

Simsbury Grange #197



What is the Grange . . . and What is Going on There?

Since 1931 Simsbury Grange has been at 236 Farms Village Rd. in West Simsbury, CT. We are part of the CT State Grange and the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. “The Grange” is the nation’s oldest general farm and community organization, founded over 150 years ago. The Grange is also the first national organization to include women with a full voice and vote. It is and has always been non-denominational and non-partisan. All ages are welcome, and age 14 is an adult. (**Attention teens! Vote, hold office, and be a state delegate**). During summers in the 1940’s, Morehouse College students, included Martin Luther King Jr., worked in Simsbury and attended dances at our Grange.

The Simsbury Grange has no set agenda— ***our cause is our community!*** We aim to be affordable and accessible, with a commitment to tradition and an eye to the future. The facilities are available to anyone, and Simsbury Grange is open-minded to new members and ideas. For those interested in public policy, we advocate for legislation at a yearly CT State Grange convention and ultimately through the National Grange. We award college scholarships to Grange members.

Recently our Grange has hosted live music, dance, magic, theater, workshops, dinners, private meetings and parties, fairs, a tag sale and more. We rely 100% on volunteers and love to partner with other organizations. Dues are \$40 per year (\$10 for young people). **Learn more at www.simsburygrange.org or email info@simsburygrange.org.**

Here is a sampling of happenings at Simsbury Grange!

MUSIC: We have a great music venue, inside and out. We host a weather-dependent and donation-based premier outdoor concert series (typically “**Second Sundays**”). An indoor/outdoor **Open Mic with Dave** welcomes all ages, levels, and styles - and spoken word, drama, etc. We co-host **Concerts on the Green** in partnership with **Simsbury Historical Society** on their “Green.” Check <https://www.facebook.com/SimsburyGrange>

DANCE and THEATER: We host **Dance with Gloria** (Gloria Rossetti dancegloria@gmail.com), **Irish Step Dancing** (www.shamrockdancestudio.com/) and the **Simsbury Summer Theater** <https://www.simsburysummertheatre.org/>. Everyone loves our wood floor and **dancing is always allowed at the Grange!** We now have a gorgeous disco ball 😊

MAY and OCTOBER: Electronics Recycling - Green Monster E-Cycling ensures responsible recycling of electronics, storage media, computers and accessories, and more. All hard drives wiped clean and a ZERO LANDFILL policy. Bring as much as you want, and unloading is assisted by local students and **Scout Troop 76**. A \$10 donation is suggested. E-cycle **9-12 on second Saturday in May (spring cleaning!) and last Saturday in October** (Troop 76 wreath orders also on site).

SEPTEMBER: Agricultural Fair - Starting in 2021 we will be partnering with **Septemberfest** in Simsbury, held on the weekend after Labor Day. Our Fair has contests for adults and kids, with ribbons and cash prizes for vegetables, fruits, flowers, baking, home arts, Legos, art and more. We also have exhibits from non-profits and farms, kids’ activities, and demos. Vendor tables \$25, non-profits free. **We host the only official CT Agricultural Fair in the Farmington Valley!**

ONGOING: St. Pauly Shed— clothing donation shed available to the community (special requests, disaster relief). Shoes, belts, purses, linens, and stuffed animals accepted. **New in 2021!** A “**Read and Seed**” repurposed smoker with free seeds and a book exchange. These services are available 24/7 on site. *Please do not leave non-compliant items.*

RENT or ENJOY OUR HALL! The Grange is a classic New England building, **rented at very reasonable rates (50% off for members)**. Two levels, wood floor with stage, small and large tables, chairs, a full certified kitchen – suitable for almost any size/type event! We welcome community groups and private rentals and hope to host community potlucks soon!

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P.O. Box 364 for postal mail. Located at 236 Farms Village Rd. (Rt. 309), West Simsbury, CT 06092

Visit us online at www.simsburygrange.org; contact us at info@simsburygrange.org