



DANBY AREA NEWS

BRYAN BOWERS IN CONCERT SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2-4PM DANBY TOWN HALL

As part of the concert series sponsored by the Danby Community Council, renowned folk musician Bryan Bowers will be giving a free performance at the Danby Town Hall. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome.

Bryan Bowers is recognized as a matchless virtuoso on the autoharp, a powerful songwriter, and an honest, spell-binding performer with a great sense of humor. From rural Virginia, where he grew up on traditional ballads and call-and-response songs learned from field hands and gandy dancers, to his current home in the Pacific Northwest, with many points in between, his has been a full life, rich in music and experience.

A *Washington Times* critic wrote of Bryan Bowers: "This man makes more music from an autoharp than you can imagine from a 12-string guitar and a harpsichord combined." Performing a mix of historical and new songs and tunes, he can coax a full range of emotions from his instrument: celestial, angry, wistful, hearty. No other autoharp player can rival his mastery. Yet "what radiates from the instrument under his touch is not flash, but warmth and brilliance." (*Philadelphia Folk Song Society*).

On the basis of his skill and innovation, Bryan Bowers won the "stringed instrument, open" category of *Frets* magazine's "First Gallery of the Greats" for five years, putting him in league with Chet Atkins, David Grisman, Itzhak Perlman, Tony Rice, and Mark O'Connor. In 1993, he was honored to join Maybelle and Sara Carter and Kilby Snow as inductees in the Autoharp Hall of Fame. But you'll find no pretension in this

down-to-earth giant (6'4"), who has a gift for connecting with his listeners.

No tickets are required and there is no charge, but a sample of Bryan Bowers' recordings will be available for purchase. This concert series is made possible by a grant from the New York State Council for the Arts Decentralization Program, administered by the Community Arts Partnership. *Submitted by Margaret Shepard*

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST WEST DANBY FIRE STATION SUNDAY, MARCH 13 · 8-11AM

LIBRARY NOTES

As I write this, Valentine's Day is tomorrow, and I saw my first robins last week. I don't care what the groundhog says, I am an incurable optimist!

For those of you who like to dream, we have lots of gardening and project books now at the library. If you're still hibernating, we have plenty of bestsellers, videos and audiobooks, too. New collections: 2/17—picture books and easy readers; 3/10—adult fiction A-Z; 3/31—audiobooks, family and feature videos.

If you're ready to come out of your cave, we'll see you at the library. We still need volunteers to help cover many of the duties of this all-volunteer community library. Contact Patti Meyers, 273-3878. A special thanks to Beatrice Hogben and special thoughts to Virginia James, just two of our wonderful volunteers.

Submitted by Patti Meyers

March 2005

Layout: Jim Houghton
Database: Colleen Barnes
Mailing: Beatrice Hogben,
Patty VanDeBogart, Lynne
Deuschle, Colleen Barnes

To contribute:
Danby Area News
5 Deputron Hollow Road
Brooktondale, NY 14817
Phone/Fax: (607) 539-7871
E-mail: graphict@baka.com

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with us before sending.

Deadline is the 15th of the
month. Materials may be
accepted later if time allows.
Submissions should gener-
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or letters of opinion.

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Shirts available at the Danby Market
Proceeds to benefit the Fire Department



AFTER THE FLUSH

Receive a discount coupon for septic system pumping. Learn about conventional and alternative systems, preventive maintenance and routine care that can prevent costly repairs and protect water quality. A free program open to everyone, sponsored by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and the Town of Danby, is being offered on Wednesday, March 16 from 7–9pm at the Danby Town Hall.

Thanks to funding from the Tompkins County Health Department, residents who attend the program will receive a \$20 coupon toward septic tank pumping. Pre-registration is required at the Watershed Network office (607-532-4104) or at <manager@cayugalake.org>.

The program will explain how a typical septic system works, introduce alternative methods, explain signs of system failure and provide tips.

A septic tank that is suitably located, properly installed and adequately maintained provides economical, safe wastewater disposal. Failing systems allow inadequately treated water to enter the groundwater, streams and lakes, and even nearby wells. Taking care of your system, including regular pumping, is important.

VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR FIRE COMPANY

The Danby and the West Danby Volunteer Fire Companies welcome new members. Please consider joining.

When a house catches fire or a vehicle is involved in an accident, we rush to provide help. There are crucial tools and equipment to bring on scene and to deploy quickly. There are hose lines to stretch and water supplies to establish. There are searches and rescues, fire control and extinguishment, life support and other medical care. At the scene of an accident, traffic control is an ongoing challenge. Sometimes the Jaws of Life is required to extricate a patient from twisted metal.

There are quiet dramas too, less spectacular but no less urgent: a neighbor who has taken a bad fall, or a

child whose breathing is difficult. None of this work is possible without hands to help—on the advanced lines and in many support roles. Every emergency involves people, and it can be safely resolved only if people respond.

The Volunteer Fire Company is one expression of the larger community. We appreciate that there are countless others, all kinds of help and kindness in Danby and West Danby. Doing so much, would it possible for you to join us? There are many rewards to be found in helping, and we can always use your help. Please join us at your local fire station when you can, any Monday evening after 7:00.

NEW WEST DANBY OFFICERS FOR 2005:

Chief—Scott Wendt

1st Assistant—John Smith

2nd Assistant—Ken VanEtten

3rd Assistant—Mel Westmiller

President—Marrell Schutt

Vice President—Don Wright

Secretary—Kelly Wendt

Treasurer—Mandy Westmiller

Trustees—Steve Cortright, Phil Westmiller, Wayne Westmiller

DANBY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

January was a busy month for the members. There were 8 rescue calls and 3 fire calls.

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben, Trustee

FOSTER/ADOPT INFO

To anyone who's considering becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent, Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold an informational meeting at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 W. State Street, Ithaca on Thursday, March 10, from 12:00 to 1:00. Tompkins County Youth Services is also looking for Host Homes for teenagers for short-term respite. Call 274-5266 for more information.

OPEN SPACE PLANS AMENDED PUBLIC MEETING PLANNED

The package of open space protection measures transmitted to the Town Board by the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Task Force is being modified in response to comment. The most notable change is in how the medium density residential zone would be affected. The task force recommendation was that medium density and low density zones be combined on an interim basis into a single zone in which the new conservation subdivision procedures would apply. The second phase of the task force's work is to include creating new hamlet development zones defining areas in and near the existing hamlets of Danby and West Danby where new development would be encouraged. The town's attorney expressed misgivings about having so much of the town in one zone, even on an interim basis, with so little area available for higher density residential development. The Town Board, Planning Board, and other members of the Task Force took up the issue and settled upon a revised interim plan to put forward as part of the proposed changes to the Subdivision Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance. The map (opposite page) shows how the medium density zone would be affected. The dotted and striped areas include all of the area currently zoned medium density residential. The dotted areas would become part of the low density residential zone. The striped areas would remain medium density for the interim. The current high density residential zones are shaded.

In the Danby Hamlet, the west dividing line corresponds to the boundary of the agricultural district (lands in the ag district to the left of the line would be in low density). The south line moves the zone boundary to the rear lot lines of the properties bordering Lieb Road, where the Zen Center is located. In West Danby, the medium density zone would be pulled back to the water district boundary, with land now medium density outside the water district becoming part of the low density zone. In addition, land currently part of the Biodiversity Preserve, south of the hamlet, would also be excluded from medium density. More detailed maps showing all zones, including commercial and planned

development zones and individual lot lines are available for viewing in the Town's Code Enforcement Office for anyone wanting to scrutinize this proposal more closely. If adopted, these changes in zone boundaries will probably remain in place for a couple of years while we conduct our strategic planning for the hamlets.

