



# DANBY AREA NEWS



## WEST COAST VISITS EAST: ORIGINAL SONGS FROM LINDA ALLEN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 3:00 PM ▸ TOWN HALL

Residents of Danby and Tompkins County will be treated to a rare visit by a West Coast singer songwriter when Linda Allen travels to New York in September, celebrating her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and a new recording.

Linda Allen, of Bellingham, Washington, is a passionate and engaging folk performer whose songs are rooted in tradition. Linda's songs tell of the lives and work, hopes and the dreams of people everywhere. She has a talent for reaching into the ordinary to find the profound, setting it to music and singing it home. Her songs are bold, poignant, funny, informative, insightful and, best described by a review which called her music "good holistic medicine for the spirit." A prolific writer, Linda is also a song collector. In 1988-89 she was Resident Songwriter for the State of Washington's Centennial Project; she also worked extensively with the Washington Women's Heritage Project and the Washington Grange Music Heritage Project. Her songs have been sung or recorded by many artists including the Se-

## PORK BARBEQUE AND QUILT RAFFLE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 4-7PM, DANBY FIRE HALL

To benefit the Danby Community Park and Center

Raffle tickets are now available, and will be sold at the barbeque. The drawing for the quilt will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup>, toward the end of the barbeque. For more information about the barbeque, please contact Joanne Church, 277-3574 For more information about the quilt, please contact Mary Oltz, 273-2950.

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attle Women's Ensemble, Wisconsin Women's Chorus, Cindy Mangsen, Frankie Armstrong, Judy Small and Faith Petric. They have appeared in publications such as *Sing Out!* and *Broadside*, in books and song collections, and have been used for numerous educational radio and television programs.

The core of Linda's work is spirit and social justice. Linda says of her own music, "I do believe that stories can soften the hard places in our lives. A good song-story can make us laugh at ourselves and delight in each other. It can also make us cry together and feel a little less lonely in this weary world." She is also a teacher who has lead numerous workshops in freeing the inner voice and creativity. Linda will be offering a vocal workshop nearby, on the day before her Danby performance. For more information about the workshop, call 387-3481.

Appropriate for the entire family, this concert is free and open to everyone. This and other concerts are made possible through the efforts of the Danby Community Council concert series, and are supported by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts and Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County Decentralization Program. *Submitted by Pam Goddard*

September 2005  
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Deadline is the 15th of the  
month. Materials may be  
accepted later if time allows.  
Submissions should gener-  
ally not exceed one page. We  
cannot print political material  
or letters of opinion.

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## WEST DANBY PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPT. 11, 3:00 PM

**Jim Hatch's field at the corner of Brown Rd.  
and Short Rd., West Danby**

Come and enjoy an old-fashioned afternoon picnic with your friends, family, and neighbors. Bring a covered dish to share, and your own grilling meat if you want (outdoor grill is on-site). Water and lemonade provided. Outdoor gaming equipment a great idea too!

We hope to have some live music happening at this year's picnic. And who knows, maybe even a few stumping politicians will show up to rub elbows as in years past...  
*Submitted by Peter Fraissinet*

## LIBRARY NOTES

What a summer it has been! We marched in the Danby Fun Day parade, received the new Harry Potter book, and enjoyed or suffered through the hottest, driest summer in a while. We said a sad goodbye to Virginia James, a longtime volunteer, and thank her family for donating a collection of this avid reader's books and videos in her memory,

We have many thanks to the Danby Parade Committee for providing us with signs for the parade through a grant they pursued: Thank you, Sue and Amy! Many thanks to our tireless volunteers who opened the library to the community three times a week throughout the summer. Thanks to the summer readers who joined the Summer Reading Program—I hope you were able to complete your books and win the prize.

Congratulations to Brianna, who was the first person to be able to borrow the new Harry Potter book. Last but not least, thank you to the Danby Town Board for your yearly support that helps us to participate in The McNaughton Book Leasing Program through TCPL, which allows us to provide best sellers to you monthly; and for all the behind-the-scenes materials that help us to process and display books in the library. I guess I'm feeling very thankful this summer! See you in the fall for some good reading. Book group resumes on September 27 at 7 p.m. to discuss summer reading.

