

Honorable Barbara Favola
Chairman, Arlington County Board
Arlington County Board
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Mr. Ron Carlee
Manager, Arlington County
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Dear Ms. Favola and Mr. Carlee,

The Aurora Hills Library is an important part of southeast Arlington. To reduce this library's operations to three days per week would, in effect, deny library access to nearly 17,000 Arlingtonians especially: children; senior citizens; working adults; and those without access to the Internet. The current economic situation causes us to buy fewer books and rely on the library for books, newspapers, Internet access, children's activities, and supplemental school research.

With a retired fire station serving as a county storage facility, a community center without equipment or scheduled activities (except for a three day per week senior program that essentially shuts down by early afternoon), and a library operating just three days per week, southeast Arlingtonians are being presented a dead zone in the heart of their community. For the common good of Arlington, southeast Arlington is forced to suffer through intrusive life impacting construction of a new waste water treatment facility, sends its teenagers to high school in an inadequate and outdated facility, and watches as the Crystal City Business Improvement District encroaches into our community and accommodates a thriving business community, while serving as one of the gateways into Arlington. In return, we will be rewarded with a library that operates just three days per week.

County data show that operating the Aurora Hills Library just three days per week will yield little dollar savings. Alternatively, in this time of belt tightening budgets, all libraries, including the Central Library, should cut their operations by one day per week, which will be a more equitable approach to sharing the pain throughout the county.

Southeast Arlington is growing and will expand even more with the new Crystal City Plan, Pentagon City growth and growth within Arlington's portion of Potomac Yards. We have multiple high rise dwellings either recently opened or under construction while more homes are undergoing expansion and/or renovation. With this construction activity, the county must look for ways to fully service our actively growing community rather than destroying what is left of the heart of our community.

Please, keep the Aurora Hills Library open. This isn't just a Branch Library; this is the heart of our community.

Most sincerely,

SIGNATURE: DATE:
PRINTED NAME:
ADDRESS: