February 2013 FREE TO RESIDENTS

DANBY AREA NEWS

DANBY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Calling all parents of Danby youth! The Danby Community Council offers grants to help pay for camps, ongoing classes, and other programs that enrich your child's life. You may apply for up to \$100 per year per child.

Funding for this program is provided by the United Way and the Town of Danby. Applicants must live in Danby at least half-time and be 21 years of age or younger at the time the program starts.

Grants will be given for the youth to attend any type of educational or recreational program, with priority given to developmental rather than recreational programs. Payment will be made directly to the program by check.

Applicants must fill out a confidential application form providing details about the program, including location, dates, and cost. If you have a child attending a program in February or March, please send your application in ASAP.

Starting in March, applications will be pooled and grants awarded quarterly. The deadlines are March 15 for programs beginning April-June; June 15 for programs beginning July-Sept; September 15 for programs beginning Oct-Dec; and December 15 for programs beginning Jan-Mar 2014. Priority will be given to families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, per ICSD guidelines.

Foranapplication, contact Julie Clougherty at 607.272.7189 or [janderty@yahoo.com]. You can also find one on the bulletin board in Danby's Town Hall.

WEST DANBY: LOCAL HISTORY EXPO

Submitted by Peter Fraissinet, West Danby Community Association

West Danby is planning a "Local History Expo" (details still in the works) for 3pm on Sunday, February 17, in the West Danby Fire Hall on Sylvan Lane. There will be photographs and artifacts galore, focusing on Danby and West Danby and adjacent locales.

Wayne Myers will share some of his photos and give a short presentation on the Fire of 1934 (or, why there are few old trees below Thatcher's Pinnacles). Ross Cortright will tell us about the days when Finnish families settled in the area.

—cont'd on page 7 ⊃

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS GALORE!

Submitted by George Jakubson and Marrell Cortright

When it seems as though the winter will never end, you can look forward to good food and good company. Head for your Fire Companies for Pancake Breakfasts!

Two gatherings are planned at the Danby Volunteer Fire Company, 1780 Danby Road, on Sundays, 8-11am, February 24 and March 24.

Another two get-togethers—with holiday themes—are happening at the West Danby Fire Company, 47 Sylvan Lane, also on Sundays, 8-11am.

The Sweetheart's Pancake Breakfast celebrates Valentine's Day a bit early, on February 10, and the St. Patty's Day Breakfast happens, luck of the green, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

The menu and price varies slightly between locations, but you can usually expect pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs made to order, homefries, coffee, tea, and juice. Yes, you can have *all* of them! West Danby asks for \$6.50 for adults with discounts based on age (in both directions).

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February 2013

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Text submissions:

Send text in the body of an Email message (**not** as an attachment); 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 hardcopy graphics.

Deadline is the 15th of the month. Materials may be accepted later if time allows. Submissions should generally not exceed one page. We cannot print political material or letters of opinion.

The Danby Area News (DAN) is a publication of the Danby Community Council (DCC) produced by contract with the Town of Danby. All statements are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, sponsors, the DCC and its officers, or officials and employees of the town of Danby All works remain © of the contributors. Please provide a SASE if you wish to have materials returned. The DAN and DCC are not responsible for typographic or other errors.

We would like to thank these sponsors for their help:

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Danby News Notes

Submitted by Ted Crane

Submission Guidelines: Have a look at the "Danby News" section of the Town of Danby web site, [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*.

You'll learn what is, and isn't acceptable material for publication. If it's acceptable, we'll make an effort to include it; *generally, we print everything we receive*! You'll find hints about how to prepare a submission. Following these guidelines makes the editing and layout easier.

A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page.

Town Hall: Computers for Public Access

Three computers for use by the public have been installed in Town Hall. You can cruise the web with them and check your web-based Email. There are DVD drives to view presentations and other DVD media.

If you're new to computers, one-on-one introduction/how-to is available. Contact me at 607.273.8678.

DANBY WEB SITE

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

Meeting agendas, minutes, and relevant documents. Happenings in Danby. Everything in a nutshell.

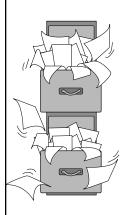
Town Clerk's Desktop

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Veteran's Property Tax Exemption

We started 2013 off by enacting a long-awaited local law granting real property tax exemptions to honorably discharged veterans under New York's *Alternative Exemption* program. The Town Board passed this local law during its first meeting of the year, on January 14.