*Submitted by Patti Meyers*

## HELP FIND MISSING CEMETERIES

The NYGenWeb is trying to locate and inventory all cemeteries in New York State. Some cemeteries in Danby are still listed as not located. If you have knowledge of some of the older cemeteries in the Town, why not take a look at the list at <http://rootsweb.com/~nytompki/tcem.htm> to see if you know of the locations of any of the missing cemeteries. Contact Cheryl Hall at [genealogy2@oldwillow.com](mailto:genealogy2@oldwillow.com) if you know where any of these cemeteries are.

*Submitted by Ronda Roaring*

## DANBY DISCUSSION LIST FORMED

There has, for some time, been the need for a spot where people can both post news about Danby and discuss issues concerning Danby. However, the Danby Area News is not able to serve as a vehicle for discussions. Consequently, I have created a Google Groups site called Danby News and Views. This is the description of the group:

“Announcements and discussions. Open to individuals who have an interest in the workings of the Town of Danby, New York. Topics may include but are not limited to politics, the environment, recreational activities and services, zoning, public utilities. No religion.”

The URL is <http://groups-beta.google.com/group/DanbyNewsandViews>. You can view the messages, but you will need to become a member in order to post a message or participate in a discussion. To be fair to everyone, please post with your full name. Remember that anything you post on any web site can be accessed in some way by the entire world. Choose your words carefully. We are all adults here, so I am relying on you all to be civil.

Please remember that this is a new site and there may be some problems. Contact me if you have any. Let's cross our fingers and hope this works.

*Submitted by Ronda Roaring*

## REPORT FROM FRANK PROTO

As the county legislators await receipt of County Administrator Steve Whicher's 0% 2006 budget proposal, I'd like your input—which items are your priorities; should we consider adding to or cutting from (or eliminating) certain items; are services being delivered adequately—please contact me with your suggestions. The Public Information Session is scheduled for September 26, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at Boynton Junior High School and the final vote will take place in early November.

Though the Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) ridership has generally increased in Caroline, Danby, and Ithaca, our Sunday service in Danby and Caroline carries fewer than one person on average. The costs to run those Sunday routes doesn't justify their continuing for now, so they will cease as of August 21, 2005, and the rider(s) will be contacted prior to the cancellation. We are beginning immediately to plan for complete weekend service restoration in January and will review options over the next several months. It's important to keep providing this option to weekend riders particularly those needing to get to work, and shop locally, considering the recent impacts of gasoline prices.

All individuals having an interest in the proposed changes to the county's Sanitary Code regarding open burning should plan to attend the public information meetings scheduled for 7:00 p.m., September 7, 2005, Lansing Town Hall or 7:00 p.m., September 19, 2005, Danby Town Hall. This is an opportunity to hear from those individuals who may be impacted the most by the proposed changes and from county staff.

As the county moves forward with its Public Safety Communications System several proposed tower sites will be flying large balloons during August to determine the visual impact of the suggested towers. Balloons will be flown at the proposed tower heights and pictures taken within an approximate five-mile radius. Those photos will be inserted into a rendering to then show what the actual tower will look like at that location. One site is in Caroline and two are in Danby.

Due to the weather conditions these tests may have to be rescheduled, or you may have already spotted the balloons.

The efforts to recapture some funding from the Universal Fund Charge on your telephone bills is continuing. We're awaiting some response from the Public Service Commission regarding New York State Electric and Gas's (NYSEG) transition surcharge.

We're continuing to refine the county's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and hope to have it finalized by year-end. Land use is a major component of the plan.

The Intermunicipal Planning Committee has suspended its work on the sheriff's patrol needs until after November. But, preliminary work shows the need for adding several deputies. The sheriff has asked for three additional road patrol people through his budget request.

