



DANBY AREA NEWS

WEST DANBY EVENTS

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

Christmas Caroling

We will gather at 6pm on Sunday, December 21, in the old West Danby Church. If the weather permits, we will roam about the neighborhood before coming back to the church for hot chocolate (provided) and finger food to go with it (please bring some to share).

Richard Edwards, West Danby resident and Ithaca College faculty member, will be accompanying on brass, possibly with others. The Community Association Steering Committee wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of Jim and Toni Iacovelli in hosting this event at the church.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the West Danby Community Association will be held at 5pm on January 17 in the West Danby Fire Hall. This dish-to-pass event will also feature a focus on energy saving. We will try to answer the question, "How do I determine what is most cost effective and how do I pay for it or do it myself?" More about this next month. ❁

HALLOWEEN THANKS

Submitted by Andrea Hazard

The Halloween party was a big success. Thank you to our sponsors, Italian Carry Out, Eddydale Farms and Three Swallows Farms, and to all the volunteers who helped: Carol Bushberg, Bev Fitzpatrick, Eloise Green, June Pollock, Linda Shoefle, Roger Grant, Sharon Gadon, Joan Marcus, Roger Hecht, Melanie Siegard, Ashley Boda, Dolan Morton, Barbara Robinson and Judy Oltz. If I am forgetting someone, I apologize.

[Yes, you forgot yourself! The Community Council thanks Andrea Hazard for putting it all together.]

See Mike Miller's photos of the event, elsewhere in this issue of the Danby News. ❁

CELLO RECITAL: ELIZ SIMKIN

Submitted by Bob Strichartz

The last event of the Danby Community Council's 2008 concert series will be held on Sunday, December 7 at 3pm in the Danby Town Hall. Elizabeth Simkin returns for a solo cello recital. The concert is free, and receives grant support from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County (NYSCA Decentralization grant).

Simkin studied with the world famous cellist Janos Starker and served as his teaching assistant. She has been a faculty member at Ithaca College since 1994 and has performed with many local ensembles, including the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Ensemble X, and the Ariadne String Quartet. She has performed at chamber music festivals throughout the US, and has served as a US artistic ambassador at international recitals.

At a Hospicare benefit, scheduled in January, Simkin will perform a marathon program of all six Bach cello suites. Her Danby program will be shorter but will include the Suite in C minor, which uses an unusual (*scordatura*) tuning of the strings, and the Suite in D major, originally written for a 5 string cello. Both pieces are extremely demanding, rarely-performed masterpieces.

The Danby Community Council has applied for another grant for next year. ❁

DCC SEEKING MEMBERS

Submitted by Bob Strichartz, DCC President

The Danby Community Council is looking for new board members. We are especially interested in someone with a background in bookkeeping and/or computer software to take over the Treasurer's responsibilities.

New Board members will be elected at DCC's Annual Meeting on Thursday January 22, 2009, at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall. If you want to be a candidate, contact Bob Strichartz, 607.277.3058, [str@math.cornell.edu], before January 8. ❁

December 2008
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To contribute:
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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 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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If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact
Bev Fitzpatrick at 607.272.8516 or [fitzies4@yahoo.com].

DANBY FIRE GRANT NEWS

Submitted by Sharon Gaden

The Danby Fire District applied for a 2008 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant. In recent years, FEMA has offered this funding opportunity to aid fire departments nationwide.

During 2004, the District applied for and was awarded \$79,000 to replace our 15+ year old self-contained

breathing apparatus (SCBA)

with a newer, safer, more reliable SCBA, and to purchase a thermal imaging camera to aid in fire fighting

and victim location when visibility is poor.

During 2005, the District again applied for a FEMA grant and received \$13,859 dedicated to in-house training equipment for all our volunteers.

In 2006, we applied for \$385,000 for a new rescue-pumper apparatus but were not awarded a grant. In 2007, and again in 2008, we re-applied and lowered our request to \$285,000. For the third year in a row we were not awarded a new fire truck.

The new apparatus would have replaced an engine-tanker built in 1989 that is housed at the Danby Fire Station. FEMA grants have a generous cost share requirement: if the \$285,000 grant been received, the District would have been required to pay only 5 percent of the total cost.