The exemption will not affect Town of Danby taxes until next year, 2014, when it reduces real property tax for vets from the Spanish-American War up through



Persian Gulf Conflicts. It also includes those who served during the Cold War and un-remarried surviving spouses of a veteran.

The law offers several levels of exemption, based on dates of service and what level of service the veteran experienced. The highest level is extended to those veterans who have received a service-connected disability rating from the Veterans Administration. The amount is based on the VA's disability rating with a maximum

exemption of \$60,000. The lowest level is offered to honorably discharged veterans who served during the Cold War: 15% of assessed value with a maximum exemption of \$12,000.

Applying for this tax exemption is not difficult. Veterans who already receive an exemption on their County taxes don't need to do anything; the County Assessment Office already has this information and will automatically enroll them in the local exemption. All other veterans need to apply directly to the Assessment office for the Town tax exemption. Forms are available at the County Assessment Office and in the Danby Town Clerk's Office; a copy of each veteran's DD214 discharge papers is also required. *All paperwork must be in to the Assessment office by March 1, 2013 to qualify for a 2014 exemption.* Feel free to call our office, 607.277.4788, with any questions.

Looking Back at 2012

The Town Clerk's Annual Report has an interesting "snapshot" of activity in the Town offices. Aside from Property Taxes, the Town's three greatest sources of revenue (all accepted at the Clerk's office window) are dog license renewals, sporting license sales, and building permits and planning fees.

Thanks in great part to the new system of sending out renewal reminders for Dog Licenses issued to Danby residents, we have a much more accurate count of current dog licenses in the Town. Under the old system, the average year between 2004 and 2009 saw licenses issued to 396 dogs. In 2010, our dog enumeration extended the count to 566 pups.

By 2012, with the enumeration completed and the new system in place, 636 dog licenses were issued. These licenses generated \$8,451, with \$7,602 retained by the Town (State law mandates a payment of \$849 to the State Animal Population Control Fund). These license fees offset a portion of the cost of staff time and the Statemandated Tompkins County Animal Control contract.

Many people visit the Town Clerk's office to purchase Sporting Licenses, such as those required for fishing and hunting. Danby's income from DECALS (Department of Environmental Conservation Automated License System) has generally remained steady, with a slight decrease due, perhaps, to an increasing number of hunters with life-time licenses. Unlike Dog License fees, almost all of the DECALS money goes to the State; of \$7,403 collected in 2012, only \$399.50 remained in Danby.

Compared to Niagara Falls, or even the City of Ithaca, only a small number of Marriage Licenses are issued in the Danby Town Hall. It was my joy to issue twelve licenses to couples in 2012. This was just under the high of fourteen marriage licenses issued last year, the first year when same-sex couples could legally marry.

The figures for Building Permits, Planning Fees, and hearings before the Danby Board of Zoning Appeals give an outline of the building and development trend in Danby. In this respect, 2012 held close to the recent average. Fifty eight permits for new construction and building renovations were issued, the exact same number as 2011, yielding \$7,693.80 for the Town. The number of permits implies that construction in Danby continues at the moderate, steady pace set in the past decade. This is a reduction from a high between 2002 and 2004, when almost eighty permits were issued each year.

In the meantime, we are still collecting taxes. Through the end of February, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 10am-1pm on Saturdays. Please note that the office will be closed the Saturday of President's Day weekend, February 16. As always, we are closed on Thursdays and Sundays, and the chocolate bowl remains well supplied.

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

Danby Aquifer Groundwater:

A Presentation by Todd Miller

Submitted by Kathy Halton and Kelly Morris

Todd Miller, a hydrologist from the U.S. Geological Survey, is returning to the Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, at 7pm on Thursday, February 21 to share the final results of his research into the water resources and aquifers of Danby...with Danby residents.

Last time around, he gave us a peek at the preliminary results of the research into our aquifers, along with their significance to Town development, planning, and preservation.

Officially, his presentation is entitled, Geohydrology of the Aquifer in the Upper Buttermilk Creek and Danby Creek Valleys, Town of Danby, but Todd knows how to turn this technical subject into something that everyone can easily understand. Todd's talks are accompanied by great maps showing the town and its water resources.

Highlights of the groundwater study—started in 2006 and now complete—include the geologic origin, extent, and geometry of the aquifer; direction of groundwater flow; areas where the groundwater reservoir is replenished (recharged) and areas where groundwater leaves (discharges from) the aquifer; and the quality of our water.

Water resources have an enormous impact on residents' lifestyles, settlement patterns, and economic opportunities, and are vital to public health.

