

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

History & Character

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the historical significance of the property?
2. What are the most important features?
3. What should be preserved?

-
- Location, its design, and ties to the community
 - The historic architectural significance is in the entire composition, not just the ornamentation
 - Respect the school being on the National Historic Register
 - Preserve school building
 - Preserve the exterior and stage inside
 - Maintain the building, solidly constructed, been part of community for years
 - The historic building could be used for a training facility for historic preservation or the arts
 - Preserve the building and use it as a charter school
 - Neighborhood schools such as Wythe Elementary serve as neighborhood icons
 - It is important for Hampton to stop tearing down its historic buildings
 - Keep the building, strip the paint, and bring back the original exposed brick
 - Preserve ball fields – history/significance (55 yrs & going)
 - Preserve Park – makes the area more desirable
 - Picnic pavilion
 - Give building to little league
 - Safety and values in the neighborhood outweigh the history and character of the building
 - Tear down and reuse materials
 - If school is demolished: save/preserve historic features
 - o Art decos, owls

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

- Use certain features of the building to create features/markers for the green space/site
- Place owls @ History Museum if bldg demolished
- Preserve "Enter to learn. . ." (engraved)

- Reuse before the building falls too far into disrepair
- Reuse building (senior housing)
 - o High end apartments
 - o Mixed use (community meeting space)
- Use as a "fall back" school
 - o in case of emergency or can't use other school
- Market the school building to private interest who will preserve architectural significance & historic importance and develop as an economic entity. No low-end housing
- Use as community center and keep little league
- Variety of programming (youth & seniors)
- Mixed use – arts: youth and senior activities
- Vocation uses
- The historic building could be used for a training facility for historic preservation or the arts
- Preserve the building and use it as a charter school

- Use volunteers for programming
- Explore resources (grants, etc) prior to demolishing building

- Need to bring awareness to the history of the building

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

Recreation & Access

QUESTIONS:

1. Do the recreation amenities fit the community?
2. How do you view the access to and safety of the recreation amenities?

-
- Yes
 - The neighborhood is underserved
 - No, the ball fields are cramped and the pool is too expensive

 - Keep it all open to the public
 - Better define the park space
 - Could use more active recreational uses

 - Respect the central role that the site & building play in the community
 - Safety & security an issue
 - Use building in a way it helps secure the ball fields
 - Use building for a YMCA satellite location

 - Keep baseball fields (What happens if GWLL loses fields?)
 - o HWLL using grant to expand concession stand and booth
 - o Location good to get kid from as far as Shell Road for Little League
 - o Thousands of volunteer hours are contributed by the Little League

 - Improve use of property surrounding pool – add parking

 - Keep building for community center
 - o Wythe does not have a community center and needs one
 - o Enrichment Programs – volunteers can contribute and classes for at risk kids (volunteers can teach)
 - o Recreation Center facilities

 - Baseball fields are only used a few months out of the year. Need more recreation activities attractive to a wider variety of people
 - 13 – 19 yr. old recreation opportunities.
 - o Lack of basketball courts in the area (Need more)

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

- Hampton Parks and Recreation should fix the tennis courts for year round use
- Add lights to the courts for evening use

- Expand on recreation (beyond sports)
 - o Cultural arts
 - o Community volunteer opportunities

- Parking underserved currently
- Poor parking configuration, not safe for kids
- Add parking across Kecoughtan with a footbridge or crosswalks
- OK with tearing the building down for more parking

- Access is adequate but safety is always a concern in this area

- Recreation space is adequate and scaled appropriately for the site. Any new recreational space should be spread throughout the greater community.
- The recreation facilities seem fine, but should not be the driving factor in the future of the building

- No need for a community center, but there is a need for expanded outdoor recreation space
- Recreation and community centers are not safe and draw more than families to them
- No community center but something for the elderly

- Update activities to include things like bmx bike runs, skate park, basketball, and racquet sports
- Lots of bikes and skateboards in the area. Add amenities for those kids
- Turn the entire site into a sports complex

- Fence is too tall and detracts from the community and rec. space

- Need to enforce traffic/parking laws

- Demolish building for more recreation space

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

- Vocational facility, potentially w/residences
- Emergency shelter
- Having the fire station close to the fields is a plus, great neighbor
- Sell the tennis courts back to the pool
- Sell part of the land that stretches down the creek to adjacent property owners to raise funds
- No housing
- Direct development to deaf and blind school

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

Public, Private, Partnerships

QUESTION:

1. Public, Private, or Partnership, which do you PREFER? Why?

PUBLIC (Max public access, max public cost)

- Demolish school (***)
 - o Construct parking
 - o Park expansion
 - o Expand little league
 - o Dog park
 - o Preserve ball fields

- Pavilion

- Safe place for children/little league
- Pool
- Recreation center

- Preserve school!
 - o Community center
 - Utilize community volunteers
 - o Helping children
 - o Theater
 - o Reuse building – public use
 - o Charter school

- Police station (satellite station)
- Move fire house here

- Use to generate revenue for the city

- More \$ for Wythe projects

- Lighting needed

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

Public, Private, Partnerships (Continued)

QUESTION:

1. Public, Private, or Partnership, which do you PREFER? Why?

PARTNERSHIP (Some access, some public cost)

- Demolish the school
- Preserve building and access for youth and adults
- Rearrange ball fields to include other sports (soccer, football, etc.)
 - o Public owned but privately maintained
- Market rate (safe) apartments
- Senior apartments
- No Section 8 Housing
- Preserve building
- Reuse building, private fundraising
- Private office redevelop
- Vocational partner w/shipyard
- Cultural arts center
- Youth center join w/recreation
- Preserve ball fields
- Expand recreation
 - o Lighting, safety
- Issue w/parking on-site

PRIVATE (Minimal access, Minimal public cost)

- Preserve architectural character of school
- Reuse (sell)
- Private school building

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

- Preserve ball fields, in contract

- Privatize the ball fields and lower the burden on public funds

- Transfer tennis courts back to the pool
 - o Use to generate revenue for the pool
 - o Help with maintenance and upkeep

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

Historic Preservation

QUESTION:

1. Is preserving the building important? Why or why not?

Yes:

- Preserving historic buildings acts as a real life learning tool for everyone who lives in or visits the community
- Need to find a year round use for the property
- Whoever uses the building should pay for any changes without financial support from the public
- Need to preserve history, tie to Ft. Monroe and other historic resources
- Use as training center for historic resources
- Look at removing later addition if not contributing to historic character/designation. Would create more flexibility on the overall site
- Has lots of history in the neighborhood
- Reuse as senior apartments
- Demo wings and keep the middle, reuse the middle for a public use and create additional parking where the wings currently stand
- As a community center
- Need some level of public access to the building
- Potentially lease a portion to a private entity for some type of recreational use (like the YMCA) or offices that would have the public coming in and out regularly; see the reuse of the old Pembroke High School
- Extension or relocation of the Hampton History Museum
- Keep the building but do not reuse it for apartments or any type of housing

George Wythe School Reuse Planning

Summary of All Public Comments

Community Meetings: May 16, 2013 & June 18, 2013
and
Online Survey

Historic Preservation

QUESTION:

1. Is preserving the building important? Why or why not?

No:

- Eyesore, in the way of beautiful green space
- Save the owls for the history museum
- If the building is demolished, the new user should cover all costs
- Lacks historic significance
- Need more parking
- The building is an attractive nuisance
- Preserve pool and basketball activity
- Utilize elements, potentially portions of the front façade, to create a grand entrance to parking and the ball fields
- Cost is too high



