



DANBY AREA NEWS

DANBY LANDSCAPE CHANGE SURVEY

Submitted by Jake Brenner, Ithaca College Dep't Env.Studies

Several weeks ago, many of you were selected at random to receive a mail survey about your land, the ways you use and manage it, and your thoughts about landscape changes in Danby. Many of you completed and returned the mail survey--in fact, we were impressed and very happy to see such a high rate of participation. Many (though fewer) of you also took our internet survey. Several of you took us up on our invitation to meet and chat with you in person about your land and your opinions. Some of you took part in all three parts of the study.

We now would like to express our sincere and hearty thanks to everyone who devoted time, energy, and thoughts to our study.

The purpose of this research is primarily academic. We want to understand what motivates people to do what they do with their land, how people perceive the landscape changes underway around them, and what all of this means for ecosystems and human communities on the so-called urban fringe. Danby, with its rich natural heritage, its diverse people, and its unique location at the interface between urban Ithaca and the wildlands of the Southern Tier, offers a unique opportunity for research.

It's not too late to get involved! You are welcome to contact us and we will be happy to let you know how you can participate in one or more parts of the study. We can also clarify the aims and outcomes of the study for any of you who have already been involved.

Stay tuned for a public presentation of the results of the study, later in the spring.

For information, contact me or Emma Hileman at 607.274.3967 or [jbrenner@ithaca.edu]. ❁

MIGNARDA CONCERT: SPCA FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Sarah McNaull

Polley McClure and Sarah McNaull are hosting the Mignarda duo for a few hours of music on Sunday, February 13, 3pm at Polley's house; it's a fundraiser for the SPCA of Tompkins County.



With some creative furniture rearranging we can have 50 music and animal lovers over for music, homemade desserts (heavily biased towards chocolate), and coffee. If you are not familiar with Mignarda, you can read about them and listen to clips of their music at [mignarda.com] or one of the commercial sites carrying their seven CDs.

If you would like to attend, please respond by January 28. Send Sarah a reply via Email [sarahmcnaull@gmail.com] and also mail a check made out to the SPCA of Tompkins County to Sarah (2521 West Danby Road, West Danby, NY 14883). She will then send you a ticket/reminder post card with directions and details. We ask that you donate a minimum of \$15 per ticket, and to RSVP quickly since we have very limited space but we want to include as many friends of the SPCA as we can. Please feel free to invite a guest!

Thanks to a generous donation, 100% of the proceeds will go to the SPCA, one of the first no-kill, open admission shelters in the US, now celebrating its 10th year as a no-kill facility! ❁

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February 2011
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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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DANBY NEWS NOTES

Submitted by Ted Crane

Danby News Delivery: As the radio show
says, "It's been a quiet month in Jennings's
Pond, where all the roads are snowy and
the mail delivery is...average."

As always, Ithaca "Postal Patron" deliv-
eries take about two or three days. Ithaca
"individual addresses" take seven to ten
days. Deliveries to other ZIPcodes in the
Town of Danby take a little longer.

Our goal is "A newsletter in every
mailbox."

Submission Guidelines: Visit the
Town of Danby web page, and have
a look at the "Danby News" section,
[town.danby.ny.us/DAN]. If you're
thinking of sending something for
publication in the Danby News, there's
two documents to read: the *Guidelines*
and the *Submission Guidelines*.

The first document describes what is,
and isn't acceptable material for publi-

cation. If it's acceptable, we'll make an
effort to include it; *generally, we print
everything we receive!*

The second document give some hints
about how to prepare a submission.
Following these guidelines makes the
editing and layout easier.

A very terse version of these guidelines
is presented in the column on the left
side of this page.

**TOWN OF DANBY
WEB SITE**

Have you visited [town.danby.ny.us]
yet?

There's a lot of information about the
Town of Danby on that site; lists of
officials, Boards, committees, and
contact info for all of them. You'll find
meeting agendas, minutes, and rel-
evant documents. You can see the list
of happenings in Danby. And, links
to Danby-related web sites! ❁

TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Early in January, in between visits from Danby residents paying their tax bills, I used our recordkeeping software to print an Annual Report for 2010. It is an interesting "snapshot" of the activity taking place in the Town Clerk's office. I got curious and (thanks to the wonders of computer technology) printed the reports for the past ten years. Here is some of what I've learned.