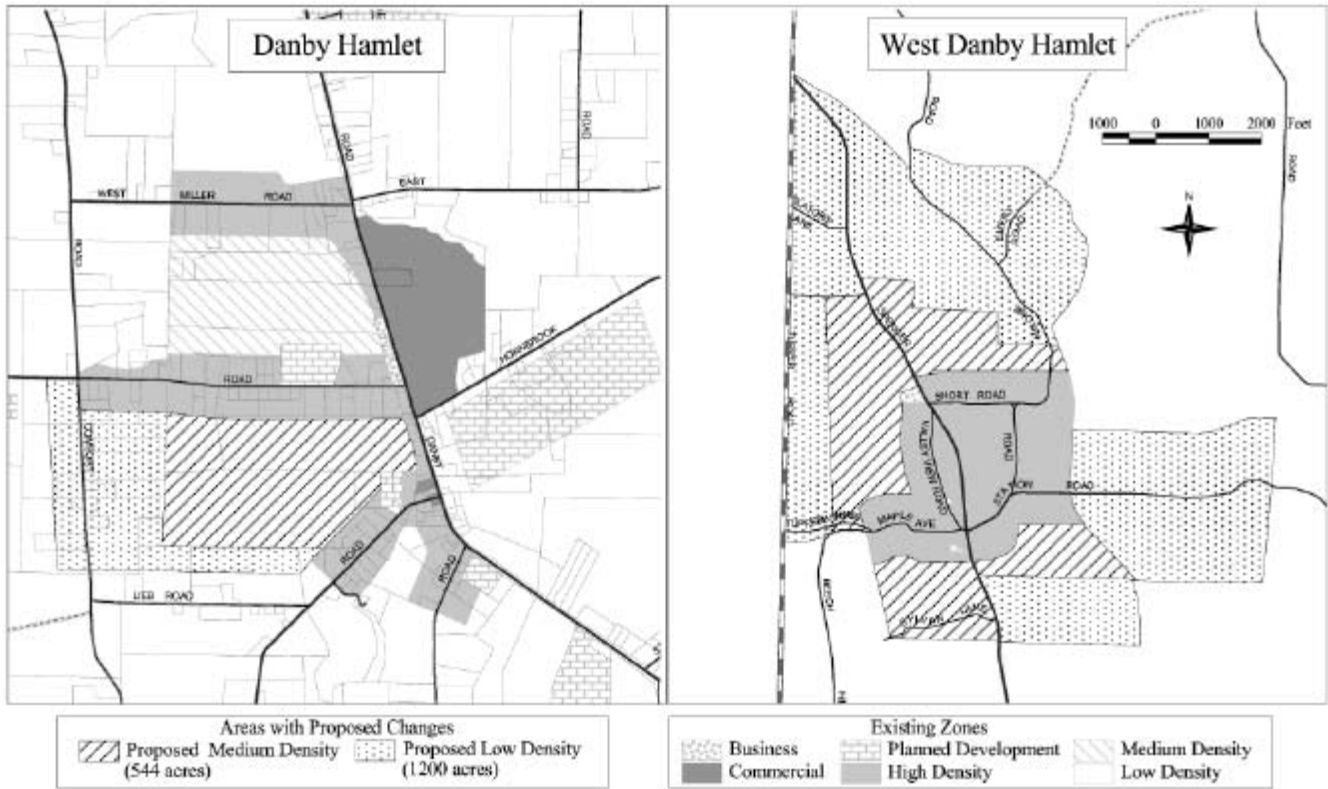
At the time of transmittal of the proposals from the task force to the town board, language for the changes was not yet fully developed due to questions that needed the advice of the town attorney to resolve. Those questions are now being addressed and the language finalized accordingly. The results will be posted on the town's web site (<http://www.town.danby.ny.us/>) and will be the subject of another public information meeting at 7 pm on March 14. This meeting is in addition to the formal public hearing (likely in April), and will include an overview of the proposed changes which I outlined in last month's *Danby News*.

In its formal review of the proposals, the county planning department's letter states "We are impressed with the development of the open space conservation strategy presented in these subdivision recommendations. They may be a model for other communities considering strategies to preserve open space in Tompkins County and beyond." Come check it out!

