

## The Friends' Mission

"To ensure the accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of the Stillwater Community Center for use by the citizens of Stillwater and surrounding area."

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

**Page 1:**

Work Day and Blues Festival

**Page 2:**

A Letter from the president

**Page 3:**

Stillwater's Friend Larry Stein

**Page 4:**

How to Donate

## Become a Friend at Work Day

The Friends of Stillwater Community Center will be hosting a work day weekend April 7-8 to further the progress of the Community Center.

The FSCC is looking for more volunteers to assist with these work days that will advance the Curb Appeal project. This project will enhance the exterior lighting of the building, landscaping, overall appearance and accessibility of the building.

The previous work day brought 150 volunteers who donated their time and effort to the remodeling of the Dining and Event Hall.

The remodel created a maintainable space for programs such as Stillwater's Project Heart. The Dining and Event Hall has blossomed into a rentable venue for the public.

For the current curb appeal project, the cost of renovations will be around \$100,000. These costs will be offset by generous donations. The FSCC has raised nearly \$16,000 and is striving to increase that number closer to the project's goal.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating can contact the FSCC at 405-714-7201 for more information.

## Every Year

**1,600** events are held at the Community Center

**138,800** people use the Community Center

### FSCC BOARD MEMBERS

- President- Judy White
- Vice President- Nellie Rhea
- Secretary- Ammie Bryant
- Treasurer- Jim Baker
- Historian- Sue Moore
- Marketing- Ann Houston
- Member- Nancy Beckstrom
- Member- Vickie Sturgeon
- Member- Barb Osteen



## Did You Know?

You can host meetings, productions, conferences, parties, reunions, receptions, live performances, exhibits, dances, and so much more at the Community Center.

## The Blues are Back in Town

The Stillwater Community Center will be hosting the Blues Festival April 20 – 21.

The Friends of Stillwater Community Center has worked hard in conjunction with the Stillwater Community Center Foundation and other city organizations to bring this festival back to Stillwater.

The city's first Blues Festival was held in 1998 in downtown Stillwater. For years, the Blues Festival was known as the largest free blues festival in Oklahoma. It was first held at the Community Center in 2001.

This year's festival will feature a beer garden, food trucks, renowned artists and much more.

"This year has been very exciting," Larry Stein said. "Blues is an original American music and there are some great bands coming in this year."

Seven bands will perform at the festival. Friday's lineup will include Little 'Joe' McClerran and Bill Howl-N-Madd Perry, with the Norman Jackson Band closing.

Saturday's show will feature MORGAN, The Boogie, and Miss Blues, with Watermelon Slim closing the show.

Admission to the Blues Festival will be free to all attendees. The event will be from 6-11 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, with activities happening indoors and outdoors, weather permitting.

# A Letter From The President



Friends working during the first work day of Project #2

Dear Stillwater Community Center Fans,

**D**o you realize more than 138,000 people attend more than 1,600 events at the Stillwater Community Center each year?

Yet, in 2016, citizens responded to a call-to-arms when consultants to the Stillwater City Council recommended that the Community Center was not profitable and that the building could be sold or partially salvaged and the land sold to developers.

A school built in the early 1900s, now a community facility hosting thousands of people annually, was in peril.

Since the closing of the school building in 1987, there have been countless studies, surveys and task forces trying to determine if and how to use it. The Friends of Stillwater Community Center, Inc. is a liaison group of concerned citizens, working on behalf of the community and the city to keep this resource accessible, affordable and sustainable to its residents.

The Friends are allied with the Stillwater Community Center Foundation and together work to raise money through grants, donations and events for projects that enhance and improve the facility.

The Center is the permanent home to: Project Heart, many dance groups, the Stillwater Jazz, the Stillwater Community Band, the Stillwater Community Singers and several churches. It hosts a wide variety of events, conferences, weddings, reunions and just about anything you can think of when it comes to gathering people in a central place.

The Friends, working in partnership with the City, is accomplishing what neither can do independently.

**Project Number One**, Completed -

Project Heart Dining Room is now the Dining and Event Hall. Remodeled with new furniture, kitchen accessories, lighting, ceiling, paint and other amenities gives new life to this room that is suitable for hosting affordable events for up to 160 people.

**Project Number Two**, In Progress - Curb Appeal.

A near 100-year-old structure could use some tender loving care. Among the items we've already tackled are some exterior painting, exterior lighting, grounds keeping and landscaping. There is more to do with painting, window repair and replacement, window treatments, ADA ramps and entrances and signage on the list.

Stillwater's quality of life is enriched by this unique building and the space it occupies.

