

Dear Arlington County Board Member,

The Madison Community Center is 76 years old. According to Parks & Recreation, it has never been renovated, and it has never received capital funds. Its share of the \$52.4 million Parks & Recreation 2024 operating budget is \$104,000. While it does house an early-childhood program and a program for seniors, much of the sprawling facility sits empty much of the year. Its below-grade, flood-prone fitness facility is notably small and outdated, with limited functionality. It is open only 4 hours each weekend.

The Madison Center should be a community treasure, humming with activity throughout the week and the weekend. Instead, it is often largely deserted.

This spring, the Old Glebe Civic Association surveyed our community to gauge interest in a revamp of the Madison Center. Nearly 40% of the surveys were completed and returned, indicative of the strong community support for updating Madison. Survey respondents' notes enthusiastically endorsed a number of **long overdue changes: increased hours; an expansion and overhaul of the fitness facilities; installation of proper studio rooms for group fitness classes; a modern bathroom/locker room; and renovation of the multipurpose room into an indoor basketball/volleyball/pickleball court.**

The overall message from the community is clear: the Madison Center is woefully outdated and underutilized. Allowing it to lie fallow is a wasted opportunity, particularly given that the draft CIP already contemplates a new roof, new windows and a new HVAC system for the center, but envisions no spacial renovations or expanded programming. The community needs and deserves a meeting and fitness facility that serves as a true center of community activity for all age groups. That goal is achievable with reasonable, modern renovations.

As members of the OGCA, and with the support of the Donaldson Run and Rivercrest civic associations, my family and I respectfully request that the County Board allocate adequate capital funding in the current CIP cycle toward this effort. We hope that we can count on your support as the process of finalizing the CIP moves forward this summer.

Sincerely,