

From: [Alan Shaw](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 3:21:09 PM

I appreciate the opportunity to write to the board of representatives about this topic. I am a lifelong resident of Stamford, currently living downtown. Over the years I have come to know many of our communities, each with its own name and character. From the Ridges to Waterside or from Springdale to Hubbard Heights Stamford is a big city made up of small towns. No neighborhood is more characteristic of this than Glenbrook, and the center of this area is the Glenbrook Community Center, nothing shows how important this building is to the community, than the lawn signs which have popped up seemingly overnight imploring everyone to "SAVE OUR CENTER".

By way of a little history, the Glenbrook community center used to be a school, serving the community by educating the neighborhood. Later it transitioned to life as a community center, hosting scouting, little league, recovery groups, the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association and many other programs. This all came to an end when the center closed for the pandemic. When Jerry Pia announced his retirement, no serious effort was made to find someone new to run the community center. When COVID-19 came to our area, some undoubtedly saw it as a gift horse and closed the community center.

Stamford has quite a few former schools that have become community centers. The Yerwood, Widner, Addison are just some of the names that are well known in their communities. A few years ago when the Widner center in the South End went bankrupt, the city was very involved in finding new management and made it clear that the neighborhood would not be left without its community center. The city has recently demonstrated a great deal of justifiable pride at the conversion of the Addison center into the Police Activities League Community Center. This newly reinvigorated center will soon host the Ferguson Library's first new branch since opening their branch in the south end at the Widner Center.

No such resource is being considered for Glenbrook, instead this neighborhood is faced with only one option, a housing complex. If you dare to speak against this single option, you are vilified and told you must hate the people that would likely live in these apartments. The neighborhood has been told that since nobody had used the community center in years the only option is housing. I think some within the city government don't want anyone to realize that nobody has used the center because it was closed by the same government that now says it is not being used. If this were not so important an issue, it would be darkly comical.

In closing I would like to point out that other options have recently come to light and instead of being given serious consideration, they are barely acknowledged, instead being characterized as unvetted, unrealistic, not serious or other such terms of derision. To replace

this vibrant community-based center with a high-density development which will take more than it will give, seems counterintuitive. Please join me in my, and my fellow citizens, quest to SAVE OUR CENTER.

Respectfully Submitted

Alan Shaw, Stamford CT



Virus-free www.avg.com

From: [Jerry Pia](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Cc: [Jerry Pia, Sr](#)
Subject: GCC info
Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 3:50:26 PM

To the Stamford Board of Representatives

(A Board that I was honored to serve on representing the 7th District from 2004-2012)

I was asked by members of the community to provide some information regarding the Glenbrook Community Center.

It's been brought to my attention that some people believe that since Activities for Kids, inc. was closed in the fall of 2017, the GCC wasn't really used and that there wasn't programming there. The GCC was fully operational and the community center was closed only because of Covid on March 13, 2020, as were City buildings.

The building was housing all the same programs except for an After School Program during the school year and a 5-12 Summer DayCamp.

There was Summer program for 2-5 year olds.
That's the only difference

Also, as of its closing, the building was up to code, maintained and was in excellent shape.

Here a list of some of the programs and organizations the GCC offered...with 200- 350 people going through the GCC each day, depending on the day if the week.

2017-2020 GCC Room use chart

The GCC has 4 floors Basement and three floors. All rooms were being used
First floor - 2 rooms

New PreK both rooms Oct 2017-March 2020

Second floor - 3 rooms

ReAl Club Large room w Kitchen Been at GCC since the 1970s

Irish Dancers Second Floor room 1 Been at GCC since the 1970s

Room 2. Day and night Meeting room / seniors and various group, many condo meetings, boat class certification and also used by ReAl for additional meeting space

Third floor - 4 rooms
Offices. Two Rooms
Church room #4
Room 3 was storage

Basement

One Room...The Church's second space
Gym...Zumba, basketball and other gym sports. Also
GNA meeting space as their meetings outgrew the second floor. PreK events, parties.

I know my Mom and Dad (who also served on the Board of Reps from the 7th District) are proud that I am writing this letter. After the fire of 1968, many Glenbrook residents fought for the Glenbrook School not to be demolished, fighting for the funds to restore the building and to become a Community Center. My parents were among those people, including Gloria and Pat Battinelli, who, with their children, are still fighting, 54 years later, for the GCC to continue to be a Community Center.

I spent 40 years at the GCC, from ages 31-71! Great years. Great people . Great programs. All helping Stamford's residents.....it's wonderful people.

The Glenbrook School 1898-1968 and the GCC 1969-2020 should continue to be a Community Center... a Historical Building in the Center of Glenbrook...a place for people to congregate, recreate and participate. A place to smile, laugh, share, care. A place to better their lives. To enjoy the friendship of other children, program participants, fellow members, coworkers.

Making friends for life.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this letter.
Jerry Pia