Initial Report

Last Modified: 07/08/2013

1. What is your gender?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Male		47	30%
2	Female		106	68%
3	No Response		2	1%
	Total		155	

2. What is your age?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	19 & Under		5	3%
2	20-34		35	23%
3	35-49		56	36%
4	50-64		47	31%
5	65 & Over		11	7%
	Total		154	

3. What is your race?





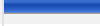

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	White or European American		125	82%
2	Black or African American		14	9%
3	Hispanic or Latino		1	1%
4	Asian		0	0%
5	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0	0%
6	Two or more races		3	2%
7	Another Race or No Response		10	7%
	Total		153	

4. What is your education level?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Some High School		1	1%
2	High School Degree or GED		11	7%
3	Some College or Associates Degree		49	32%
4	Bachelor's Degree		51	33%
5	Master's Degree or higher		40	26%

6	No Response		2	1%
	Total		154	

5. What is your Zip Code (Where you Live, Work, Invest, or Visit most)

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	23661		89	58%
2	23663		3	2%
3	23664		4	3%
4	23665		0	0%
5	23666		12	8%
6	23669		41	27%
7	Outside of Hampton		4	3%
	Total		153	

6. History & Character What is the historical significance of the property? What are the most important features? What should be preserved?

Text Response

Test

I would like to see the entire building preserved. One of the great things about this neighborhood is its history and the preservation of older homes. It would be a shame to tear it down and build a new structure in its place, which would not fit the culture of this community.

The building is a landmark in Olde Wythe which recently was recognized as a historical neighborhood. The building exterior should be preserved including the interior stage for presentation and theater uses. Other room can be renovated for specific uses as dictated by a cultural arts center.

The entire building if at all possible to retain the significance of history.

The Owls and the educational reference in the front of the school.

The building has some historic value in the architecture. The building is very bad shape structurally and will take a large sum of money to get it back into good shape. Being a national registered building may make it hard to demolish. If demolishing is an option, then the art deco could be salvaged and placed in the Hampton history museum.

At least part of the building should be preserved, i.e. front exterior.

This property is very important to the neighborhood. It's building should be kept up and grounds. If needed it should be given to the community.

I have only lived in Hampton for 20 years. My mother-in-law attended Wythe Elementary and speaks quite fondly of it and the owls that are attached to the building. Perhaps there is some way that the owls can be removed from the building and placed in the Hampton History Museum as well as the sign about entering the hallways to learn.

Based on the above paragraph - that the school is on the National Register of Historic places then there is no question and it should be preserved - the entire school - art deco and all - we have an obligation as a City to create something very special that folks can visit, take classes in, another art museum and more.

It like a lot of building in this community have some historical significance, but this one is in bad shape, I don't think any part of it should be preserved.

This is the site of a true community school, which we do not see too often these days. It is also a gorgeous building that has served many generations of Hamptonians and is landmark building. The building is not about individual features, though many are pleasantly striking, but the total composition of the historic structure. To point to elements such as the owls is like pointing at the figure head on a ship. Yes, they may be cool or cute on their own, but they are a decoration of the grander, more important structure. To preserve only portions of the facade or bits or cute bits and pieces of the landmark would be a travesty. Hampton often talks of being a historic city and taking pride in its history. This is a truly special building with great architectural significance, which should not be lost.

the architecture is of a significant period of change in architectural styles.

The history of the building learning and teaching healthy bodies, minds and lives. It would be great for the "refound" history desires to be able to see this. Architects value this building and it is on the national registry and we can get tax credits for it.

The historical significance of this property is its type of architecture and its listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is hard to summarize the most important features or what part of this building should be preserved as I have never been inside. The façade is the most important feature that I have seen.

The building with its Art Deco style is gorgeous. If it is in decent enough condition to repair and make ADA compliant, it would be an asset - if someone can maintain it. The city has no buildings in the Wythe Precinct; currently residents have to leave their precinct boundaries to vote. However, I think the main use of the property should be recreation -- the ballfields are in use most of the time -- and a reuse could tie in.

I'm sure it's a historical building. I don't know the condition or if it's usable. The most important piece to the community today is to maintain and expand the recreation of the ball fields and pool.

The building as a WHOLE needs preserved. Its a National Historic Building.

Generations of Hamptonians have been educated at Wythe. It has withstood hurricanes, segregation, and world wars. Still more kids played ball in its shadows. The art-deco style is unique to Hampton, and the building is on the national register of historic places. It should and must be saved.

Schools serve as icons of a community. I am not intimately familiar with Wythe Elementary, but I believe in historic preservation and adaptive reuse. I am a native of this area, but spent 10 years living and working in Seattle Washington where several older schools have been converted into market rate housing, and partially subsidized housing / work space for ARTISTS, and retail spaces with great success. I'm sure there are many other examples of such adaptive reuse of schools across the country. I would like to see this explored as an option for the school. I certainly don't see a need for it to be demolished, nor a need for more parking lots in Hampton. (Why did the city choose to build two parking garages on waterfront property? Do you know the value of such property as say higher end, high density housing? Do you know how much more revenue that would generate for the city and downtown business if more people could live in downtown, especially over looking the water? People pay outrageous prices for what they get to live in Mill Point because it's on the waterfront, downtown.)

It is time for something new and exciting in that part of our city.

The safety and improvement of the neighborhood outweighs any remaining value in the architectural style of a crumbling building with boarded up windows. Nostalgia should not outweigh our plummeting property values.

As stated on this page, it is a unique piece of architecture from the early 1900's. Losing such a unique facade to a building and having it replaced with yet another blank box office building would be a criminal shame. Buildings in Europe have stood for centuries, why replace an otherwise solid building?

It is a classic old building that should be preserved due to its outer decor. The colorful entry ways are beautiful!

The fact that it is still a sound building makes it a good candidate for remodel on the inside to be reused as a school again. There are too many schools with trailers on the property showing they are still over crowded and yet we keep closing more of them.

This property is a beautiful and commanding figure in the community, being one of the last Art Deco style buildings in Hampton and in this area (I haven't come across too many left on the Peninsula). The streamlined look, the beautiful owls hanging above the entryways, and the hallowed words "Enter to learn, leave to serve" truly make this building a treasure for not only the neighborhood, but the city and region as a whole.

Its architectural character (Art Deco) should be preserved. The beautiful older buildings are being replaced by new but ugly architecture (Andrews Elementary) and the appearance of our city is suffering.

Not historically significant. Save the owls in the front.

my parents went to that school mom is in her 80's. it's important for the city to stop tearing down historical buildings and preserve them for our future generations. this school should be saved because it holds so much history of all the people that live in this area going there.

I don't know

Architecture; preserve the entire facility; generations of Hamptonians have walked through those Hal's attending either George Wythe Jr High or Wythe Elementary. Generations of Hampton Wythe Little Leaguers as well.

This building has been a landmark in Wythe since it was built. We have very little of our history left and want to preserve it.

Not sure

my children attended Wythe Elementary in 1972 and I also worked there as a Teacher's Aide. I think this building would be a perfect opportunity to transition to deluxe apartments.

The owls and the entryway inscriptions.

