



DANBY AREA NEWS

DANBY COMMUNITY COUNCIL SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS

Submitted by Bob Strichartz, DCC President

The DCC is looking for new members for its Board of Directors. Four Directors (out of seven) will be elected to two-year terms at the next Annual Meeting, to be held on Thursday January 20, at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall (more details in the January Danby News). Any resident of Danby at least 18 years old is eligible.

Serving on the DCC board is an enjoyable way to contribute to your community. There are monthly meetings, and Board members and other community members volunteer to help with specific activities. The DCC supports youth work in the community, supervises the DAN, awards scholarships, and organizes many activities such as concerts and the Halloween Party.

If you are interested, please contact me, 607.277.3058 or [str@math.cornell.edu]. Please note that the DCC bylaws give preference to candidates who state their intention to run (by phone or Email) by January 6. ❀

NEXT HIGHWAY SUP'T TO BE ELECTED

Submitted by Dan Klein, Councilperson

The ballot proposition, to switch from an elected Danby Highway Superintendent to an appointed one, was defeated by 4 votes, 632 to 628, in the General Election on November 2.

The system will stay the same as it was, with the Danby Highway Superintendent position filled by an election every two years. ❀

Q&A: YOUR LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION

Submitted by Jeff Baker

How is fire protection provided in the Town of Danby?

Currently, we have two groups that provide fire and rescue protection services for the Town of Danby, better known as the Danby and West Danby Fire Departments. New York State law does not allow Towns to provide residents with fire protection as a municipal function; instead, fire protection is provided either by a Fire District or via the creation of a Fire Protection District. Danby is protected by a Fire District.

What is a Fire District?

A Fire District is a separate unit of local government that is established for the purpose of providing fire protection and responding to emergencies. A Fire District is overseen by an elected Board of Commissioners composed of five members serving five-year terms.

The commissioners appoint the members of the Fire Departments within the Fire District; they also organize, operate, maintain and equip the Fire Departments. A Fire District is required to prepare a proposed budget and discuss it at a public hearing, held on the third Tuesday in October. A Fire District is required to hire an independent accountant to conduct an annual audit of its revenues and expenditures. A Fire District has the power to incur indebtedness and to require the levy of taxes.

How is the Fire District funded?

Fire districts get over 90 percent of their revenue from property taxes. Total revenue

—continued on page 7

Mark your calendar:

The Danby Fire District Board of Commissioners election is Tuesday, December 14 2010. The polls are open 5-9pm at both the Danby and West Danby Fire Halls.

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December 2010
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Text submissions:
Send text in the body of an
Email message (**not** as an at-
tachment); or mail typewritten
copy, double-spaced on white
paper. Short handwritten
submissions accepted; 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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[www.danbyfederatedchurch.org]

DANBY NEWS NOTES

Submitted by Ted Crane

Danby News Delivery: The Good News
Things are looking up! Thanks to
the postmasters in Brooktondale and
Willseyville, we've identified new re-
cipients and eliminated duplicate or
unnecessary copies being mailed.

There still seems to be a delivery de-
lay, somewhere between "here" and
"there", but we have hopes to elimi-
nate it.

Danby News Delivery: Please help!
Ask your neighbor: "Did you get your
Danby Area News?" If they didn't,
we'd like to hear about it. Our goal is
"A newsletter in every mailbox."

POLICE BLOTTER

As of this writing, we've heard *rumors*
that the Danby Burglars have been
caught. The Sheriff's office has not
released any specific info, but we hear
that a good deal of stolen material was
recovered, and that the owners are be-
ing contacted. Kudos to the investiga-
tors!

TOWN OF DANBY WEB SITE

The Town of Danby has a web site,
[town.danby.ny.us]. If you have a
question about the Town, it's a great
place to start looking for answers. If
your answer isn't on the site, you will
find lots of contact information to
continue your search.

We've heard the question, "How do
I get my event onto the web site?"
Easy enough: send an Email to
[webmaster@town.danby.ny.us] with
the name of the local group putting
on the event, the date and time(s), the
location, and a short description.

We haven't heard the question, "How
do I get a link from the web site to my
Danby-based business?" but the an-
swer is the same: send an Email with
your name and URL. Please explain
the Danby connection if it's not obvi-
ous.

As to the question, "Where's Danby
and what's a web site," we suggest that
you read the rest of this issue! ❁

TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

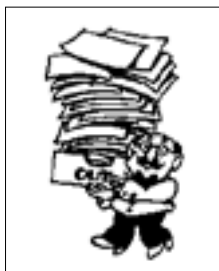
Where has the time gone? How can it be that it's again time to send budget information to the County Assessment office so that January's tax bills can be prepared? I've been on the job as Town Clerk for not quite a year. The days and weeks have flown by and, not surprisingly, I know so much more about the business of taking care of Danby than a year ago.