Dog Licenses

Thanks in great part to our recent canine enumeration, a record number of licenses were issued or renewed to Danby residents. While the average year (2004..2009) saw 396 dogs licensed, 566 pups were licensed during 2010.



These licenses generated \$7,967 of income, and \$7,225 of that amount was retained by the Town last year (\$742 was paid to the State's Animal Population Control Fund). These funds offset a portion of the cost of our dog enumerator, staff time, and the Tompkins County Animal Control contract.

In 2011, thanks to a change in dog license oversight from the State to the local level, almost all of the dog license fees will stay with the Town. Since dog license renewal notices will be sent from our Town Hall, we hope to keep more up-to-date records on Danby dogs.

Sporting Licenses

Many people visit the Town Clerk's office to purchase the licenses required for fishing and hunting. Even though many more outlets for these licenses have opened in the past decade, Danby's income from DECALS (the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Automated License System) has remained steady.

During the past eleven years, an average of \$8,863 was collected in Danby for these license sales. Unlike the Dog License fees, almost all of the DECALS money goes to the State: of the \$8,724 collected during 2010, only \$467.56 remained in Danby. The NYS DEC also keeps track of the exact number of licenses issued. It's interesting to note that the largest DECALS sales, \$13,146 in 2009, was due to the sale of *Life Time* licenses that year; in spite of the potentially reduced demand, 2010 sales remained about average.

Marriage Licenses

Compared to a famous destination like Niagara Falls, or even to the City of Ithaca, only a small number of Marriage Licenses are issued in the Danby Town Hall. The past decade has seen an average of ten couples receiving a license to marry (the actual marriage may or may not take place). It was my joy to issue eleven marriage licenses in 2010, a bit more than the previous three years.

Marriage records are the most private information stored in the Town Hall, so other details cannot be casually shared, but I can note that 2002 holds the recent record for the most licenses issued in a single year. Sixteen couples declared their intent to get married that year.

Building-related Permits

The figures for Building Permits, Planning Fees, and Hearings before the Danby Board of Zoning Appeals provide a sketchy outline of trends in building and development in Danby. In this respect, 2010 was representative of the past decade: 52 permits were issued, generating \$8,421.70 income for the Town. The number of building permits issued, for new construction and building renovations, and the income received for these permits implies that the construction trend in Danby has been at a moderate, steady pace for the past five years. This is a reduction from the peak--between 2002 and 2004--when 76 to 79 permits were issued each year.

I'm still learning a great deal about what all of these figures might mean. The Town Clerk's Annual Report is a bare bones snapshot of financial activities in the Town Hall. These numbers can be interpreted in a variety of ways. During the next year, I will try to share some of my experiences with the different services undertaken in the Town Clerk's office.

In the meantime, we are still collecting taxes. Until the end of February, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10am-1pm on Saturdays. Thanks to the donations of many *Cocoa Angels*, the bowl of chocolate kisses will remain full!

Please note that the office will be closed on Saturday during President's Day weekend (February 19). The Town Clerk's office hours will change in March, to better reflect the needs/work load of the Town Hall. We expect to shift to Monday-Wednesday, 10am-5pm; Fridays, 10am-5pm; and Saturdays, 10am-Noon. Look for more details in the March column.

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

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE

Submitted by Candace Collmer

The Gas Drilling Task Force met at the Town Hall on January 5. This was our first meeting of 2011. Members had various updates, including information on the appointment of Joe Martens as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, the State of the State speech by Governor Cuomo, and a statement by Assemblymember Sheldon Silver about protecting NYS water. We reviewed upcoming events, including work on mapping the potential impacts of shale gas development in Tompkins County.

An ongoing petition campaign in the Town of Ulysees encourages citizens to give opinions on hydraulic fracturing, and includes a resolution to ban it from that Town.

We asked Darby Kiley to give an introduction about her 1-year grant-funded position with the County. She outlined the goals of her work during the coming year, including working with the Tompkins County Council of Governments Gas Drilling Task Force and putting together a list of best practices for municipalities.