School building should be saved and used for: 1. Extension of Hampton City Library. 2. Community computer rooms/ classes. 3. Use cafeteria for meals on wheels. 4. Auditorium - used for community programs- meeting space OWNA. 5. Exercise programs- yoga, Pilates, aerobics. 6. Senior citizen club. 7. Museum for History of Hampton City Schools. 8. Return to election voting center. 9. Tutoring program center. 10. Meeting place for scouts with offices. 11. GED / continuing education center. 12. Grounds should be landscaped to include park / garden and to update baseball diamonds. 13. Community storm shelter 14. Red Cross Training Center

I think the age and architecture of the building is reason enough to maintain it. It is a wonderful piece of old Wythe history.

The building is beautiful, and I hope can find a productive use that maintains some portion of the building and its facade. But the true importance to the people who live here today is the 50+-year history of the Little League and the neighborhood pool. Most of us are too busy for neighborhood meetings, which are often dominated by a few strong voices that don't reflect the entire area, and politics. But we spend countless hours volunteering with our neighbors to support our kids and their schoolmates, to be the volunteers for kids whose parents can't or won't, to keep swim meets and t-ball and baseball activities that give our kids (and the entire neighborhood is "our kids" at this point) productive, outdoor, social, team activities.

the art deco architectural character is distinctive and should be preserved.

Art Deco architecture.
The unique Art Deco architecture in its entirety needs to be preserved. Hampton needs to embrace its architectural treasures in the way that Smithfield has preserved their architectural heritage, giving Smithfield the charm and character that makes it such an attractive destination. Hampton has torn down so much of its vintage residential and commercial architecture, leading to the largely featureless jumble of buildings that is downtown Hampton. If this building is a rare survivor in Hampton of a major architectural movement, it makes no sense to destroy the irreplaceable.
The exterior of the building, including the two owls over the entrance doors.
If there is some use for the materials (i.e. bricks slate or wood) then save it and use it otherwise the building has no value as is .
The building itself is historic being Art Deco. It needs to be kept. But not as apartments.
At least the owls and the tile entry decorations, if the building itself does not survive. Perhaps they could be incorporated into some other construction in the city. If the building is in good enough shape to support repurposing, then studio apartments (high ceilings, big windows, good for artists) could fit in with a small community center/small theater for local groups to use. Some space could be set up as artists' rental workshops like the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. It would be nice to have the precinct voting station back in the precinct. Perhaps the kitchen could form part of a business incubator for 'home cooked' business startups.
The school exterior appearance should be maintained if all possible to preserve the history of the building. Interior alterations should be done with the possibilities of saving or reusing some of the interior character in other ways.
the older buildings add beauty and charm to the City of Hampton and stays withing the theme of all of downtown Hampton.
The connection of the school to the development of the surrounding community and neighborhood. How the school served as a social and recreational focal point. The architectural design which is unique and very uncommon in Hampton Roads. The building should be preserved and reutilized before it falls into further disrepair. Sports facilities should be preserved and reinvested in by the City.
To be honest, I am not all that fond of it's features. However, I know that people still go to the playground and the baseball field. The historical significance of the property is simply as stated above and so it should be preserved for my responses below.
Aside from having art deco design features, it is one of the very few old public or buildings of any type, left in Hampton. However, the school may not be worth preserving if a worthwhile use cannot be found for it. My dad went there when it was a junior high school. The motto on the school and teh owls need to be preserved if no reuse can be found and financially supported.
The look, style, and keep it city owned. We don't need, nor want another park in Hampton. And, don't give it to a non-profit organization either. It should have been maintained better and stayed an elementary school.
The architectural style of the building.
None known
It was the first school of many Wythe children. Shows how education began. The building is beautiful. The owls above the doors represent what many kids remember.
The building as a whole is very fine. Just strip the paint from the brick work and restore the integrity. Keep the straight lines and colors.
It's one of the last pieces of Art Deco architecture from the 1930s. It should be preserved if at all possible. There is no other building like it in Hampton. Preserve it.
The school and it's properties are very important to me because it's a large part of my childhood! I will be 70 years old in 21 days, and I attended Wythe Elementary in 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Some of my happiest memories are of my time there. I still remember the names of my teachers with great fondness: Ms Brockley in 4th grade, Miss Rudolph in 5th, and Ms Sara Stone in 6th. This is the place where youngsters received the BEST education available. I'm so sad that youngsters today are not able to receive this sort of teaching! I spent many happy days on the grounds playing softball/baseball, kickball, dodgeball and many other games. The tennis courts were there, but tennis wasn't THE THING in my day, so we didn't use it much for tennis, but we did use the court for volleyball occasionally. BOTTOMLINE: the school building is the most important itself! The surrounding properties are quite significant, but the building is a MUST for preservation.
its a part of history
It is a beautiful old building, one worthy of saving. There's also a huge sycamore tree on the property.
The building itself is not well-maintained at the moment, but it is beautiful and has tremendous potential. The art deco styling is very unique and should be preserved, if possible.
I think the school should be turned into an arts center with different medias such as glass blowing, pottery, painting, drawing, etc that offers classes during the day and night
I think the owls and the marble sayings over the doorway should be preserved in the Hampton History Museum. What needs to be preserved with the property is the community. We have such a strong neighborhood and have worked so hard to bring back traditions. The little league is thriving and we have over 100 Wythe Wahoos on the swim team. I grew up in Hidenwood in Newport News and find our Wythe Community so much stronger than any other neighborhood I have experienced. That is in part due to recreation we have in our neighborhood.
Art Deco design. Like you said, one of the last examples around here. Also, the auditorium can be restored and used for entertainment and community meetings. 20 years ago i was on the bylaws committee that helped get the OWNA started. the mass meetings of those in the neighborhood interested in forming a neighborhood association were held in the Wythe School auditorium.
No historical significance, it was a school as many before that have been demolished. Preserve the Owls and put in the Hampton museum to capture the only unique significance of the school. Tear the building down.
The building is a striking example of deco design. The exterior features, particularly the owls and mosaic tiles, are exceptional and should be preserved/restored. It's scale and arrangement offer a broad range of potential, flexible uses. Its location offers good access of visitors

by car and public transit.	
I personally am not tied to the school, so I really don't have a comment except that the building doesn't have much to preserve. It's too old.	
Art Deco is a very important style of architecture. We need to preserve the arts as much as possible. I think a portion of the building should be used for artist's cooperative.	
It needs more work then its worth to anyone.	
Position of evolution for Hampton City Schools - Jr. High to Elementary, renovations with elevator. Owls and Enter To Learn - Leave to Serve	
I've only lived in the area for 4 years but love the Olde Wythe area and this is a part of it's heritage. The location, it's design, and it's ties to the community are the most important to me.	
architecture, voting precinct!	
It is a on the register of historic sites... Art Deco architecture. For these reasons alone it should be preserved, restored and maintained.	
The tile work around the doors are beautiful. The message "Enter t learn, leave to serve" should be over all the school doorways. The art deco styling of the exterior is unique and worth preserving.	
While much sentimentality may be attached to the school, its significance probably lies in the exterior art deco entrances. It would be nice if these elements could be salvaged for display somewhere in the city.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	75

7. Recreation & Access Do the recreation amenities fit the community? How do you view the access to and safety of the recreation amenities?

Text Response

Test

Yes. There is a great need for recreation in this community. The pool, tennis courts, ball fields and playground are vital to giving children productive activities. If you take that away, I fear it will cause further deterioration to this neighborhood.

The recreation is an asset to the community and should be preserved and more defined around the building.

yes, track walking area for use an exercising.