I've had plenty of opportunity to learn about the necessary processes of Town government. This year, 2010, has been an active one for the Town, and most of its business flows through or impacts the Clerk's office. For example, major projects, like those the Town highway barns, officially begin and end in the Clerk's office: outgoing requests for bids, incoming project bids, and then vouchers for materials and completed work.

There's a saying that all politics is local, and this is certainly true when it comes to issues that have an immediate impact on the quality of neighborhood life. I've learned a lot as secretary for the Planning Board and BZA. 2010 may be remembered as the *year of the neighborhood* in Danby. There were five hearings before the Board of Zoning Appeals in 2010, and an equal number before the Planning Board, including the proposed Waldorf School, concerns about the Oasis Dance Club, and a change in use of the old Danby Store.

My role includes publishing legal notices of these hearings in the Ithaca Journal, sending letters to neighbors to advise them about proposed changes, and taking minutes of these hearings and the meetings that follow so that there is a public record of decisions. I've learned that Public Hearings are an important tool for gathering citizen input on problems and developments in a town. People have made their voices heard and expressed their concerns. I appreciate all those who have taken part in the decision-making process.

2010 has also been the year of protection against negative environmental effects. The year began with the passage of a package of three Stormwater Protection Laws to define criteria for stormwater management and erosion and sediment control. These laws help put Danby into compliance with EPA requirements for water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and give some measure of control over disturbances from heavy industrial activity such as logging and gas drilling.



In July, Danby passed a fourth local law related to excavation and construction in municipal roadways. This law helps ensure safe travel on public roadways by assuring that any construction, such as pipeline cuts and culvert construction for access roads, is completed in a manner which preserves the quality of Danby's rural roads. Some protections, in the form of road protection laws, and noise and light ordinances related to industrial activity, and zoning changes are still in process. There's more work to do. I will continue to work with the Town attorney, Town Board, Code Enforcement, and Justice offices doing my part to ensure that these protections are legally binding and enforceable.

I've learned a lot this year. Tax processes. Legal procedures for public hearings and passing laws. Recordkeeping for marriage licenses. The power of voters to decide changes in elected vs. appointed positions.

I've also seen, firsthand, the impact on local government when the State decides to discontinue services while still mandating the result. The final law to be passed in 2010 will give Danby the authority to create and issue dog licenses—a function previously performed by the State. Similar laws are being passed in every municipality in New York. We're doing what we can to make this transition, and all Town government actions, as trouble free as possible.

Any questions? Call 607.277.4788 or send Email to [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us].

UNWANTED PETS? SHELTERS, NOT PARKING LOTS!

Submitted by Sharon Boda

To whom it may concern—and to others who may consider dropping off pets:

On October 30, members of the Danby Church found a cat—sealed in a sterilite tote bin—abandoned in the church parking lot. The person responsible obviously cared for the cat's safety and comfort.

There are better options for disposing of your pets, should you discover you can no longer keep them. The SPCA and other rescue shelters will gladly take your animal and place it a new adoptive home. They can also assist you in spay/neutering and microchip marking of your pet.

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE

Submitted by Kathy Halton

In November the Task Force sponsored a presentation by Tony Ingraffea about what an informed citizenry needs to know about gas drilling. It was well attended, and we hope to have more presentations in the new year.

I have been reviewing all the work that has been done this past year, and realized how many Danby residents have stepped forward to offer their skills to the Task Force. Our main mission continues to be to educate ourselves and our community about the complex issues involved in what Ingraffea described as, "High-volume, slick water, long lateral, horizontal hydraulic fracturing"—fracking—for natural gas.

Ric Dietrich and Sue Beeners (the Town Supervisor and Code Enforcement Officer) have been supportive of the Task Force and have helped us understand some of the issues in gas drilling as they relate to municipal government. Ted Crane has set up an Email list for the Gas Drilling Task Force that has made sending out notices much easier, while protecting the privacy of our members. Andrea Hazard has been keeping track of all the meetings, forums, and events for the Task Force with a weekly mailing.

Jennifer Tiffany has helped with organizing the agenda and setting up priorities for our work. She has also examined in detail and written responses to several huge and complex government documents. Cynthia Bowman, a Cornell law professor, has helped us with her legal opinions, and has worked to bring her students to work with us—via Cornell's Law Clinic—on a range of issues.