The Task Force members continued their discussion about speakers for the coming year. Jennifer Tiffany reported on a survey sent to members of the Task Force, enabling them to list their preferences for speakers. People were especially interested in learning more about the economic effects of gas drilling on local communities.



Source: American Association of Petroleum Geologists

They were also interested in more on local geology; the mapping project for Tompkins County (re: gas drilling); a macro-economic analysis of the industry nationally; and a report on the health effects of drilling on local residents, among others. There was also interest in learning more about DEC structures, operations, and history.

There was a report by Kathy Halton on progress towards road use agreements that the Town is currently pursuing with Delta Engineering. She reported that the road assessment part of this is done, and Delta will soon be presenting a draft of a road use agreement.

Kathy Halton and Anne Klingensmith are using the database at the County Clerk's office to update the list of leased land in Danby. Many of the lease terms ended in 2010 but it is sometimes difficult to identify which have expired and

which have been renewed.

The public is always welcome to attend meetings of the Gas Drilling Task Force and bring up issues that concern them. The next meetings are planned for Wednesday evenings, February 9 and February 23, 7pm in the Danby Town Hall.

For more information, contact Jennifer Tiffany, [jst5@cornell.edu]; Kathy Halton, 607-273-0533 or [khalton@tcwny.rr.com]; or Candace Collmer, 607-257-5737. ❧

DANBY FIRE DISTRICT MEETINGS

Submitted by Deanna Bowles, Fire District Secretary

The Danby Fire District will hold its regular meetings on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7:30pm.

The meeting on February 8 and meetings in March, May, July, September, and November (odd months) will be held at the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby Road, NYS Rt.96B.

The February 15 meeting and meetings in April, June, August, October, and December (even months) will be held at the West Danby Fire Station, 47 Sylvan Lane, in West Danby.

All Danby Fire District meetings are open to the public. ❧

TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
Tues–Fri, 10am–5pm; Sat, 10am-1pm; 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

As the New Year, 2011, starts to unfold, it brings new and challenging work to be done.

Items like Youth Services and the Recreation Partnership are near the front of the work list. Do you know about these programs? The Town makes a sizable contribution to these services, and they are funded in cooperation with other municipalities and the County.

The County's contribution was reduced last year and the municipalities are picking up some of the difference, but not enough to make up the shortfall.

Questions about these programs need to be answered as we go forward; we need a better picture of how these programs are being received and how they affect our budget.

Several projects intended to reduce our energy consumption have carried forward from last year:

- New lighting and programmable thermostats for Town Hall.
- Our Highway Department boiler project (heating the highway barns with renewable biomass fuel).

The Town has contracted with Taitem Engineering to guide us through the last stages of this project. Installation will commence this year.

Work on new road use agreements is still moving ahead. Danby and Dryden have contracted with DELTA En-

gineering, with other municipalities soon to come on board. Our goal is for all towns and the County to have uniform laws in place before the fall.

The rest of our new road laws will be back to us in February, when we will review for any possible conflicts with current Town law. The new laws will be made available to residents for comment, with a public hearing, hopefully, by early summer.

The Gas Drilling Task Force is diligently working on several projects that should give the Town critical data needed in order to understand the potential risks to the Town from Gas drilling. All of these efforts need to be in place no later than August.

Plans for emergency management of potential gas drilling problems will also be unfolding. Experience gained by observing the ongoing gas drilling in Pennsylvania has led to a whole new level of understanding and cooperation between the Town's various entities: Fire, Highway, and Government. As the Town works on our plan with the County, the Town Board is taking the lead, trying to bring this training to Tompkins County's first responders.

Wishing you all well in this New Year, and thank those of you whose contributions to our boards and committees make Danby such a wonderful Town to work for.

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



A Man and His Sign: Walter Reimers has been the hands-and-letters volunteer behind the Danby Sign on NYS Rt.96B for several years. It's cold work during the winter; bare hands are required to insert the six-inch-high individual letters.

Walter gets his event info from the Danby News calendar. If you have an event for the sign, be sure to send it to the Danby News by the 15th of the prior to the event.