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

TASK FORCE UPDATE

Although the proposals being consideration by the Town Board is taking center stage, the task force is still working on getting the rest of the open space protection legislation together. Currently the group is finishing up proposed changes to the zoning ordinance. Next will be consideration of an affordable housing ordinance and an erosion and runoff ordinance aimed at protecting both land and water resources. Meetings are at 7 pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Town Hall. The group welcomes participation in the work, and the broader the participation the greater the likelihood that everyone's concerns will have already been addressed when the results are sent on to the Town Board for formal consideration. Not only does this help assure passage, it also ensures that your concerns are given careful and complete consideration. Why not join us on March 9 and 23? *Submitted by Joel Gagnon*



Maps showing current zoning and proposed changes.

NO ROAD PARKING

Local law No. 1 of 1990 allows for the emergency towing of any vehicle parked or abandoned on any roadway within the Town of Danby that hinders the ability of Danby, or other government personnel, to respond to a snowstorm, flood fire or other occurrence requiring a swift response. Towing is at owner's expense.

DEAD DEER REPORTS

To report a dead deer on a Town of Danby roadway, please call the Danby Highway Department at 272-9169. Notify us promptly, so that the deer may be picked up as quickly as possible. Please leave this info: your name, nearest house number to deer, the location of the deer itself (in ditch, near mailbox, etc.) and most importantly a call back number in case we need more information. We will call in the report to the proper highway department (state, county or town). Town & county usually pick up deer the same working day; the state may take up to 24-48 hours. Deer are not picked up on weekends, but you may leave a message on the answering machine anytime.

SNOW'S STILL HERE!

Please keep these safety tips in mind this winter.

- Local law No. 1 of 1990 prohibits parking on roadways. Please park your vehicles in your driveway. This will allow safer and quicker snow removal from our roadways.
- Please don't place garbage cans or recycling bins in the way of removal equipment. The snowplow wing can miss hitting these items if they are kept far enough back from the shoulder of the road. We do not want to hit them or place snow in them. We will not cross the centerline of the road to avoid hitting these items, possibly endangering other motorists or our road crew.
- Lastly, do not tailgate snow removal vehicles. Snow and ice covered roads can present unknown hazards.

These reminders are for everyone's safety. Please do your part to have an accident-free winter.

Submitted by William Hall, Superintendent, Danby Highway Department

PARK ORGANIZATION MEETING

All Danby residents are urged to attend the public meeting of the Danby Community Park Association at the Danby Town Hall on Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 pm. The board and officers elected after the Association was organized as a not-for-profit in November 2001 have been collecting information on community needs and wishes, available funds and planning assistance, but have been unable to proceed with development or even be sure we could have a park until land for a safe entrance could be obtained. Unfortunately this has taken literally years. In the meantime, a number of grants have been awarded to the Danby Park project: \$109,000 in a matching grant from the New York State Department of Parks; \$25,000 of New York State funds from State Senator Seward for the planning of a community building; \$3,500 from the Tompkins Trust Company Robert S. Smith Award for Cornell landscape architecture student cooperation in the planning of park facilities; as well as a grant of \$500 from the Ithaca Rotary Club for the purchase of materials to develop picnic areas, \$500 from Cornell Cooperative Extension for plantings, and significant legal and other planning services and land acquisition funds from individuals, local firms, and Cornell University departments.

This spring we can finally start work on developing the recreational facilities for the park, and the planning phase of a Danby Community Center building. Now we are anxious to have renewed public input, to get Danby residents' ideas for recreational facilities and the needs to be met by a community center building, to expand the DCPA board to represent various groups and interests in the community, to renew contact with the volunteers who have already offered their help, recruit new volunteers, and establish standing committees to bring the park and community center building to fulfillment. All Danby residents 18 years of age and older are members of the Association, and have a voice and a vote in the election of their representatives on the park association board and in the actions to be taken to develop the park and community center.

The map (opposite page) shows the land now

available for the park and building, and the tentative location of various facilities. Detailed maps will be displayed and discussed at the meeting. A proposed schedule of development tasks and lists of possible volunteer activities will be put forward and suggestions welcomed. The plans, based on community questionnaires and previous public meetings, include a soccer field, a baseball diamond, playgrounds for younger (1–6 years old) and older (7–12) children, picnic areas with facilities for grilling, woodland trails, and a building with meeting and banquet facilities, expanded community library and computer space, game and hobby areas, and possible child care room.

