



DANBY AREA NEWS

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE UPDATE

Submitted by Jennifer Tiffany

During May and June, the Gas Drilling Task Force completed its comments on the draft management plan for the Rapid Waters State Forest Unit (Danby and Shindagin Hollow State Forests) and worked with the team developing an Aquifer Protection Ordinance for the Town.

Chairing these meetings, talking with concerned Danby residents, and hearing from other Towns in Tompkins County about issues related to shale gas extraction, I have been reminded time and time again of how, “It takes a village” (or a town, or a strong team) to do this kind of work “right.”

When a town is situated on top of gas-bearing shale deposits like the Marcellus and Utica Shales, the best response is a comprehensive one. Ric Dietrich spelled out three parts of Danby’s response in the June issue of the Danby News: road use laws, aquifer protection ordinances, and consideration of a broader ban on high-impact industrial activities.

The foundation of a Town response is a strong and well-articulated Comprehensive Plan. Danby’s 2003 plan is recognized as excellent, and the Planning Board is now working to update our zoning, taking issues related to shale gas extraction (which really wasn’t on the horizon in 2003) into account.

Danby is working on issues related to shale gas extraction in a specific context. A lot of the regulatory decision mak-

—continued ➔

DANBY FUN DAY AND PARADE

Saturday, July 9, 2011, 10am-3pm

General Schedule

- 10:00 Fun Begins!
- 10:30 Parade on NYS Rt.96B
- 11:30 Wheel-O-Treats
- Noon Famous Danby Fire Co. Chicken BBQ
- 3:00 Chinese Auction Drawing
- All Day Lots of Food, Wheel-O-Treats (Cake Wheel), Games, Crafts, Exhibits.

Music Schedule

- Noon-12:45pm The New West Danby Henry Ford String Throttlers
- 12:30-1:45 Flunk School
- 1-1:45pm The Hogbens of Crane Hill
- 2-3pm Steve Selin, Lydia Garrison, and Joe Damiano

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Town Clerk’s Desktop ③
- American Legion Update ④
- Senior Citizen’s Update ④
- Supervisor’s Update ⑤
- William Vorhis: Civil War Soldier. ⑥
- Fun Day Participants ⑦
- Danby Park Update ⑧
- Danby Tsunamis ⑧
- At the DFC ⑧
- Fun Day. ⑨
- ...and more Fun Day ⑨
- Community Library. ⑩
- CAC Evening Programs ⑩
- Life in Danby ⑩
- Youth Programs ⑪
- Calendar ⑫

ing about energy issues is “preempted” from local communities—sometimes by the State government, and sometimes by the Federal government. This means that we need to stay engaged in State and Federal policy debates to try to ensure that the interests of a small, upstate New York Town are on the table.

That’s why, when the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issued its Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS)—governing shale gas extraction—in 2009, the Gas Drilling Task Force put a lot of attention into commenting on the inadequacy of the document. We will jump back in when/if a revised SGEIS is issued. That’s why, when EPA held hearings in Binghamton last year, a lot of Task Force members spoke out. That’s also why we reviewed and commented on the overall State Forest Management Plan the draft management plan for the Rapid Waters Unit.

—continued on page 4
(see also, Supervisor’s report, page 5)

July 2011
Layout: Ted Crane

To contribute:
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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

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 gives 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.

PUBLIC ACCESS INTERNET

The Town Board has approved a Pub-
lic Access Internet Facility in Town
Hall. A wireless hotspot is already
operating—indoors and in the park-
ing lot. If you'd like to use it, register
at the Town Clerk's office to get the
password.

Within a few weeks, desktop comput-
ers will be available for visitors who
don't bring a wireless-enabled device.

**TOWN OF DANBY
WEB SITE**

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

There's a lot of information about the
Town of Danby on that site. You'll
find meeting agendas, minutes, and
relevant 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

Fun Day

Looking forward to it. The book sale, vendors, listening to music, and (of course) the parade. In fact, the parade is my favorite part of Danby Fun Day. I love the playful pagentry of a parade. The lights and sirens of Fire and Rescue vehicles, the Highway Department plows all polished and looking good. I feel proud when the Legion marches by, and smile at the Danby Pirate's theatrical float.



