

## **LETTER: YMCA TIME WELL SPENT**

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On Nov. 7, 1989, the citizens of Ketchum approved a bond issue providing funds for the acquisition of the privately held land which has become the City's Park and Ride Lot off Warm Springs. The bond issue specifically earmarked the land for parking, recreation and cultural purposes. The city leaders worked very hard to pass this bond, exhibiting wisdom and foresight in recognizing the community's future needs. Following the election, a group of people came together to develop a project, which would bring much needed facilities for recreational and cultural purposes while still providing parking. They approached the city of Ketchum about a public-private partnership. At that time, the city and the private group agreed that together they could create a fiscally responsible facility and accomplish the goal set forth in the bond issue and supported by the voters.

Yes. This has been a longer journey than any of us originally anticipated. However, we-the community-can have a facility that will benefit all in the Wood River Valley. In addition, it will be run by one of the nation's best recreational operators, the YMCA, with over 150 years of experience. Sounds like a formula for success, doesn't it?

Finally, it takes thousands of hours of hard work from many dedicated people to build a project such as the proposed YMCA. Yet, it only takes a few negative comments to bring a project down. We are very anxious to share details of this project as it has evolved, based on the input received from countless people over the past many years. Please attend the upcoming public briefings to learn all about this for yourself. Once you see what this YMCA brings to the valley, you will be proud to call it your YMCA!