Those having concerns regarding prescription drugs should take advantage of the program the county has championed, TompkinsRx. Cards are available at any pharmacy or call Betty Falcao at the Health Planning Council with any questions (607-273-8686).

The impact of Property Tax Abatements is gaining some support in the Legislature. Please don't hesitate to offer any insight you may have.

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

## SENIORS TRIP SEPTEMBER 28

There will be a Senior trip to Alexandria Bay on September 28, 2005. For information and reservations call Nancy Weitzel at 272-6570 or Barbara Mosher at 272-3730.

# HISTORY NOTES

## BY JOAN GRANT, TOWN HISTORIAN

This winter I was contacted by Jim Fairbanks of Lincoln, Illinois, regarding his ancestors, the Ford family. The Fords came to Danby in the early 1800's. Jim has an extensive collection of letters that originated in Danby, the earliest being 1830. This letter (originating in Ithaca) was sent my way in early August and I'd like to share it with you.

Hello Joan,

This letter was written in 1835 by the brother of my great-great grandfather's brother (residing in Ithaca) to his other brother talking about military training and the farm of Joseph Ford (in Danby). —Jim

From: Willis Ford, Ithaca, N.Y.  
To: James Ford, Danby, N.Y.  
August 19, 1835  
Brother James,

When you were last here, you spoke about buying equipment to train with this fall. You also spoke about our buying together. I have looked around some since and find that the silversmiths ask six dollars for a musket and bayonet and two dollars for a cartridge-box, which make eight dollars. How I will [letter missing] you [letter missing] do better than this. I have had the good luck to find a young fellow who has a musket and cartridge box, with their trimmings, belt, sc, which he will sell for the low sum of five dollars and a half, and I think he will sell them for five. They are about as good as new. I expect I could hire them, but I will tell you what I can do, if you please. I will buy them myself and getting through my training before yours comes on, I will then sell them to you. For Five Dollars, if I can get for that. You would save three dollars by doing, and be the only owner of them. If I should be here next fall, if you would sell I would then buy half, but I do not much expect to be here more than this fall to train, which is the reason why I don't want to buy to help.

I want you and father, if you have any good wheat to sell, to thresh me out a bushel or two, and bring me it down to Morris and I will give you the market price for it in cash. I want you to come down to Morris, as I promised to let the fellow know whether we take his equipment or not. [Missing piece]—Signature

Willis Ford's reference to Morris could be Morris Avenue in Ithaca, a short street, running parallel to Hancock and Madison Streets or Morris Height, a tiny loop off of West Spencer Street. On the 1853 and the 1866 maps of Danby, the Ford Family had a farm on Muzzy Road. Their home was 1/4 mile from the intersection of Muzzy and Troy Roads on the north side of Muzzy.

## REPORT FROM RIC DIETRICH

This is to catch people up on what the Town is currently working on.

We are preparing a resolution for a bond in order to finance our new salt shed, a very needed truck for the Highway Department, and a connection of the West Danby Water District to the West Danby Fire Department. We have also invested in a new water system for West Danby.

We are looking at an aquifer study, which would be a useful tool for future planning purposes. We need to know where the water is and is it of good quality in order to understand our water needs. You may remember that an aquifer study was a top priority for previous Town and Planning Boards.

We are "revitalizing" our former Revitalization Committee, which was suspended while the Task Force wrestled with land use issues. The purpose of this committee is to improve the appearance of the hamlets. All suggestions will be voluntary and we are applying for grants to enable us to carry out these suggestions.

We are working on bringing our land use regulations in compliance with our new Comprehensive Plan, which places a high value on preserving open space and our rural life styles.

Finally, it is budget season again and we will try and keep taxes down during these trying inflationary times. The current crisis with gasoline and the inflated price of materials is worrying. Managing the Town's budget takes much of our time and attention.

If you have questions or comments please give me a call at 227-2434.