The Association will be meeting twice a month on the second and fourth Thursdays at 7:30 pm during the next months, when many aspects of the plans will be discussed and moved forward. 2005 can be a great year of progress, with the help of talented and professional volunteers, toward a splendid new community resource of which Danby can be proud.

Submitted by the Board of Directors, DCPA

DANBY PARADE SAVE THE DATE & JOIN IN!

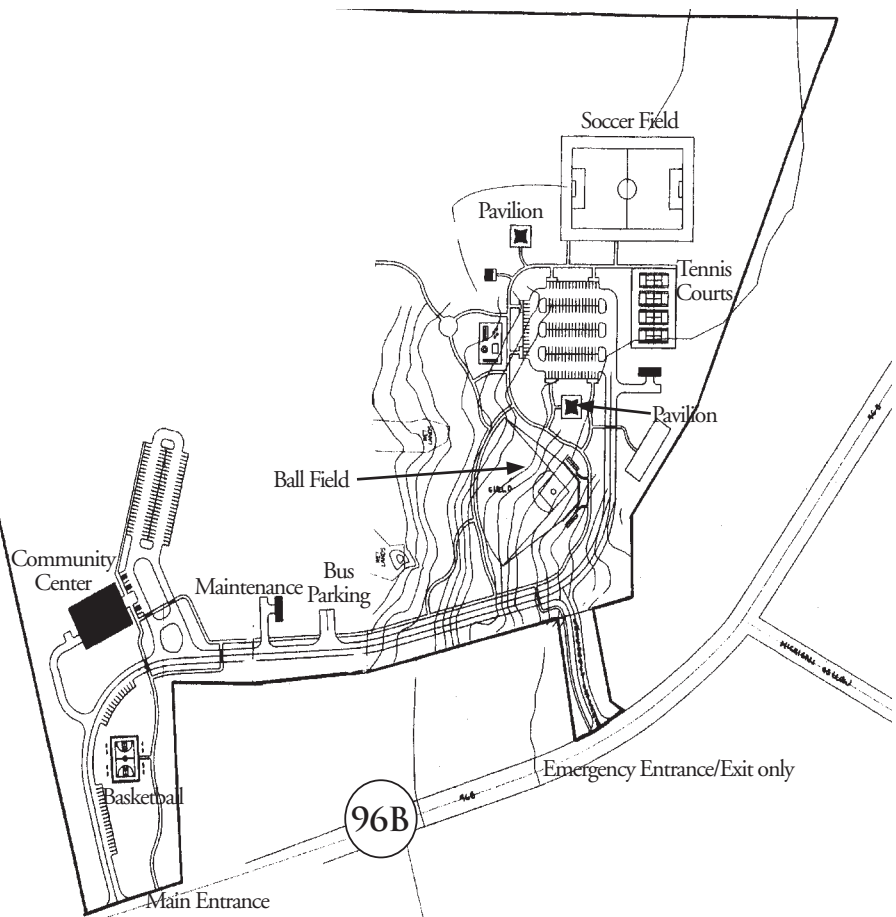
Danby's 3rd annual parade will be held during Danby Fun Day Saturday, July 16, 2005. This will be the 210th anniversary of Danby's settlement, and we welcome everyone to join in and be in the parade! Danby Fun Day and the Danby Parade keep growing every year, and with you joining in, this year will be great!

We invite floats, vehicles, walkers, bikers, animals, and your imagination. No matter how small or large your business, group, or organization may be, the parade is a great way to have fun and meet our community.

Applications are available in the Danby Area News and at the Danby Market. You can also contact Amy Cusimano <amymc@twcnj.rr.com> or Sue Beeners at Town Hall, 277-0799. Please join us!

Submitted by the Danby Parade Committee

Proposed layout for Danby Community Park. Area shown is near Danby Federated Church. Main entrance is across from the Town Hall.