We'd like for you to join us! It's easy to become a "friend." Follow @sccfriends on Facebook and Twitter; visit the website, www.sccfriends.com, contribute to the Stillwater New Press column "Then and Now," attend events, volunteer at Work Days, donate to project number two, become a public/private partner for a renovation and maintenance project, and more.

We can never have too many friends!

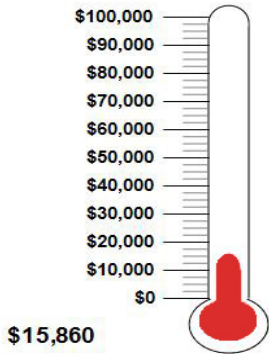
Judy White, president  
Friends of Stillwater Community Center Inc.



## Levels of Giving

- Pep Club - \$15-\$24
- Freshmen - \$25-\$99
- Sophomores - \$100-\$249
- Juniors - \$250-\$499
- Seniors - \$500-\$999
- Graduate - \$1,000-\$4,999
- BFF of FSCC - \$5,000+

## Thermometer Chart



**Design & Content Creation:** Alex Lambring & Katzee Reese

**Editing:** Ammie Bryant & Ann Houston

Friendsofswcc@gmail.com

At the age of 50, he realized he'd been a volunteer all his life in some ways and decided to choose a cause he would enjoy and that would allow him to leave a legacy.

Larry Stein, a retired veterinary medicine professor, has become a professional volunteer by dedicating his time to the preservation of the Stillwater Community Center.

Stein is passionate and active in both the Friends of Stillwater Community Center and the Stillwater Community Center Foundation and other volunteers would say he is a key component of the success of the annual Blues Festival in 2012.

At the age of 62, Stein was considered a youngster among five other volunteers when he began his volunteer work for the Community Center.

"I took it as a personal challenge to make this event continue," Stein said. "When I first came to town, I never missed a music festival. It was fun to see families there with their children dancing, and that's what this community needs to keep it thriving, people coming together."

Stein is also passionate about recruiting younger generations to join the cause because of the need for able-bodied volunteers for events and more strenuous activities. People tend to think their full-time jobs or class schedules are too time consuming to allow them to volunteer. Stein, however, knows from experience that people only get busier as they go through life.

"That's a mistake," Stein says. "Do it then as much as you can. Yes, we older people are bored and are looking for something to do, but we need younger people all the time for events or specific activities."

Stein would likely agree that the Community Center has brought him many days of fulfillment and multiple friends in his own life before retirement.

"If I was going to make a plea, it would be to ask that no matter how busy you are in your life, if you can just spare a couple of hours a month volunteering to something special in your life that you like to do, you'll find a lot more fulfillment in your own life," Stein said.

Volunteers can contact the Friends of Stillwater Community Center if they would like to donate either monetarily or with their time. Help will be needed with setup, clean up and various event management functions at the Blues Festival.

The Friends of Stillwater Community Center is an organization fully funded by donations and maintained by volunteer work. It is a 501(C) 3 organization, making all donations tax deductible.

The Friends of the Stillwater Community Center work to ensure the accessibility, affordability and sustainability of the Stillwater Community for the use of the citizens of Stillwater. The community center hosts conferences, receptions, live performances and various community services.



**"..that's what  
this community needs  
to keep it thriving, people  
coming together."**

## The Friends Need Donations and Volunteers For These Top Projects

Finishing out the second floor to create more usable spaces and installing elevators

Interior work: painting, floor coverings and lighting

Houston Theatre: stage rigging, proscenium stage and fix lighting

Supporting and staging more entertainment

Transform storage rooms in the Community Center into rentable space for citizens

Stillwater Community Center  
315 W. 8th Ave.  
Stillwater OK, 74076  
405-714-7201

Connect With Us



@SCCFriends



Log on to our website at  
[www.SCCFriends.com](http://www.SCCFriends.com)

# DONATION PAYMENT INFORMATION

THANK YOU! Please fill out the information below and mail payment to:  
Stillwater Community Center Foundation, P.O. Box 24 Stillwater, OK 74076

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CELL / PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to make this donation anonymously. *The Stillwater Community Center Foundation is a 501 (C) 3 organization.*

I/we wish to contribute/pledge a sustaining gift of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 or  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ for a minimum of 12 months.

Check (payable to Stillwater Community Center Foundation, *include in memo: Friends*)

Invoice me/us

Please charge my credit card: MasterCard VISA AMEX Discover

My donation is a: \_\_\_\_\_ One-time gift \_\_\_\_\_ Recurring monthly payment

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



of Stillwater Community Center, Inc.  
P.O. Box 24 Stillwater, OK 75076