

Park & Recreation Commission Item

March 25, 2025



Item	Senior Center Quarterly Update
Item No:	H.4
Agenda Section	<u>REPORTS</u>
Prepared By	Mary Blazanin, Senior Center Coordinator

SUGGESTED ACTION

SUMMARY

The Senior Center stayed on track with programming and group activities for the first quarter of 2025. Chanhassen's active older adults want to be active, connected, involved, and informed. We served 2,230 patrons in the first quarter of this year. (See "Senior Center Quarterly Report Data" for data breakdown.)

The age range we serve is broad. For example, Mah Jongg and arts-focused classes resonate well with the 55-69 age group, day trips are popular with the 70-80 year old group, and in-house luncheons, like our holiday-themed parties, have a broader age range of participation from ages 72-95. Game groups resonate with all ages, from mid 50's to 100. (One of our Bridge players turns 100 next month!)

History programs, woodcarving, and the guitar practice group seem to be good connecting points for men of all ages. Educational sessions on aging well, understanding health insurance, driving safely, and fraud awareness often draw in newcomers, who then migrate to other groups or areas of interest. Providing a variety of choices and options is a good way to keep growing the Senior Center's presence in the City.

Our patrons are excitedly waiting to move back into our new space at Civic Plaza. Some queries were put out about a possible name change for the new Senior Center space. A citizen survey for feedback on a possible name change went out in January. Our feedback created mixed results. After presenting information to the City Council, a decision was made not to change the Senior Center name at this time, but to work with the City's Communications Team to create a fresh marketing campaign for promoting our new home space.

We partnered again with AARP Tax Aid to provide free 2024 income tax services. Trained volunteer

tax preparers help low income, disabled, and elderly individuals prepare and submit their 2024 taxes. Our role is to set appointments and host four Friday work sessions, two in March and two in April. We are anticipating helping nearly 100 clients this year. Other Carver County sites also host weekly sessions.

We often have opportunities to help local patrons in unique ways. One of these recently was in collaboration with the Chanhassen Lions Club Foundation which reached out to us with a request for referrals. The Foundation's mission is to help individuals and families who are financially strained due to unforeseen circumstances. As a result of our collaboration, two older adults facing unusual medical and/or financial difficulties were awarded a one-time gift from the Foundation of \$500 each. These highly appreciated awards were gifted in January & March. We are grateful for the Lions Club Foundation's work in our community, and for recognizing the often-unseen struggles faced by the individuals we serve.

BACKGROUND

DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

[March 2025 Senior Center Quarterly Report](#)
[Senior Center Spring Trips 2025 Flyer](#)