Ben Altman has chaired the Critical Environmental Areas committee that has taken on the task identifying all the vulnerable and valuable special areas in Danby. Ed Kokkelenberg has been sending us a digest of natural gas related articles from all that cover a very wide range of perspectives (called Gas Bubbles). Mary Ann Barr and Bob "the Letterman" Chase have been generous with their artistic skills for our displays, and Mary Ann has been our link to another group in this area, ROUSE, that has been active in Brooktondale. Ross and Heidi Horowitz and Pamela Goddard, our Town Clerk, have also helped with advertising for forums, and Ross has connected to people who have expertise in important areas, like Todd Miller.

Almost everyone I can think of has helped formulate Danby's response to the draft Generic Environmental

Impact Statement, which will become the regulations covering gas drilling in New York State.

I am not going to continue as chairperson in the new year, but will continue to come to meetings to represent and report for the Town Board and the Tompkins County Council of Governments at the meetings. Jennifer Tiffany has agreed to chair the meetings and set up agendas. Candace Collmer has volunteered to be the secretary and to write the Gas Drilling updates for this newsletter.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 8, at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall. Our meetings are open to the public and we encourage people to come and bring up issues that they are concerned about. If there are any questions, please contact me at 607.273.0533 or [khalton@twcny.rr.com]. ❁

WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

Submitted by Pat Curran

Join the Tompkins County Master Gardener volunteers in an Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop. Create a gorgeous holiday decoration for your home! The Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop will be held Thursday, December 2, 6:30-8:30pm at the Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue.

Greens, ribbon, wire, and wreath ring are supplied. Please bring pruning shears, gloves, and any special decorating materials you like to use. Wear casual clothes! Fee: \$18 covers the cost of materials. Class limited to 20 participants. Pre-registration and prepayment are required, please call 607.272.2292. ❁

TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Tues–Fri, 10am–5pm; Sat, 10am–Noon, Mon, closed.

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: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031

Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

Danby's budget process was started early this year, when we asked department heads to submit requests during August. I think we did a reasonable job in keeping our costs within our limits.

Our budget follows a philosophical goal that reaches out several years into the future. This allows us to set goals and then work toward achieving those goals. To a large extent, this year's budget reflects those goals. It also strives to address a question everyone is talking about: property taxes. I believe we gave it our utmost effort.

Copies of the budget can be picked up from the Town Clerk; by the time you read this, it should also be available on the Town's web site.

Our new salt shed at the Highway Department is complete. This has been one of my personal goals as well as a long-term project for the Town of Danby—at least eight years from inception to completion.

The County Broadband committee has been formed and its first meeting will have happened by the time you read this. This group has been in the making for several months, with the County beginning to take a responsible role in providing the leadership for Broadband in the county.

With that said, Broadband—high speed Internet—is still on the Town of Danby's agenda and I will keep you informed of progress in this arena. I know it is still an important issue for many of you.

The purchase of a multifuel biomass boiler for the Highway Barns should have NYSERDA blessing and that project is next on the to-do list.

The Town is taking action on laws relating to industrial enterprises and activity in Danby. So far, we've been concentrating on protection for our roads, but we will review regulation of other areas as well.

Reports of how other rural municipalities have begun enacting regulations to protect the health and welfare of their residents are circulating widely. Many of these regulations are aimed specifically at the type of industrial development represented by gas drilling. While many residents have looked to the Town of Danby to do the right thing and enact a variety of laws against potential negative impacts to our town, we need to realize any law that specifically prohibits this industrial giant could be quickly taken away by legal challenges.

I do believe we are doing everything a responsibility community can and should do. I think we all need to become involved in this issue at some level, to help the Town of Danby navigate a viable future for its residents.

As always, if you know of an issue the Town should address, please contact me, [supervisor@town.danby.ny.us]. ❁

PUBLIC HEARING: DOG LAW

On December 6, at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall, the Town Board will hold a public hearing on its proposed Dog Law.

This law is necessary because, as of January 1, New York State will no longer register or license dogs. Instead the State has required Towns to take on that responsibility.

Danby's proposed law is based on a model law, as are the laws proposed or already passed by other Towns in Tompkins County (and probably Statewide). The model law itself was based on the original NYS Agriculture and Markets Law that is in effect until December 31.

The Town Board, however, has made one change to the model law: war dogs (dogs that have been honorably discharged from the United States armed services) registered in Danby will no longer be exempted from licensing fees.

The text of the proposed law is available in the Town Clerk's office. The public is invited to speak at the Public Hearing, or to submit comments in writing. ❁

SEEKING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Each year, the Danby Town Board makes a number of appointments to committees. If you are potentially interested in serving on one of these committees, please notify the Danby Town Clerk, 607.277.4788 or [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us], by the end of December.

