

# DANBY AREA NEWS



## ARIADNE STRING QUARTET SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 3PM DANBY TOWN HALL

The next concert in the Danby Community Council's 2005 concert series will be Sunday, Oct 16 at 3pm in the Danby Town Hall. The Ariadne String Quartet will perform quartets by Mozart and Hindemith, and "Four for Tango" by Astor Piazzolla, an Argentine composer who is known for his wonderful blending of popular tango music with classical music forms. The Ariadne String Quartet is made up of Ithaca College faculty members Susan Waterbury and Rebecca Ansel, violin, Debra Moree, viola, and Elizabeth Simkin, cello. They are active performers and teachers of chamber music, and are associated with many local music groups, including the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra and Ensemble X. Simkin gave a solo recital in Danby last year to a large, enthusiastic audience.

This concert, like all the others in the series, is free, and supported by public funds from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County/NY State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program.

Danby Federated Church  
**HARVEST  
FALL FAIR**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 15 • 10AM-3PM**

Hosted by the Women's Society

- Dried Flower Arrangements • Handmade Crafts
- Christmas Booth • Homemade Baked Goods
- Homemade Jams, Candies & Condiments
- Produce & Plants • Silent Auction
- White Elephant Booth • Activities for the Kids
- **Chicken Barbeque 11:30am until gone**

For more info contact the church office at 272-1687.

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Deadline is the 15th of the  
month. Materials may be  
accepted later if time allows.  
Submissions should gener-  
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## DANBY HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Danby Community Council will be holding its annual Halloween Party on Saturday October 29, from 4:00–6:00 at the Danby Fire Station on route 96B. This FREE event will feature games, pizza and other goodies, and a magic show by Mike Stanley at 5pm. Everyone is welcome.

## DANBY SENIORS THURSDAY, OCT. 6, NOON

The Danby Seniors will hold their monthly dish-to-pass luncheon at noon at the Danby Federated Church. A meet the candidates session with a moderator will follow. All candidates for Danby offices have been invited. All Danby seniors are welcome.

## THANKS!

The Danby Community Council wishes to thank Sue Beeners and Amy Cusimano for their hard work on the Danby Fun Day and Parade. We really appreciate it!

*Submitted by Andrea Hazard*

## WEST DANBY RECIPES SOUGHT

In commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the West Danby Fire Department, we are producing a cookbook. We are asking for West Danby residents to submit their favorite recipes to be used in the cookbook. We are especially interested in submissions from past members of the fire department, ladies auxiliary, and their families. However, all residents are encouraged to participate. Deadline for recipe submissions is October 12. The cookbooks will sell for \$12 each; if you preorder before October 30 the price is \$10 each.

To submit recipes or preorder cookbooks, please contact Marrell Schutt, President, WDFD, 89 Hillview Road, 564-0020, or Shirley Howland, Ladies Auxiliary, 10 Station Road, 564-7263.

## COMMUNITY LIBRARY NOTES

I want to send good thoughts out to all of our volunteers who have had difficulties with medical and family issues lately. We appreciate your hours of service to us and hope for good health and fortune in your future. We continue to need volunteers to help keep the library up and running these days. It can be as little as a couple hours a month and can involve signing out books, processing books on your own time or pulling book collections from the downtown library. If you think you might be interested or have any questions, please call Patti Meyers at 273-3878. We already have one new volunteer who can join us after the harvest season.

New collections due this month are Adult Fiction, Large Type, Young Adult, Audiobooks (some on CD), Videos, and Biographies. We also have two copies of the newest Harry Potter! Our Book Discussion Group will continue to meet every 4th Tuesday at 7p.m. Upcoming titles might include the community read: *Things Fall Apart* (we have copies) and some of local author Robert Lieberman's novels (we have copies). Consider joining us!

