

January 2026

# Chisago County

## Senior Center News

Chisago County Community Center  
38790 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue | North Branch, MN 55056 | 651-674-8658

### *Happy New Year 2026!*

As we enter a brand-new year, the Senior Center is filled with opportunities to connect, learn, and share laughter together. January offers more than just a fresh calendar; it's a chance to embrace new beginnings while cherishing the friendships that bring warmth to our winter days. Join us in making 2026 a year full of joy, growth, and community spirit!

#### **January Highlights at the Senior Center:**

**Winter Wellness Kickoff:** Start the year off right with gentle exercise classes designed to keep our bodies moving and feeling great.

**Coffee, Puzzles & Conversation Mornings:** Warm up with a cup of coffee and enjoy friendly chats—perfect for chasing away winter blues.

**Daily Games:** Join us for cards, bingo, dice, and dominoes each week. Bring your competitive spirit, or come simply for the camaraderie.

**Community Potluck Sunday:** Nothing beats a shared meal! Bring your favorite dish and enjoy food, fellowship, and plenty of smiles with others.

As the snow sparkles outside, let's keep our hearts glowing inside—together! Here's to a year of laughter, learning, and lasting friendships in 2026!

#### **Catholic Charities Senior Dining**



Monday - Friday 11:45 am  
See page six for the menu

#### **Live Music Every Tuesday at 11:15 am**

01-06 Johnson Bros  
01-13 Dennis Schaefer  
01-20 Wire & Wood  
01-27 Dwight & MoMo

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**



Call the Senior Center  
for information at  
651-674-8658



CONNECT WITH US

651-674-8658

<https://www.chisagosrcenter.org>

[chisagocountyseniorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:chisagocountyseniorcenter@gmail.com)

## ACTIVITIES

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**500 Card Game** - Every Monday & Wednesday at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$1

**Bingo** - Every Thursday at 10 am. \$.25 per card, 2-card limit.

**Cribbage** – Every Friday at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$1.

**Dice Games** - Wednesdays at 12:30 — bring your dimes and enjoy a fresh dice game each week!

**Domino's** - Every Tuesday at 10 am. Come, even if you've never played, and we will teach you!

**Exercise With Connie** - Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am.

**Hand, Foot, and Arm** - Every Thursday, from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

**Happy Feet Foot Care** - Appointments are available on the 3rd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of the month. Call 763-346-3390 for an appointment.

**Live Music** - Every Tuesday at 11:15 am. See the activities calendar for who is playing each week.

**Movie Day** - Every second Tuesday at 1:30 pm for a fun-filled movie afternoon—everything is free! Enjoy homemade popcorn and beverages. See our calendar for what's playing this month.

**Pot Luck Sunday** - Second Sunday at 12:30 pm. Bring a dish to share. Donations are welcome.

**Volunteer Opportunities** - Call the Senior Center for information at 651-674-8658

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## *Thank You for Your Donations*

We extend our profound gratitude to the individuals who have given memorials in loving memory of Gloria Still: Linda Neuman, Jean Frost, Rick and Kathy Hals, Fred and Maria Bettenberg-Pohl, Mary Eileen McDonald, Rebecca Reed, and an anonymous donor. Your thoughtful generosity is a meaningful tribute to her life and offers comfort to all who hold her in their hearts.

We also wish to formally acknowledge the contributions of John and Mary Schmitz, Kathryn Gibson, Jenni Thyng, and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #85. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

## RESOURCES

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### Food

**Catholic Charities Senior Dining**, Monday – Friday at 11:45, Call for reservation (651)-674-1956

**Fare For All**, Trinity Lutheran Church, (763)-450-3860

**Ruby's Pantry**, Access Church, 2nd Saturday of the month. Starts at 9:30 am

### Miscellaneous

**Arrowhead Transit**, 800-862-0175, option 13, [Arrowhead Transit](#)

**Chisago Age Well Coalition**, No phone #, <https://www.chisagoagewell.org/>

**Family Pathways Aging Services**, 651-674-8040, [Aging Services - Family Pathways](#)

**Lakes & Pines**, 320-679-1800, <https://www.lakesandpines.org/>

**Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, Senior Law Project**, 1-888-360-2889 <http://www.mylegalaid.org>

**Minnesota Aging Pathways**, (651) 431-2500, <https://mn.gov/aging-pathways/>

**Veterans Guide – Website**: [veteransguide.org](http://veteransguide.org), Email: [outreach@veteransguide.org](mailto:outreach@veteransguide.org)



Please see our website for the full list of resources [www.chisagosrcenter.org](http://www.chisagosrcenter.org)

## *Give Blood.*

### **Blood Drive**



**Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

At the Chisago County Senior Center

To schedule a blood donation appt.,  
call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

or visit the [American Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org).