A huge part of the community is the baseball fields and the pool. I can't imagine what would happen to the community if the pool or fields were no longer there. The social aspect of the community centers around the pool and baseball fields. It is a very positive outlet for many children. If you take away the baseball fields or pool you are taking away lives of so many children. They would lose their purpose. It would be detrimental to our community and our children.

The ballfields are an asset to the community. It gives the local kids a place to participate in the local Little League program. It also give the neighborhood kids a place to play when games are not being played. Additional lighting and parking would help with the accessibility of the property. The city does not have many areas for kids to play ball. Taking this property and building housing would eliminate one of the few recreational areas in the city. There are plenty of empty lots in Hampton to build new residencies. Where would you move the ballfields?

Not only do the recreation amenities fit, there could and should be more on that land. This would make a wonderful recreation / park area.

Yes, the baseball fields and swimming pool are essential to a thriving community.

When you speak of recreation amenities I assume that you are speaking of the ball field and pool. I feel that there should be more parking for both around the area

The tennis courts need assistance, the ball fields are vital to the Wythe community which also compliment the pool. The play ground and track are used often by many children and if you took those away then that gives the Wythe area children nothing to participate in. Our children could use more park space in the form of soccer fields, more baseball and other improvements that would continue to draw families to this particular area. Our family lives off of Pembroke and City Hall and we utilize the pool and ball fields as well. One of our children is at Armstrong as well. It would not be wise for us to level these areas just so we can add more housing whether in the form of a retirement home or some other form. Our children need a place to go and do sports - the carnival event a few weeks ago is another indication that we need to offer more areas that children of all ages to need to be able to visit which can in return keep them out of trouble. Having the Fire Department next door also works - however - I do think that they are in need of an updated fire house built.

These baseball fields are the ONLY recreation amenities in the community. It would be much safer area if the building with all the broken glass were gone.

The ballfields are very popular during certain months. It would be nice to have recreational amenities available that appeal to more than one segment of the population, especially for those young people out of elementary school as well as adults. Most importantly, the site needs use through out the year and improvements in safety and visibility at night as well as general up keep (mowing, care for the fences, and trash collection).

Yes, the recreation activities are much needed. This brings families into the neighborhood. I think turning this into a Gym or a satellite YMCA center would be GREAT.

Yes. I believe so. I think that the property could offer more recreation amenities inside the school. The property is very accessible for me. I don't think that the property is any more unsafe than the rest of Wythe.

I am a member of the Wythe Pool, and although that is not part of the school, it is surrounded by the school property. The pool is where I got to know many, many people in the area, and it is a true neighborhood center. I think the pool association should get the tennis court area, which they now use. My family used to use the ballfields as well. It's such a great recreational area; perhaps the building could be a fitness center/gym/community center. Some thought needs to be given to parking. It's a nightmare that fills up neighborhood streets and the fire station during Little League games and swim meets.

There isn't enough ballfield parking. I'm always worried that someone will be in the way of a rescue vehicle.

The rec facilities benefit the community. If the city was keeping them up they would be used more.

The building has been vandalized, and the ballfields are often used for illegal activities at night, but the ballfields during the hours of use, as well as the playground/pool are safe.

I don't know well enough to comment. Public parks are important community elements.

The fields and parking are too small to be used as they are

I value the recreational potential of the space. Our neighborhood is very underserved in the recreation category. But the space will require good lighting and security judging by the number of unsupervised youth and vagrants currently loitering and leaving litter on the space.

The facilities surrounding the school are Absolutely needed. Ball fields open to the public are a needed item for children and adults to play in. The site does suffer from limited parking, but without purchasing surrounding land to make more room for parking I don't see how it can be increased.

The pool, baseball and t-ball fields are great! Hundreds of children participate in the little league and the pool is a neighborhood favorite in the summer! The playground is OK, but it attracts the neighborhood kids who, a lot of the time, are looking for trouble. I question the safety around there because of several recent instances of children who are NOT participants in the activities there causing fights.

While not being a resident of the Olde Wythe neighborhood, I believe that any recreational amenities are a positive factor for any neighborhood, especially one that seems to have faced and continues to face problems. I believe the amenities might be outdated, but then again, they might be fit for continued use, as I'm not regularly a part of the pool or the ball fields.

The ball field is important as is the playground in an area without a lot of public amenities.

There could be more recreational amenities: Additional sport fields; dog park; etc.

it's a small town area schools define the area that they are sitting in and to tear it down would be horrible.

The baseball fields are fantastic as is the pool. A dog park would also be great. A gated entrance to the playground would also be useful.

Yes; do need more parking but there's plenty of space near pool for that

No. The little league fields are too cramped and the tennis courts belong to the Wythe Pool, which is too expensive to join. We need soccer fields and a new fire station.

The pool is a good fit. Access seems adequate. Safety is always an issue in this area.

The HWLL fields are vital to the community

Yes. There is a lovely playground bordering on Kecoughtan Road and the ball field is great for the other children. It all has a good security fence.

Ball fields and park should be updated. Wythe pool should be preserved and tennis courses be renovated. Currently tennis courts are an eyesore.

We've got enough arts centers and museums in Hamton. If it remains a public space I think vocational training for financially challenged residents would be good also using the cafeteria for an indoor farmers market would be nice, then the season can be extended regardless of weather. It would be a good place to hold fairs and fundraisers as well.

Parking and access could be better, but the fields are crucial to neighborhood stability, interaction and the creation of community within our city. I know the pool is owned by GWRA, but if it becomes an island surrounded by a private development, or next to a facility that isn't neighborhood-friendly, it will also tank. You can count dozens of bikes at the pool on a weekday -- kids who ride there and spend most of their days, not in an empty house or playing video games but socializing and being active. It's the perfect informal day camp from those in the 11-17 age range. It's a very safe place for pre-teens and teens to hang out.

yes - there is room for improvement to help better identify access points to the rec fields, the playground, and the neighborhood pool. right now everything is surrounded by overly tall fences

Part of the Wythe Elementary School property encompasses both the Wythe Pool and the Hampton Wythe Little League fields, which have been just as important in our Wythe community. I grew up in Wythe and now live in Wythe with my family which includes 2 boys who LOVE playing baseball with HWLL and enjoy spending the summer at the Wythe Pool...again, both places I too grew up in. It gives our children a safe place to play and have organized recreation. I cannot tell you how many times I hear from other Little Leagues how much they like Wythe, our facilities and the organization that runs it. It would be HORRIBLE for the City of Hampton to allow for a private investor to come and get rid of these fabulous organizations that have been a staple in Wythe and turn it into more apartments that will most likely turn into a horrible situation just like the old "Kecoughtan Apartments" I believe they are now called Colonial...If we tore those down, it would be the perfect spot for the new firehouse! They are nothing but trouble...and yet you want to take away some of the only GOOD, SAFE places for our children in Wythe.

We need additional information on the community, to answer this.

The recreational amenities fit the community. Parking probably needs to be expanded.

The building needs to be taken down.