CELL TOWER COMMITTEE OPENING

The Town of Danby is looking for a resident who would like to serve on a committee to examine the issues of cell tower placement in the county. This committee is being formed by the Tompkins County Council of Governments and will probably be a temporary one.

Applicants should have knowledge and/or interest in the issue of cell tower coverage and siting. If interested, notify the Danby Town Clerk, [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us] or 607.277.4788. ❁

TOWN OBSERVER

A short extract from Joel Gagnon's Broader View articles

Olivia Vent Commended by Boards

After 14 years, Olivia Vent attended her last Planning Board in December. Her term expired at the end of the year, and she has not sought reappointment. The Board passed a resolution of appreciation for her years of exemplary service, which she acknowledged with gratitude. During its early-January meeting, the Town Board also thanked Olivia for her service.

Report on Gas Task Force CEA Effort

A committee of the Gas Drilling Task Force is working to identify areas of the Town that can reasonably be characterized as CEAs (Critical Environmental Areas). Seven areas have been identified so far. For the most part, they consist of the unique natural areas that were identified, years ago, by the County's Environmental Management Council. Incorporating them into the Town's regulations might take the form of a "water resource protection" overlay zone with additional protections added to the underlying zoning.

The Planning Board suggested that historically significant properties could and should be used as an additional criterion for discerning what to include in the CEAs. Further discussion produced an apparent consensus that, while historical significance might not justify creation of a CEA in and of itself, it would strengthen a designation based on other criteria.

Hamlet Planning

The Planning Board discussed, at some length, the density of housing and its importance. While higher densities, such as were suggested by the recent hamlet development plan for a "cottage cluster" opposite the Town Hall, enable services and enhance walkability, they are not possible with conventional wells and septic systems. Adding municipal water or sewer systems would be expensive and hard to sell for that reason.

Unconventional approaches using engineered and earth-friendly alternatives would require flexibility by the County Health Department. Danby is not seen by the County Planning Department as a likely development node during the next 15 years because of the absence of municipal services. In order to better understand what options could actually be pursued, it was decided to approach the Health Department and propose a frank discussion for the January meeting.

Setting the Stage for 2011

The January Town Board meetings were dominated by organizational actions, some mandated, and some added by the Board to facilitate dealing with issues facing the Town.

The mandated resolutions addressed such items as the official newspaper (Ithaca Journal) and bank (HSBC), naming the Town's attorney (both Miller Mayer and Thaler and Thaler), setting dog licensing fees (\$12 if spayed/neutered; \$20 if unaltered), appointing the Deputy Town Supervisor (Dan Klein), and setting the first and second Mondays as the regular Board meeting dates, both at 7pm.

Tod Sukontarak was appointed to a 5-year term on the West Danby Water District Board of Water Commissioners and Joel Gagnon to a 7-year term on the Planning Board. Recommendations were offered to the County, naming Asher Hockett for appointment to the Youth Services Board and Dylan Race for the Recreation Partnership Board.

Out-of-the-ordinary actions included creating reserve accounts to set aside funds for anticipated large increases in pension funding requirements in 2012, and a resolution formally establishing the Gas Drilling Task Force, naming it an official committee of the Town. The Gas Task Force was also specifically authorized to create subcommittees such as the already-operating Critical Environmental Areas committee. The Board also held a re-vote on the dog licensing law to remedy a filing error. No hearing was required since the action was within the allowed time following the last public hearing.

Several actions that might have occurred as a part of the organizational meeting were postponed. Chairs for the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Board were not named, allowing time for those boards to make recommendations.

Two vacant Planning Board Alternate positions were also left unfilled, again to allow time for the Planning Board to weigh in on what role the alternates should have. There seems to be general agreement that the alternates need to be given a meaningful ongoing role in order to retain their interest and keep them abreast of matters before the Board, so they can step in in a voting role when needed.



WOOD STOVE & FIREPLACE SAFETY

Submitted by Adam Crown, Fire/Life Safety Educator

Today, a powerful storm is pummeling the East Coast. With the mercury here dropping and the winds howling, it's easy to believe that there are record-cold temperatures all over and that we may well be having one of the most frigid winters on record.