There's always something fun and unexpected. This year, I've heard that we'll be seeing pairs of twins marching by. Speaking of the parade, as Town Clerk I have a small role in helping out: a resolution from the Town Board—closing the road for a few hours—is needed every year. It looks like this:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Danby, in compliance with Section 1604, Paragraph 2, of the

Vehicle and Traffic Law, which authorizes a Town to close a road for a parade, is officially closing New York State Route 96B on Saturday July 9, 2011 from 10:30am to 11:55am, from the intersection of East Miller and West Miller Roads to the intersection of Bald Hill Road; and it is Further Resolved, that the Town Board approves the extension of this time period, from 10:15am to 12:15pm, if the Danby Fire Department deems such extension necessary to facilitate the safe movement of the Parade participants; and it is Further Resolved, that there will be a detour route from the West Miller Road intersection with Route 96B to Comfort Road, to Lieb Road, to the Bald Hill Road intersection with Route 96B.

Once this resolution is passed, I follow up by sending letters—with its text—to the Sheriff's Department and to Fire and Rescue. Once this is completed (in mid-June), everyone can rest easy, knowing that all of the legal background is completed. We can enjoy a morning of celebrating in the road, right in front of the Central Danby Fire Hall.

I look forward to a day of relaxing with our community, celebrating the things which make Danby Danby. You'll find me at the history group display. There you'll see some this group's research into the men and women who were active during the Civil War—all in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

Part of my interest in Town government comes from a long standing curiosity about local history. The Town archives are a big part of our historical record. Archives that are no longer needed for governmental purposes, but still have local history interest, can be made accessible through research and displays. The Danby History Group is helping to ensure that these precious parts of our past are preserved. I'm pleased and proud to be part of the group.

Lots of Action...

The last month has been a busy time for all of the Town boards and committees. Extra meetings of the Town and Planning Boards have been scheduled to review a proposed Aquifer Protection Ordinance, an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, and updates to Danby's zoning ordinance, related to industrial uses and gas drilling. In addition, during the past month the Board of Zoning Appeals has heard three requests for variances. As secretary for each of these boards, I've been glued to my chair—taking notes and writing minutes.

Records of all of these meetings are posted on the Town web site as soon as they are ready, no later than two weeks after the meeting.

As a reminder, Summer office hours for the Town Clerk are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10am-5pm. The Town Clerk's office is closed Saturday mornings (in addition to Sundays and Thursdays) into August. And yes, the chocolate kiss bowl remains full.

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

FUN DAY CONTACTS

- Vendors: Sue Beeners 607.277.0799 [sbeeners@aol.com]
- Parade: Amy Cusimano [amymc@twcny.rr.com]
Sue Beeners (see above)
- BBQ: Christel Trutmann 607.342.1062 [ctrutmann@gmail.com]
- Kids Games: Andrea Hazard 607.272.8791 [ahazard@twcny.rr.com]
- Wheel O'Treats: Gay Huddle 607.273.6530 [gayhuddle@hotmail.com]
- Chinese Auction: Sharon Gaden 607.659.3116 [danby071302@yahoo.com]
- Book Sale: Leslie Connors 607.277.1717
- Everything Else: Christel Trutmann (see above)

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marvin Eastman

As we round the midway point of Summer, we here at the American Legion are preparing for our largest fund-raiser of the year.

On July 23, 2011, the American Legion at 1231 Danby Road will host its 9th annual Block Party. This year, we will start the day off with Breakfast, 7-10am, followed by a Motorcycle Fun Run (registration, 9-9:45am) for those who are interested. The ride leaves the Post at 10am.

The official kickoff of the block party is at 1pm, with raffles, auctions, and great food. At 5pm, the band *Triple Play* will play for your enjoyment. This year, the proceeds benefit the South Hill Veterans Cemetery, The Ithaca Veterans Day Parade, and other worthy causes.

The event is open to the Public. Stop by the Post to learn more!

On September 17, 2011, we will be resuming our regular dinners with a Roast Chicken Dinner, 5:30-7pm. \$10 buys the full dinner.

As some of you may have read in the Ithaca Journal, several local businesses lost their tax-exempt status; the Post 221 was among those listed but, no, we did not lose our tax exempt status. The IRS was cleaning out records, mostly from businesses that have closed down or no longer exist, and one of our old accounts—not used since before 1999—showed up on the computer-generated list. Our current account with the IRS is still active, and the update does not affect us. So, I repeat, we have not lost our tax-exempt status.

Looking for a place to have that wedding reception or small party, give us a call at 607.272.1129 and see what we can do for you. ❁

ADOPTIVE/FOSTER PARENTING

Do you want to make a difference in the life of a child? And are you:

- Over the age of 21?
- Able to develop a meaningful relationship with children?
- Have extra room in your home and heart?