## WATCH YOUR SPEED!

Please remember: our town roads are not speedways. With the increase in development in Danby and this part of the county, traffic is intensifying on our roads and we're hearing, feeling and seeing the consequences. My cat was recently hit by a car traveling at high speeds down East Miller Road, requiring a \$2500 operation for a pelvic fracture. A friend's dog on Gunderman was not so lucky, and was killed. While my cat was being operated on at the Small Animal Hospital at Cornell, the vet told me most of the trauma cases they treat are due to car accidents.

Think about it. Our back roads are used by cyclists, joggers, tractors, livestock and lots of deer. School will be starting soon and many kids wait for the bus by the side of the road. So what would happen if we all slowed down? Maybe we'd have to allow another 5 minutes to get somewhere. But it would make our roads safer for people and animals.

*Submitted by Olivia Vent*

[Editor's note: whatever speed you travel, it is always sensible and courteous to slow down when you see people or animals in or near the road.]

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NEWS

At a joint meeting on August 18, the Town Board and Planning Board, with other Task Force members, discussed how to improve the process of implementing the legislative components of the Comprehensive Plan.

### Some ideas included the following:

- Provide adequate time for questions and comments at information sessions and following public hearings.
- Present ideas simply, and with graphic examples.
- Hold public information meetings and obtain public input on the basic concepts of proposed revisions, before fully developing draft language.
- Enhance use of the Town website for presenting ideas, and seeking feedback.

- Improve outreach to all community members, to ensure that those who may not want to express concerns early in the process have every opportunity to be involved.

### Upcoming Meeting:

On Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m., a Joint Meeting of the Town Board and Planning Board will be held to review the proposed "Conceptual Framework for Proposed 'Round Two' Legislative Revisions" that were agreed to at the August Task Force meeting and sent to the two Boards for feedback.

The proposed Conceptual Revisions recommended by the Task Force include work of the Task Force since about February, 2005, along with suggested enhancements of the revised Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations adopted in May, 2005 by the Town Board.

### Task Force Proposal Summary:

These are the main concepts proposed by the Task Force, which are pending review by the Town Board and Planning Board at the September 7 meeting:

- Remove the 60% Conservation Area requirement in the Low Density Residential Zone.
- Deduct unbuildable areas (wetlands, slopes over 25%, and floodplains) before calculating the overall permitted number of lots.
- Allow bonus lots, in addition to the permitted number, as an incentive to protect lands suitable for agriculture.
- Allow some new lots by permit, without having to go to the Planning Board.
- Allow flexibility in lot size and lot frontage, including one-acre lots and flag lots.
- Enhance permitted uses in the Low Density Residential Zone, to encourage farm-related businesses and tourism.

All are welcome to attend the September 7 meeting. Additional information on the Task Force proposal to be reviewed at this meeting is available from the Town Clerk's office.

## RURAL BUSINESS LOANS AVAILABLE

Rural residents of Tompkins County have access to a special business loan offered by Tompkins County. These loans will range from \$5,000-\$25,000 and have a 3% interest rate. Criteria for qualifying for the loan include rural address, household income and participation in "Getting Down to Business," Alternatives Federal Credit Union's (AFCU) 11-week business planning class.

Business CENTS hopes to help rural residents expand their income generating opportunities by teaching sound business practices and skills. Past graduates of "Getting Down to Business" have started businesses as varied as massage therapy practices, home day care, a hairstylist, a pheasant farm, landscape design, organic farms, web design, fiber arts, a candy store, a bistro, a coffee shop, an antique shop and many more.

Participants will learn about business planning, marketing and market research, financing their business, bookkeeping and accounting, legal issues, taxes, employer responsibilities and more.

The course will be offered in Tompkins County this fall on Wednesday evenings starting September 7. All sessions will be held from 6–9pm at Alternatives Federal Credit Union, 125 N. Fulton St., Ithaca. There is a sliding-scale course fee of \$30 to \$150 plus a \$25 materials fee. Pre-registration is required. To register, call Diane at 273-4611 Ext. 841.