All is not lost! In 2008, FEMA permitted fire departments to apply for more than one grant. Therefore, we also applied for a new air bottle fill system and sets of firefighter protective clothing ("turnout gear") to help us replace aged and worn pants and jackets. We remain hopeful to receive this grant. ❄



Max and Ezra Rubeinstein-Miller photo by Mike Miller

WHO WILL ANSWER?

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben

For many years now, Danby Area News has been the work of Danby volunteers and its editor. As you may have read in a recent issue of the Danby News, after taking responsibility for its distribution for four years, Beatrice and Lynn are resigning at the end of the year. The Danby News is looking for volunteers to become its new monthly distribution team.

It was my thought that a couple of persons from West Danby might be willing to come forward to take a turn. As of this date, no one has stepped forward to replace us. Are you willing to lend a hand?

The responsibilities would be: Pick up the printed newsletters in downtown Ithaca around the 21st of each month (you get a few days heads-up about the exact schedule), prepare them for mailing (which takes about two hours), and deliver them to the Post Office in the Bulk Mailing Department at Warren Road.

Beatrice and Lynn are very willing to walk volunteers through this process, for however long it takes for them to feel comfortable working on their own. For more info or if you're interested, please contact Ted at [danbynews@tedcrane.com]. ❄

SHORTER NOTICES!

Bereaved Parents Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the bereaved parents support group will be on Wednesday, December 10, 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. For more information about the group, please contact Carlo Troise at 607.255.9470.

Foster Care/Adoption Informational Meeting

Considering becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent? The Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold an informational meeting at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 West State Street, on Thursday, December 11, Noon-1pm. Tompkins County has a special need for foster families in the Ithaca City School District.

Please call 607.274.5266 for more information. ❄

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

This month I want to talk about our Town Taxes. When you look at them, you will note that there are different rates for General, Highway, Fire, and Water. What I want to focus on is the Towns overall ability to look at our budget comprehensively over the long term and how we are going to set priorities.

We all know that New York is in a terrible crisis and this is going to have an effect on everyone for many years to come. Residents will be faced with economic challenges that extend far beyond town taxes.

In the past we have looked at our budget on a piecemeal basis. The section for each part of the budget (General, Highway, Water and Fire) was put together separately. When asked by the Fire Department this year how we felt about a much-needed improvement, did we think about how the General, Highway or Water funds would be affected? This year, it is more important than ever to use a different approach, to keep taxes as low as possible so we can cope with the current economic situation in our state and the entire country.

Our approach has been to look at the departments collectively to be able to keep the increase in taxes as low as possible. The General Fund budget for next year has been cut substantially to offset the Fire Department's larger budget. The Highway budget has been cut, where possible, and adjusted to offset increases in fuel prices and snow removal costs. The Town will adopt its budget on November 20, with the Town and Highway Departments tax levy kept at a moderate but responsible level to offset the Fire Department increase for the year.

The other challenges that the Town faces are the need for upgrades in the West Danby Water District and the need to replace aging highway equipment.

Department	2008	2009	% Increase	% of Total
General	590,998	555,634	-5.98	30.58
Highway	799,138	855,824	+7.09	47.11
(by Town Board)	1,390,136	1,411,458	+1.53	77.69
Fire	311,377	357,447	+14.80	19.68
Water District	28,462	47,764	+67.81	2.63
(not Town Board)	339,839	405,211	+19.24	22.31
Grand Total	1,729,975	1,816,669	+5.01	100.00

An engineering study of the Water District must be completed in order to qualify for grant money for upgrades and repairs; Town and Highway cuts will offset a \$15,000 contribution toward that study.

An additional \$45,000 has been set aside to add to funds budgeted in 2008, to start the equipment replacement in the Highway Department.

The largest increase for the Fire Department's building addition will come next year.

What will these issues do to the future tax rates? Can we avoid taking on additional bond debt to pay for these infrastructure costs? We need to have our eyes in the future and a balance will have to be found between State, County, School and Town taxes. The Town is working diligently for its residents, and our eyes are open to all approaches on these matters. Please weigh in with any ideas you may have. Your best interests are always foremost for the future.