If you answered, “Yes,” please consider attending an informational meeting to learn what the next step is to becoming a certified foster, adoptive or respite parent. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14, at Noon in the Human Services Building, 320 West Martin Luther King Jr. Street in Ithaca. For more info, please call Judy Voorheis at 607.274.5266. ❁

Gas Drilling, continued from front page—

The Danby State Forest includes about 25% of the Town of Danby, plays a major in Danby’s Comprehensive Plan (2003), and would be badly impacted if opened up for shale gas extraction as described in the draft management plan. The Danby response was strong and relied on the work of many: the Town Board, the Planning Board, the Gas Drilling Task Force, and many individuals who submitted individual comments. Many town residents attended and spoke out at the public hearing in Candor.

A graduate student in Cornell’s Department of City and Regional Planning, Zack Patton, volunteered to develop maps demonstrating that, using the assessment criteria spelled out in the draft plan, potential drilling sites would be scattered throughout the Danby State Forest and “mitigation” strategies described in the plan would not be able to stem the negative impacts of opening the forest to shale gas extraction. The maps made a compelling addition to our comments—a picture is worth a thousand words!

The Gas Drilling Task Force will meet once a month during July, August and September (7/13, 8/10, 9/14), at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall. Members will continue working on defining Danby’s Critical Environmental Areas, developing the Aquifer Protection Ordinance, supporting the Planning Board’s work updating the Comprehensive Plan, and many other projects.

For info, contact Jennifer Tiffany, [jst5@cornell.edu], or Kathy Halton, 607.273.0533. ❁

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Danby Seniors meet next on Thursday, July 7, at the Merritt’s, for a chicken BBQ.

We have a bus going to the State Fair on Tuesday, August 30, and a trip to the Merry Go Round theater, to see *The Marvelous Wonderettes* planned on September 28. Call Ted & Connie, 607.272.3009, to sign up for any of these events (BBQ included).

By the time you read this, 45 of our members will have enjoyed a luncheon cruise aboard the MV Columbia on June 22. Thanks go out to Bill & Judy Cuyle for hosting our June meeting!

There is no regular meeting in August. ❁

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

What news is relevant to Danby residents, right now?

Certainly, the paving of the Town Hall parking lot is significant, as it has taken us years to save enough money to accomplish this task. And, I could say to myself that these and other projects are the good things that come about by setting goals and timelines for the Town.

My article this month puts aside all the work being done by the Town and focuses on the overwhelming number of calls and Emails I've received within the past week. They're probably still coming as you read this.

I have heard from residents frightened about the potential ramifications of heavy industrial activities coming to Danby and questioning our short and long-term goals regarding these activities. As Danby residents become aware of the potential downsides of industrialization, their first reaction is that we should drop the formal procedure of being open and transparent and act more quickly.

I agree with many of you, that unsafe industrial activity presents a threat to the health and safety of residents in our town. The side effects of industrial activity will affect both close neighbors and those who live miles away. The Town must respond to this threat in a timely and effective way.

For the record, I want to be sure you know that I first brought the issue of the Town taking a stance on banning heavy industrial activities to the Town Board several months ago. However, we concluded that a simple ban was only one of several necessary tools needed to effectively protect our residents.

In the June issue of the Danby News, I described the priorities that we have been working on: protecting our roads, our drinking water, and a possible ban on all "high-impact industrial activities."

Acting hastily and passing ineffective legislation is even more dangerous than the consequences of industrial activity. If we lay all our eggs in one basket, and the basket fails, we have nothing to protect us. We must also be mindful of the unintended consequences of any action we take.

Now, I know that some of you are concerned that the Town Board is not acting quickly enough on some of these issues. Let me be clear here. Every and all proposals that come before the Board are considered in a public forum and voted on. We have had meetings and discussions with our Boards—with the public invited—to

keep them informed about the issue, and to encourage dialogue and discussion on the best way to proceed.

More recently, the Town Board has directed our Planning Board to prepare an update to our land use laws, to protect our town from the deleterious effects of high-impact industrial activity. The Town Board has taken on the parallel task of updating our Comprehensive Plan to reflect the changes implied by new industrial technology.

While waiting for our various Boards and other contributors to bring legislation, I have moved down the road and tried to understand what other Towns have been working on, why they think their approach would be effective, and how we can make use of their experience. If another Town has effective legislation, it will save Danby a lot of time.

In this context, I have directed our Town Attorney to review legislation under consideration by other municipalities and to present a summary to the Town Board during its meeting at the end of June. We will also make make copies of these proposals for the Planning Board to consider. The minutes of those meetings will describe all of the resulting actions taken.

The final unknown is the schedule for the completion of the SGEIS. At least one month of comments will follow the release of its current draft. expected July 1. After that, it could be anywhere from a month to years before the final document is issued. We expect to have our legislation completed before that time.

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

TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK • SUMMER HOURS

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mo-Tu-We-Fr, 10am-5pm; Sat and Thu, closed.