This study is providing the Town with information needed to develop a strategy to manage and protect our water resources. In light of the potential for Marcellus Shale gas drilling, it also documents background conditions in the aquifer. The Town Board is beginning to consider enactment of a law to

protect Danby's water, and will base its work on the conclusions of Miller's research.

This presentation is sponsored by the Danby Gas Drilling Task Force. The public is welcome. For more information, call the Town Clerk at 607.277.4788.

H₂O News: WD Water District Update

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

On December 19, at the Regional Economic Awards Presentations in Albany, Governor Cuomo announced the awarding of a \$404,800 grant from the Community Development Block Grant program to fund the West Danby Water District's infrastructure project.

Our project was one of 52 from the Southern Tier to have been so awarded.

Congratulations to all those who have worked so hard to get this grant to replace our system's water storage tank and meters and upgrade our flushing capabilities. Those who deserve congratulations include our County Representative, Frank Proto, the staff at Town Hall, the Water Commissioners, the water operators and especially all of the district customers who completed their income surveys; we would not have been awarded funding from the CDBG program without you.

The Commissioners are now busy with the continuing work, as we begin to implement the project and administer the grant. The next step in the process is to recommend (to the Town Board) an engineering firm to design, engineer, de-

velop construction documents, to submit documents for regulatory review and approval, to prepare bidding documents, and to assist the Town in contractor selection.

We had three firms submit proposals to provide these services; among them the Commissioners selected T.G. Miller, based on its qualifications and knowledge of the project. This was presented to Town Board during its January 14 meeting.

By the way, the West Danby Water District is looking for another Com-

missioner to participate in Water District planning and decision making. The position is volunteer and requires a time commitment of less than three hours per month. The applicant must live within water district boundaries. Applications can be picked up at the Danby Town Clerk's Office.



Where does our water come from, wheredoes it go to, and how can we protect it?

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

February, days are longer, earlier. This could be a sign of optimism.

Each new year, depending on how many projects, we have been able to complete the year before, we ask the question, "What do you think the Town should be working on?"

In the past, this has led the Town to make appointments to advisory boards and committees, with the hope of accomplishing certain tasks and to provide the Town Board with advice and information it needs to make informed decisions concerning Danby. In recent years, the lion's share of feedback has come from committees.

Many residents feel the Town Board needs additional, in depth information and boots-on-the-ground feedback.

Additional information sharing groups, will be meeting during the new year. One example is the Danby Land Bank and its proposal for a biomass project. The Town is very interested in this program as a possible fuel source for our boiler in the Town Barns and as a possible way to manage and conserve our open spaces by producing a potential fuel source.

The energy group and perhaps some of the gas task force will be exploring the possibilities of entering into a project similar to the Town's solar array, namely to enter into a working partnership with Dryden and Caroline to buy solar on a large enough scale to make it affordable to the masses. More on this I hope in the months to come.

At the time I am writing this, the County's Broadband Committee reports that we have not heard—one way or another—about the pending grant application.

The Aquifer study, five years in the making, will be available to the public this month. I hope that as many of you as can, will join us at the Town Hall for an exciting presentation of what's underneath us all.

This will be a lead-in to more public forums, as the Town will be gathering information and drafting laws to try and protect this vital resource.

Community Council elections were held in January. That hard-working group has work cut out for them, to maintain a high level of programs for Danby in the face of shrinking dollars.

Whether it's the Food Pantry, Community Park, Fire Department, Land Bank, Energy Group, Gas Task

Force, or a new idea like a store/eating/gathering place, projects need community involvement to be successful. There are so many ways to be part of our community.

As always, if there is an issue the Town should address, please contact me, [supervisor@town.danby.ny.us]. \$

Danby Fire District New Pumper Truck Purchase

Submitted by Bill Halton, Fire Comissioner

Our Danby Fire District is looking to replace our two old pumper trucks that have been in service for over 20 years with new trucks furnished with fully up-to-date operating equipment.

The total cost of the two trucks (one for West Danby and one for Danby) is \$753,124. Of that amount, the District has \$300,000 in its new-equipment reserve account, but must issue bonds for the remaining \$453,124.

Voters in Danby will have an opportunity to vote on the bond resolution, 6-9pm on February 12, 2013, in the West Danby and Danby Fire Stations.

It is important to note that the commissioners are confident that paying off this bond will require no increase in property tax. The reason is that the \$485,000 bond for the construction of the West Danby Fire Station will be paid off in March 2013, allowing money previously going toward payment of that bond to be used toward the payment of the proposed truck bond.

Town Hours

Town Clerk

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm (Sat, 10am-1pm)

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.