The Wythe Community NEEDS the Wythe Building as a community and recreation space. We don't have a community center.
Ball fields good, park not much used, basketball court seems in bad repair also chained up. Another bark park would be great -- the other two are pretty far away. Would it be possible to open up access to the wetlands at the back of the area?
The baseball fields and pool that are at the site are a must have. They fit the needs and many neighborhood kids have taken part in growing, learning and being part of programs and memories here. It is the continued use of this property of such that keeps good programs available for our youth to take part of. The tennis courts are an eye sore along with the playground that may be better used for something else even parking.
The recreation and community centers are not safe and draw more than families to them to use the equipment.
The scale of the facilities is acceptable. Visibility should be improved. Additional facilities should be small in expansion. More facilities should be spread throughout the greater wythe community. Additional recreation facilities should be provided on the western section of wythe which is underserved.
The building is moderately accessible, but safe. The fence sets up a pretty good perimeter. I think it would be good for the community to have a recreational type of opportunity in this area despite the fact that the Boys and Girls club is a few minutes away.
The recreation amenities seem to be fine and could be expanded if it is decided to demolish the school. However the need for recreation amenities shouldn't be a driving factor in the decision on the school building.
It should have stayed a school and a municipal pool run by parks and rec.
We don't need another recreation center. How about something for the elderly.
Would be nice to use tennis courts, are there lights?
All is fine as long as NO section 8 moves in. Have the Parks and Recs. use the building and be close to their main stay...
The cost of using the Pool is way too expensive for an average homeowner/resident. The ball field and such should be still available for the local residents.
Sports fields and playgrounds are important
Sorry, can't answer this. I haven't lived in this area for some time, so can't accurately assess this.
yes gives kids a place to play.and it is not hidden so we can see the kids play.
Can't say.
I think the pool is adequate and properly placed, but it is one of the more expensive pools to join in the city. The baseball field is well used by the community. The playground equipment is in good shape, but I don't think it is used very frequently. The property is located in an area of questionable safety. I can see the possibility of problems coming up if the site doesn't have some close over attention paid to it.
Yes
I feel the recreation amenities do fit the community. I think access is safe but parking is limited. I would love to see the school become a parking lot to help both the pool and little league.
you need a few parking site improvements and better lighting for parking. Space is tight but the fire station is scheduled for a move to Kecoughtan and Powhatan Pkwy. The old one next to the school can possibly be put to reuse (also an interesting architectural style though not very well maintained) and added parking can be devoted to the cultural/recreational needs of the combined site. Removing the recreational amenities from the parcel would have a catastrophic impact on the neighborhood.
Yes, Hampton Wythe Little League has more historical significance than the school building. Use the property left from the tear down of the school to build more recreational opportunities for the Hampton and Wythe Community
The facilities should be expanded to provide updated activities: a skate park, bmx bike run, courts for basketball and raquet sports.
I see this whole area eventually becoming a sports complex. The ballfields are very important to our community and the pool is on it's way to improvements. Unfortunately, the surrounding neighborhood children are an issue. They are disrespectful while playing at the playground, trash is being left behind and some hang out at the ball field looking for hand outs. It's unfortunate that this occurs. A child was jumped while on the t-ball field recently.
Yes,Netherlands fields are enclosed , which leads to safety.
Everything is great theres just a lack of skatepark in the area for all the kids I see on bikes and skateboards in the area
Pretty well. When you come around the corner some kids are just running past
Recreation amenities are good unless there are other facilities available to meet the same needs.
I would really like to see the building used as a community center. It should be for all ages with separate activities for seniors, children, teens and adults. Then maybe the different ages could get together for mentoring, etc. A Boys and Girls Club would be a Great idea for the area within the community center idea. Also, Continuing Education classes for Adults, craft programs, a non-profit martial arts class, sports for kids, etc. There is so many good ideas. You can either pay to keep the kids off the streets or pay to lock them up in prison!
safe swimming pool
The area surrounding include an old playground, a pool complex, a ball field and a fire station. There are no "safety" issues during a normal week. Where there is an issue is when there are competitions at the pool or ball field. There is simply NOT enough parking for these events. What parking there is, is poorly arranged. The city has allowed houses to be built in narrow lots in the surrounding areas without a thought to what was already in place (ball field, pool and the fire station).
Yes. If the building were re-purposed to 55+ housing of middle to upper middle class level apartments with use of the Wythe pool and the tennis courts.

The ball field is well maintained as far as I know and has easy access. The pool is a membership organization in which I do not participate. The playground was in good condition the last time I looked and seems to be used. I'm not sure of the safety of the area. For instance, I would not take my grandson to the playground by myself.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	74

8. Public, Private, Partnerships Public, Private, or Partnership, which do you PREFER? Why?

Text Response

Test

I prefer public or partnership. I have concerns private ownership will act in its own interests and not for the overall good of this community.

Private and/or Partnership is preferable as a Cultural Arts Center for our community. Both adults and children in our community will participate and enjoy the functionality as arts/music/dance/theatre classes, staged performances and art presentations.

Public, as citizens may be able to partake in activities.

I am not sure

Public. The expense for public use would be minimal and not maximum as mentioned in the meetings. Right now the only expense to the city is a couple of loads of dirt for the little league. The league maintains the property. Cuts the grass, paints, and repairs the fencing and fields. Picks up the trash and sets out the trash containers for collection.

Give it to the neighborhood and I prefer only one person/association to be responsible so there is no he said she said

I prefer a partnership, that way the community will have input on what happens at the site

i should not have to choose - this area is for the community and we should all be working together to make it work.

GOOD QUESTION, how has Hampton done in the past with partnership deals? I go with public.

Whatever happens, the building should remain, public access to the grounds is vital, and the historic character and pride generated by the building must be solidified for generations to come.

Public Private is the answer.

Public so the public has access.

Public. I think that the building can serve a multi-use role where it is still serving the residents of Wythe. This building can serve as a community center, vocational center, adult education center, neighborhood storm shelter, voting precinct. I think the school should be held in a roll over school status in the event that another Hampton school is damaged by natural disaster.

Partnerships seem to be the way to go -- doesn't the Little League help maintain the fields now? I'm not sure if there is a compatible business use for the property, though, unless a church or day-care wanted it. Senior care? Can some part of the building be saved but not the additions, so there is less of it to maintain?

This question makes no sense. How can we select the format without knowing what the use could be. It would be great if the city could expand recreation there, so I guess public?? If the city can't keep and maintain it, what are our options? I think the pool is private now but needs a little more space -- the tennis courts -- and the fields are public but the group helps with maintenance?

Any.

I don't really care as long as the building and property becomes safe again.

Public. It was built as a public building, and should remain so.

Partnership. I think the right developer could do a better job than the public sector at adaptive reuse, but I think a developer needs some incentives to take the project on.

How about a public and private partnership with a school for the arts tied into the arts institute or full sail university. Middle school and high school student could travel to and from their schools in Hampton.

Public recreational space seems like the most cost-effective solution with a long-term benefit to the community. The building will be far too expensive to maintain appropriately. A short-sighted sale to a private developer who intends to convert the space to low-income housing would eventually be an eyesore and crime magnet.

Private and I think the property could be turned into condos or retail business that could maintain the Hampton Old Wythe economy.

Public. It should be kept open and running via taxes paid for by the citizens of Hampton.

Partnership - It would be nice to have HWLL partner with the City, or another community group. Putting it solely into the hands of a Private owner opens it up to becoming housing that could potentially bring unsavories into the neighborhood, increasing crime and criminal activities.