*Submitted by Patti Meyers*

## 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>.

## FIRE DISTRICT GETS FEMA GRANT

The Danby Fire District recently applied for and was awarded a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for \$13,859 through their Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This money will be used to purchase training materials to benefit those that serve the Danby and West Danby Volunteer Fire Companies. Specifically, the district will be purchasing DVD series that teach concepts and skills in the following topics: Firefighter I and II, Driver/Operator Pump Apparatus, Fire Service Rescue, Hazardous Materials Response, Rapid Intervention Instruction. To support training, DVD players, projector screens, books, and 3 computers represent the balance of the grant award. The District's objective is to use media to illustrate proper techniques and to develop hands-on training sessions to practice these skills. As part of the conditions of the grant, the District will be required to pay 5% of the total cost of the training materials. Therefore, the District will pay \$729 and FEMA will pay \$13,859 for the estimated cost (\$14,588) of the training materials. We hope the community agrees that this is a great bargain and wonderful news for the Danby and West Danby fire companies.

In 2004, the district was awarded a FEMA grant that allowed for the purchase of 20 new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The District's firefighters had been using SCBAs that were 17 to 22 years old. The reliability of these units was becoming more and more suspect, putting firefighter safety in jeopardy at incidents where a fresh air supply is essential. As part of the 2004 grant, the district also was awarded a thermal imaging camera. Such cameras detect heat and display heat patterns on the monitor using various shades to represent degrees of heat. Thermal imaging cameras have multiple uses such as helping firefighter search teams find victims in house fires, determine the locations of hidden hot spots in structures, and finding patients ejected from vehicles during night-time accidents. FEMA awarded \$71,100 for the SCBA and camera equipment, and the District's required 10% cost-share amount was \$7,900. Because the District was able to obtain a bid for this equipment that was less than the original estimate, the District was permitted to use leftover funds for supportive SCBA equipment and fire prevention and educational materials.

## JOIN THE DANBY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

The Danby Fire Company welcomes new members to help provide medical and fire suppression services to the community. Our membership is entirely volunteer. No prior experience is necessary. All training is provided for free and members are also encouraged to take free county-sponsored training as their schedules allow. Members can opt to focus on either the medical or the fire aspects, or do both. Each incident we respond to requires people to help resolve it. There are a multitude of tasks that are typically needed, such as bringing emergency vehicles to the scene, helping to carry a stretcher, directing traffic, setting up and running equipment, operating pumps and hose lines, plus many other necessities. We also need volunteers to serve as fire police during incidents when traffic control and safety is required. These individuals stop or slow traffic and help with traffic detours on roads that might be unfamiliar to those passing through our community. If you have ever been confused on a detour, you'll agree with the value of hav-

*continued>*

ing emergency personnel stationed at road intersections to help with directions and traffic flow.

Alternatively, members can opt to be less involved with response to medical and fire calls and instead provide much-needed help with other fire company functions. We need help with social activities such as pancake breakfasts, chicken barbeques, and other community events. During the winter of 2004, the Danby Fire Company was not able to hold their traditional pancake breakfasts because we did not have enough people to help plan and run the event. The community has always provided a great response to these breakfasts and we were sad not to be able to offer them for the first time in many winters. If you can donate a few hours to help with event planning, set-up, cooking, serving, or clean-up, please contact Chief John Gaden at 272-8114 (please leave a message because the fire station is unmanned). Meetings are held at 7pm each Monday night at the Danby Fire Station at 1780 Danby Rd. (96B). On the second Monday of each month, a business meeting is held at 7:30pm and new members are welcome to listen to the monthly report to learn who we are and what we do, and to apply for membership.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NEWS PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING—MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7PM

The Danby community is welcomed to attend this Public Information Meeting, to review and comment on a proposed Conceptual Framework of Revisions to the Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance. This Conceptual Framework was developed by the Task Force, and was reviewed by the Town Board and Planning Board at a joint meeting on September 7.

It includes proposed enhancements based on work of the Task Force since February, and also includes proposed revisions that attempt to address concerns expressed at the Town Board public hearing in May.

A summary of the proposed Conceptual Frame-

work is as follows:

- 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 this meeting. Your comments and concerns are important!

