

# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:** **IMPROVING AND BEAUTIFYING THE JOPPA ROAD CORRIDOR**

The Joppa Road corridor stretches from the western end of Towson all the way to the eastern edge of the Fifth District in Perry Hall. Joppa Road is a very old route—in fact, it started as a Susquehannock Indian trail. Much of the middle section was developed after the Second World War, and it is this area where we have tried to spur improvements in communities like Loch Raven Village and Ridgeleigh. Many local streets have been resurfaced, for example, and [Oakleigh Elementary School will soon receive air conditioning](#).

I am very optimistic about the Joppa Road corridor in the Loch Raven Boulevard area. In December, WeberMessick purchased the 20,000 square-foot Bay Bank building at 1740 East Joppa Road. The financial services firm will invest about \$1 million in improvements. Ukazoo Books will be moving right around the corner, on Loch Raven Boulevard.

Two major redevelopment projects will occur in 2017: [Gavigan's furniture store](#) at the Harold's fruit market site, and the [Loch Raven Commons project](#) at the old

Raytheon plant, seen below.



[Because the County Council passed legislation adding this to areas where new construction is evaluated by the Design Review Panel](#), I am hopeful that Joppa Road will have higher quality buildings as this redevelopment occurs.

The middle section of the Joppa Road corridor, quite frankly, has been left out of good redevelopment for far too long. I look forward to working with residents and businesses to advance improvements in this area.

## **LEGISLATION EXPANDS INITIATIVE TO DETER UNRULY BEHAVIOR IN NEIGHBORHOODS NEAR TOWSON UNIVERSITY**

Last January, [the Baltimore County Council passed the social host ordinance](#) to deter unruly disturbances in neighborhoods near Towson University. Since then, 19 citations have been issued, and university officials report progress in promoting better conduct among student renters. The legislation was nationally-recognized by the organization that represents America's counties. Councilman Marks is sponsoring legislation to extend the program to Rodgers Forge, Riderwood Hills and northern Towson, and the Loch Raven Village.

## OFFICE PROPOSAL DROPPED FOR BOSLEY MANSION

Caves Valley Partners has pulled out of the effort to purchase the Presbyterian Home of Maryland, also known as the historic Bosley Mansion.

This means that plans for an office complex are dead, and attention will turn to improving the site as a residential project. Councilman Marks informed representatives from the Presbyterian Home of Maryland that he supported the Southland Hills Improvement Association on their preference for a residential project. His goal remains the same: a residential project that preserves the historic integrity of the mansion and as much of the green lawn as possible.

## RADEBAUGH PARK CLOSER TO REALITY

The County Council approved the purchase of two acres in eastern Towson for green space in December. [Councilman Marks sponsored a resolution in January that officially named this “Radebaugh Neighborhood Park,”](#) in honor of the family that operated the greenhouses at this site.



## STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY IN IDLEWYLDE AREA

The Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability is performing a stream restoration project on the tributary to Herring Run beginning at the downstream side of Sherwood Road.

Herring Run is severely degraded due to the effects of urbanization. It suffers significant stream bank erosion that threatens public infrastructure like sanitary sewer lines. The project is designed to stabilize the stream, protect public infrastructure, reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to Back River, and enhance instream and riparian habitat.

The county received permission to do this work from all of the landowners who have property along the stream. Maxalea, Inc. is allowing Baltimore County and its contractors to use their private property for access to the construction area and storing of materials. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather McGee at 410-887-2904.

## PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED AT PERRY HALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

The Baltimore County Department of Public Works will install improvements along Ebenezer Road to slow speeding at Perry Hall Middle and High Schools.

Two raised crosswalks with pedestrian refuge islands will be installed in front of Perry Hall High School. A third crosswalk with a pedestrian refuge island will be installed in front of Perry Hall Middle School at Yvonne Avenue. The total cost for the project is \$60,000. The improvements will be built this spring.

The project is possible because the Baltimore County Council recently modified the county’s traffic calming policy.

