

## Resident Profile

Name:

Larry Cisneros



Larry Cisneros built a house in the Switzer Meadows neighborhood 31 years ago, raised his family in Merriam, and retired from his career as a union pipefitter here. During his career Cisneros is proud to have worked on such landmarks as the George W. Bush Presidential Library and the Sprint Center.

Now, as a member of the Merriam Parks & Recreation Facilities Steering Committee, he has the opportunity to participate in discussions about what to do with some local landmarks — the Irene B. French Community Center and the Merriam Aquatic Center.

“Larry has been an active and engaged member of the Steering Committee, lending his vast building maintenance knowledge to various conversations throughout the process,” Merriam Parks & Recreation Director Anna Slocum said.

Here’s what Cisneros had to say about living in Merriam and his hopes for the future:

### What’s the best thing about living in Merriam?

I like the closeness of everything and the quiet here. The people are very friendly and we have a great public works system — there are never problems with the roads when it snows. We improved our parks by planting trees and making them more enjoyable for families. And our streets are in good shape. Everything looks nice and feels safe.

### How do you think Merriam can improve?

I wish more people would take better care of their homes, and it would be nice to do something with the downtown area. We need more special places that would attract people to spend more time down there.

### How did you get involved with the Parks & Recreation Facilities Steering Committee?

I spend a lot of time at the Community Center and work out there almost every day. I got to know people there and think it’s good for the city to have one. It’s a nice structure, but it’s not suitable for use as a community center. The upgraded workout room is an improvement, but there are many other issues to address.

### What would you like to see for the future of Merriam?

I’d like to see the city move into the 21st century with improved recreation amenities such as a community center and aquatic center, and upgrades to the housing stock. We need to invest in the community to draw younger families with kids, and keep families here.