You might be using a wood stove or fireplace to keep winter's icy wolf at bay. Here are a few pointers from the US Fire Administration about using them safely.

10 Good Safety Rules for Using Wood Stoves & Fireplaces

1. Be sure they're installed properly with adequate clearance (at least 36") from combustible surfaces, and have proper floor support and protection.
2. Wood stoves should be of solid construction and design and should be "laboratory-tested."
3. Have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary—especially if it hasn't been used for some time.
4. Never use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
5. Use a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to keep embers and sparks in and other things you don't want burned—materials, people, and pets—out.
6. The stove should be burned hot twice a day, 15-30 minutes each time, to reduce creosote build-up.
7. Don't use large quantities of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It's possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
8. Never burn charcoal indoors—it can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
9. Before you go to sleep, be sure the fire is out. Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. It can help the fire heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
10. If you use synthetic logs, follow the package directions. Never break one apart, quicken the fire, or use more than one at a time—they can burn unevenly and release higher levels of carbon monoxide.

Stay warm and be safe. ❀

DANBY LAND BANK UPDATE

Extracted from its Newsletter

If 2009 was an introduction to the hay market for the Danby Land Bank, then 2010 was an introduction to the wood and grass pellet market—experience gained mainly through our sister organization, Community Biomass Energy.

2010 Successes

- Had 20 participants and over 350 acres involved.
- Secured a contract to sell hay for biomass that will exceed the \$10,000 minimum income requirement for 2011.
- Have access to a brush hog so all member fields will be clear enough to mow for the coming year.
- Worked with Danby officials on NYSEDA boiler grant questions.
- Cleaned out and repaired a member barn for hay storage.
- Started field plots to test effects of ash vs. lime applications on soil, also doing some testing for plant chlorine content (a problem that causes corrosion in stoves) in member fields.

We are actively encouraging new members and also looking for land to rent, if needed, to meet the hay contract. Our next *New Member Meeting* will be held on Saturday, February 19, 10am, in the Danby Town Hall. ❀



Danby's abandoned farms and pastures appear even more desolate on a grey, wintry day.

(Photo: Ted Crane)

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

Thanks to the Lawrence family for hosting our January meeting and congratulations to them on the arrival of their new granddaughter, born later that same day!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 3, at Noon in the Danby Church. It's a dish to share luncheon. All Danby seniors 55 and older are invited to attend. Dues are \$5 per year.

Last month Ted led a fun Bingo session and this next meeting I've heard he's working on another game. ❀

COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging is pleased to offer the Community Living Program to individuals age 60 and older. This program provides consumer directed services, allowing individuals to choose the purchase of one-time goods and /or services within a budget to help them remain living at home independently.

We are now accepting referrals of individuals for persons who have functional impairments and may be at risk of nursing home placement.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Individuals age 60 or over and at risk for nursing home placement or Medicaid spend down.
- Income - Single, \$951.25-2,283/month; Couple, \$1,393.75-\$3,345/month
- Assets - Single, \$17,250-\$41,400; Couple, \$25,125-\$116,220

Assets include checking and savings accounts, other cash accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other liquid assets such as IRAs. A person's primary residence and vehicle are not included as assets.

For those individuals who meet all other requirements but whose assets fall below the minimum listed, an asset waiver may be granted. For more information about the Community Living Program, please contact Tompkins Care Connection at 607.274.5222. ❀

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

As we're almost thru January (where did it go?) it's time to let you know about the February Events at the Ithaca American Legion. No, this is not a recording, but...

February 5 brings another Steak Dinner, 5:30-7pm. Steak cooked to order, Salad Bar, Choice of Baked Potato/Onion Rings/French Fries, vegetable of the day (usually Green Beans), coffee, tea, a roll, and usually homemade dessert made by the Ladies Auxillary. Only \$10. You can't beat the price!