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Mon-Fri, 6am-2:30pm

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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.

WILLIAM VORHIS: CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

Submitted by Karen Laun, Danby History Group

As the years pass, the memory of the Civil War threatens to become just a list of battles and soldiers' names. But each soldier listed on the Soldiers' Monument outside Danby's Town Hall has his own story, often with surprising twists and turns. This is the story of one such soldier, William L. Vorhis.

William was born in Danby in 1843. His father was Reverend Stephen Vorhis, who was born in Spencer and was the minister at Danby's Presbyterian (now Federated) Church for fourteen years. His family also included his mother Elizabeth, his older sister Caroline, and his younger siblings Albert and Louisa. The family lived close to the church, possibly at 33 Bald Hill Road. Sometime in the 1850s they moved away; at the time of the Civil War, they were living in Hammondspport.

William, however, is not listed on the 1860 census in Hammondspport. As the son of an educated minister, he was probably away at college and enlisted where he was studying. He joined Pennsylvania's 8th Cavalry Regiment on September 22, 1861, as an eighteen-year-old private, but he did not remain in this regiment for long.

In 1860-61 a new military unit was forming: the Signal Corps. Prospective members were examined and approved by military boards and "selected on account of their intelligence, and to be able to read and write." Because of his education,

William was a good candidate for this important unit and was detailed to the Signal Corps in early 1862. At the time he was one of only about 200 enlisted men in this unit, which eventually numbered 2500, plus 300 officers. The men were trained in signaling in camps in Washington, DC.



The Signal Corps aided communication on the battlefield and conducted reconnaissance. Their main methods of communication were flags, torches, Coston signals (colored lights), rockets, and eventually the telegraph system. To ensure secrecy, a cipher disk was used. The flagmen and officers of the Signal Corps secured high ground or built scaffold towers and warned of enemy advances or holes in the defense; they also worked to break the enemy's codes and intercept their messages. It was dangerous work, with many killed, wounded, or captured. In the Signal Corps, the killed:wounded ratio was 3:2, much higher than the usual ratio of 1:5.

On March 23, 1862, a Lieutenant Ludwick, two other officers, and six enlisted men (among them William Vorhis) were ordered to report to Major General Halleck, commanding at St. Louis, for duty. On April 1, Halleck ordered the signal party to report to General Grant. They arrived in Pittsburg Landing (or Shiloh), Tennessee, on April 6, in the midst of that fierce battle. They offered their assistance, but the officers they encountered were not familiar with the new Signal Corps and suspected they were Confederate spies. They offered them the shel-

ter of a tent in a rainstorm in order to place a guard on them. Later on, other signal parties found this amusing, but Lt. Ludwick's party felt the shelter from the rain was worth the teasing.

It is unknown where Private Vorhis was after the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862 but, by September 1863, he was at the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia. This battle was a defeat for the Union and a tragedy for William. A report by Captain Jesse Merrill, chief signal officer, written just days after the battle, states "Private William L. Vorhis was slightly wounded, and is missing."

It was worse than that. On September 19, William had been captured and was taken to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. The prison was located in a three-story brick warehouse and more than 50,000 men passed through it while it was under the control of the Confederacy. Crowding, hunger, and disease were constant companions and many soldiers died. Others plotted escape, including a famous attempt in February 1864, when officers dug a 50-foot tunnel using a table knife, spittoon, and chisels. Over 100 officers escaped, although many were recaptured.

A group of surgeons, upon their release from Libby, published in the New York Herald an account of what they experienced treating Libby inmates in the attached hospital: "Shortly after the battle of Chickamauga about two hundred wounded prisoners arrived at Richmond from the field. They were almost all in a famishing and starving condition. They were three days on the road between the two points, and all they had to eat during that time was four

—continued on page 7

Vorhis, continued from page 6—

hard crackers each. On their arrival at Richmond they were taken to the Libby prison, where they laid two days longer without having their wounds dressed, and during all which time they had not a mouthful to eat.”

Another report, by Brigadier General Harrison Hobart, tells of over 1500 prisoners forced to march 30 miles from Chickamauga with no rations. They then rode in boxcars to Atlanta, where kind-hearted residents threw them bread, but were also forced to give up their overcoats and blankets before continuing to Richmond.

Based on the hardships described in these accounts, it is not surprising that a wounded William lived only another few months. Private William Vorhis died in Libby Prison on November 30, 1863, and was likely buried in Oakwood Cemetery and later moved to Richmond National Cemetery. He was just 20 years old.