- Planning Board
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Recreation Partnership
- County Youth Board
- Hillview Landfill Advisory Board
- Water Resources Council
- West Danby Water District Commissioner

Also, due to the resignation of a Board of Zoning Appeals member, there is an immediate opening on that Board. If interested in that position, please notify the Town Clerk by December 12. ❁

DANBY AQUIFER STUDY

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

Where is the groundwater in the Danby Hamlet area? How much is there and how good is it? Would it support a municipal water system? These and other questions have hung like a cloud—for many years—over every planning effort in Danby.

That cloud is finally lifting as a result of a multi-year investigation of the sand and gravel aquifer in the upper Buttermilk Creek and Danby Creek valleys. Todd Miller of the USGS, funded by a collaboration between the county, the USGS, and the Town (with grant assistance by the State), presented his preliminary results to a packed house at a recent meeting in the Danby Town Hall.

Miller's investigation concentrated on mapping and characterizing the sand and gravel aquifer. Data were also collected on the upland bedrock aquifers, which are generally low-volume sources of water. Miller stated that bedrock aquifers are poorly understood and difficult to study. Using existing well drilling logs, data from several test wells drilled during this study, and other seismic studies, Miller has mapped the approximate areal extent of the aquifer and compiled key data about its water-yielding capability, water levels, and water quality.

Figure 1 shows the areal extent of the aquifer and Figure 2 shows a vertical cross section of the town, roughly between the Town Hall and the Highway Department on Hornbrook Road. The aquifer is confined, meaning that it is surrounded by impermeable deposits, and quite thin, mostly between 10 and 25 feet thick. Due to the confined nature of the aquifer, most areas are under artesian conditions (the water level in a well rises above the top of the buried aquifer) and in some low areas water in wells actually overflows the tops of well casings.

Water quality within this aquifer is quite good, but the capacity is quite limited. Most wells in this aquifer

yield, at best, a few gallons a minute. Miller believes one of the major recharge areas for the aquifer is an alluvial fan along the edge of the valley floor near Hornbrook Road. A second, deeper confined aquifer overlies the bedrock near the Highway Department (the "Basal" aquifer in Figure 2). That aquifer appears to have a somewhat higher capacity. At the Highway Department, the well yields 15 gallons per minute through an open-ended casing, but if a well screen were installed it could yield 50-100 gallons a minute...enough to serve Danby's current hamlet population all by itself.



Figure 1 (Todd Miller)

Other interesting facts came to light during the question period following the presentation. For example, plants can take up 5-6 inches of rainwater per month during the growing season. We rarely get that much rain, so the aquifer is depleted over the course of the summer. It is replenished over the winter and spring when plants are dormant and evaporation is minimal.

Miller painted a picture of an aquifer that is limited and precious. He characterized it as "essentially a sole source aquifer" and suggested that it should be protected, especially the recharge areas. When asked about the potential effects of gas drilling, he responded that bedrock underlying the valleys contain many vertical and horizontal fractures, and these could be avenues of migration for shallow spills and contamination. Some of the vertical fractures (especially faults) may be hydraulically connected to great depths and thus could be potential avenues for fluids to migrate between deeper layers and the aquifer above them. Hydraulic fracturing of the Marcellus shale could contaminate the aquifer if there are surface spills, improperly grouted casings, or a lack of understanding of where major vertical fractures (such as faults) are located.

Such connections between the deeper layers and the overlying aquifer already exist naturally in places. Miller cited the existence of salt springs—once used as a source

—continued on next page

Q&A: Fire Protection, cont'd from front page—

venues raised by fire districts increased by about 61 percent between 1995 and 2005, with an average annual increase of 4.9 percent. The remaining funding comes from fund raising, donations, and grants.

Does the Town Board Approve the Fire District budget?
 No, Fire District budgets are determined by the Board of Commissioners and inserted--unchanged--into Town budgets.

Who elects the the Board of Fire Commissioners?
 The residents of a Fire District who are registered to vote may cast their ballot for Commissioners in a Fire District election. By law, this election is held on the second Tuesday of December. Unfortunately, few people other than friends and families of the Fire Departments cast votes in Fire District elections. ❧

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
The Danby Fire District Board of Commissioners election is Tuesday, December 14 2010.
The polls are open 5-9pm at both the Danby and West Danby Fire Halls.

Aquifer Study, continued—

of salt by native Americans—in the Town of Caroline, where brackish water from deep zones in bedrock has migrated through vertical fractures and discharged into the sand and gravel aquifer and to the land surface.

