



# DANBY AREA NEWS

## TOWN BOARD UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Danby Supervisor

The Danby Town Board met on Monday, February 12, and had two public hearings regarding New York State mandates. One mandate concerned the training for the Planning Board and for the Board of Zoning Appeals, while the other concerned Code Enforcement. The Board also decided to change the Planning Board By-Laws in order to add two alternate member seats.

Other items considered at the meeting included: the highway remediation project, the Emergency Management Planning Committee, the aquifer and water monitoring study, and possible high-speed Internet service in Danby.

Two items received the most of the meeting's attention. The idea of creating a hamlet planning committee was tabled after some discussion as to whether West Danby or Danby should be the focus of attention. A resolution that would abolish the Comprehensive Planning Task Force, which is currently charged with implementing parts of the Comprehensive Plan, was also discussed. In both issues, the Town Board is split on the question of whether the Board should decide what is best for the Town, or seek input from the larger community.

Other items of interest at the Town Board meeting were the proposed White Hawk Ecovillage and the proposed creation of a Planned Development Zone in the center of Danby. ❄

## COMM COUNCIL BOOKKEEPER?

Submitted by Dan Klein, Danby Community Council

The Danby Community Council is in need of some bookkeeping assistance. The work would probably amount to just a few hours a month. We are looking for a volunteer, but may be willing to pay a stipend. The bookkeeper need not have extensive experience, and we will provide training. If interested, contact Dan Klein 272-7582, [danbydan@hotmail.com]. ❄

## TC LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Frank Proto, Tompkins County Legislator

An effort to engage the public early, in anticipation of the County's budget season, is being made. It's important to know in what areas we should focus County resources, getting a sense of what services the public wants us to pursue. It necessary to understand not only which services are required, but also which ones we can influence (local share).

With this mutual education in mind, three sessions—all on Saturday mornings, 9:30am-12:30pm—have been scheduled: March 3 at the Dryden (Neptune) Fire Department; March 10 at the Enfield Elementary School; and March 24 at the Tompkins County Human Services Building on West State Street. Plan to come and participate; for more info, contact Marcia Lynch, 607.274.5555 [mlynch@tompkins-co.org].

The County's draft Affordable Housing Strategy is being discussed; the next stop is the Council of Governments. This developing strategy addresses the County's need for more than 3,000 additional living units to meet population changes over an approximate ten-year period.

The continued emphasis on water quality and quantity, noted by residents, has encouraged the County Environmental Health Division to draft changes to its Sanitary Code. These will affect the installation of wells on developing properties. Public information sessions will be taking place soon to discuss the proposals. For info, contact Environmental Health, 607.274.6688.

We're looking at the current Recreation Partnership Agreement and will suggest changes to that agreement to better address youth needs.

Those receiving Agricultural Assessments need to get their applications back to County Assessment by March 1st or you may lose the benefits!

The Health Department Building Committee is moving ahead with plans to better meet County residents'

—continued on page 5

March 2007  
Layout: Ted Crane  
Database: Colleen Barnes  
Mailing: Beatrice Hogben,  
Lynne Deuschle, and  
Colleen Barnes

To contribute:  
Danby Area News  
PO Box 6886  
Ithaca, NY 14851-6886  
Phone: 607.273.8678  
Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

Text submissions:  
Send text in body of Email  
(not as an attachment); or  
mail typewritten copy, double-  
spaced on white paper. Short  
handwritten submissions ac-  
cepted; please write legibly.

Graphics: JPEG preferred.  
TIFF, GIF, or PNG accepted  
but discouraged. Check with  
editor before sending hard-  
copy graphics.

Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the  
month. Materials may be  
accepted later if time allows.  
Submissions should gener-  
ally not exceed one page. We  
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or letters of opinion.

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## DANBY TOWN HISTORY

Submitted by Joan Grant, Town Historian

Recently, Bob Snyder of Etna loaned me a letter bearing a Danby postmark that he'd come into possession of. If you ever wondered how towns supported indigent residents, this letter will give you a little insight.

Danby Letter, 28-Jul-1879  
To the Supervisor of Enfield

From the 26th day of Sept. 1878 to the first day of March 1879 the Town of Danby paid \$104.76 for the support of the Jackson family-(Enfield paupers). Ex Supervisor Van Kirk paid \$12.00 and, overseer of the poor, Baker, paid \$82.26 making the amount paid the Town of Danby \$94.76 leaving \$10.00 yet due.

