



DANBY AREA NEWS

BRINGING SOLAR HOME!

Submitted by Camille Doucet, Solarize Tompkins SE

If you have not heard about us yet, Solarize Tompkins SE (SE for Southeast) is a grassroots initiative in Caroline, Dryden, and Danby. We're helping folks over the financial and logistical barriers towards a lower cost, carbon-free energy future. Take advantage of our free solar education, bulk-purchase prices, a large Park Foundation grant, government incentives, and tax credit through our quality process and product for homeowners, businesses, farms, and municipalities interested in adopting solar electric (PV) and/or solar thermal (hot water) systems.

If you are curious in getting more information about a solar installation, please visit [SolarizeTompkinsSE.org] and fill our no-obligation interest survey, or attend one of our six public meetings. Community interest has been high and we are already approaching 78% of our ideal number of interested residents.

We have evaluated NYSERDA-certified solar installer proposals to find the best fit. Our chosen installer(s) will be introduced and engaged during our six public meetings. We will detail solar options, explain the

—continued on page 6 ➔

FUN DAY 2013: CHINESE AUCTION

Submitted by Sharon Gaden and Paula Carlisle

The hugely popular Chinese Auction will be a big part of Fun Day 2013. For those not familiar, there are items on display and you purchase a raffle ticket to place in the box of the item you would like to try to win. As Fun Day winds down, a drawing is held to determine each winner. Winners need not be present. If you win a prize we will contact you to pick it up. There is wide variation on what's

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DCC CONCERT: JOHNSON GIRLS

Submitted by Bob Strichartz

The next concert in the Danby Community Council's free Concert Series will be a rousing folk trio featuring two of the Johnson Girls, Bonnie Miller and Joy Bennet, joined by baritone Chris Koldewey (who also plays guitar, banjo, concertina, bones, and more). It's happening on Sunday May 19, 3pm, in the Danby Town Hall.

They will perform sea chanteys, ballads and laments, Appalachian, Anglo and Irish songs, all with lots of opportunities to sing along.

The Johnson Girls have been wowing audiences around the US, Canada, the UK, France, and the Netherlands for the past 16 years with their hair-raising harmonies, tender ballads and laments, and rousing chanteys. Chris Koldewey is a chanteyman at Mystic Seaport during the summers.

The Danby Community Council's Concert Series receives grant support from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County.

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BROADBAND BUILDOUT IN DANBY

Submitted by Ted Crane

Clarity Connect, which recently received grant funding from New York State to build out a wireless Broadband infrastructure in Danby (and, oh yes, other areas in Tompkins and Cayuga Counties), is moving on the project.

Clarity has asked potential subscribers to the program to indicate their interest (not to commit, just to say, "I'm interested") by filling out an online form. If you're interested but not yet online, you could call them at 607.257.8268.

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May 2013

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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 hard-copy 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.

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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 in-

clude 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.

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

Town Board meetings, public hearings, court cases, youth programs, concerts and recitals, book sale, community meetings, and presentations about our aquifer. There's a great variety of things happening in the Danby Town Hall. The building and grounds, which lie close to the geographic center of Danby, are its governmental and operations center. Keeping track of all of these meetings and events and assuring that different groups are able to use the center without stepping on each other's toes is part of my job.



The Town Clerk (in Danby, at least) is also the *Keeper of the Calendar*. The first priority, of course, is to provide meeting space so town government business can take place. The Town Board meets twice a month to take care of regular business—including oversight of the Town's financial obligations (reviewing bills and vouchers, approving expenditure of funds, awarding bid contracts for larger projects and overseeing the progress of the same). The Planning Board meets once a month. These are

vital activities, even if they sometimes seem dry, esoteric, or microscopically complex in their details.

The Town Hall also houses the Danby Town Court. Every Tuesday evening, our local Justices deal with the business of minor cases related to traffic violations and violations of local ordinances. Once a month, usually the first Tuesday, more complex cases involving the office of the Tompkins County District Attorney are heard by the court. Occasionally a full court case involving a jury is held in Town Hall.