When prompted, enter 'North Branch' to  
find available times in your area.

## **The Christmas Program was a Big Hit!**



We are truly grateful to everyone who attended, volunteered, and lent a helping hand. Your presence made the concert so special, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we loved sharing it with you. The Senior Center is always brighter when our community comes together, and we look forward to welcoming you back for more fun, fellowship, and future events.

## **SEVEN COUNTY SENIOR FEDERATION**

**47 Park Street N, Suite 7, Mora, MN 55051**

### **TAX-AID APPOINTMENTS**

We coordinate the AARP Foundation and VITA tax services in east central Minnesota to better serve the local demand for no-fee filing of state and federal tax returns.

Phone: 320-679-4700

Email: [taxes@7countyseniors.org](mailto:taxes@7countyseniors.org)

[Seven County Senior Federation - Taxes Contact Us](#)

Please note that the Senior Center is no longer offering tax assistance programs at our location.

### **\* Volunteers Needed \***

#### **Catholic Charities Congregate Dining**

Join us in making mealtimes special at the  
Chisago County Senior Center!

Help with weekday lunch service: set and wash tables, prepare coffee, serve lunch, and assist with cleanup. Hours: 10:30 AM–12:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Call 651-674-1956 or visit their website at [Dining Room Volunteer- North Branch](#) to learn more.

Your time and care bring joy and connection to the lives of our seniors!

## Presidents Corner

### Greetings from the Chisago County Senior Center!

We hope everyone enjoyed a joyous Christmas and New Year holiday, filled with meaningful time spent with family and friends.

As we reflect on the many successes of 2025, we feel inspired and motivated for an even greater 2026. This past year, we saw increased participation in most of our programs and even added a new one. We were delighted to welcome several newcomers to the center, host a number of educational events, and hold successful fundraising activities that will sustain us for another year. With the strength and dedication of our board members, along with the incredible support of our volunteers and community, we look forward to an even more prosperous year ahead.

Make it your New Year's resolution to visit us at the Chisago County Senior/Community Center—especially if it's been a while. There's always coffee, cookies, and great conversation waiting for you.

See you in 2026!

Warm regards, Carol Gilquist



*No matter how cold it gets, there is always this person.*

Join Us for this **FREE** Event!

## Dine & Discover

Hosted by Chisago Age Well Coalition  
with the assistance of a Title III grant from the Central Minnesota Council on Aging as  
part of the Older Americans Act

### Self-Care as We Grow Older: Practical Pointers for Food and Exercise Thursday, February 12, 2026

What can we do to help ourselves stay strong and  
healthy as we grow older?

**9:00 am** – Chisago County Senior Center

**12 noon** – Zion Lutheran Church

**3:30 pm** – Rush City Community Center

Registration requested by Friday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.

Call 651-674-1025

### Introducing Our New Board Member



We are pleased to welcome Floyd Pinotti to the board. Floyd brings a wealth of experience in public service, having served as Chief of Police in Rush City for 14 years, Chisago County Sheriff for 10 years, and Deputy Sheriff for 7 years. His dedication to community safety and leadership will be a valuable addition to our team.

## Board Meeting Minutes Update

To streamline our newsletter, board meeting minutes will no longer be included in future editions. The latest updates and full minutes will continue to be available online for your convenience.

Visit: <https://chisagosrcenter.org/board-meeting-minutes/>



## Forever Young Club

Stay active and connected with the Forever Young Club! Join fellow older adults for shows, presentations, dinner theaters, bowling, museum visits, and more. Meetings are held every other Tuesday from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Wildcat Community Center in Lindstrom.

