

Durham Activity Center

One of my favorite quotes from one of our greatest presidents – Abraham Lincoln – is “Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way”. That is exactly what members of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Senior Citizen Board and the Recreation Commission did. For many years we have had residents on many of these and other boards search for a centralized place to hold senior and recreation activities. Funding was only part of the challenge; finding the right property was also very difficult. This year we were able to find a centrally located rental property that would meet much of our criteria for space with a limited financial commitment and the Durham Activity Center was created on the second floor of 350 Main Street. Perseverance does pay off!

I want to thank the entire Town of Durham staff for all that they have done to “build-out” the space and for the following generous people and organizations for making donations to outfit our center: Carol & Hank Robinson, Norm Hicks, Frank Amirault – WB Mason, Carolyn Adams, Nicholas Vamvakis, Luyan Zhang, Andy Golschneider – Golschneider Painting, Bob Peterson – VFW, Jean Leining, Walter & Maria Sanford, Elmer & Gwen Clark, Jane Eriksen, Dominic DeMartino, Barbara DeMartino, Tom & Mary Hanchuruck, Tammy Rajcula – Wild Wisteria, Katey Giammatteo – Moms Club of Durham/Middlefield, Ken Hall - Durham/Middlefield Exchange Club, Oliver Smith, Tony & Nancy Cuomo, Laura & Robert Francis, Ray Flynn – Durham Senior Citizens Advisory Board, Anne Cassady, Shari Slight, and Loraine & Henry Coe. It is now a very welcoming, cozy and functional space for many activities.

Sherry Hill, Recreation and Senior Director will be the supervisor of DAC. Sherry is also in charge of programming in conjunction with the Senior Citizens Board and the Recreation Committee. A calendar of events can be found on the Durham Activity Page of our website. A draft use policy has been distributed for review and will be ultimately approved by the Board of Selectmen. For information about scheduling and reserving space at DAC, please call Sherry Hill at (860) 343-6724 – or email shill@townofdurhamct.org.

So far, we have scheduled yoga and Zumba classes, senior exercise classes, BINGO, art classes, children’s gym & dance, and Bridge Club. There are so many other possibilities. How about a sing-along (we have a beautiful piano on site), knitting and arts & crafts hours, Wii tournaments. We’re looking into licensing so we can show movies on our brand new big screen TV. Also, everything is in the works to start a senior lunch program. Soon there will also be drop-in hours if you just want to have some company. Please contact Sherry if you have any other good ideas or talents to share. We will need teachers and moderators for some of these programs.

Come visit, participate and enjoy the community spirit that is now DAC!