

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:

LEGISLATION ADDRESSES PARKS, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SCENIC BYWAYS

The Baltimore County Council recently passed legislation to address public health, safety, and the character of scenic routes such as Charles Street.

Last year, the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board asked the County Council to adopt a no-smoking policy for public parks. I agreed this was important—and in February, sponsored legislation that clarified where smoking would be allowed in our parks. The legislation that passed the County Council prohibits smoking in playgrounds, tot lots, dog parks, and athletic fields being used by recreation councils. Smoking is also prohibited near recreational buildings.

This legislation strikes a good balance. Our bill does *not* ban smoking everywhere in a public park—it targets places where children and their families tend to congregate. Smokers can walk a few feet away and comply with the law. I just believe a family should be able to take their children to a playground without worrying about secondhand smoke.

The County Council also passed three bills that should improve public safety. I supported legislation sponsored by Councilwoman Almond that tightens a local ban on synthetic marijuana. Existing laws against synthetic marijuana—often

called K2 or Spice—only prohibit certain chemical compounds, and manufacturers can manipulate formulas to make them legal. I also supported legislation to ban cell phone recycling kiosks and to better regulate the sale of small electronics.



Finally, Councilwoman Almond and I cosponsored legislation that bans certain digital signs on National Scenic Byways in Baltimore County. This legislation will help preserve the character of Charles Street between near the city line.

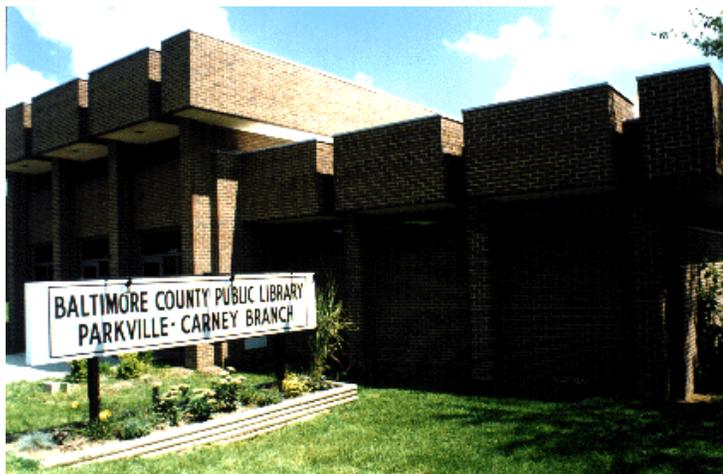
PROVIDE INPUT ON NEW BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

This year, the county will build new bike lanes in Downtown Towson and the first section of the Northeast Trail, near Indian Rock Park in Perry Hall. If you have ideas for future biking and pedestrian improvements, the Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, March 11 at 5 p.m. at the Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue near the Baltimore County Courthouse.



Renovations Planned at Parkville Library

The Parkville library will be closed in April and May for a major renovation. The \$276,000 project involves new carpeting, painting of walls, and improvements to the shelving system. During this period, customers will need to use nearby libraries such as the Perry Hall, White Marsh, Loch Raven and Towson branches.



Resurfacing Planned for Mason Avenue

At the request of Councilman Marks and Senator Kathy Klausmeier, Mason Avenue in Carney will be resurfaced in the spring, weather permitting. Mason Avenue is an older route that connects East Joppa Road with Jomat Avenue.

Public Input Meeting on Livestock in Residential Areas

There has been great interest in the possibility of raising backyard chickens in residential areas. The Planning Board will sponsor a public input meeting on this issue on Thursday, March 20 at 6 p.m. at the Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Begins

Household hazardous waste collection starts again in April at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill in White Marsh (from Monday to Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.). There will also be a one-day event on Sunday, April 6 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Central Acceptance Facility in Cockeysville. Accepted items include unwanted household chemicals, paints, pesticides, swimming pool chemicals, medicines, mercury thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs, re-chargeable batteries, ammunition, fireworks, and automotive fluids. Call 410-887-3745 for details.

Crosswalk Planned Near Towson University Entrance

Baltimore County will construct a raised crosswalk and bumpouts on Cross Campus Drive near the Towson University entrance. The project was designed by Baltimore County but will be paid for by Towson University at a cost of \$62,000.

Construction Starts on Osler Drive Bridge

Towson University will construct the Osler Drive pedestrian bridge between Towson Boulevard and Cross Campus Drive in March. The project will result in the closure of part of Osler Drive during the week of March 17 to 21. Please plan your travel accordingly.



Towson Library Book Sale on April 10-13

The Friends of the Towson Library will hold their 20th Annual Book Sale from April 10-13. First choice sale is on Thursday, April 10 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at a cost of \$10 admission (free to members). Cash and checks are accepted.

Historical Trust Grants Available

The Baltimore County Historical Trust provides grants every year to individuals and community associations to preserve and promote local history. Groups in the Fifth District have been awarded funding to rehabilitate properties and promote local history. Find out more at the following address:

<http://www.preservationabc.org/grants.html>