Tuesday, Jan 6, 2026 - Forever Young Club Start-up Meeting

Tuesday, Jan 20, 2026 - One Act Play and Luncheon

Tuesday, Feb 3, 2026 - Hospice 101

Thursday, Feb 19, 2026 - Middle School Play and Luncheon

Wednesday, Mar 4, 2026 - Minnesota History Center

Tuesday, Mar 17, 2026 - Laurel and Hardy Presentation by Tracy Tolzmann



[Forever Young Club Membership - Chisago Lakes Community Education](#), or call 651-213-2600

## Word Scramble

### TREES

1. CMOEARSY \_\_\_\_\_

2. CTTUSHEN \_\_\_\_\_

3. OEDODRW \_\_\_\_\_

4. ROPALP \_\_\_\_\_

5. EUPRSC \_\_\_\_\_

6. LEM \_\_\_\_\_

7. PALEP \_\_\_\_\_

8. PLEAM \_\_\_\_\_

9. EDRAC \_\_\_\_\_

10. OLILWW \_\_\_\_\_

11.OWHTRHNA \_\_\_\_\_

12.KOA \_\_\_\_\_

13.EWY \_\_\_\_\_

14.IPEN \_\_\_\_\_

15.ATLWUN \_\_\_\_\_

16.BHIRC \_\_\_\_\_

17.EQSUIAO \_\_\_\_\_

18.NSEPA \_\_\_\_\_

19.HEZLA \_\_\_\_\_

20.RELDA \_\_\_\_\_

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## Mission Statement

" Our mission is to enrich the lives of Chisago County senior citizens & to support their individual lifestyles."

## Board of Directors:

Carol Gilquist, President

Betty Anderson Schlipp, Vice President

Terry Reyer, Secretary

Todd Fisk, Treasurer

Directors: Barb Cuppett, Carol Stradinger, Cathy Buda, Connie Jaques, Henry Scott, Connie Kaiser, Gwen Swenson, Marge Scheele, Pam Schultz, and Floyd Pinotti

Board Meeting every 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:30 am at the senior center

OPEN TO ALL!

**PUZZLE ANSWERS:**

**THEME: TREES**

1. SYCAMORE, 2. CHESTNUT, 3. REDWOOD, 4. POPLAR, 5. SPRUCE, 6. ELM, 7. APPLE, 8. MAPLE, 9. CEDAR, 10. WILLOW, 11. HAWTHORN, 12. OAK, 13. YEW, 14. PINE, 15. WALNUT, 16. BIRCH, 17. SEQUOIA, 18. ASPEN, 19. HAZEL, 20. ALDER

# Senior Center Activities

Office Hours are Monday - Friday 8 am to 1 pm



Website: [www.chisagocountycenter.org](http://www.chisagocountycenter.org) Email: [chisagocountyseniorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:chisagocountyseniorcenter@gmail.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <h2>January 2026</h2> </div>						
4	5 10:30 Exercise 1:00 500 Cards	6 10:00 Dominos 11:15 Music - Johnson Brothers 1:30 Movie - Space Cowboys	7 10:30 Exercise 12:30 Dice Games 1:00 500 Cards	8 10:00 Bingo 12:30 Hand, Foot & Arm	9 10:30 Exercise 1:00 Cribbage	10
11 12:30 Pot Luck	12 10:30 Exercise 1:00 500 Cards	13 10:00 Dominos 11:15 Music - Dennis Schaefer	14 10:30 Exercise 12:30 Dice Games 1:00 500 Cards	15 9:30 Board Mtg 10:00 Bingo 12:30 Hand, Foot & Arm	16 10:30 Exercise 1:00 Cribbage	17
18	19 10:30 Exercise 1:00 500 Cards	20 9:00 Blood Drive 10:00 Dominos 11:15 Music - Wire & Wood	21 10:30 Exercise 12:30 Dice Games 1:00 500 Cards Happy Feet	22 10:00 Bingo 12:30 Hand, Foot & Arm	23 10:30 Exercise 1:00 Cribbage	24
25 	26 10:30 Exercise 1:00 500 Cards	27 10:00 Dominos 11:15 Music - Dwight & MoMo	28 10:30 Exercise 12:30 Dice Games 1:00 500 Cards	29 10:00 Bingo 12:30 Hand, Foot & Arm Happy Feet	30 10:30 Exercise 1:00 Cribbage	31