DANBY PARADE ENTRY FORM ▸ PARADE DATE: JULY 16, 2005

Name: _____

Type of entry: (circle one) Business Classic Car Band Group Club Animal Other

Name of business, club, group, etc. _____

Necessary information in detail: Vehicle, animal breed, musical group float etc...

Signature _____

All animals must be under control, leash, lead, harness, saddle etc.

I agree not to hold the Danby Fun Day, the parade committee, the town of Danby or the parade responsible for any injury due to my (our) participation in the parade.

Signature _____ (Signature required; under 18 yrs. of age, parent or guardian needs to sign)

Name and Address of contact person _____

Drop off your completed forms to Danby Town Hall or Danby Market.

Questions? Please contact A. Cusimano amymc@twcny.rr.com or S. Beeners at Town Hall.

COUNTY REP FRANK PROTO REPORTS

As you no doubt read, the TCAT service to Danby and Caroline has been revived under the new structure. Ridership is improving, the safety plan was approved, and the new General Manager Joe Turcotte will take the reins in March. Thank you for your continued support.

For those of you that received adjusted assessments recently and want to review them with the assessors you should call them as quickly as possible or as close to March 1st as possible at 274-6456 and make an appointment. These informal reviews will take place into March. Don't forget to submit your Ag Assessment paperwork prior to April 1, 2005!

In an effort to bring back some fee money to the county an effort is being made to go after the Universal Fund. Each telephone line "contributes" a fee based on your long distance telephone calls. The monies can be used for library and school internet services, health care, poverty level recipients, and the phone companies themselves. It is estimated that Tompkins County residents pay approximately \$1,000,000 annually into this fund but have only received a fraction back—\$92,000 in 2003! Check your bill; it's definitely a hidden tax. I'd be glad to give you additional information, or call Karen Fuller (274-5434) at the Legislature office. A second onerous fee is NYSEG's transition surcharge—more on this to follow.

The Board of Health has been asked to issue an opinion on banning all open burning except that which is agricultural in nature. Though the current sanitary code has restrictions, this ban would supersede the current code. I'd appreciate your comments.

The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board is reviewing the county's protection plan and will no doubt submit some revisions. I'll keep you posted on this.

Currently we're reviewing the Governor's proposed budget and its local impacts. Health care services seem to be hardest hit, but nothing is final yet.

Our Strategic Planning Committee continues to review and identify items we'd like to concentrate

on over the next several years. Efficiencies must be achieved in order to keep costs in line.

Dandy resident and firefighter Andrew Dunnick received the county's Distinguished Youth Award for his outstanding contribution to the community. His fine example is recognized by his school as well as his neighbors.

Appointments to advisory boards are always tough to fill due to the needs of various boards. Recently, the length of time in the county and community awareness of the applicants have been topics of discussion. Professionally well-credentialed individuals may not have any idea what the community needs may be, and may unknowingly negatively effect an issue's outcome. This item will be a constant topic since no one wants to discourage involvement.

Empire zones and their tax consequences, along with all tax abatement programs, will be receiving attention this year. A complete review has been requested.

A study and review of the community's policing needs is underway. Caroline Supervisor Don Barber has agreed to chair this ad hoc committee at the request of the Intermunicipal Task Force.

Should there be a matter you wish to discuss, please call me at my office (277-4875); the County Legislature (274-5434); drop me a note at Cannonbrook Farms, Slaterville Springs, NY—or join me for coffee!

TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK

Tues–Fri 9–4, Sat 9–noon • 607-277-4788

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

93 Hornbrook Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Monday–Friday 6am–2:30pm • Ph: 272-9169

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

W–F 10–5 or by appointment • 607-277-0799

TOWN COURT:

Tuesday eve, 7pm • 607-277-4788

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tues & Thurs 3:30–5:30pm, Sat 9:30am–2:30pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

Danby Youth Flyer

Danby Community Council Youth Programs

Here are the fun and educational youth programs for March 2005. Programs are for youth from the town of Danby; the age range is listed for each program. Look for brochures and registration forms in the Danby Store and at the Town Hall — these will have more details and registration forms to be returned. To have a brochure mailed or faxed to you, please contact Ruth Baldwin by phone at 272-2292 ext. 224, or e-mail at <reb53@cornell.edu>, or just download the form off of our website at <<http://www.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/rys/local.htm>>. Remember, these programs fill up fast, so register early.