## HISTORY NOTES BY JOAN GRANT, TOWN HISTORIAN PART 4: DR. BEERS STRICKEN IN SCARLET FEVER EPIDEMIC

It was May 1, 1792 and Dr. Beers, who had been treating patients stricken with scarlet fever, succumbed to it himself. He summoned Dr. Clark and the good doctor agreed with Dr. Beers' course of treatment for himself. Phebe (a.k.a. Amanda), upon learning of Lewis' (a.k.a. Aurelius) illness, immediately wrote lending emotional support. She said in her letter: "With trembling hand and perturbed mind, how can I tell my dearest Aurelius the tender concern and painful anxiety that overwhelm my sympathizing heart? Will it then be some consolation to know that Amanda takes a part in your distress and shares all your afflictions? Think not too seriously, I beseech you, on the unhappy impediment that prevents my flying to you. Adieu." When Dr. Beers was experiencing "his darkest hour" her letter gave him great solace.

The day after her letter arrived he awoke to find her, amazingly, at his bedside. Later he wrote in his diary: "From that hour I began to mend and in four weeks resumed my practice." It wasn't long after that that Phebe was stricken with scarlet fever. Dr. Beers wrote in his diary: "To my astonishment and real pleasure,  
*continued*>



her parents called on me to attend her. I thought at the time that it was from fear to trust Phebe in the hands of the unfortunate doctor and to soften her mind for their ungenerous treatment, if she should be taken from them. But little did I seek for the real cause of the favor. I rejoiced in the privilege to be with her. She passed her sickness in a milder form than usual.”

Within days of Phebe’s recovery her father became ill. To Dr. Beers surprise Phebe’s father summoned him. Dr. Beers wrote: “He was hard sick, and I was desirous to have him get through it as easily as possible. A kind Providence smiled on my exertions. I watched him faithfully, and Phebe was happy to attend him. He seemed happy to have her give him his medicine. The fifth day the fever formed a crisis. Afterwards his convalescence was regular and rapid for an old man, so that in three weeks he was about the house.”

Since Dr. Beers had been caring for the Curtis Family he felt that it was very possible that they had finally changed their minds about his courting their daughter. Over the next three or four weeks, to test his theory, he began to stop at the Curtis’ home for short visits. He never spent any time alone with Phebe though. It wasn’t long before he discovered that Phebe’s parents weren’t comfortable with this situation, causing him to be both unhappy and “bitter”. He wrote in his diary: “They had received the benefit of my attention to them in sickness and wanted nothing further. Soon a veto was put on my familiarity and we were to live in the old way. But we ever after took a few more liberties than heretofore yet with caution, for my feelings for Phebe’s comfort were the same. But the selfish feelings developed by the old parents removed my respect for their peace which I had heretofore regarded with much tenderness.” *To be continued.*

## DANBY GOES SOLAR

There are a number of people in Danby who are using alternative energy sources to power their homes.

Amanda and Guillermo’s house on Durfee Hill Rd. is totally off the grid—they are not connected to NYSEG’s power lines. They have a 480-watt solar panel array and a 1 kilowatt wind turbine. They’ve had these since May and haven’t had to use their generator

once. Purchase and installation cost less than \$10,000. They say that they did not have a lot of experience before they set up their system and that there are a lot of options and resources for every individual situation.

Tod Sukontarac and Sarah McNaull of West Danby Rd. installed a solar electric system in January. Not only don’t they pay an electric bill, but NYSEG will actually owe them money at the end of the year! Tod and Sarah’s solar system cost less than \$10,000 out of pocket (after NY State incentives). They feel that solar is a good statement on top of everything else, and that the more people that produce their own pollution-free energy, the better it is for everyone. The only drawback they have encountered is that it took NYSEG a long time to give their system approval.

Todd and Suzy Rose of Marsh Rd. have had a 2.8-kilowatt solar electric system for 3 years. Their large system cost under \$20,000 after incentives and rebates. The system has been totally trouble and maintenance free. Todd and Suzy produce about 2400 kilowatt-hours of pollution-free energy a year. They love watching their electric meter run backwards (literally) on sunny days, sometimes really fast. Their panels are on the roof and if they were to start again, they would reconsider putting the panels on poles on the ground. This makes snow removal easier and would enable them to install low energy motors that tilt the panels towards the moving sun to increase efficiency. They didn’t install the system with the idea that it would pay for itself someday, but it probably will anyway.

