

Herbert N. Glaze, Councilman, District 1
May 18, 2012
Dedication – Burton Wells Regional Park, Phase II

Ladies and gentlemen. I join Chairman Newton, my fellow Council Members, the Parks and Leisure Services Board, the County Administrator and his staff in thanking you for coming to today's dedication.

I am delighted that you came to help us celebrate the opening of Phase II of our Burton Well Regional Park. As we celebrate the opening of this phase of the park, I reflect back on when we started and how we worked together to develop the vision and plan for this regional park.

As some of you may recall, most of this acreage was the home of wells that supplied water for the Marine Corps Air Station and Laurel Bay. When it was offered to the county, many wondered how and when it would be utilized.

The development of the property into a regional park illustrates how working together can do what is necessary to help meet the needs of our citizens.

I am happy to have been a part of this development process from the beginning. Chairman Newton has mentioned the various amenities that are now in the park for residents and visitors with the development of Phase II. The list is quite impressive, and I am looking forward to the development of Phase III that I hope will include a branch of our library.

Before I close, I want to share with you a special project that I have taken on in recognition of a tragic event that occurred in this park in the mid 1990's not far from where we are standing. Two youngsters lost their lives by drowning in what was then a borrow dirt pit that is now this beautiful lake. In response to their downing, County Council built three swimming pools, and along with the School District, developed the "Learn to Swim" program for second and third graders in our schools. I understand the program, which is operated by PALS, has been quite successful in teaching this age group of children the basic techniques of swimming,

Today I am proposing that we memorialize the youngsters' tragic downing by placing a plaque or some other type of marker at this site. After speaking with the parents of the children and others, I think this will help more in bringing closure to the incident. I solicit the support of County Council, County Administration and the PALS Board to have this done.

In closing, Burton Wells Regional Park is still an unknown for too many of our residents and visitors. We must change that. This is a very nice park now and offers something for every age group and even for our dogs. We need to showcase it more and want more people to use it. Again, thank you for coming and sharing with us. I hope to see you at the dedication of Phase III in the not-so-distant future.