The mystery behind the remarkable story of William Vorhis is why he was listed on Danby’s Soldiers’ Monument. He was not a Danby resident at the time of the Civil War and did not serve in a New York regiment. But he had strong family ties to the area and his father had moved back to his hometown of Spencer by 1870, just before the monument was erected. We will likely never know the full story, but it is clear that William Vorhis was remembered fondly by the residents of Danby and honored for his service to the country.

Visit the Danby History Group table at Danby Fun Day to learn more about Danby’s Civil War history and look for more articles in future editions of Danby Area News. ❧

FUN DAY PARTICIPANTS
Danby residents are marked with a ❧

These are among the many Fun Day participants in the Parade, Entertainment, Craft Booths, and Activities. Continued on page 9!

Naturescapes Landscape ❧ Full service landscaping, encouraging naturalistic and Certified Organic solutions. Photos, business cards, 10% off coupons. Dave Mastroberti, [naturescapeslandscape@gmail.com]

Ice Cream Treats ❧ West Danby Fire Department serves ice cream all day. Marrell Cortright, [marrell1@aol.com] or 607.564.0020

Flunk School • Music. Evan Eisenburg, [evane@hotmail.com] or 607.227.9836

The Hogbens ❧ Music from Crane Hill. Ben Hogben, [bhogben29@aol.com]

The New West Danby Henry Ford String Throttlers ❧ Old-time music by an all-West-Danby band. Peter Fraissinet, [pf13@cornell.edu] or 607.564.0030



Danby youth attends National American Miss Pageant in July. Allison Cross, hoping to be one of, “America’s future leaders,” enjoys singing, dancing, sports, reading, and math.

Twins of Danby! ❧ Join us in the parade if you are a twin, have twins or just want to be a twin! Triplets and larger groups, too! Strollers, wagons welcome, we may have a truck for riding on. Come early and help decorate signs and a banner or just show up when you can and jump in. Jana 607.592.5525 or Aleta 607.277.7565

Fun Day Music ❧ by Steve Selin, Lydia Garrison, and Joe Damiano. American stringband music, based in old-time bluegrass music, with original material in that tradition. Steve Selin, [steveselin2@gmail.com]

Danbyhills Photography ❧ No-tecards...in the woods, florals, scenics, some waterfalls, etc. Also, Sadie Maude Too: Hand crafted costume jewelry in glass, crystal, ceramic, semi-precious stone. Both cards and jewelry created right here in Danby by a 31-year resident. Danby Fun Day is always fun! Come join the party! Phil and Sally Quick, [sal54@netzero.net] or 607.277.4634

Abigail Teeter, Dairy Princess • The 2011-12 Dairy Princess and her Court will have a float in the parade and will again be tossing cheese sticks to the crowd. The girls love the Danby Parade and Fun Day and remind everyone that farmers keep the countryside green and growing, taking good care of their land and livestock to produce great tasting dairy products! Booking Chair, [dlt22@cornell.edu] or 607.277.4547

Crochet Items • Teddy Bears, doilies, afghans, and many other crocheted items. Nina Lansdowne, [skitty_kitty02@yahoo.com] or 315.496.2278

Cooperative Extension Educators • promoting the Green Jobs Green New York program, distributing educational materials, answering energy efficiency questions, and publicizing upcoming workshops and events. Yash Gharat, [ysg2@cornell.edu] or 607.279.3731

—continued on page 9

DOTSON PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

Danby Community Park Association's annual meeting on June 16 resulted in the election of one new board member, Tom Janda. We say goodbye, and extend our thanks, to outgoing Secretary Deborah Adams for her years of service.

Please come by our booth at Fun Day to say hello and to try making a hole-in-one with a frisbee! We'll have one of our disc golf baskets (tees) set up next to the archery booth, with discs available so you can give it a try. Later, you can come over to the park for more disc golf fun and lessons, starting at 6pm.

We're very pleased to announce that, in June, we paid down our debt to Tompkins Trust Company by \$10,000.

Look for us on Facebook, where we'll use to announce events and news. Search for "Danby Community Park Association" and add us to your list of pages to stay up-to-date on Park happenings.

The next Trail Work day is Saturday, July 2, 10am, and our next board meeting is Thursday, July 21, 7pm in the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome. Questions? [dotsonpark@gmail.com]. ❀

AT THE DFC...

Yard sales are a summertime staple, and the Danby Federated Church has one of the best events on its front lawn. Check out the Annual Community Yard Sale on Saturday, July 16, 9am-3pm. Find your treasure!

If you already have excess treasures, well, you can reserve a table at the Sale for only \$10. Your registration should be in by July 10. Contact the Church for information, 607.272.1687 or [office@danbyfederatedchurch.org], or Ed at 607.592.8276. Individuals and organizations are welcome, however, no food vendors.