In other news, the NYS Conference of Mayors (NY-COM) has launched a web site, [StopTheTaxShift.org], which focuses on the dangers of shifting state taxes and costs onto local governments and property taxpayers. The web site hopes to educate policymakers, the media, and New York's real property taxpayers about (1) the important role state aid plays in keeping municipal property taxes in check and (2) the state mandates that drive property taxes up.

Have a safe and happy Holiday season. Please address comments or questions to me, [danbysup@hotmail.com] or 607.227.2434. ❄️

TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
Tues–Fri, 9am–4pm; Sat, 9am–Noon, closed Monday

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT (SUMMER HOURS)

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169
Mon–Thu, 6am–4:30pm (closed Jul.4 thru Jul.11)

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

TOWN OBSERVER

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

Town Board—Budget Passed

The board came to agreement and passed the 2009 budget at a special meeting November 11. In an effort to limit the impact of the Fire District's 14.8 percent tax levy increase, the Town's budget (covering the General Fund and Highway Department) held its own increase to 1.5 percent.

The Highway budget has increased 7.1 percent, largely due to personnel costs and the snow removal budget. This is less of an increase than it might have been; the Town has reduced the number of miles of road it will plow and maintain (the County will plow more of its own roads this year).

In spite of a rise in personnel costs (the union contract is linked to inflation), the General Fund budget decreased, relative to 2008. The Board forwent any increase to its own and to the supervisor's meagre salaries. The allowance for insurance, previously overbudgeted, was reduced, as was the amount set aside for repairs and improvements to the Town's buildings. Lastly, debt service went down and the Board opted not to set the savings aside for future equipment purchases. These changes produced the short-term savings, but it may leave the Town in a cash-short position in the future.

The bad news focused on the West Danby Water District, whose levy is up almost 70 percent. An impending engineering assessment of the Water District's infrastructure had a major impact, given the district's relatively small tax base. The Board, however, hopes to leverage more funds with that investment: it will be matching funding if the Town successfully obtains a grant to further its hamlet-planning effort.

The net result of Water District increase on total taxes in the district is just over 20 percent (it'll be larger for anyone with a Town tax exemption, since the Water District is not subject to exemptions). The Board, especially Gene Beavers and Town Supervisor Ric Dietrich, felt strongly that the water district needs to begin addressing its future needs. The County Health Department has been leaning on the district to add a second well and tank to its existing, aging infrastructure.

Grant Application

Besides the budget, the Board authorized the Supervisor to apply for a \$25,000 grant from the Laura Jane Musser Fund. If awarded, the funds (and local funds)

would be applied toward follow-up studies to buttress the hamlet planning effort. A large portion of the grant would explore the feasibility of water and sewer for Danby hamlet; another portion would help fund the West Danby Water District engineering review, and the rest would help fund revisions to the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations (to align them with the recommendations in the current hamlet revitalization plan).

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Task Force

A four-hour meeting resulted in a group consensus. After reviewing options for modifying the current regulations for creating lots by permit, task force members agreed that lots by permit should be the exception, not the rule. Several options for using lots by permit to help steer development away from roadside lots with high visibility and consequent high negative impact on rural character were examined at length.

While garnering support, all the measures proposed would take many months to work up and review. The group agreed that the Town is poorly positioned to undertake such a lengthy revision without first addressing the inadequacy of the current regulation. The group recommendation was that the Town Board immediately consider revising the subdivision regulations to make them consistent with its original intent. The changes proposed by the Task Force could be quickly made, simply by revising numbers that were changed by the Board, just prior to passage of the revised subdivision regulations.

Danby Fire District Budget Hearing

It's a difficult budget year for the Danby Fire District. Last year's tight budgeting (the tax levy was down 3.9 percent) produced some cost overruns. Who could have anticipated the unprecedented runup in fuel prices? Other costs that are difficult to rein in (principal and interest on bonds, compliance with a state-mandated annual audit, and increases in projected costs for heating, lighting, and fuel for the trucks are big items) have contributed to a 14.8 percent increase in this year's tax levy.

It could have been worse, and it would have been if the Fire District had gone ahead with planned construction this year. There was a poor response to the request for bids, and the few bids received were way over budget. By rebidding a somewhat scaled-back project in mid-winter, the Board hopes to take advantage of the slowdown in construction, falling commodity prices, and loosening credit. The board now hopes for a spring construction start.

