



Dear Community Members,

Thank you for your loyal patronage to the Summit Activities Center. The SAC has provided patrons with affordable fitness options in a high quality facility for many years. Unfortunately, unforeseen circumstances over the last three years and changes in fitness trends over time have resulted in declining yearly memberships and revenue. At the same time, operating costs and capital expenses have continued to increase each year. Therefore, the City of Yankton will cease fitness operation in the SAC effective at closing on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Declining memberships have been a trend for an extended period of time. When the SAC was built, this facility was one of a very small group of dedicated public fitness facilities available in the Yankton area. As the fitness industry has grown over the last couple decades, so has the amount of fitness options. Fitness trends have also dramatically changed as many former facility users now prefer the use of home gyms and online or streaming services in the comfort of their own home. As a result, the City of Yankton has needed to annually increase subsidies to SAC funding to meet operational expenses.

From pre-COVID levels in 2019 to our current 2022 membership levels, we have experienced declines of 300-400 members utilizing this facility. While it is not the goal of the SAC to make money, it is important to understand expenditures from the general fund to keep this facility operational negatively impact essential services such as fire, police, and streets. These expenditures can also limit development and growth of any new services and recreation options.

The City of Yankton is currently exploring options for the future of the SAC. We are actively engaged in conversations with third parties that may have an interest in running the facility. We are also discussing other options that may be suitable for use of this space. Any future changes to this space will need to be approved by the City of Yankton and the Yankton School District as this facility is jointly owned by both entities. The City of Yankton WILL still offer plans for aquatics, open swims, leagues, and summer recreation programming for 2023. Any membership plans at the SAC extending beyond 2022 will be refunded at the rate their membership was purchased for their remaining months.

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Many of these potential changes will be discussed by the City Commission in conjunction with the 2023 budget. A special budget work session will be held before the City Commission meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30pm. The first reading of the budget ordinance by the City Commission will be held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The second reading of the budget by the City Commission will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup>. These meetings are all open to the public and public input is welcome at any time during this process. City Commission meetings begin at 7pm at the Career Manufacturing Technical Education Academy located at 1200 W 21<sup>st</sup> St., room 114. You can also view these meetings by accessing the City of Yankton's YouTube channel.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. As we work through these changes in the upcoming months, we certainly understand there will be a variety of questions as this process continues. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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