Speaking of staples, the best of all food groups—the Ice Cream Sundae—is featured during the DFC's *Sundaes on Wednesday* series. Every Wednesday, July 27 thru August 31, 7-8:30pm, join them for free ice cream sundaes and wonderful music entertainment.

And, look forward to the DFC's Annual Steak Dinner on Saturday, September 17, with seatings at 5:30 and 6:30pm. Carry out will also be available. The menu: Charcoal Grilled NY Strip Steak, Salad, Green Beans, Roasted Garlic Potatoes, Beverage, and Brownie Sundae. Advanced Sales Only, \$12. ❀

DANBY TSUNAMIS

Submitted by Jim Reagan

Judge, the irrepressible puggle, and I were meandering around Danby Creek and were amazed at the number of trees that had been undercut by the strong floods over the winter. They were lying across the creek with roots thrust upwards like a Medusa's head. Huge rocks had been thrown hither and yon, and tons of rich soil lay half-way down the gorge, threatening to plunge into the creek with the very next storm.

Evidence of the great scouring power of the water was all around the creek banks, with the residual sandy topsoil having removed nearly everything in its path. Judge and I agreed that this was nothing compared to what the Japanese had recently endured, but the parallels, in miniature, were unmistakable.

A magnificent hemlock, probably well over one hundred years old, lay on its side spanning the entire width of the roaring stream. We were in awe of its great bulk and beauty up close and personal for our inspection. Those great green branches which, for decades, had lifted up to the sky and had endured all kinds of weather, were now aground and looking ever so incongruous and out of place. It was shocking, in a way, and we were humbled.

I explained to Judge that even the mighty trees are subject to the whims of Nature and the elements and that we might learn some important life lessons through thoughtful observation and reflection. The dog—who I believe may suffer from ADHD—could only attend my ruminations for a moment or two and then was off to sniff something.

Judge left me alone to contemplate other possible applications of falling giants and our fragile existence here on this planet. At times, children and pets can be so maddeningly impatient when it comes to profound thinking and heartfelt insights. One wonders if it is worth the effort. ❀

NYC DOG NEEDS HOME

Submitted by Joseph Eller

Dear Danby...

A friend in NYC has an older dog looking for a country home. If you are interested in such a dog or know of someone who might be, please contact me at 607.256.3451. Many thanks! ❀



ICE CREAM AT DANBY FUN DAY!

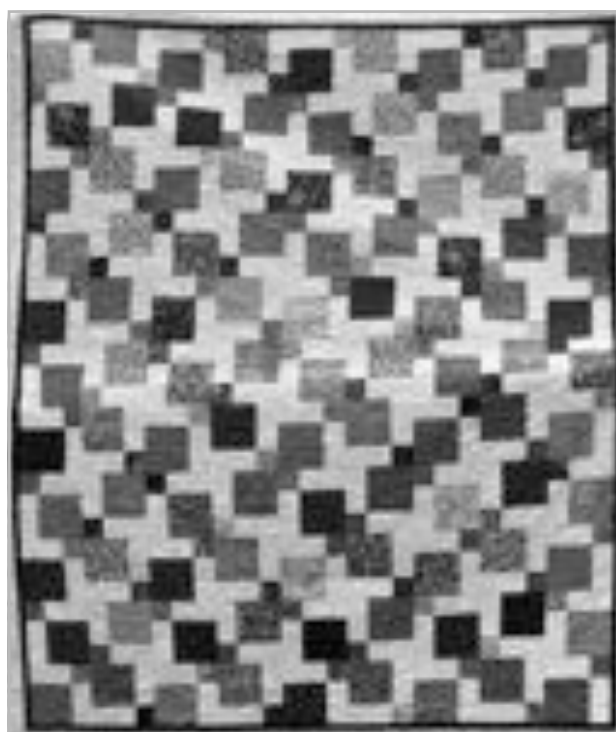
Submitted by Marrell Cortright

The West Danby Fire Department will have its ice cream booth in operation again this year, during Danby Fun Day on July 9. Stop by and see us to get a good ice cream treat or just to say, "Hi!" ❁

DANBY QUILT RAFFLE

The Danby Community Quilters are selling tickets for their 2011 king-sized *Disappearing Nine Patch* quilt, with all proceeds going to Hospicare. We'll be at Danby Fun Day, and also at the Danby Church community yard sale on July 16.

The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Drawing for the winner will be in November. ❁



Fun Day Participants, cont'd from page 7—

FUN DAY PARTICIPANTS

Danby residents are marked with a ❁

.....
Bob the Letterman ❁ at the Kids & Games booth. For Children, Brothers, and Sisters who can spell their names. Names brush-lettered on colorful boards, with merry paints and jolly styles.
 Bob Chase, 607.272.5038.