Aside from the prospect of reuse as housing, I don't believe the building should fall into private hands, as there is a possibility that interest

could fade and it could be razed. A public use is most suitable, as public areas make the city and neighborhood more desirable.
no preference
Partnership with discounts for local resident use... but it is not necessary to raise any taxes to pay for it.
partnership because we all can benefit from using this building as a recreation center a learning center
Partnership; the property is well suited for private ventures, but the city must have say in what is done with space.
No opinion
PUBLIC. Hampton should be responsible for it's own property, not outsource it. We pay too much money to people to tell us what we should do with our own city.
I think a partnership is the way to go because more can be accomplished without it becoming an exclusionary venture.
Private Ownership. The City doesn't need to get it's fingers into any more property. When they do, the property doesn't pay taxes.
Private. The public dollars are not available.
If it goes private it would make very nice higher end condo/lofts. No section 8 housing we have enough of that and the crime that follows it!!! If it does go private there should be a contingency to maintain the architecture as much as possible.
I would need better explanations to answer. But I would assume that private would involve more development than the area would be comfortable with. Some type of partnerships with the City and Wythe Little League and GWRA would make sense, and maybe extend that to a recreational use for the school as a community center or after-school and summer camp for youth.
either approach is fine, although a private investment seems to make the most sense. the neighborhood could benefit from more private investment/ownership so that the burden doesn't continue to fall on the local government and its citizens.
Turn the property over to the Hampton Wythe Little League or the Wythe Pool. Let them turn it into a parking lot for our two communities to grow and be able to have adequate parking for both.
Public. Offers more control.
A public commitment to the re-purposing of the school would ensure its preservation.
Private - don't need more government involvement in property ownership
The land should be used for either a new fire station or by the existing baseball and swimming pool for parking
Any combination that keeps it as a space we all can use. NOT APARTMENTS.
No preference in principle, but partnership probably has the greatest combination of economic flexibility and concern for community desires and needs.
Partnership with the city. The history and recreational currently uses need to be maintained.
Public
Partnership with a development agreement or a pure private development and rezoning with proffers to avoid loopholes and protect it in case of a worstcase bankruptcy.
Partnership, I feel that it will be the more beneficial option of the three. There is a larger chance for the city to thrive.
The City really cannot afford a new building to maintain and programs to fund. In private hands it will be subject to the whims of the owner, so a partnership seems to be the best route.
City! We should not be in the business of public/private partnerships. That's shady at best. Crooked is a better term. The Air & Space museum, Downtown BID, and 101 W. Pembroke Avenue are great examples of what happens when you take my money! You can't run a business to save your life. You can't give your employees raises, but you can raise taxes, take money from other departments and give it to Air & Space?! What a joke.
Don't care.
Public structure particular for the children.
Partnership
Whatever keeps the building useful to our community. A nice community center for our children would great!
Have some Police and office space and Parks and Recs. and all should be fine. Need more security in the area. Many thugs always walking up and down Shatto Drive.
Public. We do NOT need public housing in this HISTORIC AREA. The Hampton City always needs office space. And this building is already here, just update it and services such as Police, Recreation and General Office Space, and School Administration for the City of Hampton should be paramount.
Any as long as stays for educational/community development
Public Hopefully, there are enough folks like me who recognize the importance of preserving the BEST of America!!!!
public,good for the community.
Public! It's a great location for a community center and already houses some of the facilities. Or a Library.
I would like for it to be publicly held.
I would prefer a partnership between the city and an outside source simply because I don't see how the city can afford to do anything meaningful on its own.

Partnership	
if you can use the auditorium or other parts of the building for civic events, then public-private. if not, then private development. In either case, deed restrictions maintaining exterior facades and other building characteristics are necessary. A good use that pops into mind is loft apartments or condos with each classroom (or two) being a separate apartment.	
keep as public parks and recreation after tearing down the building	
PPP is the way to go. Expand to a mixed use facility with artist spaces, performance/film spaces, concessions for food.	
Public	
I prefer partnership. It diversifies the usage and opens it for more people.	
Public. Skatepark.	
Private or Partnership	
Whatever is economically feasible and gets the job done. Whoever can do a quality project that fits the community for positive progress.	
I would like Public as in the Community Center idea. Because it would make the area better, especially regarding getting the children off the streets and involved in something positive.	
prefer public. Private development does not always have the wishes/needs of the community in mind.	
A partnership. This should never become "private" . Someone purchases a piece of history, and without the proper oversight, determines it is "too expensive" to maintain or restore. The city of Hampton ends up with an improperly maintained or abandoned property. A partnership with an architectural firm (with a large knowledge base of restoration) and the city would be the ideal way to maintain and preserve this building.	
Private with appropriate guidance and incentives from the city.	
Public...no partnerships, no private development	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	77

9. Any additional comments?

Text Response	
Test	
<p>Wythe is at a tipping point. Crime has increased. Homes are going on the market left and right, and they're not selling quickly. As a homeowner and resident of a community that takes great pride in its safety and image, I'm deeply concerned inappropriate reuse of this building could tip it in the wrong direction. Take a drive down Kecoughtan Road. Look at the condition of the privately-owned businesses and apartment communities. Deterioration is obvious. At least one neighbor has told me he and others won't shop at those businesses within walking distance to their homes. Is that the future you want for the Wythe Elementary building? We need an owner who will help this community move in a positive direction, not one that will set it back further. Thank you for considering my concerns.</p>	
<p>What are your plans for the Little league if you sell or convert the land to another use? Over 250 kids call these fields their home. This is 250 families that spend months enjoying the game of baseball and coming together as a community. District all star tournaments are held here each year. Teams from around the peninsula come to Hampton to participate in these tournaments. The city has no program to replace this if the fields are taken away from the little league.</p>	
<p>There are too few parks and recreation areas in hampton, and precious few on this area of the city.</p>	
<p>The Wythe Ball field has been around for a very long time. The community derives a great deal pleasure from this facility. To get rid of it out be doing a disservice to the families in the area and would be depriving our children of a wonderful pastime - baseball. The building is in such horrible shape to try to repair it, bring it up to code would be a waste. Tear it down and make a parking lot</p>	
<p>The building has structural fatigue, you can see rust coming out above all the window and the cracking of the brick shows signs of settling or failure.</p>	
<p>Any new use of the property needs to fit neatly within the community and not destroy the character of the building and the way it sits within the community.</p>	
<p>Are there plans of the building or is there a possibility of touring. I have an architectural firm and do investing with a group of investors. Was curious as to the possibilities of a conversion. I am Gregory Brezinski of ARCI Architects. my phone is 757-867-6530.</p>	
<p>I think that the school and property should be preserved for the Wythe community.</p>	
<p>Wythe is one of the city's great neighborhoods. It's also one of the largest. There is a diversity in Wythe of age, race, income. One of the great things is how well those groups come together -- how the families who have more, give more so that kids with fewer resources can still do Scouting, baseball, etc. I know the city has limited resources, but this neighborhood could really use the stability of having this recreational community asset.</p>	
<p>Youth activities and events that draw neighbors together are very important. Gets people out, to know each other, and to be physically</p>	

active. Very important community goals.

Making it into apartments is nuts. Why not look into making it into an office building or an off shoot of TNCC or ODU.

Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve. Preserve Wythe School!

See above comments about parking lots on the waterfront. (Don't do that with waterfront property anymore. Downtown has plenty of parking. More parking = more cars. Copenhagen eliminated parking in their downtown in the 1970s, and created a pedestrian only zone out of their busiest road. Guess what? People got on their bikes and rode into town.) Progressive thinking and development will attract more businesses, especially local, independent businesses with an interest in the community. This will instill a greater sense of community and pride, and will attract more people who want to live and work in an affordable city which has much waterfront property.

