

Montevideo Community Center

The Montevideo Community Center has been operating in its current location in the Southtown Plaza since 1999 and houses the Montevideo Senior Citizens Program and rental spaces. The building features a small meeting room, multi-purpose activity room, billiards room, commercial kitchen, and spacious main room.

Residents, individuals, businesses, organizations, and the city all utilize the space for events including, but not limited to, programs, trainings, meetings, parties, fundraisers, catering, and activities. Funding for the Center and its operations was provided by the City of Montevideo, membership drives, daily fundraising, special event fundraising, and rental fees.

Community and Rental Use:

The Center was utilized for **163 rentals**.

- 48 Private groups and businesses
- 113 non-profits, clubs, and groups
- 2 City events and meetings

Community Center Program

The mission of the Montevideo Area Senior Citizens Program is to coordinate programming for the older adults in the Montevideo area and to provide opportunities for recreation, education, and personal growth.

At its core, the Montevideo Community Center serves as the hub of many activities, volunteer opportunities, and educational opportunities geared toward local and area residents. With its diverse program options, the Center serves as a common meeting point for a large portion of individuals residing in and around Montevideo.

2025 Board of Directors

Rod Pederson, President
Steve Sietsema, Vice President
Sue Anderson, Treasurer
Paula Sachariason, Secretary
Debra Larson
Kathy Christenson
Jean Quigley
Steve Sietsema
Marie Pederson
Peggy Peterson
LaVonne Stegeman

Membership

2025 membership totaled **202**. The annual membership rate was \$25.00 with the option for additional contribution to pay for others to join. Regular membership is open to all individuals. Membership is not required to participate in the Center's programming. However, there are benefits to becoming a member:

- Lower Activity Rates
- Vote at the Annual Meeting
- Serve on the Board of Directors
- Receive the Bi-monthly Newsletter

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Meals	22	32	39	21	25	19	23	25	130	27	19	36	418
Pool/Ping Pong	19	22	24	28	37	24	38	43	40	44	40	19	378
Yoga	47	49	73	53	43	54	48	44	46	55	39	45	596
SAIL Exercises*		153	164	119					87	67	50	47	687
Game Day/Cards	61	71	65	82	73	99	90	69	106	107	78	85	986
Line Dancing	81	95	97	97	82	81	82	85	73	83	44	72	972
Chair Exercises	49	20	27	28	106	91	112	100	66	111	77	67	854
Bridge	42	36	48	52	56	48	60	44	48	40	24	16	514
Penny Drop	23	32	34	34	37	32	37	32	41	32	21	30	385
Knit and Crochet	25	29	33	38	35	31	36	33	138	33	24	20	475
Hand, Knee, Foot	65	51	89	81	111	109	107	114	138	129	89	93	1176
Morning Coffee	45	44	52	47	24	44	53	49	45	49	47	57	556
Mexican Train	30	26	33	35	30	7	37	29	32	32	25	22	338
Cribbage**									9	22	14	25	70
Healthy Habits			16	15	11	8	10	5	11	6	7	2	91
Mah Jongg	12	15	14	21	27	10	4						103
Bingo	71	52	61	52	71	66	42	75	65	68	40	43	706
Board Meetings	9	10	11	6	10	9	6	7	9	11	9	10	107
Book Club	9	10	12	13	7	9	9	10	11	12	12	6	120
Book Clubs (other)	6	5	6	5	4	5	6		4	5	6	7	59
Birthday Party (additional)	4	1	7	1	4	3	3	3	1	4	1	6	38
55+ Driver Discount Program	20	30		18				15					83
Potlucks (regular and themed)	20	30	58	60	35	94	55	38	30	35	25	28	508
Happy Together	11	6	14	8	7	0	7	7	8	10	7	8	93
Newsletter Assistance		7		5		5		6		3		3	29
Apple Crisp	3										6		9
Dementia Friends	1												1
Event Planning Meeting			7										7
Open House					60								60
Flower Planting					10								10
Bingo Fundraiser						77				60			137
Horticulture Night							4						4
SAIL Volunteer Training								16					16
Coin Error and Collecting Class								12					12
Prairie Five's Senior Expo									100				100
Barn Theatre Trip									30				30
Art Class										14	10		24
Lefse Prep											18		18
Market and Lunch											125		125
CentraCare Grief Support***												19	19
Dinner and a Movie: Wicked II												6	6
Annual Meeting												20	20
	675	826	984	919	905	925	869	861	1238	1059	857	792	10940

***Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL)-Newly implemented exercise program that focuses on stretching, balance, strength training, and health education**

****Cribbage became an official activity in September 2025**

*****Hospice support group became a non-rental event this year**

Volunteerism

Volunteers are essential to the Center’s programming and funding. Many of these volunteers take pride in the quality activities the Center offers to the Montevideo community. They serve on the board, assist with special events, lead classes and activities, and assist with rentals. Members of the Center have donated an innumerable number of hours to the Center.