DANBY FED. CHURCH NEWS

Giving Tree

Danby Federated will be collecting gifts for the Giving Tree to be distributed for selection by families at the Food Pantry in December. List available at church. Items due at church by Dec. 16.

Movie Matinee

The Nativity, on Sunday, December 7 at 4pm. Snacks and beverages provided.

Chicken and Biscuit Dinners are back!

The first dinner of the season is on Friday, December 12. Chicken and Biscuit, mashed potatoes, squash, green beans, corn, harvard beets, applesauce, assorted pies and desserts. Adults \$7, \$4 for children. Future dinners: February 13, March 13, and April 10.

Carol Sing

Joy to the World! Sunday, December 14, 4-5pm, followed by pizza and other treats.

Kid's Christmas Party (Parent's time off)

Saturday, December 20, 2-4pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Kids and Pioneer Club members welcome for party games, stories, food, and activities. For ages 3-10 years old. Hey, 11 and 12 years olds, you can be helpers! Parents, use this time to go shopping or relax!

For more info, contact Bonnie, 607.272.1606 or [brathbun@twcny.rr.com].

Mobile Food Truck

At the DFC on Monday, December 22, 1-2:30pm.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24, 7:00pm, featuring a Christmas Cantata sung by the Choir. ✨

AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Submitted by Ian Guest

We're holding our first ever All-You-Can-Eat Beef BBQ at High Noon on Sunday, December 7, here at the Post.

Tarah and I have donated the beef from a grain-fed steer that we just had slaughtered. The meal will include slow roasted beef cooked by Jon Mosher and Tom Trapani, BBQ Baked Beans, Kenny Fisk Style Potatoes, German Potatoes, an assortment of salads and desserts, and all the fixins'. The price will be \$10, \$8 for seniors and under-12s.

Stop on up for great food, drink specials, raffles, and the finest company around. ✨

HAMLET PLANNING UPDATE

Submitted by Sue Beeners on behalf of the Planning Board and the Hamlet Planning Steering Committee

The next public event in the Hamlet Revitalization Planning process will take place on Thursday, December 4, at 6:30am in the Danby Town Hall.

After a review of the Workshops and Meetings held on October 24 and 25, there will be presentations of a Summary of Findings and the Preliminary Concepts for each hamlet. The public is invited to give comments prior to a Steering Committee discussion and a subsequent discussion of the next steps in the process.

Once finally adopted as an amendment to the comprehensive Plan, the Revitalization Plan will provide the Town with the tools necessary to guide future zoning enhancements and development requests to achieve the general vision of the Plan. The Revitalization Plan will also provide the opportunity to apply for grants related to such areas as streetscape improvements, traffic calming, local retail, housing rehabilitation, and affordable and senior housing.

Feel free to contact the Hamlet Planning Steering Committee via Sue Beeners, 607.277.0799 or [sbeeners@aol.com] if you have any questions or comments. ✨

Danby Fun Day - July 11, 2009

FUN DAY CONTACTS

Parade:	Sue Beeners	(see below)
Wheel O'Treats:	Gay Huddle	607.273.6530 [gayhuddle@hotmail.com]
Kids Games:	Andrea Hazard	607.272.8791 [ahazard@twcny.rr.com]
Book Sale:	Leslie Connors	607.277.1717
Vendors:	Sue Beeners	(see below)
	Sharon Gaden	(see below)
	Marrel Cortright	607.564.0020
Everything Else:	Sue Beeners	607.277.0799 [sbeeners@aol.com]
	Sharon Gaden	607.659.3116 [danby071302@yahoo.com]

HIGHWAY GREETINGS

Submitted by Carl Seamon

It has been a great year at the Danby Highway Department. We have all enjoyed working with the residents and have made a great effort to meet the needs of our Town.

The snow season is on its way and we are prepared. Please note that several County roads that were plowed by the Town last year, will now be serviced by the County: Hornbrook Road, Nelson Road, Comfort Road, West Miller Road, and Jersey Hill Road. Please make sure vehicles are off the side of the road to make snow removal easier and safer.

