

## TOWN OF NORTH HARMONY NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2014

By Sally P. Carlson, Town Supervisor

We are all ready to greet spring and perhaps it is finally ready to arrive. I am very please to be able to have articles from Pierre Chagnon, our new Chautauqua County Legislator. Pierre has attended all of our monthly meetings and is very concerned about the lake and our area; Kim Sherwood who is very active in the Chautauqua Lake Management and is an expert on water management; Judy Wroda who is heading up the Ashville Day Committee and is doing some fund raising for the Veterans' Memorial; Laurie Humphrey who is writing about North Harmony, in addition to our usual writers.

***We have new people at the transfer station.*** Beichners won the bid for the operation. **YOU CANNOT ASSUME** that the men working will know you! **YOU NEED A STICKER** that can be obtained from the Town Clerk, Nancy Thomas. This service is paid for by TAX DOLLARS. When you are asked for your sticker it is to verify that you have the right to use the facility. We are one of the few towns who operate this way and there seems to be a strong temptation for non-residents or non-taxpayers to use it to avoid the cost. Recycle glass, aluminum and tin cans, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, phone books, plastics 1-7, cardboard, paperboard, food and drink boxes. The more you can recycle the less we have to pay for dumping at the landfill.

We are trying to raise money for our Veterans' Memorial in Ashville. You can adopt a veteran for \$50. The list is available at Town of North Harmony.com. Benches can be purchased for \$2000. Names will be put on the side. We will be doing on-going fund raising. We will gratefully accept bulbs or donations toward bulbs. The money for the Memorial which we estimate will cost in excess of \$100,000 can be donated directly to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation or to the Town. (Concept drawing follows)



We have received complaints from residents about the feeding of deer. I want to remind property owners that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation **PROHIBITS** feeding deer because of Wasting Disease. Please do not feed the deer as it cause many other problems as well.

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**TOWN CLERKS CORNER      By: Nancy Thomas (716)789-3445 x2**

We have seen the first robin...can spring be far behind??? We sure hope it's not! After this long, cold winter we are READY! Here are just a few items I would like to share with our residents and taxpayers:

**PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT OUR WEBSITE**  
**ADD IT TO YOUR FAVORITES - [www.townofnorthharmony.com](http://www.townofnorthharmony.com)**

**Some of the things you will find on the website:**

- Listing of Free Rabies Clinics throughout Chautauqua County
- Upcoming event info for Memorial Day Service, Ashville Day, etc.
- Meeting Dates; Meeting Agendas; Minutes of Meetings; Assessment Info; Budget and much more!
- Transfer Station Sticker Applications
- Veterans Memorial Info and Adoption List
- Newsletter (just in case you lose yours!)

**The website is a great resource!**

**GRIEVANCE DAY IS WEDNESDAY 5/28/2014**

Grievance Day will be held on Wed., 5/28/14, at the Assessor's Office located at The Town of Chautauqua Office, 2 Academy St., Mayville, NY (old Mayville High School Bldg.). If you wish to grieve your property assessment, information and forms can be obtained from the NYS Department of Taxation at [www.tax.ny.gov/](http://www.tax.ny.gov/) under "Property Taxes and Assessment" or from Assessor Randall Holcomb's office (716)753-2241.

**FREE RABIES CLINICS**

The Town of North Harmony and the Chautauqua County Department of Health will sponsor a Free Rabies Clinic this spring/summer (date/location to be determined). Once again our wonderful local Veterinarian, Dr. Tim Rice will volunteer his time to give the shots to dogs, cats, ferrets, etc.! One year shots are given unless you bring verification of previous rabies shot which allows for a three year booster. As soon as we confirm the date, time, and place it will be on the website. Keep an eye out! Remember, NYS requires that all dogs be licensed by age 4 months. If you love them...license them!

What a Winter!  
By Councilman Richard Sena

I have kept track of our local snowfall from my home in Ashville since 2002. In this period of time we have averaged nearly 190" of snow fall per season. That is just shy of 16 feet of snow! But I don't have to tell us "locals" about this. So for all of our out of state friends and seasonal "snow birds" this is what you have been missing. From the high of 215.5 inches in the 2010-2011 seasons to the low of 131.5 inches in the 2011-2012 seasons, the last five winters have been relatively normal. What separates this season from the others is twofold. One, although snow totals to the end of March add up to 181 ½" inches, it's the way it has accumulated. This year we seemed to pick up our "daily dose" of 1-3 inches with many ½ to 1 inch days. For instance, it snowed for 18 days in Dec., 19 days in Jan., and 16 days in Feb. We had only one double digit snow day, 10 ½" on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. We have not seen any major snow events of 12-20+ inches as we have in the past. Secondly, the cold! Subzero temperatures in March! More single digit and subzero days than in the past. As a contractor for nearly twenty eight years working outdoors, all winter for many of them, I have to go back to 1993 before we have had this many days we simply could not work outdoors. And to us, that's about 15 degrees or less. Ice fisherman have reported the best ice in recent memory-24 inches thick or more.