Danby Community Library

Submitted by Patti Meyers

We have some winter books for you. We also have some cold books: someone took them without signing them out and left their book jackets on the table! Please, please return them and make sure you sign out books before you borrow them. We have a very forgiving late policy and a great need to keep track of our materials.

New Graphic Novels to arrive from Tompkins County Public Library the end of January! We also have *Net-worked: Carabella on the Run* by Gerard Jones and Mark Badger and *Beasts of Burden* by Evan Dorkin and Jill Thompson.

We will be purchasing books and DVDs from films nominated for awards this season.

Look for our outdoor bookdrop which has recently been delivered.

Thank you to the Family Reading Partnership for all you do to promote reading as well as for our new calendar!

AT THE DFC...

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Friday, February 8, 2013 5-7pm. Chicken and Biscuit, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce, Pies and Assorted Desserts, Beverage. Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.

All events at the Church, 1859 Danby Road.

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be at Noon on Thursday, February 7 in the Danby Church. It's a dishto-share luncheon.

Thank you to Bill & Judy Cuyle for hosting our January meeting! Frank Proto was our guest and spoke of the County budget and human services information. A question was raised about whom to call regarding highway issues; for County roads, Jeff Smith is the Highway Director and can be reached at 607.274.0309.

Ted Merritt has organized a trip to see the *Solid Gold 50s* music show on February 16 at the Clemens Center in Elmira. The cost is \$45 per person and there are still some tickets available. Call Ted & Connie Merritt, 607.272.3009, to sign up.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Deanna Bowles, DFD Secretary/Treasurer

Another new member! Welcome Grey Bartholomew to the Danby Volunteer Fire Company.

Broadband Update

Submitted by Ted Crane

Waiting is difficult, but it makes this update easy to write: no developments since last month. The awards announcement was expected in January.

As described in previous issues of the Danby News, a potential NYS grant would fund buildout of infrastructure to provide Broadband (high-speed) Internet service to many unserved residents of the Town of Danby.

If you're interested in the grant results, or would like other followup information, drop me a note at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or call 607.273.8678. I'll keep you up-to-date.

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

We have a full slate of events at the Ithaca American Legion this month. We will have two fish dinners, a steak dinner, and a Chicken BBQ. Our dinners have been well attended and I would like to thank all that have made it in; I urge those that have not...to stop by and try one.

We start the month off with a Steak Dinner on February 2, 5:30-7pm. It's a mouth-watering steak cooked to order, unlimited salad bar, choice of baked potato, steak fries, or onion rings, bread, dessert, and coffee or tea. All for \$12.

The SAL will be having a Chicken BBQ with a choice of 2 sides (salt potatoes, mac salad, or BBQ beans). Call or stop by for price.

On February 15, we have the first of two fish dinners. In honor of Valentines Day, we will follow the dinner with a DJ, 7-10pm, so stay and enjoy the festivities. The second fish dinner is on the 22nd. The dinner menu includes fish, fried or baked, a salad bar, choice of baked potato, french fries, or onion rings, bread, dessert and coffee or tea. It's only \$12, and don't forget that you can get a nice glass of wine from the bar to go with your meal (wine is not included in meal price).

Remember, if you are looking for a place to have a special event and the garage isn't warm enough or big enough to hold it, give us a call, 607.272.1129, and see if we can help. Think summer on these cold days and book a party in our Pavilion...wedding, banquet, or just a casual family get-together. We have the room!

COMMUNITY PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

Dotson Park, Danby Park, DCPA...is anyone confused? Forgive me if I repeat myself, but we find that it requires repeating. Dotson Park (informally known as Danby Park) is a 90+ acre chunk of land across from the Danby Town Hall on NYS Rt.96B.

The Danby Community Park Association owns the park, not the Town of Danby. If you live in Danby, you own it, as all Danby residents over 18 years old are automatically members of the DCPA; it's a not-for-profit corporation formed expressly for the purpose of acquiring land for a community center and park in Danby.

The DCPA is all-volunteer run, receives no funding from the Town of Danby, and pays its minimal bills with grants and donations only. The Board of Directors meets monthly and we always need more volunteers, either to serve on the Board or just to help. Don't worry about being roped in and tied down—you can do as much or as little as your busy schedule allows—we're all in the same boat. You'd be amazed at what a positive impact one volunteer can have, as we were lucky enough to discover during the second half of 2012!

Now that we have the explanation out of the way, let's move on to the latest DCPA news! We have two exciting announcements. First, we invite you to have a look at our new web site, [sites.google.com/site/dotsonparkdanby/], where you can find Park news and highlights, download a map of the disc golf course and trails, or easily make a tax-deductible donation online!