Regular hours at the highway garage are 6am–1:45pm. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. ❄

2-1-1 ADDS INTERNET CHAT

Just a year ago 2-1-1 Tompkins celebrated the launch of its expanded information and referral service by introducing the new easy access 2-1-1 dialing code.

Now, 2-1-1 Tompkins has introduced a “live chat” feature for those who prefer the Internet to the phone when asking for help. Individuals looking for community services can visit [211tompkins.org] and click on the *Need help? Ask live!* box on any page of its web site.

Inquirers get the same assistance—through a live chat exchange—as they would if they called the 2-1-1 telephone number. The chat service is available Monday through Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm. During other hours, online inquirers can still send Email...or use the telephone. ❄

DANBY TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle

Isn't it nice that we have someone to keep the town sign updated? I roped my son, Jeff, into taking over this task awhile back (thinking, as I was told, that it would be just temporary!), and he has been busy at it ever since. He and his girls keep us informed, even down there changing that sign in bitter, cold winter weather. So, I'd like to say thanks to Jeff, Marci and Maddi for pitching in and being good community volunteers! Call Jeff at 607.272.2688 with information about your event.

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

'Tis the season to be thankful:

It is with thanks that we mark Joanne Church's transition from co-director back to volunteer so that she can concentrate on the many things she does as a community, career, and global citizen! We also thank Betsy Lamb for stepping up to the job of co-director with enthusiasm!

As always, we thank our core group of volunteers and send out a desperate plea for more to join us to spread the work among more hands. Training is provided and you can volunteer for as little as an hour or two a month!

We will begin to receive Tompkins County Public Library and Finger Lakes Library Service materials next month, in January, 2009. We plan to receive Picture Book collections twice a year, Books on CD and DVDs four times a year, and Adult fiction with Mysteries, Adult Fiction and Large Type each twice a year. We will also provide Interlibrary Loan services, up to 20 items per year. The Danby Community Library will purchase bestsellers at the rate of 6 books per month.

The Danby Community Library is planning an event for next February, to include a book sale, author talk, speakers, food and giveaways. Stay tuned for more information!

While I don't imagine that I'll ever be able to reveal to Charlie this particular betrayal, the future is difficult to predict, and perhaps there will come a time when even having voted for his opponent might seem an amusing anecdote. I doubt it, but it's possible. For now I will say nothing; amid the glaring exposure, there must remain secrets that are mine alone.—from *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld. ❄

I'd like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season. I have so enjoyed writing the Danby Town Talk column all through 2008. Let's work together to fill the column with stories (and pictures) in 2009.

The column belongs to all Danby folks—I simply put together the words to share your stories! Please let me know about your holiday, your plans for 2009, anniversaries, births, graduations, etc. The column appears in the Ithaca Journal every Thursday, and my deadline for timely information is the Saturday before each Thursday. ❄

THE DANBY TOWN PARK

Submitted by Esther Dodson for the DCPA

The Danby Park and Community Center project has been in process for almost a decade. Many Danby residents are asking about the goals of the Danby Community Park Association, an all volunteer not-for-profit, and why so little progress is visible to the public. This article will bring the community up to date.

For several decades, Danby's residents have recognized its need for a community center, all the more so after the Danby Elementary School and, later, the community-supported child care center closed. Responses to surveys taken during the 1990s confirmed the importance of a dedicated public space to community members.

In 2000, a Community Council committee was appointed to identify land suitable for a community center. The committee, chaired by Mary Oltz, found that no mid-sized properties were available. They proposed that the Town acquire a recently-listed, 90-acre property at the center of the Danby hamlet owned by the heirs of "Duke" Johanson. This property would make both a community center and a recreational park possible.

After the Community Council officers decided it could not take on a project of this scale, and when the Town Board required more time for consideration, the committee did not want to lose this opportunity. The committee members, as individuals, made an offer for the Johanson property and eventually purchased it.

In 2001, the committee members worked with Town's attorney to draw up an agreement transferring the land--the large parcel at the center of the Danby hamlet along with a smaller parcel to provide access to NYS Rt.96B--to the Town. In addition, they offered to raise funds for the Town, to purchase and develop the property as a Town Park.

When the NYS Comptroller's Office advised against this arrangement (since a Town cannot legally solicit funds, however indirectly, from residents), the Danby Community Park Association was created as an independent, charitable, not-for-profit corporation.

