide robust funding in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget** to retain and hire new police, firefighters and paramedics, support our volunteers, and consider expanding the program that allows police officers to take home police cars.
- **Support the construction of a new Essex police precinct** and a new Dunfield community center, and volunteer fire stations for Bowleys Quarters and Middle River.



- **Expand our neighborhood watch programs, [such as the one operating in the Seven Courts area](#)**, seen above.
- **[Support more School Resource Officers, psychologists, and other staff in our schools](#)**—which we were able to boost in recent years—and resist efforts in the Maryland General Assembly to weaken penalties against violent offenders.

I look forward to working with all our neighborhoods and public safety personnel in the year to come.

## **COUNCILMAN MARKS OPPOSES ANY WIDENING OF EBENEZER ROAD**



As options are considered for the Lafarge Quarry, Councilman Marks has reiterated his opposition to any widening of Ebenezer Road in the White Marsh and Middle River areas. Councilman Marks has previously blocked widening of routes such as Chapel and Forge Roads in Perry Hall. Councilman Marks will oppose any taking of private property for a widening project that would change the character of this region.

## COUNCILMAN MARKS SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO ASSIST VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES

Councilman Marks has joined his six colleagues in [endorsing legislation that would expand a property tax credit for Baltimore County's volunteer fire companies](#). The bill, sponsored by Delegate Ryan Nawrocki, would allow volunteer fire companies to use their resources instead for equipment, vehicles, and capital expenses.



## STAY UP-TO-DATE ON DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY IN WHITE MARSH AND MIDDLE RIVER

The area south of Interstate-95 is new to the Fifth District. Councilman Marks is working to address two major land use issues in the White Marsh and Middle River communities.

The C.P. Crane plant in Bowleys Quarters ceased operations in August of 2022. Councilman Marks is working with other elected officials to secure funding to purchase as much of the property as possible for a public park. Councilman Marks delayed the approval of public water at this property to give the community

more time to negotiate with the owner and try to assemble funding to buy the 157-acre parcel.

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.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was a packed community input meeting for this project. Councilman Marks is discussing next options with a task force of community and business leaders he created last year.

## REMAIN ENGAGED IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL BOUNDARY PROCESS

Construction is underway on a new middle school on King Avenue in White Marsh and an expansion of Pine Grove Middle School in Carney. Those projects will require a redistricting of schools throughout northeastern and central Baltimore Counties.

The Baltimore County Council does not redistrict—that is done by the Board of Education. Nonetheless, [Councilman Marks feels very strongly that communities should be respected to the greatest extent possible](#).

Learn more about the boundary process here: [https://bcpsbusinessservices.ss3.sharpschool.com/departments/facilities\\_management/strategic\\_planning/boundary\\_studies/northeast\\_and\\_central\\_middle\\_school\\_boundary\\_study](https://bcpsbusinessservices.ss3.sharpschool.com/departments/facilities_management/strategic_planning/boundary_studies/northeast_and_central_middle_school_boundary_study).