



County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204

Council5@baltimorecountymd.gov

410-887-3384

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

In This Issue

Message from the
Councilman

Councilman Marks
Blocks Apartment
Complex in Cub Hill

In Towson, County
Focuses on Revitalization
and Schools

In Loch Raven, a Focus
on Lighting and Code
Enforcement

Meeting Provides
Answers on Perry Hall
Square Shopping Center

A Plan to Complete the
Restoration of the Perry
Hall Mansion

Opportunities Available
for Scouting
Organizations

Message from the Councilman

Council Focuses on Fiscal Issues, Binding Arbitration, and PUD Reform

With the redistricting process finished, the County Council has focused on three important issues over the past month:

- **Early Retirement Program.** While other jurisdictions have been forced to raise taxes, cut important services, and furlough or lay off employees, Baltimore County has largely avoided these drastic actions. National and state problems, however, are taking their toll. I supported the County Executive's early retirement incentive program, Bill 67-11, because it opened up positions that could be eliminated or downsized during this difficult time.
- **Binding Arbitration.** In 2010, Baltimore County voters approved binding arbitration for certain employees in the Department of Corrections and other units of county government. This referendum passed in every County Council district. Bill 66-11 enacts the disrupt resolution system. While I preferred an earlier date of implementation, I supported this legislation to carry out the direction of the voters of Baltimore County.
- **PUD Reform.** A Planned Unit Development is a project that bypasses normal zoning standards; in exchange for this flexibility, the project is required to meet higher development requirements. I cosponsored legislation that continues to reform the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process. Bill 64-11 tightens the community benefit that developers must provide in nearby areas, and allows them to donate to the nonprofit entity NeighborSpace, which preserves land in urbanized areas.

Councilman David Marks

Councilman Marks Blocks Apartment Complex in Cub Hill

Councilman Marks has told the developer of a proposed apartment complex near Harford and Cub Hill Roads that he will not support apartments at this site. Because the project was proposed as a PUD, it requires a County Council resolution. While Councilman Marks believes there is a place for Planned Unit Developments, he listened to community concerns about the effect of type of complex in a lightly-developed area of Cub Hill.

In Towson, County Focuses on Revitalization and Schools

November 2011

- Two important projects are advancing in downtown Towson. County agencies have approved changes to Towson Circle III, a four-acre project in eastern Towson that will combine retail space, restaurants, and a new movie theatre. Meanwhile, the redevelopment of the old Investment Building continues. Mile One Automotive and Towson University will be lead tenants at the Towson City Center project, which will be finished in 2012.
- The other major focus in Towson is a relief to school overcrowding. The new Carver High School campus will be finished in 2012. Parents were recently briefed on a plan to transfer the entire population at Stoneleigh Elementary School to the old Carver building during the renovation and expansion of the Stoneleigh site.

In Loch Raven, a Focus on Lighting and Code Enforcement

- Councilman Marks worked with the Loch Raven Village community to broker an agreement with Calvert Hall College regarding stadium lighting. On October 3, the County Council passed a resolution sponsored by Councilman Marks that directs the Planning Board to develop lighting standards for new outdoor facilities throughout the county.
- A code enforcement sweep was conducted the week of Monday, October 17 in the Ridgeleigh community. The nearby Knettishall community has also requested a code enforcement sweep.
- The Friends of Loch Raven Library is hosting a High School Student Essay/Creative Writing Contest. This year's topic is "*What will the Loch Raven Library look like in 2111 (100 years)?*" Entries must fall into one of three categories: essay, story, or poem and may not exceed 1,500 words. Entries must be submitted to the Loch Raven Library by December 21, 2011. All entries must include the student's name, school and grade. For further information, please e-mail juliannegrim@gmail.com or call 410-967-7229.

Meeting Provides Answers on Perry Hall Square Shopping Center

On October 4, Councilman Marks sponsored a community meeting on the future of the Perry Hall Square Shopping Center. The shopping center is the oldest in Perry Hall, and despite several successful businesses such as a longtime bowling alley, there are numerous vacancies throughout the area. During the meeting, a representative for Kimco Realty informed the community that Kimco has letters of intent for several vacancies; that the Super Fresh site may be occupied by early next year; and that Kimco has hired a broker to fill the remaining vacancies

A Plan to Complete the Restoration of the Perry Hall Mansion

The Perry Hall Mansion is one of the most historic places in Baltimore County. Built between 1773 and 1775, it sheltered early Methodist leaders during the American Revolution when their views were unpopular. Now owned by Baltimore County, restoration of this property has been delayed by budget problems.

Councilman Marks has proposed a plan to transfer ownership of the mansion from the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks to a nonprofit entity such as NeighborSpace, a nonprofit organization that protects land from development. A separate organization, the Friends of the Perry Hall Mansion, would oversee the restoration and use of the building. The Friends of the Perry Hall Mansion intends to use the mansion for small meetings, a museum and other light functions.

For more information on the Perry Hall Mansion, visit www.perryhallmansion.org.

Opportunities Available for Scouting Organizations

As an Eagle Scout, Councilman Marks appreciates the importance of our Scouting organizations. Contact the Councilman if your unit wants to lead the County Council in the Pledge of Allegiance at a meeting, or if there is an advancement ceremony in the future.