

January 5, 2007

My name is Barbara Stevens – Vice President of the Keller Senior Center Council. I live at 401 Mistys Run, Keller, TX.

I have been attending the Keller Senior Center for the past 5 years and have seen the membership grow from 200 to 450 as of 2006. Capacity of the building is 143. If everyone came at the same time, the number of people would exceed the fire code numbers. Capacity of the large room is 113.

When the building first opened in 1990, it was used to rent out for private events. In 1991, it opened as the Keller Senior Center. Things have changed since then. There are no records of membership in 1991. However, in 2000, there were 1,903 people who are 60+ and the numbers have grown since then.

Our limited space is used for many activities that conflict in the space we have.

The ceramics room is 9X9 feet. It has a sink and 2 long tables put together leaving not much room to work. At present, half of the ceramics people work in the craft room and the instructor has to go back and forth between rooms making it difficult to teach everyone at the same time. There are more people interested in ceramics than there is room for. This room is also used as a card room and a crochet room. Tables have to be moved everyday to accommodate the different groups' activities.

The Computer room is multipurpose also. It is used for bible study (this class has grown too large to use the craft room anymore), exercise class, bridge club (which has grown so large that they have to put some tables outside of the computer room), and council meetings when the ceramics room is being used. They also use it for any other activities that need space.

When there is a band, people have to dance around the tables and chairs of the lunchroom. This room is not only used to eat in, but also to play board games, have special activities like parties, dinners, bingo, bunco and participants meetings, etc.

There is a need for more storage space for things frequently used and for non-monetary donations.

Also, it would be nice to have a programmable thermostat, because it would save more electricity.

The Supervisor's office is small. It measures about 8X10. It is used by the Supervisor, Recreation Specialist, treasurer, and President of the Senior Center Council. It has two desks and two large chairs, fax machine, file cabinet,

computer, etc. Only window is too high to look out of when sitting at the desk. At present, there are plans to make an office for the Recreation Specialist in the small reception area, which is an open area by the front door. This area has a high counter surrounding it.

We at the Keller Senior Center would like our center to expand to be able to attract and handle more people here.

When seniors come to the Keller Senior Center they look for a place that has many activities they can enjoy. Other centers in the area have more space to offer and people go there instead.

We at the Keller Senior Center are a wonderful group of caring people who volunteer and do much for the community. We have been making do, shifting things around to make room for different activities and it is getting more difficult to do so.

We would appreciate your concern and ability to do something to make the Keller Senior Center one that will attract more people and make the people who do come want to stay.

We invite you to visit the center to see for yourselves the need we have for more space.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Stevens".

Barbara Stevens

November 26, 2006

To whom it May Concern:

The Keller Senior Center opened up in 1991 in the present building we are now using. There haven't been any changes in the arrangement of space or the size of the center.

Basically, we have one large room, one smaller adjoining room which now has seven computers, a television space and storage space for tables and folding chairs in this smaller adjoining room mentioned above.

There is a small room in the back that the ceramics people are using for the making of ceramics. This room is about 9 feet by 9 feet. There is an adjoining room used by the craft people to make crafts for our craft sales we hold.

This is the same arrangement now as fifteen years ago in the building, which has been well maintained for the past fifteen years. We don't have space for the following: Separate card rooms, a pool room, a TV room, a storage room, a bridge club room for 25 to 30 people, and an exercise room. We need a larger computer room as many people sign up for lessons and we also have a waiting list, because our computer space is too small to have more people in each lesson. We have so many people because we have a good teacher.

City of Keller Growth:

1990 → 1,047 people who are 60 years or more

2000 → 1,903 people who are 60 years or more

This does not count the people who attend the center that live in Fort Worth but have a Keller mailing address. Or the people that are from Park Glen Area and others, which is a fast, growing area.

Tarrant County Population:

In 1990 → 135, 515 people that were 60 years or older

In 2000 → 164, 557 people that were 60 years or older

Tarrant County population is the 4th largest in population of the 254 counties in Texas.

The meal we serve provides 33 and a 1/3 percent daily requirements for seniors sixty and over. This is partly funded by federal, state, organizations, donations etc. under the Older Americans Act. People eating lunch are not charged a specific amount. They make a donation of what they can afford.

The Keller Senior Center schedules several trips, which includes trips to Winstar and Choctaw Casinos. Many people in the Keller area take these trips as well as the other local trips. With more space it would help to accommodate more people.

In comparison of size to some other centers in the Northern part of the county:

Haltom City has 6 available rooms, included in these is:

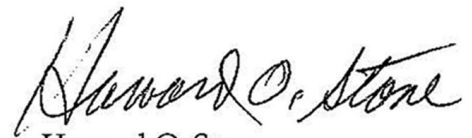
- Pool room
- Large ceramics room
- Computer Room
- Separate Game Rooms

Grapevine is very large and has many large sized rooms.

White Settlement has many large rooms and heavy attendance.

The Keller Senior Center stays active in the Community. We donate money we earn from workshops, Garage Sales, Craft Sales, Quilts and silent auctions. We budget \$25.00 per month to the Community Storehouse plus donations of food. We also donate to Christ Haven Orphanage, High school scholarships and others. We also purchase craft supplies to make items to sell, purchase center supplies, bingo prizes and other center needs.

I feel at the present, the Keller Senior Center is limited in space and needs more space. I have been attending the center for the past 12 years.



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