.....
Ted Crane, Photography ❁ Notecards and framed images of places 'round the Finger Lakes, furry animals, old barns, yummy foods, and more. Pamela's pottery and wonderful CDs. Also, the famous "Keep Danby Danby" bumper stickers!
 Ted Crane, [site@tedcrane.com] or 607.273.8678

.....
Charlene Creswell, Avon Sales • Avon products at discounted prices (50 cents & up), free Avon brochures and giveaway baskets.
 Charlene Creswell, [char_avon@yahoo.com] or 607.279.1423 or [youravon.com/ccreswell]

FUN DAY BOOK SALE

Do you have books you no longer want? Consider donating them to the Danby Fun Day Book Sale. Proceeds from the sale will go towards next year's Fun Day. Books can be dropped off at the Rt.96B Fire Station early on the morning of July 9. To arrange for books to be picked up, call Leslie Connors, 607.277.1717. ❁

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Thank you to all who came to and helped with our Open House and BookSale. Mary Lorson (pictured) played the Town Hall piano during the open house and entertained us all. We also have some new volunteers signing on- thank you for stepping up to help out our tried and true volunteers!



True Grit has arrived on DVD.

Hope you have your book list lined up for the lazy summer days! If not, we will have twelve new paperbacks for you to borrow! ❀

LIFE IN DANBY

This month's observations from Danbyites

Submitted by Julie Kulik

What a beautiful, diverse month we've had here in Danby. Summer's here! I would love to hear from more people this month—even if you think it is just a “regular” sighting, send it my way.

Here is some of what I received this month: “I believe that we have a family of ravens hanging out in our back woods. For the past couple of years, there have been a couple that flew over the house every day, but now, on a daily basis, there are a bunch.”

“One thing I have noticed this Spring is a lot fewer birds than in previous years. Maybe it is because of the rainfall? Fewer birds has meant more insects, and the moisture has brought tree frogs so close to my house, like a symphony.”

Reported findings this month. See you in the woods!

Mammals: Coyote. Bear in our Garbage can eating popcorn. Grey Fox, Baby Fawns (some twins).

Birds: Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker (crashed into a window, but flew off), Field Sparrow nest (mowed over, but babies survived), Orioles, Blue Birds, Indigo Bunting, Woodcock.

Amphibians/Reptiles: Water Snakes, many Snapping Turtles (one measured 12” across)(another was helped across Rt.96B, near Town Hall), Milk snake, Painted Turtles, Coy Fish, Red Eared Slider.

Insects: Bot fly eggs.

Please contact me at [jnk54@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292 x222. ❀

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL EVENING GATHERINGS

Come join us for these Family programs this summer. Each event will include an informational talk or a “show and tell” on an environmental topic, children’s activities (led by Julie Kulik), and a nature walk.

These free programs are organized by the newly formed Danby Conservation Advisory Council. Come meet some Danby neighbors, and explore new wild areas of Danby. Bring the Family! Each evening runs 6:30-8pm.

July 13 at the Danby Town Park (rain: Fire Hall Pavilion): Leslie Connors helps us discover the vast variety of mammals in this region, and shares some of her collection of animal skeletons.

July 27 at 132 South Danby Road (0.6 miles off NYS Rt.96B): Mary Woodsen brings us on a Wild Foods journey.

Questions? Contact Julie Kulik, [jnk54@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.x222. ❀

STOP LOSING MONEY OUT OF YOUR HOME!

Green Jobs/Green NY (GJGNY) is a statewide program that provides New Yorkers with access to energy audits, installation services, low-cost financing (currently for residential customers only), and pathways to training for various green-collar careers. Free or low-cost energy audits through NYSERDA’s Home Performance with ENERGY STAR(tm) Program are available to residential customers. Customers can implement cost-effective measures using GJGNY Financing which offers loans of up to \$13,000. Learn more about low interest rates and how to apply at Energy Finance Solutions.

Utilizing this program is a way for all New Yorkers to gather together to make a significant difference in our own homes and neighborhoods—making them more energy efficient, more comfortable, more sustainable, and more economically sound. Neighborhood by neighborhood, we’re making New York State a better place to live, work, and do business.

If you are interested in participating, or know a group where we might do a presentation, please contact Shawn Lindabury, 607.272.2292 or [scl36@cornell.edu]. More info at [getenergysmart.org/]. ❀

Danby Youth Flyer

Community Council Youth Programs Summer 2011

These programs are funded by the Danby Community Council, and are free to Danby residents. Registration is required.