When Mr. John Baker paid the \$82.26 on the last day of March he agreed to pay the balance in a short time. I have written him but as yet he has neither paid, nor taken any notice of my letter. Mr. Baker has no receipted bill to show for what he has paid. Please inform me at once what will be done towards a final settlement.

Very Respectfully  
Yours & C [Company]  
John E. Beers, Supervisor

**Correction:** The Bald Hill fire described in the February *Danby News* most likely occurred in 1931 or 1932. ❀

## DEPT OF THANK YOU

Submitted by the Mosher Family

A big thank you to all of the fire departments, Big Al's, Italian Carry Out, and people who responded to our tragic barn fire on February 6th. We especially want to thank those whom we did and didn't know that expressed their love and concern to our family through their gifts of time, food, cards, phone calls, herding up and moving the rest of the beef cattle, just being there, etc. We are truly blessed! Thank you. ❀

## CHICKEN AND BISCUITS!

Submitted by Sidney Doan

Come and enjoy a wonderful homemade dinner sponsored by the Danby Federated Church, on Friday, March 9th, 5-7pm, at 1859 Danby Road. Adults: \$7, Children: \$5. ❀

## DANBY VFC DOINGS

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben, Trustee

The Danby Fire District responded to five fire or motor vehicle accident calls and eight medical calls in January. In one eight-day period, there was both a house fire and a barn fire!

The house fire was reported at 3am on January 29. The 8 degree air temperature and snowy roads (due to an overnight storm) amplified the safety concerns to all who responded in fire trucks and personal vehicles. To ensure an adequate water supply, Brooktondale and Candor also responded with tanker trucks. Fortunately, the home's occupants fled the fire without injury and the fire was confined to the front room and porch, but much renovation will be needed to restore the home.

At 3:10am on February 6, fire was reported in a barn housing dozens of pigs and cows. The fire engulfed the entire 2+ story, 200-year-old barn and, sadly, caused the loss of some animals and of the barn. The surviving animals were sheltered at another farm. Several other area fire companies provided assistance.

Several water pumps froze in the 0 degree weather! Although this was frustrating, there were no surrounding structures in danger of catching fire.

We'd like to thank the town highway department for sanding the icy roads and the location of our dry hydrant at Storks during the barn fire, and also everyone who helped with the tasks associated with such protracted events: cleaning and repacking hundreds of feet of hoses, cleaning and refueling small engines and fire trucks, refilling the tanker trucks, cleaning and returning tools to their proper places, and feeding and watering the fire fighters.

We extend our sympathies to the families of these properties for their losses.

On a brighter note, our third and last pancake breakfast will be held at the Danby Volunteer Fire Station on Sunday, March 18, 8am-Noon. C'mon down and get breakfast made to order: eggs scrambled, over easy, or however you like them, along with fluffy pancakes, sausage, hash browns, French toast, juice, coffee, and cocoa. Pricing is modest (and benefits the fire station).

Community members are invited to volunteer to help at the breakfast and/or with early afternoon cleanup; call Beatrice at 607.272.5294. ❀

## SUBDIVISION UPDATE

Submitted by Sue Beeners, Code Enforcement Officer

The Town is close to completing a final draft revision to the Subdivision Regulations adopted in May, 2005. The revision incorporates various improvements based on public input.

A previous draft, discussed at a public hearing in May, 2006, was not adopted because of concerns raised by the County Planning Department, related to how Land Divisions by Permit would be treated.

The Town Board will refer the 2007 draft to the Planning Board. A public hearing is targeted for April or May, 2007. Here's some highlights of the current draft; the final draft will be ready in early March. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 607.277.0799, [sbeeners@aol.com].

- Eliminated: 60% Conservation Area requirement.
- Provision for Land Divisions by Permit from the Code Enforcement Office.
- Requirements related to No-Build and Restricted-Build areas in the Low Density Residential Zone, for subdivisions that require Planning Board approval.
- Improved procedures to reflect the SEQRA environmental review process and Town Law.

Subdivisions are classified in the 2007 Draft:

**Land Annexation**—Land transferred from one lot to an adjoining lot is exempt from Town review, provided the transfer complies with zoning requirements.

**Land Division by Permit**—Permits can be issued:

- Large-lot, where all lots are 15 acres or more.
- Small-lot, provided that no other division(s) or subdivision(s) of the original parcel (except for Land Annexation) have taken place within the previous five consecutive years and that the division results in no more than two lots, including the parent parcel.

**Standard Subdivision**—Any subdivision other than a Land Annexation or Land Division by Permit. A variation of this is Clustered Subdivision, where the Planning Board may approve modifications in lot size and frontage requirements if there is a clear conservation benefit.

