

PUBLIC SERVICES

The Aurora Hills Library and Community Center are located at the edge of Virginia Highlands Park, adjacent to the old Firehouse.

We would like to see the Community Center, along with the library and adjacent park and playground become a cultural heart for our community, a place where residents of all ages can gather and recreate. Expanded discussion of the Aurora Hills Community Center can be found in the Parks/Rec section.

Library - NC Survey- 55 out of 168 respondents felt that the library and community center were one of the top 2 priorities for improvement projects

The Aurora Hills Library seems to have adequate space, and the physical plant has been updated and well-maintained. The library has ten computer terminals for client use. This is far fewer than at newer branches such as Shirlington.

The computers are heavily used during regular library hours. There is potential for additional use if the library were to be used "after hours" for computer classes. Since usage of computers by senior citizens lags behind other demographic groups, and with a Senior program in the adjacent community room, it seems a logical move to add more computer classes that are geared to new computer users, with a focus on senior citizens, immigrants and other underserved groups. If people get classes in basic e-mail, internet usage and word processing, it opens up broad recreational opportunities for them. If there were evening classes for more advanced computer users (Excel, Access, Powerpoint, Setting up a Webpage, Facebook, Digital photography) we would attract more adult users.

The community encourages the County to establish, fund and staff more library computer programs. More computer terminals should be added to the library. Tables and chairs should be provided on the library front patio for WiFi users.

Other libraries in Arlington are "Java-Friendly" permitting covered beverages within the library. Recently vacated space in the AH library lobby makes the addition of a coffee and beverage

concession an easy improvement, especially with kitchen facilities in the Community room for cleanup. If there were appropriate tables and chairs, library users could take advantage of the library's wireless internet access on the covered porch while they drink their morning coffee. Families using the playground could stop in for a beverage. Library patrons could take their tea as they read. Students doing their homework could hang out with friends over a drink. A snack bar or beverage stand would also serve all the children and adults who use the athletic facilities.

The community encourages the County to make better use of the lobby space outside the library and should consider a coffee shop as an appropriate use for that space. Make the library lobby a "Destination area"

A recent survey of library users indicated that young working adults desired more evening hours. If the library is to serve young professionals, they will have to add evening activities like book discussions and computer classes .

The county should consider adding, and funding evening programs to serve adults.

Health care- The closing of the Urgent Care facility that had been run by Virginia Hospital Center was a loss to the neighborhood. We now lack any sort of facility in the neighborhood capable of delivering this level of care.

NC Survey- 55% of respondents to the survey had used the Urgent Care facility.

89% of respondents to the survey wanted to keep the Urgent care in our community

Our community is affluent and growing. The population will be larger in coming years. Health care resources such as rehabilitation facility or a medical building housing multiple specialists would be desirable. In coming years, site plan negotiations should consider the addition of such facilities as part of the development that is planned for Crystal City and Pentagon Centre.

We recommend that the County work with local health care providers to locate health care services within the neighborhood including an urgent care facility

Churches - The community churches include Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Calvary United Methodist Church, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, and nearby Advent Lutheran Church. Their low-rise structures are generally compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood.

These local churches provide numerous services including daycare and preschool programs. They offer space for various community activities which are greatly appreciated, including quarterly police meetings, exercise programs. The community welcomes the continued participation of our local churches in the neighborhood.

Firehouse -The new firehouse on Hayes Street has been completed. The rapid and conscientious service rendered by the Fire Department is greatly appreciated by the community. Their extraordinary service as first responders to the Pentagon on 9/11/01 showed them to be public employees of the highest caliber.

The community would support a public memorial on the Firehouse site to commemorate the service of our firefighters and EMTs on 9/11 as well as a memorial to those who lost their lives on that day.

Post office

The U.S. Post Office is located at Eads Street and South 18th Street. The property is both a distribution facility and a "retail" post office, offering customer services like package shipping, post office mail boxes and express mail services. The facility will be replaced by a new apartment development planned for the site. At the present time, there is no plan by the Postal Service to relocate the facility in our community.

The community greatly values the post office, and would like the Postal Service to seek another location within the neighborhood for a retail post office. We encourage the involvement of County government in this matter