

# County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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## Message from Councilman Marks



### About 95 Percent of Crane Plant Now Removed

The owner, Forsite, has made considerable progress demolishing the plant [since its implosion](#) one year ago. About 95 percent of the facility has been removed, with crews now focusing on concrete. The coal yard is being remediated. The Maryland Department of the Environment has closely supervised all aspects of the operation. I toured the property in mid-August with Delegate Nawrocki, Jim Hock from the Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association and Allen Robertson from the Bowleys Quarters Community Association.

Meanwhile, about \$6.3 million of the \$10 million goal has been raised to buy the property from Foresite. I would like to thank Senator J.B. Jennings, Delegates Ryan Nawrocki and Kathy Szeliga, County Executive John Olszewski Jr., and Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger for their results so far.

Many thanks to all who are working to create Baltimore County's newest park. This represents an incredible opportunity to create a nearly-unbroken protected green space that stretches from Carroll Island to the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder Falls State Park.

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

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Marks".

## Fifth District Schools Welcome New Principals

Several schools welcome new principals this year. Over the summer, Councilman Marks joined his colleagues in meeting with Abbey Campbell, new principal at Perry Hall High School; Carl Armstrong, incoming principal at Kenwood High School; and Bryan Thanner, who will lead the new middle school on King Avenue scheduled to open in 2024. As a Baltimore County Public Schools parent and an educator himself, Councilman Marks appreciates all the work being done by our administrators, teachers, and staff.



## Councilman Marks Works to Preserve the Perry Hall Annex

In August, Councilman Marks met with representatives from the Archdiocese of Baltimore regarding the future of the Gribbin Center, the stately brick building at 9317 Belair Road in Perry Hall. This was the old Perry Hall School, sometimes called the Annex, used most recently as a center for supporting those with developmental disabilities. It is now for sale.

Councilman Marks expressed his strong support for preserving this building, and will be working with the Archdiocese during the upcoming zoning process so it can be used for private uses that are friendly to the community.



## Sewer Project to Impact Perry Hall Neighborhoods

Beginning in 2024, the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation will construct a new sewer line stretching from western Perry Hall to the White Marsh Mall, crossing near Perry Hall High School. This will be a major project, impacting numerous neighborhoods. Councilman Marks has requested a community meeting, but it is important for residents to begin to understand the scope of this project. Please view the [recent meeting hosted by the Maryland Department of the Environment here](#).

## Task Force Nears Completion of Recommendations for White Marsh Town Center

Councilman Marks has introduced legislation that would restrict new apartments south of White Marsh Mall. In a poll of 625 respondents on the Perry Hall Neighbors Facebook page, about 75 percent opposed new apartments in the area, while 22 percent supported senior-restricted apartments; the remaining number supported these units with reforms to the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

Immediately after taking office, Councilman Marks appointed a task force to develop a vision for the White Marsh Town Center, which has only represented since December. The task force includes community and business representatives, and is led by Pat Keller, former director of the Baltimore County Office of Planning and president of the Perry Hall Improvement Association.

White Marsh Mall opened in 1981, and The Avenue followed in 1997. [There are many promising developments in the region](#), but the overall town center lacks a comprehensive strategy for addressing land use, transportation, and other issues. Please stay informed about the task force work by following [Councilman Marks' Facebook page](#).

## County Begins Work on Bird River Watershed Action Plan

The Bird River is one of Baltimore County's major waterways - and unfortunately, one that is impacted by sediment and other pollution from both Baltimore and Harford Counties. This photograph, taken after the Fourth of July storms, vividly shows the problem. Councilman Marks met recently with staff from the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability about efforts to improve the quality of the watershed. [Baltimore County is working on a new watershed plan](#), but in the meantime, please contact local volunteer Jim Martin if you want to be part of a citizen effort to support these efforts. You can [email Mr. Martin here](#).