The aquifer study is nearing completion; some water testing is still to be done. The full results will be written up into a report to be completed over the course of the next year. ❧

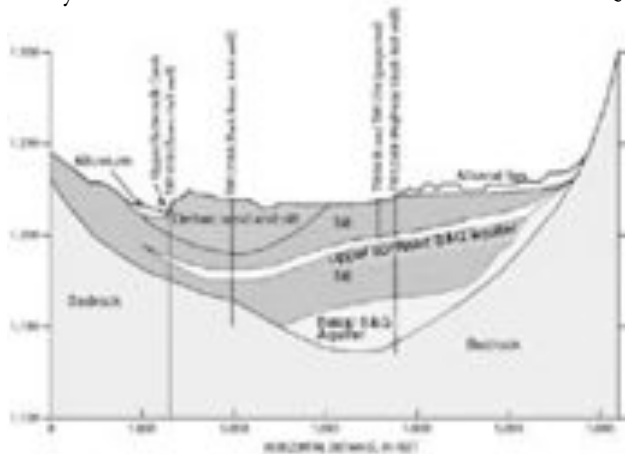


Figure 2 (Todd Miller)

GIVING IT AWAY

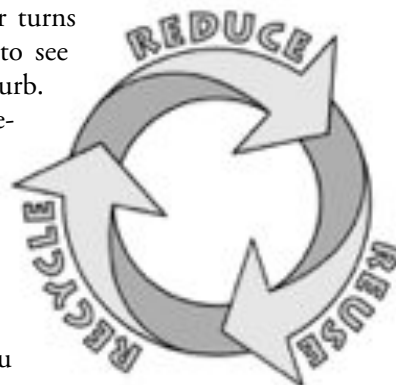
Submitted by Eric Banford

The effort to manage our “stuff” can become overwhelming, yet sometimes the effort to find a new home for donations is more work than you can take on. Placing free stuff at the curb is an easy out, but it doesn’t always work out.

When the weather turns bad, it pains me to see things set at the curb.

A couch that someone might want quickly becomes junk that no one can use.

So, I have a few suggestions that might help...if you happen to have items you’d like to pass along.



1) Ithaca has its own **Craig’s List!**

Since I discovered this list, on the web at [ithaca.craigslist.org], I have been able to buy and sell some pretty cool stuff.

2) **Ithaca FreeCycle.**

This Email list that gets lots of activity. So, I subscribe and then filter all posts from that list to a folder which I rarely check. If there are certain things that I want to see (tree, fence, wood, etc), I add a filter above that one to let those come to my in box. Most Email programs allow filtering, check yours, it’s a great way to manage Email. You can also set it so you get no Email, but you can still view messages on the web site. When you’re a member, you can post your stuff whenever you want. Get more information at [groups.yahoo.com/group/IthacaFreeCycle/].

3) **Significant Elements and Finger Lakes ReUse Center.**

These are two great organizations that take donations and resell them at low prices just to keep the business going. We’ve bought lots of cool things while building our house, and have given them things we ended up not needing. You can deduct donations from your taxes. Check out [significantelements.org/] and [fingerlakesreuse.org/].

4) And, of course, there are **Catholic Charities** [catholiccharitiestt.org/] and the **Salvation Army** with its dropoff and store on Elmira Road. ❧

HAPPENING AT THE DFC

After Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Dinner

If you missed out on Thanksgiving, come home to our family! Enjoy Deep Fried Turkey and all the fixings on Saturday, November 27, 2010, 4-6pm. Free to all! **Chicken and Biscuit Dinner**

December 10, 2010 5-7pm. It's time for Chicken and Biscuit, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce, Pies, Assorted Desserts, and a Beverage. Adults \$8, Children \$4.

Giving Tree for Danby Food Pantry Families

The Danby Federated Church will be collecting new items for the parents and children who go to the Danby Food Pantry to select as gifts for the holidays.

A Giving Tree with tags for general items for the gift selection is at the church. Please select a tag, purchase the items on the tag and return the unwrapped items to the church by November 28.

If you are unable to get a tag from the Giving Tree, you could donate one or more of the following: men's and women's gloves, scarves, hats; art supplies like paper, crayons, watercolor paints, for preschoolers through teens; fragrant soaps, hand lotions, for teens and mothers; age appropriate games, puzzles, educational toys for babies through teenagers.

The families will select gifts during the Food Pantry on December 16 and 17. Anyone may contribute to this project. ❧

ADOPTIVE/FOSTER PARENTING MEETING NOTICE

Foster Homes or Respite Homes Needed! Tompkins County DSS announces a new initiative to make a positive difference in the lives of children. Become a respite parent—you could be qualified to provide short-term care for children in your home. If you relate well with teens, this may be an opportunity for you.

