

Thank you to all those who have donated their time, hardwork and money. To be able to complete Project #2 Friends of the SCC needs to raise \$100,000. Donations to date are \$15,865. Donation checks can be made out to Stillwater Community Center Foundation Include in memo: *Friends*. The Stillwater Community Center Foundation is a 501(C)3 organization. Donations are tax refundable

**Levels of Giving:**  
**Pep Club-** \$15-\$24  
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**THANK YOU!** Please print your name and address so we can acknowledge your contribution.

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# Friends of Stillwater Community Center

## Newsletter

Friends of SCC Inc., Volume 1, Issue 1, Spring 2018

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After almost a decade of silence, the Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of the Stillwater Community Center are ready to fill the city with music with the return of the Stillwater Blues Festival. The festival will be on April 20th and the 21st from 6-11p.m.

The Friends and Foundation of the Stillwater Community Center hope to bring back a quality evening of cultural entertainment and educate the public of its history in the American art form of Blues music.

Scheduled to play is Miss Blues, Dorothy Ellis. Ellis was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2004. The Oklahoma Gazette called her the "First Lady of the Blues." Based

out of Oklahoma City, she is expected not only to bring her outstanding music, but also a large crowd.

Playing in the same event are 6 more artists who are not short



on accolades either. Patrons will have the opportunity to listen to the brass sounds saxophone as well as southern groups

from Mississippi and North Carolina. These artists have toured both across the United States and Europe

According to the Stillwater News Press, the Iron Monk Co. will be set up providing adult beverages. And food trucks and other businesses will provide side entertainment.

## DIRECTOR JUDY WHITE CALLS FOR RESIDENTS TO BECOME FRIENDS OF SCC

Dear Stillwater Community Center Fans, Do 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.

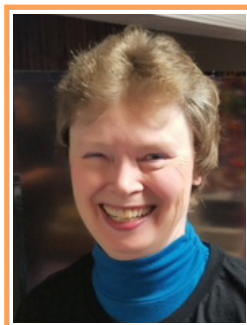
A school built in the early 1900s – now a community facility hosting thousands of people annually – was in peril.

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.

Friends of SCC is allied with the Stillwater Community Center Foundation. Both 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.

Friends of SCC and the city of Stillwater together are accomplishing what neither can do independently.



Project #1, 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 up to 160 people.

Project #2, 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, groundskeeping, 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."

You can follow @sccfriends on Facebook and Twitter, visit our website, [www.sccfriends.com](http://www.sccfriends.com), contribute to the Stillwater New Press column "Then and Now," attend events, volunteer at Work Days, donate to Project #2, become a public/private partner for a renovation and maintenance project, and more. We can never have too many friends!

*Judy L. White*

Judy White, president

Friends of Stillwater Community Center Newsletter is for all those in Stillwater and surrounding areas. Address all comments to Ann Houston at [annchouston@gmail.com](mailto:annchouston@gmail.com) and Ammie Bryant at [Ammie@stillwaterliving.com](mailto:Ammie@stillwaterliving.com)

## CHOIR CREATES COMMUNITY

A woman stands and smiles back at the volunteers organized in rows according to voiceparts. The choir she is conducting looks at her with no variance in attention.

This is a typical Thursday night rehearsal for the Stillwater Community Singers. Director Judy White lowers her arm and the pianist starts playing an upbeat song. The singers' focus doesn't waiver as they wait for their time to start. Finally the moment arrives. After a breath in unison the choir begins to sing. The sound is beautiful and strong and comes together like one voice filling the practice room located north of the Winfrey Houston Auditorium stage in the Stillwater Community Center.

The Stillwater Community Singers is a volunteer organization that brings the joy of music and performance not only to those who listen, but also the singers involved. The organization was founded in 1994 with a little over 50 members. Thirteen of the original group have been singing in the choir every year since.

The choir showcases three performances a year in the Stillwater Community Center on West 8th Avenue. Their love of music is easy to see in performances, but there is also an air of professionalism and pride in every practice.

**"It seems to me that the activity of singing together as a group provides a home away from home"**

Bethany Shaw grew up in Stillwater and has been to many of the choirs' performances.

"I remember going to shows when I was a kid and thinking how beautiful the choir was and how cool singing on a stage must be," Shaw said. "I'm grown-up and married now and I realize how wonderful it is to have such a great local choir and community center to enjoy. Those performances helped inspire me to sing throughout my whole life. Not all towns have such amazing opportunities for residents."

Many local residents have made the Stillwater Community Center a place of love and friendship through their volunteer work. Paula Fitch joined the organization in 1994 and now leads the Women's Chorus.

"It seems to me that the activity of singing together as a group provides a home away from home where fellow singers become your family in every way," Fitch said.

There are no auditions to be a member of the group. There is a small fee of \$24 to pay for sheet music and other small costs.

The choir not only performs on stage, but also shares their song in the streets of the community. In December, 2017 members of the choir sang Christmas carols on Main Street in Stillwater to local shoppers. The next performance will be in the spring of 2018

Friends of the Stillwater Community Center has a mission to ensure the accessibility, affordability and sustainability of the Stillwater Community Center for the use of the citizens of Stillwater and the surrounding areas. With Project 1 now complete in the Dining and Event Hall Friends of SCC is not slowing down. Project 2 to improve the exterior of the Community Center such as improvements in landscaping and adding ADA ramps and entrances is already underway.