Volunteers set out to clear the meadows in the park's western section. They disposed of brush, trash, and abandoned vehicles on the land. The site was visited by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

and by the Army Corps of Engineers, who gave advice about the required permits. Using a grant awarded by the Tompkins Trust Company, the DCPA developed a plan for a community center building, playing fields, playgrounds, picnic areas and pavilions, and woodland trails.

To address concerns raised by the Town of Danby Planning Board and the NYS Department of Transportation (who identified safety problems in the proposed road entrance to the Park), the DCPA began a series of lengthy property negotiations with adjacent landowners. After more than a year, the DCPA swapped 50 acres of the original purchase for a 50-acre parcel with road frontage in a safe location opposite the Town Hall. It also purchased an additional 10 acres of land to connect all the parcels.

In the meantime, the DCPA was awarded a \$108,000 grant by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, intended for the construction of the vital access road into the land. The grant's requirements, however, led to additional delays: raising matching funds, extensive legal documentation, an archeological survey (to ensure that development would not destroy important historical remains), a preliminary wetlands delineation, and other land surveys. The paperwork related to this process taxed the DCPA volunteers.

An unanticipated hurdle arose when the Office of Parks informed the DCPA that its funds could not be applied to any "non-recreational" functions, such as the Danby Library. A separate site would be required, along with separate financing. In response, the DCPA set aside approximately five acres opposite the Town Hall for the Community Center. In preparation for the building, soil, wetlands, and drainage surveys were made possible by support from State Senator James Seward, the Howland Foundation, and private gifts.

The access road from Route 96B to the playing fields area was completed in 2007, temporarily funded by gifts by private individuals and a bank loan. The NYS grant will eventually reimburse the DCPA for its part of the project, but the complexity of the land acquisition transactions has significantly delayed the process. The DCPA Board is now holding its breath until the State releases the promised funds, almost a full year after all the requirements were completed...and five years after the grant was announced.

In order to develop the Park's recreational facilities, the DCPA has applied for a new NYS Office of Parks grant. In the meantime, it hopes to clear the park meadows--where baseball and soccer fields, playgrounds, a parking lot, and a maintenance and restroom building are planned--of the remains of a Christmas tree plantation. This will require permits from the NYS DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers, to be based on final wetlands surveys.

What's next? Why has the DCPA focused on developing the road and the park, rather than the Community Center itself? In fact, the preliminary surveys of soil and other conditions at the building site have been completed, and it is now possible to apply for necessary permits. Deborah Adams, an architect and DCPA Board member, is contributing *pro bono* a plan for a community center.

With input from meetings with members of many community organizations, the program includes a large meeting-banquet room and kitchen, smaller meeting, hobby, and game rooms, a library and entrance gallery, and other functions. The DCPA Board is committed to making this building and the maintenance structure next to the playing fields as "Green" and sustainable as possible. Further input will be sought during a public meeting planned for late winter, 2009.

As for when construction may begin, the DCPA recognizes that public sources of major grant funds for such community projects have almost completely dried up. However, several private foundations are now being approached for financial help in building the long-hoped-for Community Center.

The Danby community has been very supportive during this arduous process. Several people have served in leadership positions on the DCPA Board over the years; the Danby Quilters have generously provided the park with proceeds from their efforts every year; Doug Miller of *Common Ground* has sponsored picnic fundraisers; community members have provided funds for surveys, for the road construction, and to engage a consultant to help guide the organization's progress. Some \$300,000 has already been raised from private donors and local foundations and legislators, to match state funds for the park and to prepare for the Community Center building.

The Board of Directors welcomes fresh insights and energy from interested community members, now

and at public meeting coming soon. Suggestions and comments may be sent by e-mail at any time to [rkh1@cornell.edu]. More than eight years after the first steps toward a community center were taken, the DCPA eagerly anticipates visible progress that Danby's citizens will see, support, and make use of to strengthen the connections between one another and between the generations of this historic community. ❁

DANBY FIRE THANKYOU

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company wishes everyone happy and safe holidays. We hope to serve our popular pancake breakfasts during this winter so watch the sign board in front of the fire station, and other local sources, for details on dates.

