

*North Harmony Senior Citizen Center
P O Box 114
Stow, NY 14785*

Brief history of The North Harmony Senior Citizens

On February 25, 1974 the first meeting of the Senior Citizens of North Harmony was held in the North Harmony Community Building, Stow, NY. North Harmony Town Supervisor Willis Grahm and his wife Marion were the hosts of the meeting. There were twenty seven senior citizens present. Miss Kathleen Hornor from Chautauqua Office of the Aging was present to advise and help organize a club.

A monthly meeting was decided on, to be held on the third Monday of each month. One month at the Ashville First Methodist Church and the next month at the North Harmony Community Building in Stow. At the April 15, 1974 meeting Mr William Roraback was elected President.

On March 19 1979 the club voted to purchase land from Phillip Morton to build their own Senior Center. They paid Phillip \$500 for the land. He later joined the club and gave the money back.

It was a swampy area filled with frogs and blackbirds. The Expressway was under construction at the time and the club members persuaded the workmen to dump soil, gravel and othr debris onto the swamp and compact it with their earth movers.

No Grant money or aid was available to help finance the construction of the club from the Federal Government, New York

State or local government. To finance the building several of the members loaned money to the club. They were all paid back in full.

Retired electricians, carpenters, masons from the Club, local merchants and Expressway construction workers all joined hands to build the North Harmony Senior Citizen Center. The local plumbers union donated their time to install the plumbing. A Jamestown metal company donated metal cabinets and a stainless steel sink. The carpet was donated by a man from Olean whose son's life was saved through the efforts of the local Ashville Fire Department. The septic system was paid for by barter using top soil a local company needed as payment. With all the effort of the club members, ladies and men, the building took eleven months to complete construction.

Mr Sven Hammer Director of the Office of the Aging at the time said: "I know they displayed a remarkable degree of ingenuity, energy, hustling, creative larceny and of all those things that made this country strong. There are some positive lessons to be learned from this organization."

Because of a great deal of effort from our current president Steve Saulsgiver our club just received a \$30,000 grant to do some much needed renovation of our club house. In 2009 Steve found out about a possible grant through Senator Diaz office. With a great deal of determination Steve finally procured the grant in the fall of 2010. With the grant money we were able to replace our carpeting, paint the interior of the building, replace three exterior doors, replace six windows, replace all our existing lights with high efficiency lighting, place new emergency exit lighting and place a new steel roof over the existing shingles. We then with our own money replaced our old furnace with a high efficiency furnace and installed central air with

it.

*North Harmony Senior Citizens Center
5377 Stow Rd (physical address)
Ashville, NY 14710*

Officers

*President: Steven Saulsgiver 782-2431
1st Vice President: Sally Carlson
2nd Vice President: Lincoln Fisher
Secretary: Joyce Warner
Assistent secretary: Pat Baker
Treasurer: Anita Ferry
Assistent treasurer: Mac McNeill*

Board of Directors:

*Steven Saulsgiver
Norman Czubaj
Everett King
Sally Carlson
Mac McNeill
Anita Ferry
Earl Ferry (Chairman)*

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. The only criteria for membership is you have to be fifty years of age or older. The meeting is called to order at 6:00pm, dinner first, entertainment then our business meeting. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee, tea and water are provided. Some months we have dinners prepared by members and a nominal fee is charged, as a money making project for the club. At our monthly meetings we

generally have a program that is educational or entertaining.

On the second Monday of the month a movie is shown on our large screen TV. Bring a dish to pass Lunch then the movie. Lunch is at noon. Gordon & Pat Saulsgiver Chairpersons. 763-2085.

Every Wednesday at 10:30am the craft group meet at the club. Bring your own lunch and eat at noon. Generally there till 2:30pm. They make lap robes, new born baby hats, gloves, arm chair remote holders and more. These items are donated to hospitals, nursing homes and a needy member. Paul Holthouse Chairperson 789-3310.

*Trips and Tour Director: Steve Saulsgiver 782-2431
Steve works in conjunction with the Westfield Recreation Department to provide about four trips a year to see educational or interesting sights at the most affordable prices available. These trips are arranged at cost with no profit to Westfield or North Harmony.*

Maintenance: Earl Ferry 782-4655

*Rentals are available by calling Sally Carlson at 789-3617.
Anniversary, birthday, shower, wedding, reception, business meeting and more. Seats eighty easily with twenty six more available. Easy access from I-86 Expressway just off RT-394, full kitchen, TV for DVDs available by request & central air for summer heat.*

The North Harmony Senior Citizens Center is listed as an emergency shelter in times of bad weather.