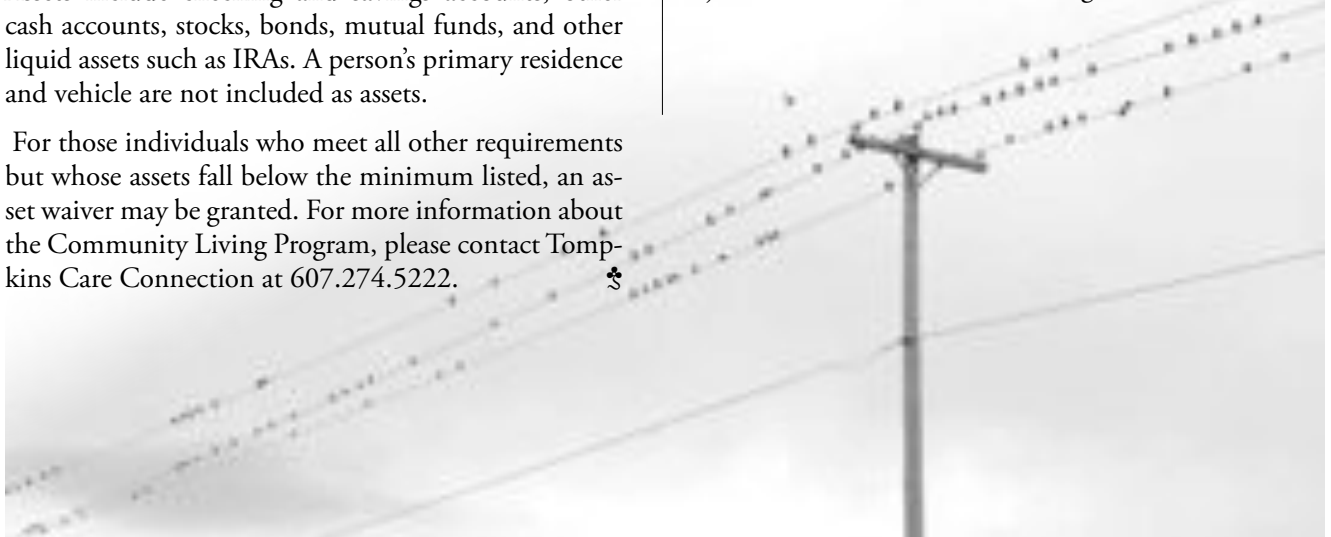
On February 13, the Sons of the American Legion will have another Chicken BBQ. Serving Noon 'til sold out (we usually sell out within an hour or so), Menu: ½ Chicken, a roll and two sides (Baked Beans, Macaroni Salad, Salt Potatoes) for \$8. Or just ½ chicken for only \$5.

We will be trying something new: delivering to places like Longview, Titus Towers, and McGraw House, if we get enough interest from any of the residents.

It's Fish Night on February 18. Fish Dinner (Baked or Fried), Choice of Baked Potato/Onion Rings/French Fries, our almost world-famous Salad bar, dinner roll, coffee, tea, and dessert for only \$10. We are looking at Chicken on the menu in case someone in the family doesn't like or can not eat fish.

For long range planners, we will have our annual Block Party on Saturday July 16, with our raffles, etc., at 2pm and entertainment from 5pm-9:30pm.

Don't forget, if you're looking for that place to have a small meeting or even a large (up to 100 people) one, check us out. Weddings, Banquets, Showers, give us a call. The Ithaca American Legion, 1231 Danby Road, just 2 miles south of Ithaca College, 607.272.1129. ❀



DANBY IN THE 1800S: A CHANGING WORLD

Submitted by Karen Laun

The 4th in a 5-part series about the history of Danby.

As Danby grew and prospered, events outside the small town began to have long-lasting effects on its future. Danby's population in the mid 1800s was around 2300, not much smaller than the town is today. The residents were mainly farmers, with others operating the stores, mills, and businesses required to keep an independent community operating smoothly.

In 1834, the railroad came to town. Or rather, the Ithaca and Owego line came to the town of Caroline. In 1871, the line linking Ithaca and Athens, Pennsylvania, came to West Danby. West Danby built a telegraph office and a train depot--with up to five trains passing through each day. For a time, this was the main line taking newlyweds and travelers to visit Niagara Falls. The central settlements of Danby, however, became less important as a transportation route and this led to a decline in business.

