



250 Acres for Open Space and Green Uses at Lafarge

In 2023, [I led the Baltimore County Council in killing the Lafarge Planned Unit Development](#). My predecessor had advanced this warehouse project despite no guarantee that appropriate infrastructure, mainly a new connection to MD 43, would be in place before the development opened. I did not support moving forward without that guarantee.

In 2024, I introduced the concept of the Eco Park, the first of its kind in Baltimore County. This plan puts 60 percent of the property permanently into green uses, allows for 40 percent commercial use. Right now, I have a bill before the County Council clarifying a prerequisite that a new road connection to MD 43 must be completed before any building is finished.

The original Planned Unit Development comments proposed a widening of Ebenezer Road. [I specifically placed language in the Baltimore County Master Plan stating that there would be no widening of Ebenezer Road](#). Recent comments from county departments have falsely referenced Ebenezer Road improvements; those are incorrect. County funding will not be used to widen Ebenezer Road.

We now have a choice.

Governor Wes Moore wants to pass legislation that usurps the ability of local governments to block dense development. [He's pushed it year after year](#). His Secretary of Planning has inserted himself into Baltimore County debates as we considered ways to eliminate school overcrowding. Imagine hundreds of homes being built on Earls Road. It's a real possibility if we fail to finalize a different vision for that area.

The alternative is to be proactive, set strong infrastructure requirements, and consider a proposal that blocks harmful development on most of the Lafarge Quarry. Under the plan submitted to Baltimore County, only 40 percent of the property would be used for commercial development. The other 60 percent, more than 250 acres, would be permanently dedicated to green uses.

I have already submitted legislation before the County Council that requires infrastructure improvements.

I believe a plan that forces 60 percent to be used for green purposes, with new infrastructure requirements, beats the alternative advanced by those who want dense housing development.

Councilman David Marks

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

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Contact Our Office

Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 887-3384
council5@baltimorecountymd.gov

Follow Us Online

@countycouncilmandavidmarks
 @david_s_marks

Council Passes Small Area Plan

On February 17, the County Council passed Small Area Plan 11, which identifies key priorities for White Marsh, Middle River, Bowleys Quarters, Essex, and Rossville. Councilman Marks thanks the Department of Planning and all stakeholders who were involved in crafting this document, a 15-month effort. [View the draft report here.](#)

Councilman Marks proposed several amendments that were adopted by the Council. These amendments supported a new Middle River library and new fire stations in the area, as well traffic improvements in the Earls Road area.



Support Historic Jerusalem Mill Village

Historic Jerusalem Mill Village is raising for the reconstruction of our historic bank barn, built in the early 1800's. [Tickets for the upcoming bull, shrimp, and oyster roast can be purchased here.](#)



Councilman Marks Salutes Kingsville Volunteer Firefighters and Paramedics

On February 7, Councilman Marks attended the installation of officers and awards dinner for the Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company. Councilman Marks helped honor 50-year member Bob Chaney and many other volunteers who keep Kingsville safe.



Congratulations to New Eagle Scout Christopher Sipes

On February 21, Councilman Marks helped honor Christopher Sipes, newest Eagle Scout from Troop 732 at St. Michael Lutheran Church. Christopher's Eagle Scout project involved improvements to Historic Jerusalem Mill Village that will raise awareness of the area.

White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company to Hold Fundraiser

The White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company will hold a bull and shrimp feast on Friday, March 6 from 8 p.m. to midnight at Columbus Gardens (4301 Klosterman Avenue). For details, contact Christina Hughes at 443-992-1346 or christina.hughes@wmvfc.org.

Big Things Are Happening at Hart-Miller Island and Masonville Cove!

The Friends of Hart-Miller Island has been awarded a \$200,000 Chesapeake WILD Collaborative Conservation Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant will support environmental education, community stewardship, and habitat conservation at two important natural areas in the Baltimore region: Hart-Miller Island State Park and Masonville Cove, the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

The funding includes the creation of two new Coordinator positions—one at each site—to help expand programs, support volunteers, and strengthen long-term planning. Hiring is underway, with Coordinators expected to begin in mid to late March. The grant will also support the establishment of a new Friends of Masonville Cove group to increase community involvement. Residents can look forward to expanded public programs, volunteer opportunities, and hands-on learning experiences in the months ahead.



Concepts Planned for Gerst Road Park

The Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks has unveiled the latest plans for the Gerst Road Park site, a 22-acre property in the Honeygo area. [See the concepts here.](#)

The concept presentation includes four general conceptual designs, each of which presents a park theme. An online survey is linked to the Web Site for community members to provide input. Councilman Marks helped negotiate the purchase of the property, which is one of six parks to have advanced since 2010.