As of mid-November, the District (Danby and West Danby Fire Companies) has responded to 164 calls this year. ❁

WD FIRE THANKYOU

Submitted by Kelly Wendt, Sec'y, WD Fire Dep't

The West Danby Fire Department would like to thank you all for another successful year. It was great to see all of the area residents at our Breakfasts, Craft Fairs, and the Chicken BBQ. Look forward to our Sweetheart All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast in February and our Spring Craft Fair.

The success of the roadside address signs this year has made it easier for us to help you in an emergency! If you are new in the area and need to purchase a sign, please contact Steve Cortright at 607.564.0020.

As always new members are needed. We could not do what we do if not for wonderful neighbors, and support from our surrounding mutual aid Fire Departments...especially our friends at the Danby Fire Department. Have a safe 2009! ❁

DCPA SEEKING MEMBERS

The Danby Community Park Association is looking for a few dedicated members to join its board. If you live within the Town of Danby and are interested in helping to bring a Community Center to Danby, please send a letter of interest by December 1 to the DCPA, 1825 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. ❁

UNITED WAY

Did you know that the Danby Community Council receives United Way of Tompkins County funding on an annual basis? In 2007-08, the Danby Community Council received \$6,178 from United Way of Tompkins County for youth service programs, concerts and family programs, and youth scholarships which provided funding for local youth to attend camps, music and dance lessons and gymnastics classes, and the Danby Newsletter.

In addition, United Way of Tompkins County donations annually support more than 150 health and human service programs that help individuals and families throughout our community. During the past several years, two key United Way of Tompkins County initiatives, Hunger and Food Security and the Urgent Rx Prescription Program, have provided assistance to a number of individuals and families by supplementing

food supplies and providing prescription drug coverage.

This year, all of your gift will be used to directly support services funded through United Way of Tompkins County or one of its 43 member organizations. It is very rare for an organization to be able to commit that 100 percent of every contributed dollar will go directly to agencies and program. This is possible because of the generosity of the Corporate Cornerstone Partners' Program, whose gifts are covering all of United Way of Tompkins County's administrative and operating expenses.

Volunteer Campaign Co-Chairs Gregory Hartz and Laurie Linn ask you to consider giving your best gift ever. Every gift makes a positive difference as United Way of Tompkins County continues to build and support *Strong People•Strong Families•Strong Communities*. Please contact us at 607.272.6286, 313 North Aurora Street, or [www.uwtc.org]. ❁

DANBY SENIOR CITIZENS

Submitted by Marjory M. VanDeMark

The Danby Senior Citizen group met on November 6, for a Noon luncheon: a "Thanksgiving" turkey dish-to-pass. We celebrated our 40th Anniversary with a special cake and a host of other yummy desserts.

The Senior group was founded in November 1968. The initial officers were Emily Wiggins, Ralph Sager, and Emma Johnson. Past presidents of the group were Rhoda Larson, Gertrude Laird, Audrey Nesbitt, Art and Betty DeWolfe, Bob Doan, Lawrence VandeBogart, Helen Moore, Kathy & Woody Woodward, Gerry Catlin, Priscilla Barber, and Carol Sczepanski.

Our Presidents during 2009 will be Ted and Connie Merritt. They've done a great job as VPs during the past two years and have arranged many good programs and fun day trips for us. Most recently we travelled to see *Mamma Mia* at the Clemens Center in Elmira. In December we'll be having a special holiday luncheon at a restaurant.

This is a community group and all "seniors" aged 55 and older are invited and encouraged to attend our meetings at the Danby Federated Church. We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month, at Noon during winter months, and at 6pm during the summer months. Our next meeting will be on January 8 (the first Thursday falls on a holiday, New Year's Day). ❁

EVERGREEN WREATH-MAKING

Join the Tompkins County Master Gardener volunteers in an Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop on Wednesday, December 3, 6:30-8:30pm at the Tompkins County Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca. Create a gorgeous holiday decoration for your home!

Greens, ribbon, wire, and wreath ring are supplied. Please bring pruning shears, gloves, and any special decorating materials you like to personalize your wreath. Wear casual clothes! Fee: \$15 covers the cost of materials.

Pre-registration and prepayment required, please call 607.272.2292. ❁

SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED

It's not too early to think about snow!

