

Elizabeth Allred

"In every community there is work to be done. In every nation there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it." –Marianne Williamson. In order to build a better community for tomorrow we as citizens must look around us and find that one thing that would bring us closer together and strengthen the ties of our community. The community of Stansbury Park is close-knit and vibrant, but the one thing our community lacks is a functional community center. As a young adult who spent most of her life in Stansbury Park I truly felt the lack of a centralized place for young people to hang out.

Although our community already has dedicated lands to green areas and outdoor recreation areas, a golf course and outdoor pools there is no indoor recreation area, and in a climate such as ours part of the year prevents very much outdoor activity. A community center would provide year-round swimming pools, playgrounds close to tennis courts, exercise equipment, jogging tracks, and perhaps even day care. In my imagination this would be a thriving center where you could drop your kids off and feel that they were safe, a place where one would feel a true connection to your neighbors and friends through the association of sports, dance, art, play or exercise. This would be a place where you felt a true connection to your community and neighbors because it would be the center of activity for the community.

I envision pottery classes taught to all ages, CPR classes for the further benefit of the community, self-defense classes. Self-defense classes although they may be for all people, ages and gender, I feel are particularly important for women. I believe women in our community should learn how to defend themselves, women should be independent and empowered and a class such as this would help them to achieve that.

As an athlete that played club volleyball we could never find a place in the county for our team to practice. A community center would provide gym space instead of having to fight over limited gym space at the high schools. Not only will athletes have access to gym time and space, they will have the chance to use state of the art weight lifting equipment for training at a fraction of the cost of a gym membership. This will benefit not only the athletic teams, but the profits made from rentals will be able to go back to the community center.

The community center would be a place where not only teenagers, athletes, and adults could use, but even young children would be able to go for dance classes, indoor soccer, art lessons, and there could even be daycare, and quality daycare is something that every community benefits from. One must only look to the examples of Magna and West Valley to see the effect that is had on the community as a whole. When I was younger I would visit my aunt who lives in West Valley and when we were asked what we wanted to do my cousins and I always would reply that we wanted to spend an afternoon at the community center. It was a safe environment for children to spend their afternoons as they are able to have a fun time.

If we were to build a community center it would strengthen our growing community and it would enable our citizens to have a place to meet together as a community, a place where to go and work out or just have an enjoyable afternoon with your family. It would be a great addition to our community that would allow us to build a better community for a better tomorrow.