As we enjoy more mild weather this first week of April, I heard today about an approaching snow storm! Not unusual though, we always get snow in April. In 2010 1 ½ inches, 2011 6 ½ inches, 2012 25 inches, 2013 4 inches, 2014 ?? Now not that impressive with 2012 being the exception, it was only last year that it snowed May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. To the point of a full white covering on the ground! So let's hope and pray that we see a break for once in April and certainly May.

The most common phrase I've heard this year, even from my skier friends and family is "I'm sick of it"! Aren't we all? As we welcome back spring and all of our seasonal residence we ask them not to rub it in to bad this year! We toughed it out.

**Pierre Chagnon Chautauqua County Legislator**

Hello! I am Pierre Chagnon, the newly elected Chautauqua County Legislator in the newly configured District 8. My district is comprised of the Town of North Harmony and the Town of Ellery, which includes half of the shoreline of Chautauqua Lake. Needless to say, Chautauqua Lake is at the top of my priority list.

I have lived in the Town of Ellery my entire life, growing up on the lake in Driftwood and since living in the suburbs of Bemus Point on Westman Road where my wife Judy and I raised our two children. I retired two years ago as the Director of Operations at SKF Aerospace in Falconer, where I worked for 31 years.

On the County Legislature I am vice-chairman of the Planning & Economic Development Committee and a member of the Audit & Control Committee. I am interested in and trying to be involved in all things dealing with Chautauqua Lake.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help. I can be reached at [pierrechagnon@windstream.net](mailto:pierrechagnon@windstream.net) or 716-499-6332.

Several years ago, I led Chautauqua Lake watershed tours for visitors to Jamestown Audubon. We traveled from hilltops to valley bottoms, and then to the shores of Chautauqua Lake. Along the way, I made several references to a funnel, a slide and a sponge. The Lake is at the bottom of all the hills and valleys surrounding it. In general, any water that falls in those hills and valleys will probably end up in the Lake. Some water may move quickly; some may take years or even decades to get there, but the land in which that water collects is called a *watershed*. You can think of that watershed as a **funnel**.

Most of our historic reaction to water was to send it downhill quickly, sometimes for very good reasons. Summer thunderstorms and fast-melting snowpacks flood the land and costs taxpayers money when roads, bridges and other infrastructure are damaged. Any surface that prevents water from getting into the ground (“impervious surface”), or moves it more quickly downslope, adds to flooding and erosion problems. Examples of this can include land clearing, rooftops, parking areas, drain tiles, road ditches, and even lawns. Frozen ground can do the same thing. When the amount of water is increased due to natural or human-caused conditions, or when water is moved downhill quicker than would have happened naturally, it’s like pushing it off the top of a playground **slide**.

There is an ‘upside’ to this story. Many of the steps that were taken to put water on the “slide” can be reversed to allow more water to soak in, or to slow it down. By allowing water from private properties to be absorbed into the ground before reaching a stream, a road ditch or the Lake, we can reduce flooding and erosion. Collectively, this can result in less weed and algae problems in the Lake. Some property owners have developed less of their land, thus decreasing the amount of impervious surface. Others have converted lawns that used to go right to the edge of a stream channel or the Lake to planted “buffers”. Some farmers have done the same on their cropland. Several homeowners in the watershed have planted a “rain garden” to absorb water (much like a naturally-occurring wetland does) from rooftops and driveways. Because water is a public resource that flows through private lands, many municipalities around the Lake, including North Harmony, have enacted local laws that allow the landowner and municipal boards to discuss and plan for these concerns before any construction begins. The municipalities don’t want to discourage development or to tread on private property rights. However, they want development that will not add to the Lake problems we already have. This is a tradeoff, but one that is consistent with the outcry from residents and visitors alike for improved Lake conditions. Each of these tools can be thought of as a way to hold water or slow it down, like a **sponge**.

After explaining these things to the people on those bus tours years ago, most people said they made perfect sense, but they’d never thought about them before. As you now know, we all live in the same funnel. You can probably find ways to trade slides for sponges on your own property. There are certainly other kinds of work to be done to improve Lake conditions, but when it comes to the water flowing from private lands, it will take all of us working together to help solve the problems in the Lake.