All summer programs are for ages 9 and up. Permission slips are in the Danby Town Hall, or can be found at [\[ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby\]](http://ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby)

Questions? Please contact:

Julie Kulik, 607.272.2292.x222 or [\[jnk54@cornell.edu\]](mailto:jnk54@cornell.edu)

Afternoon Rambles

Fridays, (June and) July 12, 1-4pm

Location: Jennings Pond

Come relax with other Danby youth, create natural art projects from clay, vines, stones, and other things we find, swim (when lifeguard is on duty) play games, and find hidden Letterboxes. Please sign up for each session separately.

It's All About Danby: Help Your Community, and Have Fun Too!

Tuesday-Thursday, July 5-7, 9:30am-12:30pm, leading up to Danby Fun Day, Saturday, July 9 9:30am-3:00pm.

Location: Town Hall.

We will be preparing for the Danby Fun Day, including planning and preparing an entry for the parade, make T-Shirts, playing games and preparing games for the Fun Day. We will also be swimming and exploring at Jennings Pond (when lifeguard is on duty), and planting flowers at the Town Hall. On Saturday, we will march in the parade, and then help facilitate games for the day. Fun snacks for helpers will be provided!

Danby Girls Week

Tuesday and Wednesday, July 26-27, 9:30am-12:30pm, Thursday, July 28, 9:30am-3:30pm

Location: Meet at Danby Town Hall, Thursday field trip to Seneca Falls.

We will play games, take a Yoga class, and have a "spa" day outdoors with the girls. On Thursday we will take the Cooperative Extension Van to Seneca Falls and visit the Women's Rights National Historical Park and National Women's Hall of Fame.

Outdoor Explorers!

Monday and Wednesday, August 1-3, 9:30am-12:30pm, Tuesday, August 2, 8:30am-2:30pm.

Location: Meet at Danby Town Park, field trip to Floating Classroom on Cayuga Lake.

We will create a primitive village, explore the animals, amphibians, birds and plants of Danby, go Geocaching, and go on the Floating Classroom on Cayuga Lake!

Danby Dinner - Theater!

Tuesday-Thursday, August 9-11, 9:30am-12:30pm

Pot Luck and Performance on August 11, 5:30-7:30pm.

Location: Jennings Pond

We will play theater games, and practice improv skills to get to know each other, pick a story/play to perform, create costumes and a stage from natural materials, and cool off by swimming at Jennings Pond. On Thursday night, we will meet at the pond with our families for a pot luck dinner, and a performance!

Youth Farm Week

Tuesday-Thursday, August 23-25 9:30am-12:30pm, Family Pot luck on August 25, 5:30-7:00pm.

Location: Three Swallows Farm on Nelson Road in Danby. We will meet in the parking lot by the barn each week.

Activities include helping maintain the UPick fields, with other Youth Farm Members from SouthSide and LACS, games, Cooking, exploring land around farm, setting up a primitive village that we would spend time cooking and playing in.



Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Jun 30 • Thu
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Land Bank Cooperative Meeting
- Jul 2 • Sat
10am 🏛️ Dotson (Danby) Park • **Trail Clearing Day**
- Jul 4 • Mon
NOT! 🏛️ Town Board Meeting moved to 7/11 and 7/18
- Jul 7 • Thu
1pm 🏛️ Merritt Pavilion
Danby Seniors' Dinner and Meeting
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Community Council Meeting**
- Jul 9, 2011 • Sat
Danby Fun Day and Parade
- Jul 11 • Mon
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting
- Jul 12 • Tue
7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting
- Jul 13 • Wed
6:30pm 🏛️ Jennings Pond • **Local mammals & skeletons**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- Jul 16 • Sat
9am-3pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Community Yard Sale
- Jul 18 • Mon
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
- Jul 19 • Tue
7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting
- Jul 21 • Thu
3-7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Community Park Association Meeting**
- Jul 23 • Sat
2pm 🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • **Annual Block Party!**
- Jul 25 • Mon
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Conservation Adv. Council Mtg**
- Jul 27 • Wed
6:30pm 🏛️ 132 South Danby Road • **Wild Foods!**

- Jul 28 • Thu
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**
- Jul 27 • Wed
7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Sundaes on Wednesday

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 Community Park Association** 🏛️ Town Hall
3rd Thursday, 7pm.
- 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 Fire Commissioners** 🏛️ Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall
3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm.
- Danby Food Pantry** 🏛️ Federated Church
3rd Thursday, 3–7pm.
- Seniors Strength Training Group** 🏛️ Federated Church
Mondays, 9am.
- AA Meeting** 🏛️ Federated Church
Wednesdays, 7pm.
- 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