

Park & Recreation Commission Item

March 24, 2026



Item	Senior Center Quarterly Report
Item No:	H.3
Agenda Section	<u>REPORTS</u>
Prepared By	Mary Blazanin, Senior Center Coordinator

SUGGESTED ACTION

SUMMARY

In the first quarter of 2026, the Senior Center served **2817 patrons**, which includes both cumulative attendance at weekly and monthly gather-groups, as well as attendance in individual events, trips, and programs. This is an **increase of 587** patrons from the first quarter of 2025. Our program numbers continue to grow with many new and regular attenders enjoying the space. They are appreciative of the city's commitment to its 55+ population. Additionally, we see an average of 5 or more people daily touring and gathering information for themselves or their parents.

The Senior Center eblast newsletter now reaches **5840 registered users**. This digital newsletter posts no less than 3 times per month with information and updates. In conjunction with the Senior Center page on the city's website, the eblast is a great resource for patrons to learn about our programs, get up-to-date information on changes or cancellations, and find links to the registration site.

Please refer to the attached Senior Center Quarterly Report Data for individual and total program numbers.

Highlights from the Report Data:

- 2 successful musical theater/dinner trips taken in partnership with Chaska Lodge
- 2 large holiday events (Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day) with maximum capacity participation
- 2 exploratory arts & culinary classes, SAORI Weaving and India Cooking, met their capacity attendance. Attendees requested more offerings like these in the future.
- Strong attendance continues in both Driver Safety Classes and Mah Jongg 101 sessions. Registrations typically fill up fast and often with wait lists.
- AARP Tax Assistance is back again, offering four Friday help sessions for seniors and low-

income individuals in submitting income taxes online. Eight to ten volunteers each week will assist over 110 patrons this year in Chanhassen.

The Center works to start new interest groups:

- Chess Club. Currently, an 8-week class teaching chess to beginners and offering refreshers and game play to intermediate and advanced players. The goal is to continue as a regular game group after the class is completed. They meet twice a month. This is sponsored by Pat Lavone of the Twin Cities Chess Club.
- Ukulele Jammers. They call themselves the Uke-A-Chans and meet twice a month. Sponsored by the Twin Cities Ukulele Club, they provide an open practice session for anyone interested in playing and learning the ukulele.
- 55+ Book Club. Started by a group of readers looking for a daytime club catering to those 55 and older, they currently have 15 or more regular attenders who meet once a month to discuss a chosen book.
- Hand & Foot Card Group. This group meets weekly and has started out small but growing fast. It's nice to have this group up and running again after a few years of low interest.
- Chan Jammers Guitars and More. Although this musician group is not new, it continues to grow with new members and new instrumentalists. They often have 10 or more attend the drop-in practice sessions, playing blue grass and The California Sound era. They will be performing at the 55+ Annual Lions Club Picnic on June 16.

Senior Commission update. Mary Blazanin continues to act as liaison for the Chanhassen Commission on Aging, helping them reach their goals and objectives each year. In 2025, among other things, the Commission helped create a new resource for the public called City of Chanhassen's Senior Life Guide: Resources for Living Fully and Aging Well. The directory was modeled after a similar one created by Victoria's Senior Advisory Board, with their approval. It is now available both in print at the Senior Center and on the City's website. It is also attached to this report.

On a final note, Senior Center Director, Mary Blazanin is retiring on May 1, 2026. It has been a privilege to serve the 55+ Chanhassen population and usher them into a beautiful, new home with endless possibilities for engagement. Thank you

BACKGROUND

DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

[Jan, Feb March Data 2026 Senior Center Quarterly Report](#)
[Senior Resource Guide](#)