With winter fast approaching, the Tompkins County Office for the Aging is updating its list of snow shovelers. Many seniors need assistance with removing snow from their sidewalks.

If you are interested in assisting seniors by shoveling or plowing, either on a paid or volunteer basis, please call the Office, 607.274.5482. Please be sure to let us know if you were listed last year and would like to be listed again. ❁

Community Council Youth Programs December 2008

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 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].

Danby Youth Flyer

Primitive Pursuits—Grades 4-8

Meet at 43 Hornbrook Road in Danby

Tuesdays, September 16–December 16 (3:30–6pm)

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. ❁

INTRODUCING...LAURA

Greetings people of Danby!

My name is Laura Smith and I am the new Youth Program Manger, aiming to fill Tom Archibald's large shoes. I am very excited to get to know the area, the people, and begin programming. As I begin thinking about programs for now and the future, I'd love to hear thoughts and ideas from Danby young people, parents and community folks.

Upcoming programs include a *Gift-Making Extravaganza*, taking place on December 10 and 17, after school at Boynton. We will create personalized homemade presents. The following Friday, December 19, we will express our holiday excitement by making *Better Than Gingerbread Houses* at the Danby Town Hall.

Tell your kids and mark your calendars!

You can contact me [ljs257@cornell.edu] to register and/or for further information. I look forward to hearing from you, meeting you, and seeing you in the community. ❁

THE TOT SPOT AND YOUTH

The Tot Spot is a stay and play place for children and their grown-ups to shake off the cooped-up blues. Slides, riding toys, climbers, room to zoom & more!



DCC Halloween Party

photo by Mike Miller

It's open at the Youth Bureau from now until late April, for young'uns from 5 months to 5 years old (and their grown-ups). Hours are 9:30-11:30am on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and 3:30-5:30pm on Sunday. There's a small fee for usage by kids, \$2 (5 months to 1 year)

or \$4 (1 year to 5 years), but and adults are always free. A Frequent Visit Pass (6 visits for \$20) is available.

Go to [ithacayouthbureau.org] for information about Recreation Partnership programs to keep your family active and involved this winter. Registrations are being accepted for Tae Kwon Do, Skate Lessons, Fencing, Basketball, Pottery, Theatre Classes and more.

For info, contact Liz Vance at the Youth Bureau, 607.273.8364 or [lizv@cityofithaca.org]. ❁

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

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DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Dec 1 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board Agenda Meeting (tentative)

Dec 3 • Wed

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Comprehensive Planning Task Force

Dec 4 • Thu

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Public Meeting: Hamlet Revitalization Project

Dec 7 • Sun

Noon 🏛️ American Legion Hall
1st Annual All-You-Can-Eat Beef BBQ
3pm 🏛️ Danby Town Hall
Community Council Concert: Elizabeth Simkin

Dec 8 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board Meeting (tentative)

Dec 11 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby Community Council Meeting

Dec 12 • Fri

??? 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Dec 18 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Planning Board Meeting (tentative)

Dec 21 • Sun

6pm 🏛️ Old West Danby Church
Christmas Caroling

Dec 24 • Wed

7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Jan 8 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Danby Senior Citizens Luncheon

Jan 17 • Sat

5pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall
West Danby Community Association Annual Meeting

Jan 22 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby Community Council Annual Meeting

Jul 11, 2009 • Sat

Danby Fun Day and Parade

ONGOING EVENTS

Danby Community Council 🏛️ Town Hall
2nd Thursday, 7pm

Danby Community Library Open 🏛️ Town Hall
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 11:30am-1:30pm,
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm,
and when the **Open** sign is out!

Danby Community Library Volunteer Mtg 🏛️ Town Hall
1st Wednesday, 6:30pm. Public Welcome.

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

West Danby Volunteer Fire Company 🏛️ WD Fire Hall
2nd Monday, 7pm.

Danby Fire Commissioners 🏛️ Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall
3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm.

Danby Fire Company 🏛️ Fire Hall
Mondays, 7pm; monthly mtg 2nd Monday, 7:30pm.

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

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

WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

🏛️ **Danby Town Hall** • 1830 Danby Road

🏛️ **Danby Community Library** • 1830 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