

Senior activities are aplenty in Anoka County

by **Kelly Johnson**

ABC Newspapers staff writer

There's no shortage of activities available to Anoka County seniors.

From cards to bingo, volunteerism and day trips, Anoka County senior centers and programs have plenty to take part in.

Local senior centers and programs strive to offer a variety of programming for area seniors. Lunch is also available through many of the senior centers. Health care programs are provided as well.

The following senior centers and programs offer some of the following activities and services:

- **Anoka Senior Center** (located at 1500 Sixth Ave., Anoka)

Numerous activities are available at the Anoka Senior Center. A complete schedule of activities, monthly menus and other important information can be found in the newsletter, which is available by calling 763-576-4661.

Noon dining is available at the Anoka Senior Center. To make reservations, call 763-427-6646.

Transportation service is available for Anoka residents to go to and from the senior center for lunch, grocery stores and other activities.

Daily activities are provided at the center, including games like 500, bridge and pinochle.

Monthly day trips are also planned. These trips have taken Anoka seniors to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, Mall of America and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

For more information about the

Anoka Senior Center, call 763-576-4661.

- **Andover Senior Center** (located at 1685 Crosstown Blvd., Andover)

A variety of activities take place at the center throughout the year. Most of the functions are open to all seniors and membership are available for a \$1.50 fee.

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month, with members providing refreshments.

Birthdays are celebrated with cake, ice cream and coffee the first meeting. A full lunch is served the second meeting of the month.

The center was completely renovated in 2002 and includes plenty of space for senior gatherings, a piano, an organ, a pool table and a television. Some magazines and other senior publications are also available for seniors to use at no cost.

Senior events include cards and other games once a week, catered monthly meals available for \$5, day trips and tour groups, an annual spring rummage and bake sale, a fall craft and bake sale and driver refresher courses.

For more information about the senior center, call 763-767-5163.

- **Mary Ann Young Senior Center** (9150 Central Ave., Blaine)

The center offers a variety of programs and social events throughout the year.

It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the senior dining program serves noon meals for a suggested donation of \$3.25 for seniors 60 and older and \$6.25 for those under 60.

Entertainment, educational sessions and other activities of interest



Members of the Hot Foot Stompers entertained the crowd at the Coon Rapids Senior Center prior to the start of Morning to Unite festivities July 21.

(File photo by Kelly Johnson)

are offered periodically throughout the year, with a calendar of events regularly updated at the center.

Activities offered at the Mary Ann Young Senior Center include defensive driving classes, committee meetings, blood pressure checks and caregiver support groups.

There is also a birthday party and bingo the last Wednesday of the month, with entertainment beginning at 11 a.m. followed by a noon lunch.

Bunko is played the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m.

Computer classes are also offered and scheduled as the instructor is available.

Evening line dancing is held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. This class features contemporary music. A Tuesday morning country line dancing class is also offered.

Seniors can also receive confidential financial advice, by appointment, the last Friday of the month.

Foot care appointments are also offered the second Friday of the month.

Other classes and services offered include a garden club, health insurance counseling, ice skating, legal service, penny bingo, plastic canvas class, progressive 500 cards, quilting groups, senior bowling, tax assistance and a wood carving class.

For more information, call 763-786-9375.

- **Coon Rapids Senior Center** (11155 Robinson Drive N.W.)

The Coon Rapids Senior Center offers a variety of programs, educational

classes, day trips and social events for seniors age 55 and older.

The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Noon meals are served through the senior dining program.

Activities offered include card and game groups, including 500, bridge, cribbage, hand and foot, pinochle and bunco.

There are day trips offered to Chanhassen, museums, the Old Log Theater, casinos and many other places. Extended trips have headed to Branson, Mo., on cruises and to tulip festivals.

There are also crafts, exercise and yoga classes, entertainment, blood pressure checks, foot care services, square dancing and a wood carving class.

Transportation to and from the center is also offered to Coon Rapids residents.

For more information, call 763-767-6473.

- **East Bethel Senior Center** (2241 221st Ave. N.E.)

Community service is at the heart of the East Bethel seniors, with fund-raiser held regularly.

The seniors also meet for activities including crafts, bingo, cards, potluck dinners and dominoes.

There are regularly planned day trips and some overnights as well.

Dances are held the first Friday of the month. A pancake breakfast is on the second Sunday of the month.



Madison Reihe (left), 10, Audrey Allen, and Devon Reihe, 13, pause to ponder what button a fellow player has chosen in the button game. "They love it," Allen said about her great-grandchildren, who have attended Wacky Wednesday activities at the Coon Rapids Senior Center for the past few years.

(File photo by Kelly Johnson)

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