**Eligibility:** Microenterprise businesses with five or fewer employees, operating in rural areas of Tompkins County (generally excludes the City of Ithaca, Village of Lansing, Village of Cayuga Heights, and portions of the Towns of Lansing, Ithaca and Dryden). All applicant incomes must fall below HUD income guidelines. The income guidelines for 2005 are as follows—1-person household, \$34,650; 2, \$39,600; 3, \$44,550; 4, \$49,500; 5, \$53,500; 6, \$57,450; 7, \$61,400; 8 or more, \$65,350.

In addition to the Getting Down to Business course, CENTS offers individual business counseling and short-term seminars and networking opportuni-

ties year round. AFCU is a Community Development Financial Institution, dedicated to creating economic opportunity for underserved people and communities.

## ADVISORY BOARDS SEEK NEW MEMBERS

Residents of Tompkins County are invited to apply for membership on two advisory boards that provide input to the Tompkins County Legislature on environmental matters. The Environmental Management Council (EMC) and the Water Resources Council (WRC) have vacancies for terms beginning January 1, 2006.

The EMC has six at-large seats that are open to all county residents, as well as vacancies for appointed representatives from the towns of Caroline, Danby, Dryden, Enfield, Groton, Ithaca, and Newfield. The EMC has been the county government's official citizen advisory board on local environmental matters since 1971.

The WRC has vacancies for representatives of the general public, agriculture, economic development interests, and municipal governments. Activities include implementing a program to assess significant groundwater resources; providing assistance with new federal stormwater regulations; re-evaluating county water resources programs; and developing partnerships with local, region, and state agencies and organizations.

For more information about the EMC and/or the WRC, or to receive an application form, please contact the Tompkins County Planning Department at 274-5560, or pick up an application at 121 East Court Street, Ithaca, NY. Applications are also available online at: <<http://www.tompkins-co.org/legislature/advisory/application.html>>.

Deadline for receipt of applications for Water Resources Council is September 8, 2005. Deadline for receipt of applications for Environmental Management Council at-large seats is October 25, 2005 and municipal representatives is December 1, 2005. Municipal representatives must also submit a resolution of support from the municipality.

# Danby Youth Flyer

## Danby Community Council Youth Programs September–October, 2005

Hello! My name is Tom Archibald and I'm happy to introduce myself as the new Youth Program Manager. I'm really looking forward to continuing some of the great programs that Ruth Baldwin has offered to Danby area youth and their families. From 2002 to 2004 I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Gabon, Central Africa, and I learned a lot about different cultures. I'm eager to share my recent experiences with Danby youth who participate in our programs.

Programs are for youth from the town of Danby; the age range is listed for each program. Look soon 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 Tom Archibald by phone at 272-2292 x. 222, or email at <tga4@cornell.edu>, or 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.

**Ice Cream Social**—Friday, September 16, 3:30–5:30, Danby Town Hall. Grades 3–9.

Before it gets too cold and before there's too much homework at school, let's get together for some fun with ice cream. We'll make our own ice cream using simple materials and then create cool sundaes with

lots of different toppings. This will also give everyone a chance to tell me what programs YOU want to do this year.

**Cultural Cooking**—starts the week of September 19, day & time to be announced. Danby Federated Church. Grades 5–9.

This year we will continue to explore the world by cooking and eating. We will make dishes and meals from all around the world. Also, the food will taste better if we know a little more about the culture that it comes from. So, we'll also take some time to listen to music, learn about clothes, and even meet people who come from diverse cultures

**Green Thumbs Garden Club**—starts the week of September 19, day & time to be announced. Danby Town Hall. Grades 3–9.

Some people think a garden is all work and no fun. But, have you visited the turtle-shaped children's garden in Ithaca? Have you ever heard of a garden in a forest? Maybe there's more to gardening than you think. Come join us as we brainstorm and start to plan improvements to the Town Hall garden.

