

SENIOR

SCENE MAGAZINE



Photo by Tammy Berendzen, read story on senior Nancy Yankura on page 5



www.santafenm.gov/senior_scene_newsletter

OFFERED BY: DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES
PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS

DECEMBER 2021



Cover Story Highlight on a Senior: Nancy Yankura

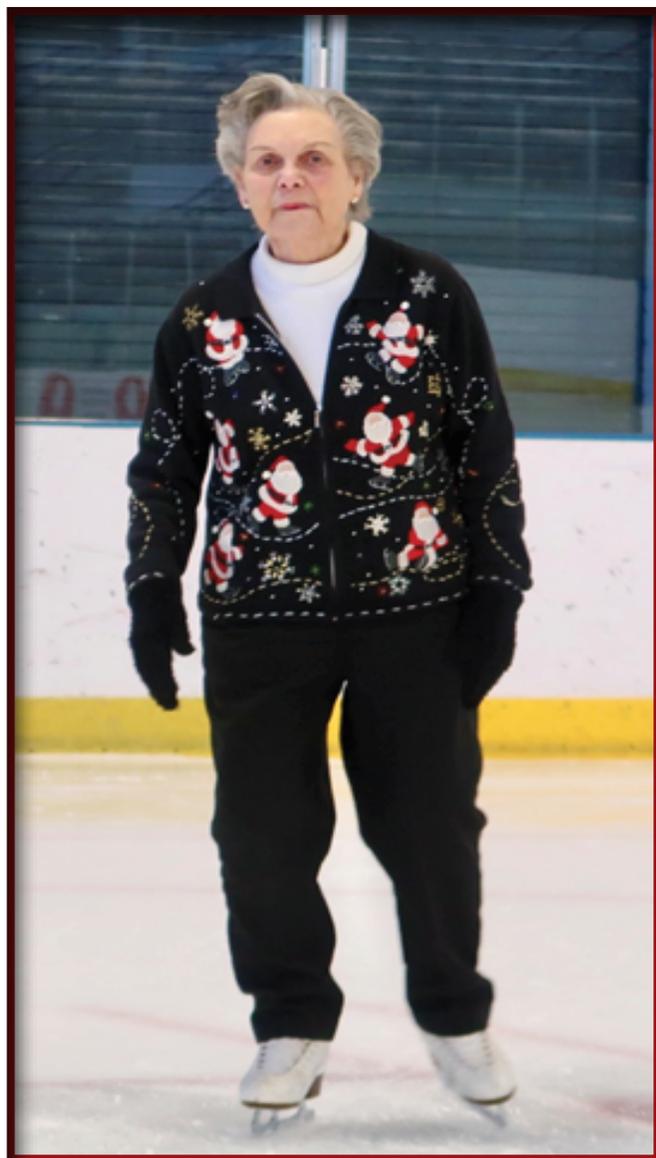


Photo by Tammy Berendzen

“Skating is a fun activity,” says Nancy Yankura, age 87. “You don’t have to jump and spin to have a good time. It exercises your whole body, strengthens your core and helps with balance,” emphasizes this U.S. Figure Skating judge and board member of the Santa Fe Skating Club.

Yankura has been skating since she was six years old, learning at the Paramount Rink in Southern California. “It’s still owned by the Zamboni family” she said, “and the Santa

Fe rink [at the GCCC] is just as good as that Zamboni rink – the ice is like glass. It’s beautiful.”

Yankura is excited about the Skate Club’s Exhibition on December 4th at noon. “We’re glad to be back on the ice! Each person does their own thing. It’s not what you see on TV – nobody’s doing quadruple jumps or anything like that. It’s not a high level of skating. We have lots of beginners and the kids are cute. You can see a lot of improvement from year to year.”

“The first thing we teach is HOW TO FALL SO YOU DON’T HURT YOURSELF. The ice is very hard, and we begin the lessons teaching this skill by falling on the floor. If they can’t get up, we don’t want them on the ice. I don’t recommend BEGINNING to skate at my age, but experienced skaters can still skate with a little caution.” Yankura began her skating career in 1940, first competing in ladies’ singles events and then moving to ice dancing. “That’s where I met my husband,” who was her dance partner for many years.

COVID has changed the competition and travel schedules, but Yankura still judges in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho and Santa Fe. There are different levels, tests and competitions for free style, moves in the field, dances and program dances. Until 2019, she judged 3-4 local competitions each year in nearby states, but now focuses her attention locally, promoting skating in her role as a board member for the Santa Fe Skating Club. Before COVID, the club roster had about 65 members. “Now all of us are sitting around out of shape” laughs the figure skating athlete. “We’re getting back into shape for the December Exhibition.”

Learn to Skate classes are tentatively scheduled to resume in January 2022. For more information about activities of the Club, visit www.santafeskatingclub.org or call Tammy Berendzen, the club’s President, at (505) 795-9639. The phone number to reach Ice Rink staff at the GCCC is (505) 955-4033. Audience capacity for the December 4th Exhibition is limited, but it will be video taped for future broadcast on Santa Fe’s Community Access Channel.