Volunteer Type	Tasks
Greeting Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designing, creating, organizing
Line Dancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developing playlists ● Researching, implementing, and teaching choreography ● Arranging public performances
Bingo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Calling Numbers ● Collecting pennies
Yoga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leading warmups and cooldowns ● Playing DVDs
Birthday Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food preparation ● Assist with setup and cleanup ● Hosting
Baking Goodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Special events ● Social groups ● Birthday parties
Rentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unlock and lock facility ● Maintain on-call contact with renters ● Contact staff when needed
Board/Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet monthly to discuss regular business ● Generate ideas and keep contact with members ● Assist with special events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Setup, cleanup ○ Promotion ○ Fundraiser sales: bingo cards, food, raffle tickets ○ Serving food
Leading Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apple crisp ● Teaching knit and crochet skills ● Happy Together ● Planning and shopping ● Facilitating special programs ● Facilitating Stay Active and Independent for Life
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holiday Decorating ● Declutter and organizing ● Planting flowers downtown

Partnerships

Due to service and resource gaps experienced in rural communities, building partnerships with local organizations is essential for delivering quality programming and providing unique opportunities.

<i>Partner Organizations</i>	
Montevideo Community Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Ed Brochure Space • Art classes • Bus Trips • Education booth at Open House
Montevideo Chippewa County Public Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book club
CCM Wellness Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Exercises (Channel 180)
Prairie Five Meals Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregate Dining • Senior Expo held at the Community Center • Prizes for special events • Education booth at Open House
Mn Highway Safety and Research Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55+ Driver Improvement Classes
MnRAAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay Active and Independent for Life instruction
Fiesta Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Ambassador Event • Event advertisement and promotion
Montevideo Public Works Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower Planting • Shelter house for picnics • Building Maintenance • Snow Removal
Countryside Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education booth at Open House • SHIP Grant for a hydration station
Dr. Jake Groen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance exercises • Education booth at Open House
Ecumen/AmeriCorps Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retired Seniors Volunteer Program • Provides federally funded Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) training free of charge
Millennium Theater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner and Movie: Wicked II
Barn Theatre in Willmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group ticket reservations • Accepting updated numbers periodically
CentraCare Hospice Anderson TeBeest Funeral Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grief Support Group • CentraCare Hospice Social Worker- Facilitator • Anderson TeBeest- Identified need • Community Center provided the space

Supporting Businesses

The Rivers Restaurant
Talking Waters Brewing Co.
Schwieters Ford of Montevideo
Kuhlmann Real Estate
Tom Anderson's Woodworks
Duffy's Good Time Saloon
Healthier's Floral and Nursery
Co-Op Credit Union
Cornerstone Chiropractic Care
Art's Dairy Freeze
Drex Mart
Betty Rodeberg's Hair Dimensions
Eden's Green Nursery
Prairie's Edge Casino and Resort
Burmeister Auto Body
Cenex
Gervais Jewelry
Hearing Care by Gina
Java River
MinnWest Bank
Monte Trading Co.
Montevideo Family Dentistry
Olsen Plumbing

Staffing

During 2025, the Center was staffed by the full-time director, Tracy Wellendorf. Sally Halvorson, Jeanne Feldhake, Tammy Sauder, Linda Busch, and Marie Pederson work in the coordinator's absence. The Center is also served by the City's maintenance personnel, Josh Keller and IT Consultant, Lyle Pringnitz. The Public Works Department provides essential maintenance support as well.

The city employs a full-time director to manage the Community Center and organize programming. The coordinator provides information and referral services, coordinates volunteer efforts, supervises both part-time and maintenance staff, collaborates with other service providers in the community and surrounding area, prepares and organizes budgets and capital improvements, and manages various projects on behalf of the city.

Other Coordinator Activities

- Member of the Minnesota Association of Senior Services:
 - Provides professionals in the field of aging a network to promote health, development and other resources to older adults and to advance professional leadership
- Aging Eyes Initiative Community Partner:
 - Provide information about vision loss and adjustment strategies
 - Coordinate referrals to State Services for the Blind: Senior Service Unit
 - Provide low-vision aids and devices to seniors at no charge
- Montevideo Community Education Advisory Committee
- Certified Tai Ji Quan instructor
- Certified Stay Active and Independent for Life instructor
- Activity Director Certified through National Certification Council for Activity Professionals
- Qualified Activity Director under F-Tag 680