For more information, stop in to the Town office and pick up the brochure “Homeowner’s Repair Manual for Chautauqua Lake”.

*by Kim Sherwood*

Conewango Creek Watershed Association representative to Chautauqua Lake Management Commission

**NOTES FROM NORTH HARMONY-the musings of a new resident.**

*In 2011 my husband Dave and I moved permanently to our North Harmony house on Lake Chautauqua at Stow. Though not a homestead in the traditional sense, the Humphreys' family roots were planted here in 1947 when my husband Dave's parents erected the small, seasonal cottage which became our family's summer retreat in 1979. We built what my granddaughter Elaine christened "a lakehouse" in 1997. Downsizing from two homes to one was not an anguished uprooting. It was a homecoming to a familiar landscape, faces and a home we loved.*

*However, living in North Harmony is not summering in North Harmony. Suddenly we were concerned about road maintenance, school board and municipal elections, finding out who is who, how the town might develop, what might we contribute. In other words, what is this place, North Harmony? Finding the answer is a continuing pleasure.*

*It's as though over the past three years, I have viewed a favorite picture with new lenses and observed shadows, colors, figures unnoticed before. For me getting to know North Harmony began with its geography and history. The town's geography, what the Real Estate Industry coins "location, location, location", is a starting point. It is also a fortuitous asset both for today and tomorrow. Combine a 7.15 swath of Lake Chautauqua frontage on the edge of 42.2 square miles of rural and agricultural beauty; easy proximity to Chautauqua County's educational and recreational resources; quick access to Inter-states 86 and 90; and presto, you have four season activities which meet a wide range of interests.*

*The History of the Town of North Harmony by Floyd L. Darrow is a fascinating introduction to*

*the town's 96 year history and its energetic history makers who were looking for a place to thrive. It is available at the Township Building for \$10.00. I'm a local history fan and it's exciting to see the town's physical history preserved in the great 19<sup>th</sup> century homes which not only cluster in Ashville, but also are scattered on township roads. (A point of interest: the Smith-Bly home in Ashville is on the National Register of Historic Places). That history also created the Ashville Public Library, Harmony Historical Society and the North Harmony Senior Citizen Center, three places where residents may become involved.*

*But a community is not a collection of facts. It is the people who have joined their lives to this specific ground that give it life and personality. Getting to know the great folks that live in North Harmony has been a joy. Our neighbors, some of them retirees like us, have become friends. They moved here for the same reason we did. Karen Halle's comment echoes my sentiment.*

*"I felt this was more my home than our house in Warren," she said.*

*As the community wrestles with present and future issues, its geography and history might be the foundation of its tomorrow. Accuse me of being a Pollyanna, but consider this scenario. A small surge of retirees who love their North Harmony homes may move to their lakefront or rural home. Combine their interest with the energy of those who foster businesses based in local agricultural products and the knowledge and dedication of community leaders and there may be a North Harmony history written years from now of history makers who were looking for a place to thrive. And did!*

*Lori Humphreys, a volunteer, wrote for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and now the Chautauquan Daily. Future Notes will focus on NH residents and history.*

## **ASHVILLE DAYS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!**

Come one, come all, old and young at heart, to the Ashville Days Community Celebration on Saturday July 19, 2014 in Ashville, NY !

We have planned community wide yard sales, a grand parade, food and fun events for everyone, with the fireworks provided by the LLAMA Club to top it all off!

There is a change this year that we want everyone to be aware of: Due to many requests from past vendors, the vendor booths, restrooms and trash containers will be located on the Fire Departments baseball field on Cedar Ave!! We are planning to have more vendors for you to enjoy, demonstrations by area organizations, as well as room to play the new games that have been added to the days' festivities! This is going to be a fun day for all to enjoy!

We are planning some things that are going to include all members of the community, so please read the current list of planned events and let us know what you would like to participate in! Please be mindful that this list of fun games will grow as the time gets closer, so keep watching for updates!

\*MOMS AND POPS VS THE KIDS KICKBALL GAME! Three innings of fun and laughter!

\*PIE EATING Contest! This is for people ages 18 years and over only!

\*A HOMEMADE SAILBOAT racing contest! We would like children, ages two to twelve, to design their own sailboats ( no motorized boats allowed ) and then we will race them on Goose Creek!

\*There will be a TEA TIME HAT contest! This event is for children ages two to twelve! The children need to design and show/wear a hat that they would wear to a formal Tea Party! Feathers, flowers, colorful tulle, big brims!