The complete Draft, which also includes Environmental Conservation Requirements, may be viewed at the Town Clerk's office or online at the Town's web site, [town.danby.ny.us].

## LOCAL LAW UPDATE

Submitted by Carol Szczepanski, Town Clerk

Adoption of Local Law #1 of 2007

**Notice is hereby given**, that at a Regular Meeting held on the 12th day of February, 2007, the Town Board of the Town of Danby duly adopted a local law entitled: "Local law providing for the administration and enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code."

Adoption of Local Law #2 of 2007

**Notice is hereby given**, that at a Regular Meeting held on the 12th day of February, 2007, the Town Board of the Town of Danby duly adopted a local law entitled: "Local law amending the zoning ordinance of the Town of Danby related to permits to build, Board of Appeals, and Planning Board."

Even the summaries are too lengthy to print in the Danby News, so the full text is available at the Town Clerk's office and online at [town.danby.ny.us].

## BEREAVED PARENTS MEETING

The next meeting of the bereaved parents support group will be on Tuesday, March 13th, 5:30-7pm at Hospicare on East King Road in Ithaca.

This is a peer-run group serving parents or grandparents who have lost a child or grandchild. Please contact Carlo Troise at 255-9470.

## TOWN HOURS

### TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559  
Tue-Fri, 9am-4pm; Sat, 9am-Noon

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169  
Mon-Fri, 6am-2:30pm

### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559  
Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm or by appointment

### TOWN COURT:

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559  
Tue, 7pm

### DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tue & Thu 3:30-5:30pm, Sat 9:30am-2:30pm  
All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

## LET'S GO OUTSIDE!

Submitted by Julie Nichols Kulik

*Why?* Most of us realize that our natural environment needs more protection, and that if we want our children to have natural spaces to seek refuge in, we all need to do what we can to save these natural spaces. As parents, many of us know intuitively that having our children go outside is, "Good for them". I'd like to give you some great reasons to go with this intuitive feeling!

**Reason #1:** We "become" what our mind is patterned by—in other words, what our senses absorb becomes our reality. If our children are outside on a regular basis, their minds will "pattern" on nature, and they will develop a deep connection to nature, and thus a deep caring/concern to preserve our natural environment.

**Reason #2:** While immersed in nature, all of our senses are stimulated. This encourages complex thoughts and critical thinking skills. Nature is the best teacher!

*Where?* You and your children can start in your own back yard! Do you know five edible plants that are growing near your back door? Where does the sun rise, in the summer? In the winter?

*How?* Think back to what you liked to do outside when you were young—do it now, with your child! When was the last time you played hide and seek in a meadow, or stalked up quietly to a rabbit just to see how close you could get? Go for a "wander" in the woods, no destination, just go find beauty and ask lots of questions!

Look at the animal tracks. Who has passed through your yard today? Yesterday? Who lives there? What do they eat? Where are they right now? Who made that mark on that tree? Which way is the wind blowing? Where is that bird that you hear? What is it saying?

An effective way for children to become comfortable with nature is to have them find a "secret spot", a place where they can sit silently. In about 15 minutes, if they are completely still and quiet, the wildlife will return. The birds resume their songs and animals may walk nearby. Encourage your child to go there every day. Spending a few still moments with nature will give them perspective and balance.

*How important is this?* Unless our children make nature personal, they will continue to be aliens on their own planet, and destroy the environment through ignorance. Let's all go outside—see you in the woods! ❀

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

*"I am Ines Suarez, a townswoman of the loyal city of Santiago de Nueva Etremadura in the kingdom of Chile, writing in the year of Our Lord 1580."* —from *Ines of My Soul* by Isabelle Allende, an historical fiction which chronicles the astonishing life of a daring Spanish conquistadora who toiled to build the nation of Chile.

We had a very interesting and encouraging public information meeting about the future of the Danby Community Library on February 6. Many ideas were presented, and we can go forward with formulating a transition plan for the Library in 2008.

Look for a survey at the Library desk, in the Danby Area News, at the pancake breakfast, or at the next Senior's meeting. Our next steering committee meeting will be on March 7, 6:30pm Library in the Town Hall.

New collections available in March: Instructional Videos, Picture Books, Easy Readers, and Adult Fiction (A-L).