Not all of the activities at the Town Hall are so serious. The Danby Community Council sponsors youth programs and concerts throughout the year. The Town Hall regularly rings with the laughter of children during Wednesday afternoon programs. Simone Lackey leads young people in a wide variety of creative and exploring activities, both indoors and across the street in the Community Park.

Recently, the staff in Town Hall, spellbound by small and large birds of prey shown by Cornell's Raptor Program, joined the youth group for a school-break educational program. The raptor program will be repeated in June, and all Danby residents are invited.

The 2013 concert series has begun with a family-friendly Storytelling program (accompanied by cello) in April. The May concert will venture into nautical music, with a concert by *The Johnson Girls*. Later in the year we can expect additional classical, folk, or jazz music concerts. These concerts generally take place on Sunday afternoons and are open to all.

The Town Hall serves the needs of the community in many ways. Our local library/reading room is also a computer center with Wi-Fi and computer terminal access. Some residents spend time here regularly, using the Internet for their jobs, to check Email, or to search for information.

Spring Rabies Clinics: not in Danby

Many pet owners in Danby rely on free rabies clinics, provided by the Tompkins County Health Department, to keep their cats and dogs up-to-date on rabies vaccinations. Danby usually hosts one of these clinics, but that event is *not* on the calendar this spring. Other clinics are in Lansing on May 1, Ithaca on May 8, Enfield on May 9, and Dryden on May 15. If you have a question, call the County's Environmental Health Division, 607.274.6688.

Office Hours

In May, as Spring blooms, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. With summer hours in effect, we will be closed on Saturdays from May into August. As always, the Clerk's is closed on Sundays and Thursdays. And yes, there's still chocolate in the bowl by the Clerk's office window.

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

DANBY FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Deanna Bowles, Secretary Treasurer, DFD

The Danby Fire District welcomes Evan Fitzpatrick to the Danby Volunteer Fire Company and two new members to the West Danby Fire Company: Anne Becker and Christopher O'Hara. Thank you all for your dedication to serve our community. ❁

NO MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Mobile Food Truck, which usually visits Danby on the 4th Monday of the month, will be absent on May 27, due to the Memorial Day holiday.

The MFT will return to Danby on Monday, June 24. ❁

➔ **Broadband, continued from front page**

Clarity has said that, to some extent, the order of build-out locations will be determined by the level of interest shown. That means people who are interested might well ask neighbors to register *their* interest as well!

The online survey can easily be found on Clarity's web site, [clarityconnect.com]. Click on the "Contact Me About Wireless Internet" button.

If you already have service—e.g., Time-Warner, Verizon, etc.—and you're happy with it, don't worry, this needn't change anything for you. On the other hand, while the buildout is intended to cover only those regions where there is no other service, radio doesn't know about political or commercial boundaries. As a result, the project may give you a service choice that you didn't have in the past.

Over the past few months, a number of people have contacted me with questions about the project and its coverage. I've tried to respond with a guess at the quality of service to be expected, based on an old, preliminary map of proposed coverage (the same map that was exhibited during the Broadband Info meeting in Danby on 10-Oct-2012). I can still do this. Contact me at 607.273.8678 or [danbybroadband@tedcrane.com].

Clarity Connect is surely the best source of information about this project, but here's a summary of answers to frequently asked questions.

What Does It Cost and What Do I Get?

Monthly cost for basic service is between \$35 and \$45; paying quarterly or annually is less expensive than paying monthly. Discounts for income-limited households are available. There is a one-time installation fee. Basic service provides about 6Mbps bandwidth; this is comparable to or better than our local cable service. There is no bandwidth cap! Higher speed service—up to and beyond 32Mbps—is available, particularly where there is strong signal coverage. It costs more.

When?

Buildout should take about six months, once the funding stream is in place. A more specific timeline may be available soon.

How Do I Get My Signal?

An antenna is mounted on your house (or any other unmoving object). This antenna points at one of the "towers", and the "tower" has to be visible to the antenna. The higher up the antenna can be mounted, the better the chance for a good signal. The wireless signal can pass through some thickness of trees, but the fewer the better.

What's a Tower?