\*There is also going to be a TEE SHIRT DESIGN contest for ages eight through fourteen! MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS HELP YOU! Draw and color (with crayons) your design on a white tee shirt. Place a sheet of wax paper over the design then iron it with a warm iron ( this makes the design stick to the shirt and makes it a bit glossy). You may use beads/crystals to liven it up a bit, if you wish!

\* CUTE AS A BUG contest! This contest is open to ages five through ten. The child is to design a bug costume and wear it when being judged! These are to be colorful and spirited bugs! Grasshoppers, ladybugs, crickets, worms, you get the idea . . . BUGS !!!!! COLORFUL BUGS !!!!

\*We are looking for some children who would like to be in a band for the parade . . . let us know if you are interested! No talent required !

\*This year the Town of North Harmony Ashville Volunteer Fire Department is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year of service!!!! Can you believe it! 100 years ago, this small town banded together and developed a volunteer fire department and it is still going strong today! This is something to be proud of – it is an accomplishment and an honor to know that we have consistently had men and women who were willing to work together to benefit their neighbors when disaster struck. Many people do not know the sacrifices these men and women make every day to ensure your safety - - - so please come out and thank them all for what they do.

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So, on this line of thinking, we would like to INVITE YOU TO MAKE A FLOAT TO BE IN THE PARADE! The theme of the parade is "100 Years Ago" . . . make your float into something that shows what Ashville, or the community, may have looked like, or done, 100 years ago!

JUST A NOTE - please MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2014 . . . this is the date for the grand 100 Year Celebration at the Town of North Harmony Ashville Fire Department! The festivities will be held at the fire department in Stow! The celebration will begin at 11 am and end at 4 pm! There are going to be food booths, a dedication for the new heli-pad, a visit from Senator Young and a free bbq chicken dinner (when its gone, its gone! )!

The following are your contacts for any event you may want to participate in:

**Martha Gleason 763 9252 - Judy Wroda 789 9849 - Marsha Vergith 782 2831**

**Vendors:** If you would like to have a booth to sell your wares, please use the above contact names / numbers. The booths will be set up on the baseball field area and they will be 20' for \$20 All booths need to be reserved and paid for by July 11, 2014 so that we can have ample time to mark off all booth areas. Please contact us for more information and to get a contract

Thank you for supporting your community celebration! We hope to have a lot of fun things for everyone! If you would like to volunteer your time or talents, please let us know - we will be happy to have you aboard!

Have a great spring and see you all soon!

Miss Judy, Martha and Marsha

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Town of North Harmony Code Corner:

Spring 2014

Well its spring again after what seemed to be a long winter of very cold weather. As we all start working around the house as work ourselves out of the mud we start noticing things that need to be repaired and or replaced on our homes just keep in mind that when you look at projects around your house either inside or out you may need a permit to do what you want done. This office is very happy to help with answering your questions on permits needed or not. Some of the myths about getting a permit are that it's just so the assessor can raise your taxes, it is so the town can make money on you purchasing a permit, and it's such a hard process. That's just a few that come to mind and they are all false. Getting a permit insures that your project is done correctly according to the NYS Building Codes and Town of North Harmon Zoning Codes. If you don't follow the rules it could affect the sale of your property if you sell, it could affect your insurance, and it could affect your safety or others around you.

Just a reminder that every home shall have a CO detector in it, it is mandatory in all homes either new or existing. This small inexpensive item may save your life or a family member's life.

Also my annual swimming pool update: You need a permit for swimming pools more than 2 feet in depth measured from the side of the pool not water depth. This requirement is for soft sided and or hard side above ground and of course in ground pools also. Depending on where you live you may need a special permit from the ZBA. So plan ahead of your pool and call the office for more information. Swimming pool installation has become more complex in the past few years it all has to do with safety and nothing more. Far too many children and young people have died in swimming pool accidents that may have been avoided if the proper installation was followed. Don't be the one that does not get a permit and does not follow the rules and have something happen because of it.

With all that being said if someone sees a pool going up and doesn't think they have a permit for it please call the office we will be glad to take a look or check records to see if they have a permit and proper installation.

Building codes are not made to hinder someone's rights but they are made for safety, Zoning Codes are put in place to enable people to do things on their property by following life safety rules and some simple environmental rules. Building Codes and Zoning are pretty different but run parallel in the word of codes, as you need to look at one to qualify the other at times.

I hope this page helps in some small way. Please call the office with any questions or my cell if I don't answer right away I will get back to you and if I don't know your answer I surely can find out.

Happy Building

Brad Lawson 716-789-3445 X3 Office 716-450-0641 Cell

CEO North Harmony

