



# Citizens for Cherrydale Library

September 14, 2026

The Honorable Matt de Ferranti  
Chair  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon, Boulevard, Suite 300  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Chair de Ferranti:

On behalf of the Citizens for Cherrydale Library (CCL), I spoke at the July 7, 2026, public meeting on the Fiscal Year 2027–2036 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) asking that funds be provided in the CIP to make Cherrydale Library compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We were subsequently told that funds were not available in this CIP cycle but that ADA issues for the library might be addressed in the FY 2029–2038 CIP. In further discussions with members of the County Board, we were asked if we had an estimate of the cost to make Cherrydale Library ADA-compliant. To answer this question, CCL engaged Marion Enterprises, a construction company based in Barboursville, Virginia, with more than thirty years of experience building public and commercial buildings throughout D.C, Maryland, and Virginia. The company was formerly located in Arlington.

Based on a review of the original architectural drawings and a personal inspection of the facility in August, Marion Enterprises Vice President David Michaelson determined that the library building could be made accessible to wheelchair-using patrons by installing two indoor vertical platform lifts (VPLs) at a cost of between \$60,000 and \$70,000. One lift would be from the rear parking area down to the loft, and a second VPL would connect the loft with the main floor.

Currently, library patrons with accessibility needs have access to a restroom, also used by staff, on the library's main floor. This could potentially meet ADA requirements. There are two additional restrooms on the loft level. If modifications to the two restrooms are required, Marion Enterprises estimates the cost could run \$200,000 to \$500,000.

Additional expenses could involve electrical work, partial demolition of walls, cutting shaft space through floors to install the lifts, and relocating bookshelves. Marion Enterprises further noted that more space could be made available by additional modifications, including reconfiguring the circulation desk and checkout procedure. A further analysis would be required to determine if all those modifications are required to meet ADA requirements. Marion Enterprises estimates the total cost could be \$2 million or more.

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Marion Enterprises concluded that the project would involve no excavation or foundation work, no leveling or other restructuring of the library grounds, no laying of a new concrete sidewalk, and no installation of automatic doors on the main-floor vestibule or the back parking area entrance. The lack of need for these major structural changes makes the modification of the library building feasible and cost-effective.

I note that CCL did not receive a formal proposal. Marion Enterprises did not have the opportunity to examine the non-public spaces in the library building. A more thorough review of the space could result in an estimate higher or lower, and such a detailed analysis is beyond the means of CCL. However, we believe that this estimate is a fair starting point for consideration.

In preparation for the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2029–2038, we will reach out to you and County staff on the path forward to achieve ADA compliance at Cherrydale Library to ensure that the lack of ADA compliance no longer jeopardizes this cherished community landmark. In the meantime, we are available to provide whatever community input you or County staff may want in advance of the next CIP.

Sincerely,



Michael Gessel, President  
Citizens for Cherrydale Library

cc: Members of the Arlington County Board  
Arlington County Disability Advisory Commission (DAC)