The city and schools need to make the arts a big draw here. We should expect more and set our bar higher in the areas visual and performing arts. The arts are really diminished by our neighboring cities. It could be a huge economic driver as well!

I would vote against it being turned into low-income housing.

Its a beautiful old building. Please, preserve it for future generations.

Why not make the building a community center where Boys & Girls clubs can meet....give neighborhood kids a place to go so they're not out doing things that can get them into trouble!

Vote for Ryan Fontes for city council one day! Ha ha!

Investment is needed in this end of Wythe or it will no longer be a good place to live. It doesn't have much going for it architecturally except for this nice building. The new schools may function well but they are really ugly and they make us look like a community that does not value good public appearance.

Use for recreational use: sporting fields, walking/running track, dog park, etc.

The school kept the corner well kept and not an eyesore, the baseball and pool associations are the only reason that corner is not dangerous. The vandalism of the school shows that this property is susceptible to attack and the use of the property should be chosen to minimize area crime and attractiveness to those who are associated with it.

Get out of your office and come door to door and meet the people who live in Wythe. We are a diverse group of people with immense needs.

Please please dont make this low income housing!!!

We really need to keep these recreational facilities -- we need more, not fewer. IN fact, it could be developed into a larger park/recreation facility of some sort, including the building. Walking trail, larger playground. We really have nothing else on this side of town. Sandy Bottom, Briarfield, Buckroe, the soccer fields, Gosnold's Hope are all too far away.

With the city requesting National Register of Historic places, What are the requirements?

please don't tear it down. my children attended grade school there and I was a volunteer in the classrooms and eventually became an assistant. great memories of Wythe Elementary!

Donate the property to the pool and baseball league or build the new fire station on it and donate the old fire station property.

Again: NO DEVELOPERS NO APARTMENTS.

Whatever is done needs to bring some fresh spirit and new activity to this part of Wythe. Just ordinary apartments and a couple of ball fields are not probably enough. If a community center is chosen, it must appeal to everyone not just the neediest youngsters. One point about nurturing artists is that they often help revitalize places where the rents are cheap, nature is close by, and the neighbors are friendly.

I am not in favor of any type of affordable or low end housing in the site. As a resident of over 15 years, I struggle with staying in Hampton and in the neighborhood due to the increase of crime in the neighborhood. This year has seen a increase in criminal activity. The city needs to look at ways to increase and maintain our neighborhoods. We need to look for ways to create opportunities to drive new revenues and increase values. Say no, to any and all low income/affordable living communities. Until the area is cleaned up and crime is under control we can't afford to add more opportunity for less than desirable behavior. Let's attract back the medium to higher real estate purchaser who has left the area.

Give it to the Fire and Rescue to use in conjunction with Station #3

senior housing would allow senior to stay in place in the neighborhood in which they already have their social connections and it would also provide another housing alternative to serve a growing population of seniors who may even have attended the school in their youth.

An arts center offering more space than Charles Taylor) would be nice, but in my opinion the Wythe School isn't the best location for such a facility.

It doesn't matter any way. You will squander whatever you make off the deal. You will spend more money on planning on "what" to do, rather than doing, and none of what you actually do will make a difference to the citizens of Hampton. It will only benefit the precious few, or their close friends and relatives. Sad.

Not related to the area around the school, but Hampton needs to do a better job of cutting the grass on city-owned medians and picking up the trash along Mercury Boulevard.

I believe that for all the Wythe Little League Association have given to the youth of this community, it should be a no brainer to just GIVE THE PROPERTY TO THEM for use of a parking lot or whatever they see fit. The Association, sponsors and volunteers have put in countless hours and years of their time to give our children something to do and be proud of. Too many of your children are sitting around with nothing to do. Idle minds and hands are the devil's playground. It is our responsibility to continue to mold this generation into honest, hardworking and responsible adults. THEY NEED SOMETHING TO DO. My son played from age 6 to 14. My 10 year old has been playing since she was 6. I understand that private ownership may not affect the fields. However, if a developer decides to buy that property, they are definitely going to want more than just that. It would be an extreme let down to the kids should something like that

happen. Sometimes, happiness means more than a dollar. Togetherness strengthens a community not highend apartments. I have lived in Hampton all my life. I have seen too many things get taken away and not replaced for the sake of a dollar. Sometimes I wonder whose really looking out for the citizens. I have heard many times that moving out of this city was the best thing to do. For once in a lifetime do something gracious and just give something to someone that has meaning and a purpose.

I would rather the building destroyed than have it as housing... It would be ruined in short order if utilized as public housing; any-how.

I feel that we do NOT NEED public housing of any kind or any other such need in this Historic Community. Office Space and Administration Space for the city should be most paramount. Keeping the pool and ball field is also a good thing, but public housing of any kind is SHOULD NOT BE AN OPTION. The police presence for us, though strong, is still stressed and we do not need any more pulic housing in this area. Period.

the boys and girls club needs more space and the building would be perfect for them. And more kids would join

In my opinion, there should be a community center built there, much like there are in many other areas of the city. I think a fee should be required to use the facilities, but that maybe it could be at a reduced rate if someone lives in a Whythe-area zip code.

I can honestly say, if the ball fields and pool suffer because of either low income housing or our space being sold, we will look at moving away from the area. My husband works in Virginia Beach and the only thing that keeps us here is our wonderful neighborhood. Our kids ride their bikes up to the pool and ball fields and taking that away would cripple one of the gems Hampton has.

I would like for you to give some thought to placing architectural restrictions on the houses that will eventually be built along Kecoughtan Road. This is on land you purchased (in most cases for a LOT of money with the goal to "clean up" the corridor. I understand that the plan is to give the lots to builders to build on. Requiring the new homes to maintain an appearance consistent with the 75-110 year old homes already in the neighborhood will maintain a continuity of style and design in the neighborhood. That results in a consistency that is pleasing to the eye. Just my thoughts. I have lots more to say about it when the opportunity comes.

Tear the building dowb and keep as public parks and recreation after tearing down the building

I had the opportunity to visit the school for the first time in years when I stopped by last December. My wife was greatly impressed by the building and I gained a renewed appreciation for it as an inviting place with remarkable design features. I want to see it full again with the activities that build community.

I know the idea of preserving a school such as Wythe seems like a good idea to some, but it would be too costly. Tear it down. Use the new space for ballfields and parking, maybe even a rec center to keep those children off of the ballfields and playgrounds that really need something constructive to do rather than smoke pot and use profanity. BTW this is being overheard and seen by the young children swimming at the pool and playing t-ball. Thank you

Build a skatepark!!

What is missing in the community that could be housed at Wythe School?

Again, either pay to get the kids off the streets or pay to lock them up.

Had the property been properly maintained over the years by the city, it would not be in the condition it is now. I don't understand the mentality that "patches" problems.

As housing for 55+ this could provide a place for people who have lived in Wythe all their lives and want to downsize but not leave the area. It should be of a quality to upgrade the neighborhood.

My husband and I are very much opposed to using the building for housing or for use by social services.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	52

10. Is it important to preserve the school building? Why or why not?

Text Response

Yes. Adds history to Hampton.

ITS A NATIONAL HISTORIC BUILDING! Of course preserving it is important.

Absolutely. See the above response under "history and character." Buildings like this are few and far between, and should be saved.

It's on the national register of historic places for a reason. I think it is important to preserve the intact historic elements of the community.

Maybe, tying in the old with the new would be appropriate.

No, it is not important to preserve the school building. The security and curb-appeal of our neighborhood and the value of our property is of primary importance.