Our second piece of good news: we recently received a mini-grant of \$475 from Sustainable Tompkins to build a kiosk, so you will see that going up this spring. The kiosk will help introduce and orient visitors to the park, with trail and disc golf course maps, useful information and more. We'll be building it sometime in the near future and would love to have some help with it!

We operate on a very small budget these days, and are currently trying to raise enough money through small or large donations to pay our annual insurance bill of \$1200 (due at the end of March). We hope to raise an additional \$800 or more for for park maintenance and development. Several individuals have made donations already and we're grateful for that, as it will help enable us to keep the park open.

Our fundraising efforts are being made much easier thanks to a donor who has offered a matching contribution if we raise \$1000! We encourage you to consider a donation of \$10, \$20, or whatever you can give to help us reach that \$1000 goal this month and double your money to keep this beautiful resource thriving in our Danby community. Every little bit helps! You can donate online or mail a check to Danby Community Park Association, c/o LAP, Inc., 309 Third Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Again, all donations are tax-deductible, and truly appreciated.

For more information, or to volunteer, Email to [dotsonpark@gmail.com] or check out the web page. You can also find us on Facebook! We hope to see you hiking, walking your dog, or playing in the snow in the park this winter!

⇒ West Danby History Expo, continued from front page

Other short presentations or displays are solicited—do you have a story or piece of local history that you think would interest others? Send Email to [pf13@cornel1.edu] or phone 607.564.0030 (most evenings) and we'll try to work you in.

This promises to be very interesting for anyone with curiosity about times past in our area, and how things came to be the way they are now. Expect some surprises!

Snacks and finger food provided. A short Annual Meeting of the West Danby Community Association will directly follow this event, and of course all are welcome to stay for that as well.

Info About Aging Services

Are you wondering about services for older adults? From questions about Medicare, to concerns about an older relative, the staff at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging can help you.

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging offers information on a wide variety of services for older adults and their caregivers. If our office cannot help you, we can refer you to others who can help.

Please call the Tompkins County Office for the Aging at 607.274.5482, or visit [www.tompkins-co.org/cofa].\$

Danby Area News: Event Calendar

Feb 2 • Sat

5:30pm American Legion • Steak Dinner

Feb 6 • Wed

6:30pm Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Feb 7 • Thu

Noon Danby Federated Church • Seniors Meeting
7pm Town Hall • Community Council Meeting

Feb 8 • Fri

5-8pm 🕰 Danby Federated Church

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Feb 10 • Sun

8-11am @ West Danby Fire Hall

Annual Sweethearts Breakfast

Feb 11 • Mon

7pm 🙀 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

7pm 🙀 Danby Fire Hall • Fire Dep't Meeting

7pm 🙀 West Danby Fire Hall • WD Fire Dep't Meeting

Feb 12 • Tue

6-9pm 🔁 Danby & W.Danby Fire Halls

Voting on Bond to Purchase New Fire Trucks

7pm 🔁 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

Feb 13 • Wed

7pm Town Hall • Gas Drilling Task Force

Feb 15 • Fri

5:30pm American Legion • Fish Dinner / DJ music

Feb 17 • Sun

3pm @ West Danby Fire Hall

Danby History Expo

Feb 18 • Mon

7pm Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

Feb 19 • Tue

7pm West Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

Feb 21 • Thu

3-6pm Danby Federated Church • Food Pantry

7pm Town Hall • Park Association Meeting

7pm 🕰 Town Hall

Danby's Aquifer: Presentation by Todd Miller

Feb 22 • Fri

5:30pm American Legion • Fish Dinner

Feb 24 • Sun

8-11am Danby Fire Hall • Pancake Breakfast

Feb 25 • Mon

1-2pm Danby Federated Church • Mobile Food Truck 7:30pm Town Hall • Conservation Adv Council Mtg

Feb 28 • Thu

7pm Town Hall • Planning Board Meeting

Mar 6 • Wed

6:30pm Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Mar 7 • Thu

Noon Danby Federated Church • Seniors Meeting
7pm Town Hall • Community Council Meeting

Mar 10 • Sun

2am All of Danby • Clocks Spring Forward

Jul 13, 2013 • Sat • Danby Fun Day and Parade

ONGOING EVENTS

Danby Community Library Open Town Hall Saturdays, 10am—Noon, Wednesdays, 1:30–3:30pm, and when the **Open** sign is out!

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

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

Seniors Strength Training Group Federated Church Mondays and Thursdays, 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