Funky Garden Furniture — Mondays, February 21–March 14, 4–6pm, Danby Town Hall. Grades 6–10.

Come help design, build, and decorate a comfortable and attractive park bench to grace the community garden next to the Town Hall. Be sure to join us at the first meeting to help choose a design! After we build the bench, we'll collect old furniture and bring things from home (old tables, chairs, bookshelves, etc) to transform into fun, personal, and useable pieces of furniture. Great for your own home, yard, or as a gift.

The Youth Flyer is sponsored in part by United Way of Tompkins County.

Don't Forget!

High-speed internet access is available for use by youth and adults at the Danby Community Library during regular hours. Educational CD-ROMs are also available.

TOMPKINS COUNTY YOUTH OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Andrew Dunnick, a member of the Danby Volunteer Fire Company, on being named the Tompkins County Youth of the Month. Andrew has an outstanding record. He is on the academic honor roll at Ithaca High School, and he has been inducted into the National Honor Society. He is the Vice President of this year's senior class. He is also Co-President of the Model United Nations Club, captain of the varsity tennis team, a writer for the student newspaper, and an eagle scout.

All the same, Andrew has received this award primarily for his service to Danby as a member of our fire company. Our county representative Mr. Frank Proto emphasized these achievements in his speech before the Tompkins County Board of Representatives in January. In December, for example, Andrew rescued one of our neighbors through CPR. The day after Christmas, he was among the first firefighters on scene to attack a fully involved structure fire. And just last week, as though to confirm his recent award, Andrew helped to stop a house fire in Danby as nozzle-man on the advanced hose line.

Andrew has already completed the training to be an interior firefighter, and he will be authorized for these operations when he turns eighteen on March 6. This notice is just to say how very proud we are of Andrew's accomplishments. He exemplifies the spirit of community, and he is helping to carry the proud tradition of the volunteer fire service into the future.

Submitted by John Gaden, Chief, Danby Volunteer Fire Company

Danby Community Council
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MARCH CALENDAR

JOINT WORK SESSION OF THE TOWN BOARD AND PLANNING BOARD—Thursday, March 3, 7pm, Town Hall.

DANBY SENIOR CITIZENS—Thursday, March 3, 12 noon, Danby Federated Church. All Danby seniors invited to attend.

TOWN BOARD AGENDA MEETING—Monday, March 7, 7pm, Town Hall.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE—Wednesday, March 9, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST—Sunday, March 13, 8–11am, West Danby Fire Hall. See page 1.

BRYAN BOWERS CONCERT—Sunday, March 13, 2–4pm, Danby Town Hall. See page 1.

PUBLIC INFO MEETING—Monday, March 14, 7pm, Town Hall. On rezoning proposals; see pg. 4. Town Board meeting follows.

MEET YOUR REPS—Ric Dietrich & Frank Proto, Tuesday, March 15, 9:30–11:30am, Danby Market.

SEPTIC INFO MEETING—Wednesday, March 16, 7pm, Town Hall. See page 3.

PLANNING BOARD—Thursday, March 17, 7pm, Danby Town Hall.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE—Wednesday, March 23, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

PARK ASSOCIATION MEETING—Thursday, March 24, 7:30pm, Town Hall. See pg. 6.

ONGOING

SENIORS STRENGTH TRAINING GROUP—Mondays, 9am, Danby Federated Church.

WEST DANBY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY—Second Monday, 7pm, West Danby Fire Hall.

DANBY FIRE COMPANY—Mondays, 7pm, monthly meeting the second Monday at 7:30pm.

DANBY FOOD PANTRY—Third Friday, 4–6pm. NEW IN 2005: also open the day before (Thursday) from 6–8pm. 1859 Danby Road.

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY READING GROUP—Fourth Tuesdays, 7pm, Danby Library.