The Town of Ithaca expressed interest in harnessing Danby's water power and, in 1895, the Ithaca Water Company dug a 40-acre reservoir that became known as Jennings Pond. The reservoir was never used as a water supply for Ithaca, but is a much appreciated summer escape to this day.

The turbulent events surrounding the Civil War period affected nearly every corner of the United States. Danby was on one of the routes of the Underground Railroad and Dr. Lewis Beers is known to have hidden escaped slaves in his barn earlier in the century. He was a vice president of the local chapter of the American Colonization Society, which wanted to free slaves and help them resettle in Africa.

One runaway, William Simms, came to Ithaca in 1858 after a long and arduous journey from Virginia. He was part of a group of seven men, traveling by

night, suffering hunger, and in constant fear for their lives. The group gradually separated and, when Simms arrived in Binghamton, he encountered a distant relative who took him to Ithaca. Once there, he worked in a tannery and married a local woman. He later moved to South Danby where he rented a farm and was known as a successful farmer.

Danby suffered the loss of 45 men during the Civil War; in 1866, an association was formed to build a monument to them. A 29-foot-high marble column was erected and engraved it with the names, military units, ages (18 to 51), and dates of death of the soldiers. This monument still stands today in front of the Town Hall.

In the late 1800s and into the early 1900s, new waves of immigrants came to the area, including Hungarians and Finns. The Finns arrived, not directly from Finland, but from Michigan and Minnesota, seeking to exchange their mining work for an agricultural life. They bought rundown farms in South Danby and other towns, often converting them into poultry farms. They also brought a strong sense of their traditional culture with them. Today, the Finns remain a vital presence in the Finger Lakes area, meeting regularly to celebrate their heritage.

Part V will conclude with a look at Danby in the 20th century, as modern life has intruded into this quiet rural town. ❁



Houses in History: the George Comfort house, 106 Comfort Road.

The original photo was borrowed from the Chases for research, but not returned. If you recognize this image and have the original photo, please call Joan Grant, 607.272.7335.

DANBY TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle

Happy winter everyone! Please send me your stories about your holiday, special trips you have taken, winter recipes to warm us up, what you do for fun in the winter, good books you are reading by the fireplace, as well as information on events, happenings, dates to put on our calendars.

You may also tell me about new babies, weddings, passings, honors given, promotions, new jobs, etc., and if you are new to Danby, how about I introduce your family to your new neighborhood in the column?

The Danby Town Talk column covers the areas of Danby, West Danby, Newfield and upper South Hill. Readers of this column seem to really enjoy the “stories behind the stories” and I know we all have some of those! Send stories to share (pictures are welcome, also) to [gayhuddle@hotmail.com]. Thank you. ❄️

DOORS TO THE LIBRARY

The Danby Community Library asks its patrons to use the modern side entrance to the Town Hall rather than the old front doors.

There have been too many problems with difficulty re-locking the front doors after they have been opened; the side doors are the best thing since sliced bread. ❄️

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 February 10 at Noon. Please come or call Judy Voorheis at 607.274.5266 for more information. ❄️

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Spring is right around the corner for incurable optimists like me. But, for now, let’s be in the moment and enjoy curling up with a book or watching a movie...and let it be winter.

Winter reading:

Ebony Swan by Phyllis Whitney
Narnia (book, DVD) by C.S. Lewis

If you read and liked... Try...

Still Alice by Lisa Genova Left Neglected

A Change in Altitude by Anita Shreve Rescue

House Rules by Jodi Picoult Sing You Home

Double Comfort Safari Club by Alexander McCall Smith Saturday Big Tent Wedding Party

Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear A Lesson in Secrets

A Million Little Pieces by James Frey Bright Shiny Morning

Some of these have been ordered but won’t be released until March—we can’t wait!

Our shelves have been rearranged due to increased fiction titles. Look around...the newest titles are on the top shelves. ❄️

WINTER FORESTRY FOR YOUTH

Submitted by Megan Tift

The Tompkins County 4-H Program Plant and Environmental Science Team (a volunteer committee) invites you to the 4-H Winter Forestry Program. It meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month until June, 10am-Noon at 4-H Acres.