## TOWN HOURS

### TOWN CLERK

Tues–Fri 9am–4pm, Sat 9am–noon  
Ph: 607-277-4788 • Fax: 607-277-0559

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

93 Hornbrook Road • Ph: 272-9169  
Monday–Thursday 6am–4:30pm through September

### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

Wednesday–Friday 10am–5pm or by appointment  
Ph: 607-277-0799 • Fax: 607-277-0559

### TOWN COURT:

Tuesday eve, 7pm  
Ph: 607-277-4788 • Fax: 607-277-0559

### DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.



## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

**DANBY SENIOR CITIZENS**—Thursday, Sept. 1, 6pm, Federated Church. Speaker: Betsy Schermerhorn on the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

**JOINT MEETING OF TOWN BOARD & PLANNING BOARD**— Wednesday, September 7, 7pm, Town Hall. Also Agenda Meeting. See page 6.

**ANNUAL WEST DANBY PICNIC**— Sunday, September 11, 3pm, Hatch's Field. See page 3.

**TOWN BOARD MEETING**— Monday, September 12, 7pm, Town Hall.

**MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES**— Tuesday, September 13, 9:30–11:30 am, Danby Market. Frank Proto and Ric Dietrich.

**PLANNING BOARD**—Thursday, September 15, 7pm, Danby Town Hall.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON OPEN BURNING**—Held by Tompkins County Health Department. Monday, September 19, 7pm, Town Hall.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**—Wednesday, September 21, 7pm. 1. Appeal of Deborah Keil regarding Hilltop Road. 2. An appeal of height variance for the proposed salt barn.

**PORK BARBEQUE & QUILT RAFFLE**— Saturday, September 24, 4–7pm, Danby Fire Hall. To benefit Danby Community Park. See page 1.

**LINDA ALLEN CONCERT**— Sunday, September 25, 3pm, Danby Town Hall. See page 1.

**SENIOR TRIP**— Wednesday, September 28, to Alexandria Bay. See page 4.

### 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 Thursday, 6–8pm, third Friday, 4–6pm, 1859 Danby Road.

**DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY READING**

**GROUP**—Fourth Tuesdays, 7pm, Danby Library.

**DANBY QUILTERS GROUP**—Mondays, 6:30pm, Fridays, 9–11am. Call 273-2950 for info.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY: DANBY NEWS EDITOR

The Danby Community Council is looking for an editor for the *Danby Area News* beginning in 2006.

The position involves receiving and editing text and graphics, laying out the issue, and sending it to the printer. E-mail capabilities are a must; some skill with desktop publishing and image editing programs are also needed. Ability to meet deadlines very important. Ability to generate PDF files helpful. Must have own computer and programs to work with; scanner very useful. Danby resident preferred.

The first issue to be produced by the new editor is the February, 2006 issue, produced in late January. Stipend commensurate with experience. Contact Dan Klein at 272-7282 or <danbydan@hotmail.com>.

## DANBY FIRE UPDATE

The members responded to the following 911 calls during the past three months:

May: 2 fire calls and 3 rescue calls

June: 2 fire calls and 7 rescue calls

July: 6 fire calls and 10 rescue calls

This brings the total for the past seven months to 20 fire calls and 45 rescue calls.

Speaking for myself (a Support Member), we are in immediate need of persons (male or female) who could join the Company as Support Members whose only duties would be to help me keep the Danby Station clean (sweeping and mopping) and/or come to the Station to prepare food for the Active Members when there is a prolonged fire or rescue situation. Please call me 272-5294 if you feel you have some free time, or come to the Danby Station any Monday night to discuss this with me.

*Submitted by Beatrice Hogben, Trustee*

Danby Community Council  
Danby Area News  
1830 Danby Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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**PORK BBQ & QUILT RAFFLE**  
**FOR COMMUNITY PARK**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 4-7PM**

**WEST DANBY PICNIC**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 3PM**

**LINDA ALLEN CONCERT**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 3PM**

**SENIOR TRIP TO ALEXANDRIA BAY**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**