Now that winter has arrived, sit back with a good book or movie from the Danby Community Library. Tue/Thu 3:30–5:30pm and Sat 9:30am–2:30pm. Self checkout is also available when the Town Hall is open. High-speed Internet is available when the Library is open. ❀

### TC Legislature Update, continued from page 1—

by building a new facility. Our current facility is aging; it's often inadequate to handle the health programs it houses. Beyond changing needs, we hope to improve the services, too! The goal is to break ground in 2008.

Emergency planning efforts are coming together at an expanded, county-wide committee. Health emergencies and natural disasters are high on its list, driven in part by last year's flooding. A procedure to receive and document damage to private property is being developed, anticipating a request by State and Federal Emergency Services.

Don't forget to nominate any youth in your community for the Distinguished Youth Award; several have already been recognized. Contact Karen Fuller, Deputy Legislature Clerk, 607.274.5434.

Should there be a matter you wish to discuss, contact me at my office, 607.277.4875; at the County Legislature, 607.274.5434; or drop me a note at Cannonbrook Farms, Slaterville Springs, New York, 14817. ❀

# PROPOSED ADDITION TO DANBY FIRE STATION

Submitted by Deanna Bowles

The Danby Fire Station is in need of additional space and renovation. The building was originally built in 1968. Since then, it has had few modifications beyond normal maintenance. Items such as roof replacement, new stucco siding and remodeled restrooms are the only major improvements made since 1968.

Currently, four vehicles are housed in a building designed for three. Due to state-mandated records retention requirements, the District Office occupies space originally intended for West Danby Chief's office, and additional office space is required. The vehicle bay doors are in poor condition and provide little insulation. The restrooms do not comply with current handicapped accessibility requirements. The meeting room and kitchen facilities are inefficient for public events such as pancake breakfasts and community meetings. Insulation in the entire building is inadequate by today's standards.

A committee is at work, developing a proposal for additional space that would add two new vehicle bays, insulated vehicle bay doors, insulation upgrade, office space, enlarged meeting area, improved kitchen, storage

space and member ready room. An architect has been engaged for proposal development funded through a New York State Grant.

The Danby Fire District covers the Town of Danby, an area of 54 square miles. In the last five years, the population has grown approximately 9 percent and 132 housing units have been added. During the same period, there have been an average of 177 Emergency Response calls per year in the District, and the Danby Fire Department has been first responder on 112. Approximately one third of the of responses are for fire or related hazards, and the remainder are EMS/Rescue.

In the future, a rendering of the proposed addition providing more detail and cost estimates will be available for public review and a hearing will be held prior to a referendum for approval of funding. The committee intends to apply for state and federal grant money for a portion of the funding. This is a major undertaking that the District Commissioners and Department Officers feel will support the expected future growth of the Town of Danby.

## ADOPT/FOSTER INFO MEETING

Considering becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent? The T.C. Dep't of Social Services has a monthly informational meeting at the Human Services Building, Rm.142, 320 W.State Street in Ithaca on Thursday, March 8, 2007, Noon-1pm. Info: 274.5266.

## Danby Community Council Scholarship Application

The Danby Community Council provides scholarships to youth who are Danby residents and need financial support to attend special camps/programs (sports, computer, art, dance, music, etc.). Funds are limited, so please apply quickly.

Youth's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone & Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of camp/program \_\_\_\_\_

Address of camp/program \_\_\_\_\_

Is the youth currently eligible for a free or reduced cost lunch program? \_\_\_\_\_

I verify that the information provided on this application is accurate.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the application, with proof of enrollment in program and (if applicable) payment of deposit, to:  
Danby Community Council  
c/o Carol Bushberg  
908 Steam Mill Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
Questions? Call 273.3400!

## Community Council Youth Programs March 2007

Programs are for youth who live in or near Danby; the age range is listed for each program. All programs are free. Look for brochures and registration forms in the Danby Store, at the Town Hall, and on the web.

For Tom's programs, to have a brochure mailed or faxed to you, please contact Tom Archibald, 607.272.2292 x222, [tga4@cornell.edu], or visit [http://www.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/rys/local.htm].

For Julie's programs, contact Julie Kulik, 607.277.0062 box #2, or [flickerdharma@yahoo.com].

### Primitive Pursuits—Grades 4-8-w/ Tom

Danby Federated Church

Mondays, ongoing (3:30–6:30pm)

(Special bus drop-off is available from Boynton)

New participants are very welcome, to this ongoing program!

Youth learn ancestral outdoor survival skills including shelter building, knife safety, fire building, cord making, orienteering, outdoor cooking and much more. This popular program is an extremely valuable occasion for youth to get away from the fast-paced lives they often lead and relearn how to look at the world (natural and man-made) through a different lens. The future benefits are multiple and diverse, for both the environment and the youth. This time around, we will focus on working towards an overnight in the woods!

