

# Perry Hall resident is candidate for County Council

By Amy P. Lookingbill

THE AVENUE NEWS STAFF

It was a family and school reunion all on the evening of March 6 as Perry Hall resident Kathy Reiner Martin announced her candidacy for a seat in the Baltimore County Council representing the fifth district. Martin held the event at Bill Bateman's Restaurant at North Plaza Mall with many family and friends on hand to lend their support.

"I've known Kathy since first grade," said Scott McBride, introducing Martin before her speech. "Kathy was always the smartest person in class which is important to know because you want a candidate to be smart."

McBride explained how Martin was always involved in numerous "causes" while they were growing up together.

"In high school Kathy would always get us out of bed to protest some cause of hers," remembered McBride. "She is always supporting causes and doing charity work. She is the kind of person Baltimore County needs."

Martin, a democrat, wants to bring more open discussion to the communities she would be representing.

"I want people's voices to be heard," she said. "Not only residents but business owners as well. It's important for business owners to know about permits and how to do business in the area."

While Martin has her own opinions on what issues are most pressing to the communities of the fifth district, she says that the issues she will be dealing with will be defined by the communities and what constituents feel are the most important problems they are facing.

"Issues are important but the key is what I can bring to the County Council," said Martin talking about her years of work in the community through school, church, and community organizations such as the Perry Hall Improvement Association (PHIA).

"My parents are community activists," said Martin. "It was through them that I learned how to build consensus in the com-



PHOTO BY AMY P. LOOKINGBILL

Kathy Reiner Martin (front, center) is pictured with, from left to right, her daughter Pamela, her father Ray, her husband Frank, and her mother Vera.

munity. I want to bring open conversation to communities. Serious dialogue about serious problems and I'm open to hearing opinions on issues so that we can come to a consensus."

Martin would like to discuss alternatives to the school overcrowding issue at Perry Hall High School such as getting students out of the building and into internships with local businesses half of the day.

"We need new innovative ways to address standard problems," explained Martin. "I am a very good organizer. I'm good at developing plans and I continue to roll-up my sleeves and see that the plans are implemented."

Martin has lived in Eastern Baltimore County her whole life. She graduated from Perry Hall High School in 1972 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Statistics from the University of Delaware in 1976. Martin was hired as the first woman engineer professional at AAI Corporation in Hunt Valley.

In 1989 Martin moved from Carney to Perry Hall. She has been an active member in local community associations in both neighborhoods and has served on the board of the PHIA. Martin has also been active in school PTA activities at Perry Hall Middle School, Perry Hall High School, Heritage Montessori School and the Friends School

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## Candidate want to build consensus between community and business

### ► MARTIN, from 21

of Baltimore. Martin worked with parents and school administrators of Heritage Montessori and the Baltimore County PTA to help form the first PTA at a non-public school in Baltimore County.

For over three decades, Martin was active with Save Our Streams, serving as a board member and president. During that time, Martin led campaigns with other community leaders to reduce pollution and protect, preserve and restore neighborhood streams.

In 2001, the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM) named Martin the Volunteer Citizen of the Year for Stream Restoration.

Martin resides in Perry Hall with her husband Frank. They have been married for 30 years. The Martins have a daughter, Pamela, a graduate of Perry Hall High School and American University who now works as a Project Manager in Washington, D.C. The Martins' son Brian, age 14, is active in Boy Scout Troop 433 and the Camp Chapel

Youth Group at Camp Chapel United Methodist Church (OCCUMC). Kathy Reiner Martin herself has been an active member of CCUMC, teaching Sunday School classes and serving as Sunday School superintendent.

"The slogan of my campaign is 'It's Time for a Change!'" said Martin. "This will be a rough race, I don't know about the incumbent but I'm here for the whole process. It's important to get change in Baltimore County."