Youth, ages 5-19 (and guardians), are invited to attend one or more of these free sessions to explore the woods and wildlife at 4-H Acres during the winter season. Topics will include Winter tree identification, woods walks, tracking animals, bird identification, history of the land, measuring trees, learning about the water cycle, testing soil, collecting wildflowers, sketching, and using leaves to identify trees.

Dress for the weather! Please preregister with Sherron Brown at 607.272.2292 or [scb42@cornell.edu]. ❄️

4-H HORSE SENSE & DAIRY BOWL

Submitted by Sherron Brown

All youth 8-19 years of age, with an interest in horses or dairy cattle are encouraged to participate in the 4-H animal science knowledge contests. 4-H Hippology and Quiz Bowl programs provide an opportunity to learn about horses and dairy cattle and their respective industries.

Participants develop critical thinking skills and build teamwork and communications skills. These contests provide the opportunity to build character, practice goal setting, and gain self-confidence--all while making lasting friendships. Participants do not need to own a horse or dairy calf to participate.

4-H Hippology—the study of horses—is a contest where youth demonstrate their knowledge and reasoning ability in subject matter related to equine science and horse management. The contest consists of a series of stations, each with a different topic. One of the stations is evaluating live horses.

4-H Horse/Dairy Quiz Bowl is a *game show style* contest where one team competes against another. A wide variety of topics relating to the horse and dairy industry are covered including breeds, anatomy, tack and equipment, nutrition, the history of the species, health and reproduction, crop and nutrient management and basic business management. Individual and team awards are presented in both horse and dairy quiz bowl.

The cost to participate in all of these contests is \$5. Practice sessions for 4-H Hippology and Horse Quiz Bowl are held Saturday afternoons, 3-5pm, through March 15, in Ithaca's Cooperative Extension Education Center. The 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl study sessions are held Tuesday evenings, 7-8pm, through March 19 in the same location. The regional contests are held on March 19.

Contact Brenda Carpenter,
[btc@cornell.edu]
or 607.272.2292,
for more info. ❁



Danby Youth Flyer

ANNA'S REPORT ON DANCE

Submitted by Anna Jordan

My favorite thing about dance is that you can always improve.

Dance isn't one of those things that you practice for ten minutes and then you can do it perfectly, it requires hard work and persistence. I know that I can never be a perfect dancer no matter how hard I work at it. Dance is a challenge but that is what makes it fun, if I could just be a perfect dancer without even trying it wouldn't be any fun. The challenge is what makes it fun.



I think that I have improved in dance quite a lot since last year.

When I was watching last year's recital DVD I realized that my leaps are much higher this year than they were last year, my legs are also closer together on my turns. I think my overall technique has improved a lot since last year. I still have a long way to go in learning dance, but I have improved a lot since last year.

Next year I am going to be in duet, ballet, and acro. I have never taken acro before and I worked hard preparing for tryouts.

My main goal for next year is to improve as much as possible in acro. I also want to improve my technique a little more next year. I hope to become a more accomplished dancer next year.

[Anna and her younger sister, Clara, were awarded a Danby Community Council Scholarship to attend the Full of Grace Dance Studio in Berkshire.] ❁

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Jan 29 • Sat

5pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
2nd Annual Chili Challenge
5pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Benefit Dinner for Food Pantry; WDCA Annual Mtg

Feb 3 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Danby Seniors' Luncheon and Meeting
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Danby Community Council Meeting

Feb 5 • Sat

5:30-7pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Steak Dinner**

Feb 7 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board Meeting

Feb 8 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting

Feb 9 • Wed

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**

Feb 13 • Sun

8-11am 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Sweethearts Breakfast**
5:30-7pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Chicken BBQ**

Feb 14 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board Meeting
7:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting

Feb 15 • Tue

7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting

Feb 16 • Wed

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**

Feb 17 • Thu

3-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**

Feb 18 • Fri

5:30-7pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Fish Night**

Feb 19 • Sat

10am 🏠 Town Hall
Danby Land Bank Coop Meeting

Feb 27 • Sun

8-11am 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**

Feb 28 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Adv. Council Mtg**

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.

WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

🏠 Danby Town Hall • 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 Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road