### Garage Band—Grades 4-8-w/ Tom

Danby Federated Church

Wednesdays, March 14-April 25 (3:30-5:30pm)

This is another chance to participate in this unique and special program. We'll learn about and practice creating and recording our own music. Garage Band is also a computer program we'll use to record and add effects (like echo and reverb) to music. Whether its rock, rap, jazz or something else you like, bring your creativity, an instrument (if you have one already) and come make music! Everyone will go home with their very own CD that they created.

**Movie-Makers, friends, and family: Stay tuned for info on the movie premier celebration!**

Danby  
Youth Flyer

### Food, Glorious Food—Grades 4-8-w/ Tom

Danby Federated Church

Fridays, March 9-April 27 (3:30-5:30)

Do you like to eat?!?! Do you ever wonder where your food comes from?! Join us for this great program to cook and enjoy delicious and nutritious food, and to learn about how it gets from the field to your table. We'll even go on field trips to see first hand where some of our favorite foods come from. Danby is a great place to enjoy local, sustainable food. Even though it's still cold out, we'll start thinking about the Danby Farmers' Market, so if you want a job this summer, you won't want to miss Food, Glorious Food.

Tom adds, *"The more the merrier, so please don't hesitate to try these wonderful free programs. Home-schoolers are more than welcome. Youth who don't go to Boynton are also more than welcome to come to the program that meets there. Wherever you are, in or near Danby, just come! See you soon!"* ❁

## BABBAGE'S IS BACK!

Submitted by Ted Crane

Babbage's Basement, the computer re-use and recycling part of the Sciencenter, has reopened to the public with expanded hours on Wednesdays (10am–3pm) and Saturdays (10am–4pm).

Babbage's volunteers have been cleaning and refurbishing donated computers for many years. Dozens of models, both Mac and PC, are on display in the showroom. Babbage's Basement also includes two non-computer departments: Einstein's Attic, with treasures for hobbyists including lab and photographic supplies, home electronics, and test equipment, and a department with office furniture, equipment, and supplies.

Check out Babbage's for your first—or next—computer, system, or accessory. The price is right, and the proceeds benefit the Sciencenter! Where else can you find cables for \$1? Why pay more?

Babbage's is also looking for new volunteers *of all ages* to help out. Tech savvy is good, but you can get hands-on experience while you do!

Babbage's is on the second floor of Emerson. From Danby, take 96B past Ithaca College; turn left when Aurora Street curves, and left again to the upper parking lot. The door is at the far end of the building. ❁

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 1 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church  
**Danby Senior Citizens Luncheon**

Mar 5 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Town Board Agenda meeting**

Mar 6 • Tue

Noon–9pmpm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Ithaca City School Board Election**

Mar 7 • Thu

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Library Volunteers Meeting**

Mar 8 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Danby Community Council Meeting**

Mar 12 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Town Board Meeting**

Mar 13 • Tue

10:30–11:30am 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Meet Your Representatives**—County Rep Frank Proto  
and Town Supervisor Ric Dietrich

Mar 15 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Planning Board**

Mar 18 • Sun

8am-Noon 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall  
**Danby Volunteer Fire Company Pancake Breakfast**

Jul 14 • Sat

**Danby Fun Day and Parade**

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Seniors Strength Training Group** 🏛️ Federated Church  
Mondays, 9am.

**West Danby Volunteer Fire Company** 🏛️ WD Fire Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7pm.

**Danby Fire Commissioners** 🏛️ Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:30pm.

**Danby Fire Company** 🏛️ Fire Hall  
Mondays, 7pm; monthly mtg 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:30pm.

**Danby Food Pantry** 🏛️ Federated Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 4–6pm, Thursday the-day-before, 6–8pm

**Danby Community Library Reading Group** 🏛️ Town Hall  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 7pm.

**Danby Quilters Group** ☎ 273.2950  
Fridays, 9–11am.

### WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

🏛️ Danby Town Hall • 1830 Danby Road

🏛️ Danby Community Library • 1830 Danby Road

🏛️ Danby Market • 1774 Danby Road

🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • 1780 Danby Road

🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall • Sylvan Lane, off Rt.34/96

🏛️ Danby Federated Church • 1859 Danby Road

🏛️ American Legion Hall • 1231 Danby Road

Did you know you can find the Danby News on the  
web? [<http://danbynews.tedcrane.com/>]