Informational meetings for those interested in caring for children and teens in their home by providing respite, foster care, or adoption are held each month in the Human Services Building, 320 West State Street, Ithaca. The next Meeting will be held on December 9 at Noon. Please come or call Judy Voorheis at 607.274.5266 for more information. ❧

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Danby Seniors had a great turnout for its November "Thanksgiving" luncheon on November 4, and enjoyed a couple of fun Bingo games called by Ted Merritt. Big thanks go to Linda Howe for cooking the turkey and gravy, and to Priscilla Barber and Sidney Doan for serving as hostesses!

In lieu of our December 2 meeting, we'll be having a holiday luncheon out at the Oasis Club in Danby. Sign-ups are required—please call Margie, 607.273.8046, for information. Our next meeting—a dish-to-pass luncheon—will be on Thursday, January 6, at Noon in the Danby.

All Danby seniors age 55 and over are welcome to attend. ❧

DINNERS AT THE AMERICAN LEGION

Submitted by Marv Eastman

Things are starting to take off, here at Post 221, not that we have added a salad bar to our Fish Fries and Steak Dinners. Everyone who has stopped in thinks it's a great idea.

We have the following upcoming events:

December 4, 5:30-7pm: **Steak Dinner**. Choice of Baked Potato, French Fries, or, sometimes, Onion Rings, and Salad Bar, Rolls, and Coffee or Tea. All for just \$10.

December 11, we join forces again with the Oasis Dance Club to raise toys for the **Toys for Tots** and the **Cops, Kids and Toys**. It's happening 4-6pm American Legion Post, then it moves across the street to Oasis from 6-8pm.

Entertainment will happen 6-9pm. You can drop off a new toy at either location!

December 17, 5:30-7pm: **Fish Fry Dinner**. Choice of Baked Potato, French Fries, or, sometimes, Onion Rings, and Salad Bar, Rolls, and Coffee or Tea. All for just \$10.

We have initiated a new program with the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, teaching about the American flag. After a video presentation, and a discussion, the scouts get the opportunity to properly fold a flag and are treated to a snack, all here at the Post.

If anyone has an interest in this program, contact the Ithaca American Legion Post Commander, Dale Burgess, for details at 607.272.1129. ❧

THE EARLY PIONEERS AND THE FORMATION OF DANBY

Submitted by Karen Laun

The 2nd in a 5-part series about the history of Danby.

During the Revolutionary War, the Sullivan Campaign of 1779 destroyed many Cayuga Indian villages and led to the departure of most of the Cayugas from the Finger Lakes area. After the war, the new U.S. government saw an opportunity to pay its soldiers with tracts of land in the region. The future town of Danby lay just south of the Military Tract lands, but was included, along with Newfield and Caroline, in the Watkins and Flint Patent of 1794.

The earliest settler families in the Ithaca area were the Dumonds, the Yaples, and the Hinepaws. They moved from Kingston, NY, in 1788 to build log cabins near Cascadilla Creek. In 1795 they lost the title to their land and the Dumonds and Yaples moved south to Danby. The Yaples lived near the intersection of present-day Jersey Hill Road and Comfort Road, and the Dumonds settled near the bridge that crosses Buttermilk Creek. The Dumonds built a saw mill along the creek and the Yaples soon built a grist mill nearby. Another early settler was Elias Deyo, a Dutch immigrant who arrived in 1796.

The Beers Settlement was established in 1797 by Lewis and Jabez Beers and their extended families, near the intersection of Danby Road and Steam Mill Roads. Lewis Beers was one of Danby's most influential citizens—he was the community's first doctor and Justice of the Peace, established the first post office, and hosted trav-

elers before there was an inn. His home is still standing today at 2081 Danby Road.

Early settlers of nearby Danby Village were Lewis Beardsley and Joseph Judson, who built a dam to form Judson's Pond and operated mills there. Benjamin Jennings arrived in 1802 and purchased the water rights. West Danby was settled by families from Spencer; Moses Barker arrived in 1814 and married Amy Spaulding, whose family had also moved to the hamlet.

Danby and its hamlets grew slowly at first due to the difficulty in clearing land and establishing roads. It was Lewis Beers who pushed for the development of the Ithaca-Owego Turnpike in 1807. This road was built mainly by locals and was the first incorporated turnpike in the area—today, Danby Road generally follows the path of the old turnpike.