I think the building had character and doesn't need too be demolished. I think the school can be transformed into business to maintain and improve our economy and surrounding area.

Absolutely. It can be MUCH more useful as a community meeting building, adult education center, satellite offices for local colleges, there are many possible uses for it.

Yes -- tearing the building down would disrupt the current set-up of activities utilizing the area. Unless a demolition/construction could be

worked out in the winter....the pool is used in the summer; the ball fields in the spring, summer and fall.

YES. As stated above, it is a remnant of an era past, a time in which architecture was a form of art and buildings were crafted for longevity, purpose, and aesthetics -- not strictly for use like many are today. Hampton has made the detrimental mistake of "urban renewal" in the past by obliterating countless beautiful and historic structures -- let us not continue the tradition. Save the building.

Yes! It is part of our history and has wonderful character.

It's historical! Preserve something old.

No. If it is not usable the way it is, clear the space and make the land usable.

the city government has torn down so many historical buildings, i have lived here all my 59yrs and have seen so much waste,,i'm ashamed to tell people i'm from this town. buildings that can bring people here, gone, this town gets passed over on the interstate all the time..no one knows where hampton is,,there is nothing to keep people coming here..i just don't understand why you don't listen to the people,,you are like the government up in DC, we voted the men in and they do what they want, they don't do what the people want. just like ya'll ,,you do what you want, you never listen to the people that put you into office..it's all about the money,,never about what the people want.

Yes; see first answer

Not entirely. But it would be a shame since the city of Hampton does not keep historic buildings. Once they tear Wythe down, what is to stop them from going after Armstrong School?

Not sure. It's condition would be the major determinant.

Not necessarily...the residents need/want something that adds value to the community. But the last thing anyone wants is low income housing You will see a mass exodus from Old Wythe

It is an historic building. Enter to learn. Leave to serve. what else do you need to know?

Depends upon cost to renovate.

Yes. For the following reasons:1. Extension of Hampton City Library. 2. Community computer rooms/ classes. 3. Use cafeteria for meals on wheels. 4. Auditorium - used for community programs- meeting space OWNA. 5. Exercise programs- yoga, Pilates, aerobics. 6. Senior citizen club. 7. Museum for History of Hampton City Schools. 8. Return to election voting center. 9. Tutoring program center. 10. Meeting place for scouts with offices. 11. GED / continuing education center. 12. Grounds should be landscaped to include park / garden and to update baseball diamonds. 13. Community storm shelter 14. Red Cross Training Center

As mentioned earlier the architecture and wythe historical relevance should be maintained. It is a beautiful building and it would be a crime to tear it down. We have lost so many beautiful old buildings an it is time to start saving some before they are all gone. Todays buildings just cannot compare with these.

Ideally, it would be preserved. If it's cost-effective and there's a good use that fits the neighborhood/recreational aspects. I believe in preserving our history when possible -- but I think serving today's community (or tomorrow's, if you think of the kids) is the paramount concern.

yes - as mentioned above the architectural character is distinctive and Hampton has removed too much of its history that adds to its 400 year old history.

No, there is TOO much to do in order to fix it. Level it and give HWLL & the Wythe pool more parking.

Need costs involved to answer that question.

yes. can't it be made into condos?

It would cost more than it is worth to renovate and remove all the hazardous materials.. If you want to preserve something than take the brick and use it when a new fire house is built.

It is, but if you plan to ruin it with apartments that will only age degrade and eventually attract trouble then you might as well tear it down. It would be best to preserve it as the Old Wythe Community Center.

Only if it is in good enough condition to support reconfiguration without tearing it all out inside.

Yes it is important to maintain the exterior of the building. It is the character and heart of history for the neighborhood. To see it torn down or resurfaced would take away from the overall character of the Olde Wythe neighborhood.

Same answer as question #1. Many of our City offices are in older buildings.

yes, unique architecture and it's commuity with surrounding community development and hampton's development.

I believe we should make use of the building, while still preserving it for its historic importance.

It is important to preserve to the people of Wythe as a symbol of te community. Hoewever as said above, the economics will have to make sense. Much more important buildings have been lost in my lifetime than the school.

Why did we close it? Oh wait, to build a new congested one. Have you seen the overcrowding at other schools? If you have to have outside trailers for classrooms, then why aren't they in an actual building. Not real safe or secure. Great protection for the staff and the children. But, as long as your priorities are justified I guess it's okay.

No it is not, in these tight economic times, what monies the City does have needs to be put towards core services and public safety. I can only imagine the costs of asbestos and lead abatement alone would be cost prohibitive. What are the demographics of the neighborhood, would the n'hood really support a recreation and meeting facility to it's fullest potential ?

Yes. Because of the architectural style.

No. Cause it's not.

Not sure don't know the history

Yes. It is an amazing example of architecture.	
It is quite significant. We have so few period buildings to appreciate in this area. With much ruined by war and "progress" a little out-crop of the past is a much needed respite.	
Yes. It's a piece of Hampton history. Art Deco isn't everywhere. This building was built with that design in mind. Yes, please preserve it!	
Not if dangerous	
Absolutely!!!!. See History and Character above!	
yes,give it to the boys and girls club to make it a community center and learner center.the kids in this area need aplace to go to stay out of trouble.then a place for students to get help with homework and learn skills for school	
Yes.	
Absolutely! That is the reason it is on the historic register, and it's an irreplaceably beautiful building.	
I think it is important to preserve elements of the building, or at least the essence of the building.	
It's a historic landmarks and needs to be kept as such, make use of the beautiful building and appreciate its rich roots imbedded deep in the communtiy	
I do not think it is important to preserve the school building but have no emotional attachment to it. If preserved, I would love to see it become a community outreach center and meeting area for organizations. What a great youth center it could become to help with Hampton's goal to reduce youth crime in our area!	
Yes it is. This city and its past administrations have found too many easy excuses to demolish our history and character. If you want to bulldoze everything old and build cookie cutter replacement projects it will make our neighborhoods look and feel like the suburban sprawl that exists most everywhere else in hampton roads. People are drawn to older Hampton neighborhoods because they have the look and feel of Old Hampton and not because it is not quite like Virginia Beach or Norfolk. If you didn't think there were good reasons to keep the building this question wouldn't be in the opinion survey,	
NO, No historical significance, it was a school as many before that have been demolished. Preserve the Owls and put in the hampton museum to caputure the only unique significance of the school. Tear the building down.	
It is important to preserve this building and leverage its facilities to better serve a wider range of uses. It can be a magnet for arts and recreation. I think a great model is the "torpedo factory" in Alexandria, VA.	
No. I think it would cost too much. City needs to put monet into tearing it down.	
Historical entities are always of educational importance, and Wythe school is one.	
No Because it needs to be a skatepark	
They could knock it down for more parking instead of having all of the people at the fields and pool park on the street of Claremont	
Love the idea of having it as an arts place - pottery, Vacation Bible School, glass blowing etc	
Repurposing the building is positive if the facility is in a condition to make that feasible. What do the examinations and assessment show? Because of the art deco aspect, has a study of preservation for historic and artistic purposes happened?	
Yes, because it's important to the community and is still useable. Why tear down a good and interesting looking bldg.	
yes, architecture.	
asked and answered.	
Yes. It is a part of our history, unique architecture.	
I do not believe it is necessary to preserve the building. It's very old and would require considerable expense to upgrade and repurpose it. Perhaps a new structure is in order at this time.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	65