Thom and Bridgid Cooper of Muzzy Rd. have a 2.2-kilowatt solar electric system with battery backup. They have had it for more than a year, have no regrets, and like to think about how they are causing Miliken Station to have to produce less electricity. Their monthly NYSEG bill went down from around \$50 a month to around \$10 a month. (Any house that is still connected to NYSEG power lines still has to pay \$12 a month for the standard hookup fee). Thom and Bridgid’s system cost about \$16,000 out of pocket. They are glad to be doing their bit and are inspired by countries that aggressively in promote solar, requiring all new buildings to have solar electric systems.

—*Excerpted from Danby E-mail News. Send news, comments, ideas to Dan Klein, <danbydan@hotmail.com>*

# Danby Youth Flyer

## DCC Youth Programs Fall 2005

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 Market 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, ext. 222, email <tga4@cornell.edu>, or download the form off of our website at <<http://www.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/rys/local.htm>>. These programs fill up fast, so register early.

**Nature Art**—Mondays, September 26–October 31, 2:30–4:30pm, Boynton Middle School. Grades 5–9.

Art is not just for fancy museums anymore. It can come naturally and even be created outdoors, in nature! Artist Andy Goldsworthy became famous by making art out of rocks, leaves, and pieces of wood he found. We'll look at his work and then go out to try it ourselves. But since our creations won't last like the Mona Lisa, we'll make nice pictures of your work to take home. Homeschoolers can meet us at Boynton.

**Primitive Pursuits**—Fridays, September 30–November 18, 3:00–6:00pm, Danby Federated Church. Grades 4–8.

Learn ancestral living skills such as friction fires, shelter building, native crafts, nature awareness, tracking & more! Primitive pursuits is an environmental education program that connects participants to their local environment through the study of earth living skills and nature awareness.

**Halloween Party Helpers**—Saturday, October 29, 3:00–6:00pm, Danby Fire Hall. Grades 5–9.

There's always something fun going on in Danby! But we need your help to make sure this year's Halloween Party is a success. We need fun-loving, responsible

teens to help run all sorts of games and crafts for the younger kids. You'll get refreshments and a small gift to thank you for your help.

**Cultural Cooking**—Saturdays, 10/1, 10/29, 11/5, 11/19, 10:00am–noon, Danby Federated Church. Grades 6–9.

We'll meet four Saturdays this fall to learn recipes from around the world. Be prepared to learn plenty of new cooking techniques and develop a taste for new things! You'll decide in our first meeting what countries you most want to explore, so be sure to join us so that your voice will be heard! We will also take time to listen to music, look at pictures, and even meet people from other cultures.

**Green Thumbs Garden Club**—Saturdays, 10/1, 10/15, 11/5, 11/19, 2:00–4:00pm, Danby Town Hall. Grades 4–8.

Some people think a garden is all work and no fun. But have you met Gaia, the turtle-shaped garden in Ithaca? Have you heard of a garden in a forest? Maybe there's more to gardening than you think. Come join us as we brainstorm ideas and go on field trips 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–Friday 6am–2:30pm

### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

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

### TOWN COURT:

Tuesday eve, 7pm  
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Tues & Thurs 3:30–5:30pm, Sat 9:30am–2:30pm

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## OCTOBER CALENDAR

**TOWN BOARD AGENDA MEETING**— Monday, October 3, 7pm, Town Hall.

**TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOPS**—Wednesdays, October 5, 12 and 19.

**DANBY SENIORS**—Thursday, Oct. 6, NOON, Danby Federated Church. Meet the candidates will follow dish-to-pass. See pg. 3.

**TOWN BOARD MEETING**— Monday, October 10, 7pm, Town Hall.

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

**HARVEST FALL FAIR**— Saturday, October 15, 10am–3pm, Danby Federated Church. See page 1.

**ARIADNE STRING QUARTET**— Sunday, October 16, 3pm, Danby Town Hall. Free. See page 1.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**— Monday, October 17, 7pm, Town Hall. Proposed zoning revisions. See pg. 5.

**PLANNING BOARD**—Thursday, October 21, 7pm, Danby Town Hall.

**PUBLIC HEARING**—Wednesday, October 26. Town Board hearing on the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. 7pm, Town Hall.

**HALLOWEEN PARTY**— Saturday, October 29, 4–6pm, Danby Fire Hall. Sponsored by Community Council. Free. See pg. 3.

### 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.