Having a clear, easily traveled road from the river port of Owego encouraged settlement and commerce. Taverns, inns, and stores sprang up to meet the needs of travelers hauling grain, lumber, salt, plaster, or livestock. The scattered settlers officially incorporated the town of Danby on February 11, 1811, although it was a part of Tioga County until 1822.

Part III of this series will explore Danby in the early 1800s, as it grew into a prosperous small town of farms, schools, churches, and businesses.

The Danby History Group is collecting old photos of the people and places of Danby. If you are interested in donating or lending us these photos so that we can photocopy them, please contact me, [karen_laun@hotmail.com] or 607.272.6293. ❧

THE LITTER NEWS

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

Many thanks to all the people who picked up trash in Danby this fall. It appears that there was a significant reduction in the amount of litter on NYS Rt.96B over the summer. Sadly, NYS Rt.34/96 remains a serious problem. Many of the residents along 34/96 are helping by picking up litter on their properties, but there is litter everywhere on that road. It ranges from building materials, to empty prescription drug containers, to cell phones. I wish the people throwing out the cash would consider a raising the bar from \$10 to \$100, but, hey, you have to take what you get.

If you happen to drive or live on 34/96 and have any idea who might be causing all this litter, please contact me. I

am also trying to track down 3 “serial” or “habitual” litterers:

1. A person, possibly a runner or bicyclist, who is throwing out water bottles near the intersection of 96B and South Danby Road.
2. A person, possibly a bicyclist, who is throwing out “5-hour energy drink” containers (they're very small) along 34/96.
3. A person who is throwing out pint vodka bottles along 34/96. There were so many of these bottles along the 1-mile stretch I did, I actually lost count.

If you have information on these litterbugs, contact me at 607.589.4031 or [rondaroaring@hotmail.com]. ❧

AN INTERNET OPTION FOR DANBY

Submitted by Ted Crane

Danby residents who are currently limited to dial-up Internet access now have another way to connect. While it's not new, exactly, recent pricing changes may make it a more reasonable alternative than it has been in the past. It's called *Mobile Internet*, although it's often marketed with the name *Mobile Broadband*.



Verizon Coverage (white = no coverage)

Mobile Internet provides its connection via the existing cell phone network. You could use it "on the road", but you can also use it from a fixed location: your home. It is not, strictly speaking, *Broadband*, since the connection speed varies widely, depending on the same quality of service issues that affect cell phone usage. Under ideal conditions, it's not as fast as cable or DSL...but—if it works—it will be a lot better than dial-up.

There are at least two ways to make a Mobile Internet connection, and each one has its upfront cost:

- A USB-port cellphone modem provides access for one computer (\$80)
- A standalone adapter ("mobile hotspot") spreads a cellphone connection to several computers (\$150).

Although the service provider will happily sell you either of these, you can often purchase them separately.

In addition to the one-time purchase of a modem or adapter, you need a cellphone carrier to provide the service. At least two carriers cover in Danby: Verizon and Virgin Mobile. They each have strengths and downsides.

Verizon is a familiar name to local telephone users. Its coverage map in the Danby (but not West Danby!) area looks very good, but the map gives no indication of

signal quality (in our home, we get only 3 bars out of 7 on the cell phone, and only some handsets can talk reliably). It offers several service plans, but both are bandwidth-limited; \$40/250MB/month or \$60/5120MB/month, with extra charges for extra use, and you are required to sign up for one or two years.

[www.verizonwireless.com/mobile-broadband.shtml]

Virgin Mobile, thanks to the Virgin family of products, is also familiar and is a recent addition to the picture. It uses the Sprint network to deliver service, and the coverage map does not look at good as Verizon's. If you're in a covered zone, though, Virgin's map is more specific about signal quality. Virgin's service plans are its selling point: \$10/100MB/10 days or \$40/month of unlimited service, with no long-term service requirement.

[www.virginmobileusa.com/mobile-broadband/]

There is a drawback to Mobile Internet. Danby has some pretty spotty cellphone service, and you have to buy the hardware in order to find out whether the service works for you at your location. I have heard from one satisfied user of Verizon's service but, if our home did not already have a fast connection to the Internet, I'd be tempted to try Virgin's cheaper and more flexible pricing.



Virgin Coverage (white = no coverage)

If you have, or would consider trying, Mobile Internet service, I would like to hear [danbynet1@tedcrane.com] from you.

I'll track the service quality and report it to other potential users in Danby. I'm willing to help with installations (so I can learn about them). If yours works, you'll be happy; if not, perhaps I can put you in touch with someone else who'll buy your adapter and try it in a different location!



