

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

Volume 154
October 2023

Message from Councilman Marks



Adopting a Vision for the White Marsh Town Center

Last December, I appointed a task force to develop recommendations for the White Marsh Town Center, newly added to the Fifth District. That task force issued its report at a community meeting on September 26th. I believe the recommendations offer a blueprint for land use, transportation, and open space as we take advantage of the town center's strengths and position it for the future. You can read the [report here](#).

The report recommends, among other goals:

- Adoption of an overlay district to guide future development;
- Strengthening the county's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance;
- Conversion of the White Marsh Boulevard/Philadelphia Road intersection to a full intersection, and completion of Campbell Boulevard as soon as possible;
- Improving pedestrian and bus connections;
- Expanding open space; and
- Implementation of a Small Watershed Action Plan to reduce erosion and erosion.

While we work with the Baltimore County Department of Planning and other stakeholders to finalize the report, I believe it is essential to slow the growth that is leapfrogging needed infrastructure improvements in White Marsh. That is why [I sponsored recent legislation that pulled back zoning standards that have allowed for hundreds of apartments in the White Marsh Town Center](#). The bill eliminates hundreds of apartments proposed near the White Marsh library.

I am very optimistic about the future of the White Marsh Town Center and thank all those who worked so hard on the task force report.

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

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70-Acre Richardson Farms Property Proposed for Conservation

In September, the Baltimore County Council voted to support purchasing development rights easements on 70 acres owned by Richardson Farms east of Ebenezer Road and Earls Beach Road. This will preserve a large area of farmland from development.

Councilman Marks thanks County Executive Olszewski's administration for initiating this plan. Altogether, more than 250 acres were identified for preservation. Councilman Marks also thanks Les Richardson and the entire Richardson family for their longtime commitment to agriculture in Baltimore County.

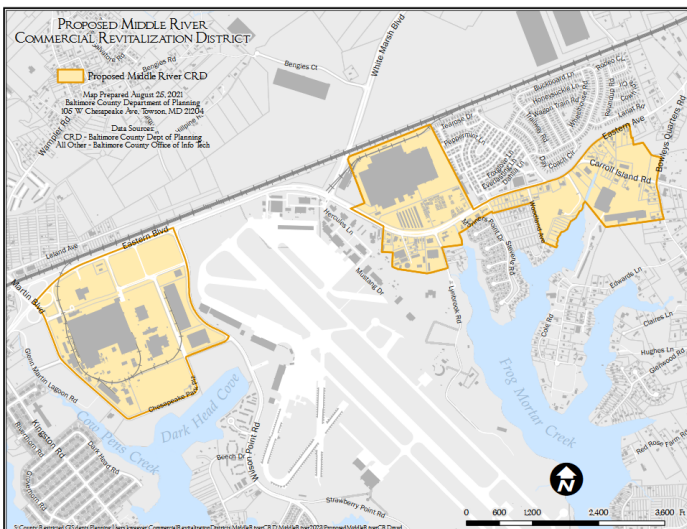


County Council Creates Middle River Revitalization District

At the County Council meeting on October 2nd, Councilman Marks and his colleagues passed legislation that creates the Middle River commercial revitalization district. The district will stretch from the Carroll Island Shopping Center in the east to MD-43 in the west, incorporating both large and smaller commercial properties.

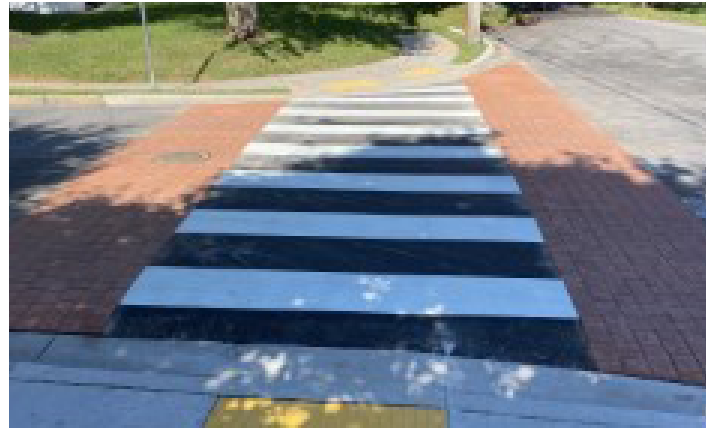
Baltimore County's commercial revitalization districts are designed to focus county resources and incentives in areas that need extra help for businesses to thrive. There are also grants that allow for communities to implement improvements such as landscaping and street banners. There are no requirements for anyone to participate.

Councilman Marks wants to provide the same opportunities for Middle River that other neighborhoods enjoy, and is particularly interested in the future of the Carroll Island Shopping Center.



Pedestrian Crosswalks Built at Gunpowder, Orem's Elementary Schools

Baltimore County recently constructed a brick raised pedestrian crosswalk at Baker Lane and Holiday Manor Road to reduce speed and improve safety at Gunpowder Elementary School. The county also completed a similar crosswalk at Highville Road to improve safety for children traveling to Orem's Elementary School.



Learn About Upcoming Transportation and Infrastructure Projects

Transportation and infrastructure are two of the biggest issues facing local government. Here is an update on several projects in the Fifth District:

Last year, Councilman Marks received a funding commitment to build a **new traffic circle at Honeygo Boulevard and Cross Road**. The project is currently being designed. Councilman Marks has asked the Department of Public Works and Transportation to hold a community meeting in the near future to update the public.

The **Mohrs Lane** connection between Philadelphia Road and Pulaski Highway is 99 percent designed. Three of the nine property issues have been resolved, and then the project will be put out to bid for construction.

More people complain about speeding than perhaps any other issue. It's a complicated problem because speed bumps are often unpopular with motorists who do not live on the affected routes; unfortunately, they are often the best solution because police do not have the resources to patrol streets all the time. [Learn about traffic calming and other programs here.](#)