



Then and Now

Who Doesn't Need Friends?

When I left Stillwater in 1976, watching my hometown shrink in the rearview, I was sure I was gone for good.

Headed west for Colorado in a hand-me-down Plymouth Valiant, adventure beckoned and I yielded to its enchantments.

Now, after 33 years living in three states, five countries, and 14 houses, my husband and I made a home, once again, in Stillwater. Family, friends, the wonderful memories of growing up here and the need to be part of a community drew me back.

When my husband and I left on our first overseas assignment one of my dad's biggest worries was how our two young sons were going to "learn to be Americans." I told him we would be back each summer for six weeks and he could have them for training.

He took it to heart so my boys enjoyed some of the same Stillwater "tours" as I did as a kid. Of course, the courthouse, city hall, the sewage treatment plant, the electric plant, the Stillwater Community Center (what was the Jr. High building when I was in school), and yes... the jail. They too felt camaraderie with citizens of Stillwater and some of its highlights. One son and his wife have moved here to raise their family!

Well done Dad. The feeling of belonging to this special community stuck.

A large part of what my parents taught and role modeled to my siblings and me was that your responsibility as a citizen is to give back to your community. For me, right now, my calling seems to be helping the Stillwater Community Center. Who would have thought when I walked the halls of Junior High in the

60s, boy-watching, (did I just say that?) I would one day be part of a team that is trying to keep the Center accessible, affordable and sustainable for our citizens.

A group called the Friends of Stillwater Community Center has formed to do just that. We have just completed our first of many projects that add value and quality to our building. When I say "our" building, I mean everyone reading this article.

Please be a guest of the "Friends" for the Launch of Project #1, Friday, August 25 from 5-7 p.m. in the old cafeteria, now called the SCC Dining and Event Hall. The address is 312 W. 9th Avenue.

We will be celebrating those who helped make this project happen, eating dinner, and enjoying Music on the Porch with the Stillwater Ukulele Association. Tours of the first floor of the SCC will be available just in case you have not travelled the halls in a while.

Are you curious about the plans for Project #2? Come and find out!

Please come as a guest and leave as a "Friend". Who doesn't need Friends?

I hope to see you there.



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Nancy Houston Beckstrom, daughter of long time Stillwater residents Barbara and Winfrey Houston, was born and raised in Stillwater. She and her husband, Jim, love living in Stillwater and enjoy being involved with projects as members of the Stillwater Community Center Foundation.

The Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of Stillwater Community Center strive to provide supplemental resources for the Stillwater Community Center to ensure its accessibility, affordability and sustainability for its use by residents and visitors of Stillwater and surrounding area. Visit www.sccfriends.com for more information.

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