

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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Message from Councilman Marks



Revoke the Lafarge Quarry Planned Unit Development

The Lafarge Quarry includes over 400 acres along Earls Road, one of the largest undeveloped private properties in Middle River. In August of 2022, the Baltimore County Council voted to extend public water to this area. Two months later, the Council supported a resolution allowing for the review of a Planned Unit Development to include large warehouses at the site, along with open space that could potentially be used for a new school.

I opposed both resolutions. Simply put, moving forward on development at this location was premature. There were too many questions. What traffic improvements have been finalized at this site? What are the real environmental conditions? Could the school system use the school site? All of these questions were unanswered when the County Council voted on both resolutions.

Since my election to the County Council, I have spent much of my time trying to find the answers. We convened a task force that included residents and business owners from the Earls Road corridor, as well as from major stakeholder organizations. To their credit, the developers of the project have been helpful in meeting with us and exploring options such as road access to White Marsh Boulevard. But fundamentally, these questions should have been answered before the County Council ever acted.

As required by law, there was a Community Input Meeting on February 23rd, the largest-attended I have ever observed in my three decades of local involvement.

We need a fresh start. The right course of action is to develop a planning district thoughtfully and methodically, in conjunction with the new Master Plan and the 2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process.

I support property rights. The owners of the Lafarge Quarry should have the ability to use this property, but I also respect the property rights of the residents and business owners who will be impacted by whatever happens at this site.

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

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Councilman Marks Opposes Any Plan to Sell Bengies-Walters Property in Chase

Over the past several weeks, Councilman Marks has received numerous messages about a possible development at the Bengies-Walter property west of Marshy Point Nature Center on Eastern Avenue.

This property is currently owned by Baltimore County. All land sales must be approved by the Baltimore County Council. Councilman Marks will oppose any sale of county-owned land, and is working to increase the amount of open space throughout the district.



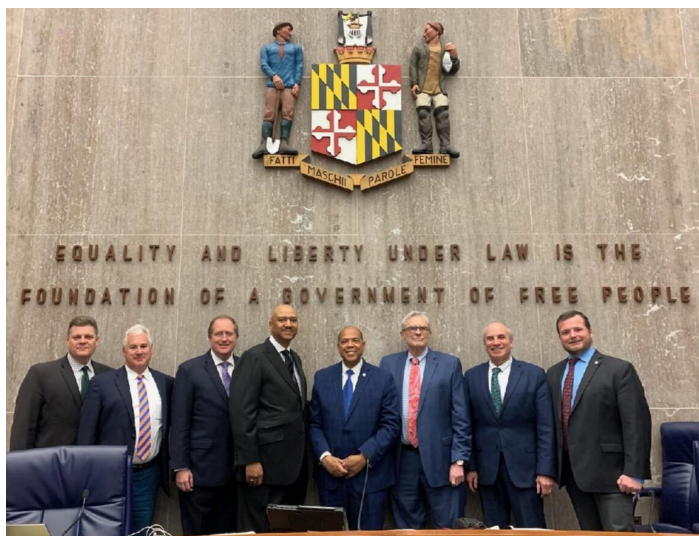
- Nearly \$30 million toward Baltimore County Public Library projects, including a replacement for the Essex public library;
- Nearly \$40 million to resurface roads (specific routes will be determined later this spring); and
- More than \$63 million in funding for parks and open space, including resources to improve Cromwell Valley Park and Marshy Point Nature Center and plan the new Gerst Road Park; and Councilman Marks is particularly pleased that the County Executive has committed funding to purchase the C.P. Crane property in the Bowleys Quarters area for open space. Councilman Marks is working with state and federal representatives to secure funding to make this a new park.

State to Hold Meeting on Crematorium Proposal

The Maryland Department of the Environment will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 24th at 6 p.m. at the White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company to discuss the proposed crematorium for the Evans Funeral Chapel, planned for 11543 Philadelphia Road. All are invited to participate.

Robert McCullough Sworn In as New Police Chief

In April, the Baltimore County Council unanimously confirmed retired colonel Robert McCullough as Baltimore County's new Chief of Police. Chief McCullough brings more than three decades of service in the Baltimore County Police Department to the position. Councilman Marks looks forward to working with Chief McCullough to retain and expand our police force and improve public safety throughout Baltimore County's neighborhoods.



MD 43 Family Fest Set for May 20th

Join Councilman Marks at the MD Family Fun Fest on Saturday, May 20th in the Greenleigh community, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.familyfestat43.com.

Baltimore County Budget Funds Key Eastside Priorities

This month, the Baltimore County Council is considering County Executive Olszewski's proposed FY 2024 budget. The County Council can only cut from the budget. The \$4.9 billion budget includes funding for several key Eastside priorities:

- Nearly \$210 million in school construction funding, including money to complete the new middle school on King Avenue in White Marsh, the expansion of Pine Grove Middle School, and capital projects at Oliver Beach Elementary School and Middle River Middle School;
- Historic pay increases for law enforcement, including police officers, 911 personnel, and correctional officers;
- More than \$4 million toward the planning and design of a new Essex police precinct;