DANBY COMMUNITY PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

I've got some good news and some bad news. First, the bad news. Plans for a community center building within Dotson Park have been shelved indefinitely. Although a great deal of thought, work, and money has gone into planning and doing preparatory work for it, there are too many hurdles and too few people involved to make it happen right now. We plan to prepare a summary report of what has been accomplished and what the site work has revealed, to ease the way if and when the time is right to renew the effort.

The good news is that there were a bunch of people having fun in the park a few Saturdays ago! The occasion was the disc golf "open house" and tournament on November 6. Despite the chilly wind and gray sky, over two dozen people turned out to play and learn more about the sport and the park's new course. A good time was had by all, and everyone was very enthusiastic about the merits of our 9-hole course.

The park is looking really great these days thanks to Steve Barber and the Disc Ithaca Club who volunteered so much time and effort mow-



ing and clearing back there. Thanks also go to Dave Mastroberti for planting the beautiful spruce trees out front along Danby Road. Stop by and have a look!

Further development of the disc golf course is one of five areas we will be refocusing our efforts on in the coming year. The other four priority areas are developing trails, building a multi-purpose playing field, building a BBQ pit, and building a larger pavilion to host a variety of events (e.g. music in the park). We will also finish the Hypar pavilion and install the picnic table funded by this spring's United Way FOCUS grant.

The most pressing concern we face right now is our serious debt from the road construction. We will be undertaking a fundraising effort soon in the hope of substantially reducing it, so that we can devote our attention to the five areas mentioned above. The entire board feels confident that our established priority items are realistic and achievable. As always, we welcome your input and request your support. ❁

Danby Youth Flyer

Community Council Youth Programs Fall 2010

For permission forms and questions, please contact Linda Schoffel, Rural Youth Services Coordinator, [ljs48@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.

Primitive Pursuits

Grades 3-8

Mondays, 3-5:30pm;

November-December 20

June Pollack's (43 Hornbrook Road)

Learn ancestral living skills such as shelter building, native crafts and nature awareness. Explore the outdoors, go hiking and get moving! Please dress for the weather and wear clothes that can get dirty! Primitive Pursuits instructors will lead the program.

Dungeons and Dragons Fans

Are you interested in reviving the game sessions organized in the Spring? Are there any parents out there interested in helping with the supervision of this group? Please contact me! ❁



Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Nov 26 • Fri
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Time in a Bottle—the Road Show for glassware!
- Nov 30 • Tue
4-6pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Day After Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Dinner
- Dec 2 • Thu
Noon 🏛️ Oasis Dance Club
Danby Seniors' Holiday Luncheon and Meeting
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby Community Council Meeting
- Dec 4 • Sat
5:30-7pm 🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • **Steak Dinner**
- Dec 5 • Sun
8-11am 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**
- Dec 6 • Mon
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Public Hearing: Danby Dog Law
Town Board Meeting
- Dec 8 • Wed
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- Dec 10 • Fri
5-7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Chicken and Biscuit Dinner
- Dec 12 • Sun
7-10:30am 🏛️ Pirate Club • **Kids Holiday Breakfast**
8-11am 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall
Annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast
- Dec 13 • Mon
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board Meeting
7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting
- Dec 14 • Tue
5-9pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall / WD Fire Dep't
Fire Commissioner Elections!
- Dec 15 • Wed
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Planning Board Meeting

- Dec 16 • Thu
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Danby Community Park Assoc.**
- Dec 18 • Sat
11am 🏛️ Town Hall • **Danby History Group**
- Dec 21 • Tue
7:30pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting
- Dec 22 • Wed
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- Dec 30 • Thhu
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board End-of-Year Meeting
- Jul 9, 2011 • Sat
Danby Fun Day and Parade

ONGOING EVENTS

- Danby Community Council 🏛️ Town Hall
1st Thursday, 7pm
- Danby Community Library Open 🏛️ Town Hall
Saturdays, 10am–Noon, 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.
- Danby Fire Company 🏛️ Fire Hall
Mondays, 7pm; monthly mtg 2nd Monday, 7:30pm.
- West Danby Volunteer Fire Company 🏛️ WD Fire Hall
2nd Monday, 7pm.
- Military Family Support Group 🏛️ Federated Church
2nd Thursday, 6:30pm.
- Danby Community Park Association 🏛️ Town Hall
2nd Thursday, 7pm.
- Danby Fire Commissioners 🏛️ Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall
3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm.
- Danby Food Pantry 🏛️ Federated Church
3rd Friday, 4–6pm, Thursday the-day-before, 6–8pm
- Seniors Strength Training Group 🏛️ Federated Church
Mondays, 9am.
- Danby Quilters Group 📞 273.2950
Fridays, 9–11am.