

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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Proudly Serving Carney, Kingsville, Loch Raven, Parkville, Perry Hall, and Towson

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:

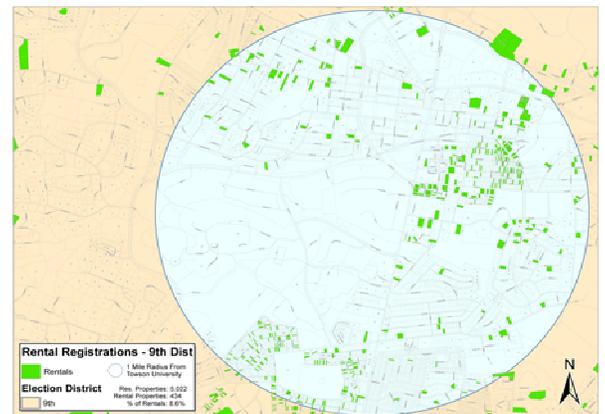
REVERSE THE SATURATION OF STUDENT HOUSING IN TOWSON'S NEIGHBORHOODS

When I was elected to the Baltimore County Council in 2010, there were three festering problems in Greater Towson: school overcrowding, decay in the commercial core, and the saturation of Towson's neighborhoods with student rentals.

We have made enormous progress in addressing the first two challenges. Working with the County Executive and our state legislators, our office supported more than \$100 million in improvements to Towson's schools. The decay in Downtown Towson is subsiding, with more than \$770 million in private investment planned for the commercial core over the next few years.

But the student housing issue remains. Neighborhoods like Burkleigh Square, Towson Manor Village, and Riderwood Hills—some of our oldest and most distinctive communities—are nonetheless inundated with student rentals. There are many landlords who comply with county requirements, and there are many students who are good neighbors, but it would be better public policy to bring students to housing that is as close to Towson University as possible. As an example, our traffic congestion is worsened by students driving to campus instead of walking or biking to campus.

The map below shows how rentals are scattered throughout Greater Towson, with Towson University used as a midpoint.



I am encouraged by the new dormitory construction at Towson University—but Towson University has limited funding. More needs to be done. I look forward to a serious, constructive and civil dialogue about how we can continue to pull students out of Towson's neighborhoods and reduce traffic gridlock throughout Greater Towson.

SCHOOL SYSTEM PLEDGES DIALOGUE ON LOCH RAVEN ELEMENTARY RENOVATION

Councilman Marks joined with state legislators from the Loch Raven area in urging School Superintendent Dance to clearly state that the historic integrity of Loch Raven Elementary School would be respected during upcoming renovations. Superintendent Dance has agreed that no demolition will occur, and that there will be a community dialogue regarding the design of the addition. The state has also set conditions as a requirement for funding the renovation.



PERRY HALL

Reforestation Project Completed on Perry Hall Boulevard

Baltimore County has implemented a reforestation project along Perry Hall Boulevard between Silver Spring Road and Southfield Drive. Trees have been planted along this county-owned property, with maintenance for three years. There will be seasonal mowing, but the intent is to return this area to a natural setting.



Repairs Scheduled for Klausmier Road

Perry Hall's Klausmier Road is schedule for repairs in the early summer, likely around June. The repairs will involve patching some of the potholes that have developed during the winter. Signs will be posted to notify the residents prior to the beginning of any repairs. Additionally, residents will have access to their property at the end of each day and driveways will only be blocked during the time - approximately 30 minutes - that the work is being performed at that location.

Markings to be Improved at White Marsh Boulevard

At Councilman Marks' request, the Maryland State Highway Administration will be improving the markings at the intersection of White Marsh and Perry Hall Boulevards. The

extension line pavement markings for the double left turn movement from southbound Perry Hall Boulevard to eastbound MD 43 are worn and faded. The SHA Maintenance Team will have the pavement markings refreshed and repainted. Weather permitting, this work will be completed within 60 days.

Project to Restore Whitemarsh Run

The Maryland Transportation Authority will undertake a \$4.9 million project to restore Whitemarsh Run and its wetlands. The project is part of the Interstate-95 Improvement Project and includes 183 acres of undeveloped, open and forested land in White Marsh at the head of Bird River. Much of the land was disturbed due to impacts from mining between 1929 and the early 1980s.

WHITE MARSH

Legislation Improves Building Standards in Honeygo Area

Councilman Marks has introduced legislation that would extend the more stringent requirements of the Honeygo area to undeveloped land near Chapel Road and along Philadelphia Road. The goal is to improve the look of buildings, particularly commercial structures, as development occurs in places like the older intersection near Cowenton Avenue and Philadelphia Road.

A Word About the "Outlet Center"

Over the past few weeks, there has been discussion about a proposed outlet center near White Marsh Mall. This would be located behind the shopping center that includes Target.

Just to be clear: right now, under a development plan approved **before** Councilman Marks took office, more than 1,200 apartments can be built in this area. The approved plan allows for 1.2 million square feet of offices, shops, restaurants and a hotel. Again, this plan was approved under the **former** County Councilman from the Fifth District.

The developer now wants to slash 1,000 apartments from the original proposal and include an outlet center. Councilman Marks informed community leaders about the change and discussed the history of this property at a meeting of the White Marsh-Cowenton Community Association in April. The revised plan will be reviewed by county and state officials, including the State Highway Administration.

Councilman Marks reduced future development on more than 260 acres in Perry Hall and is **always** looking for ways to lighten school overcrowding. Please feel free to contact his office if you have any questions.