# Catholic Charities Senior Dining Menu

January 2026

Lunch served at 11:45 a.m. at Chicago County Senior Center, North Branch - For reservations, please call 651-674-1956 before 8:00 a.m.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>Milk is served with every meal. Menu is subject to change. Dining/MOW closure announcements:  <b>WCMP FM 100.9 FM 106.5 AM 1350</b>                      Partially funded under contract with the Central Minnesota Council on Aging as part of the Older Americans Act and Administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud.</p>						
<b>5</b> Chicken Rice Casserole Green Beans Cake Bread	<b>6</b> Porcupine Meatballs Half of a Baked Potato Broccoli Brownie	<b>7</b> Sausage, Egg & Cheese Biscuit (sandwich) Applesauce Yogurt Cup Cinnamon Roll	<b>1</b>  <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> Hamburger Tomato Casserole Peaches Chocolate Pudding Bread		
<b>12</b> Breaded Salmon Oven Roasted Potatoes Cream Peas Bread Cake	<b>13</b> Turkey Burger on a bun Sweet Potatoes Coleslaw Ice Cream Cup	<b>14</b> Swedish Meatballs over Noodles Mixed Vegetables Pineapple Bread Jello	<b>8</b> Chicken Ala King over 1 biscuit Carrots Cookie	<b>9</b> Mexican Hotdish Pineapple Churro Bread		
<b>19</b> Turkey w/ Spaetzle Dumplings Peas Peaches Bread Cake	<b>20</b> BBQ Chicken on a Bun Tator Tots 3 Bean Salad Cake	<b>21</b> Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Noodles Green Beans Bun or Breadstick Churro	<b>15</b> Liver & Onions Mashed potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Cake Bread	<b>16</b> Macaroni & Cheese Beef Brisket Broccoli Spiced Apples Bread		
<b>26</b> Polish Sausage Fried Onions & Peppers Half of a Baked Potato Vegetable Normandy Bread Rice Crispy Treat	<b>27</b> Sweet & Sour Pork Rice Oriental Vegetables Mandarin Oranges Bread Cake	<b>28</b> Country Steak Whipped Potatoes w/ gravy Broccoli Bread Cookie	<b>22</b> Flatbread Pizza (BBQ Chicken w/ Bacon) Corn Brownie	<b>23</b> Sloppy Joe on bun Tator Tots Broccoli		
		<b>29</b> Tuna Noodle Casserole Peas Pudding Bread	<b>30</b> Vegetable Soup Sandwich Fruit Cocktail			

## Rental Spaces

Looking for a welcoming space to host your next gathering? The Chisago County Senior Center offers a variety of rental rooms in different sizes—perfect for meetings, celebrations, dinners, and more. Whether you're planning a cozy get-together or a lively event, our inviting spaces are open to the public and ready to make your occasion special.

### Dining Room Rental

**Capacity:** Up to 120 guests

**Features:** A spacious dining area with access to a fully equipped kitchen, perfect for hosting events and gatherings.

**Cost:** \$150 per activity

Create memorable experiences in a comfortable and accommodating space!



### Activity Room Rental

**Capacity:** Up to 60 guests

**Features:** A spacious and versatile open area with durable tile flooring, a convenient countertop, a microwave, a fridge, and a sink for added ease.

**Cost:** \$100 per activity

Perfect for gatherings, meetings, or celebrations!



### Conference Room Rental

**Capacity:** Up to 20 guests

**Features:** Equipped with four 4' square tables and 20 chairs, providing a comfortable and functional setting.

**Cost:** \$50 per activity

Ideal for meetings, presentations, and small gatherings!



## Reservation Process

Please call us at 651-674-8658 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to inquire about rental availability.

Rental information can be found on our website under the "Rentals" tab.

Email Address [chisagocountyseiorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:chisagocountyseiorcenter@gmail.com)

Physical Address 38790 6th Ave, North Branch, MN 55056

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Email: [cometravelwme@gmail.com](mailto:cometravelwme@gmail.com)

612-270-3403

## Come Travel with Me Group Travel Opportunities:

**2026** - Click on the trip link for more information.

**Hawaiian Adventure** - <https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1338058>

**Greece Island Hopper**

- <https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1315850>

**Canadian Rockies** - <https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1315916>

**2027** - Click on the trip link for more information.

**Spectacular Scandinavia** - <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1383959>

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