Most of the communication towers used by this wireless system will be no more than telephone poles, and most of them will be located near roadways (where electricity is easily available).

The system will also utilize a few *existing* "big" towers, like the one on Curtis Road.

What If I Can't Quite See A Tower?

Danby is full of hills and valleys, and some houses are in locations that do not have a good line-of-sight view of any of the proposed "towers". Sometimes, installing the wireless antenna on a telephone pole "tower", adding a few extra feet of height, can make a big difference. Clarity has confirmed that the grant funding includes—in a limited number of cases—the cost of installing that telephone pole! If you're in a marginal coverage situation...you have a huge incentive to register your interest promptly.

What Happens If I See Several Towers?

This is a "fixed wireless" system. Your antenna is aimed at only one tower, and each tower is configured to serve only a limited number of antennas. Your signal will not be lost because the tower you're talking to becomes too busy.

Cellphone-based wireless systems, a.k.a "mobile broadband" work differently. If you're moving, or if a tower becomes too busy, your connection can be re-routed to any available tower. If a handoff fails, your connection drops. This doesn't happen in a fixed wireless system.

What If My Neighbor Can See A Tower?

If one household in a cluster of houses can "see" a "tower", a repeater can be installed to serve the other houses. The repeater might be installed on a telephone pole (see above). Yes, each household has to pay for service, but this option allows service to extend into otherwise unreachable locations. That's more incentive to get your neighbors involved!

Why Isn't My Neighborhood Covered?

In most cases, it's because an existing provider claims that service is available. OK, you know better than that but, to minimize the chance that one of these providers would complain and try to block the grant, the build-out aimed to provide service *only* where there is no existing coverage. Then there are cases where a provider offers service, but only after the customer agrees to pay a substantial installation fee. And, sometimes, the terrain prevents a clear line-of-sight to a "tower". In all of these cases, it's worth checking whether the installation of a telephone pole in your neighborhood will help. ❄

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

An initial “interest” survey of potential wireless broadband customers is online. Eventually, your interest will lead to specific information from Clarity Connect, and you will be able to sign up for service. I encourage you to visit the survey page (see separate article in Danby News). I am concerned that some of you might be “out of the loop”, information-wise, and I want to be sure you are aware of this exciting new program. Your feedback is needed to see what can be done to include you, and this can only happen if we know who you are!

The County Broadband Committee met in late April, and was given its first major post-grant-award update. As you may have heard, almost all coverage in the Towns of Caroline and Enfield was omitted from the grant award; while some Caroline residents will be served by the Danby coverage, a few Danby residents may be affected by the “Caroline gap”. Right now, talks are underway to get a handle on this loss.

I know this is slow going and—for all of you who are waiting patiently for this service—I am still optimistic that the buildout will happen this year.

Solar panels are still on schedule for installation this month at Town Hall. On the Solar-Power-At-Home front, informational meetings (in Danby and West Danby, and around the County) are scheduled during May by the Solarize Tompkins project (see separate article). Like the Broadband project, Solarize asks that you respond to show interest; your response doesn't commit you to participate.

The Town Budget has been on our Board meeting agenda lately. We have been in contact with the State Comptroller, and the Board was given information that they made available to us. This checklist is a way for the Board to more accurately isolate the different checks and balances within Municipal Law, and should result in a more useful way for the Board to monitor the Town's finances. We will be setting up some working sessions for the Board, and these should put us in a more enlightened state when, later during the summer, we roll into budget season.

We should also be hearing back from the courts on the legality of the Town of Dryden's ban on fracking; it may be a bellwether for our own ban on large-scale industrial activity. The hearing was held in Albany a couple weeks before this writing, so between now and the first part of June we should know whether we were successful or not.

We are holding a public hearing in West Danby on May 8, to move the Water District project forward. I hope to see you all there.

The Town Board approved additional renovations for our bathrooms, and we are seeking bids for the floor of Town Hall. I believe that Town Hall represents part of our heritage, and should be taken care of as a symbol of what we were...and a statement of commitment to our future.

Town Hall is an old building, one we should feel proud of, and it gets a lot of traffic. The Town puts taxpayer money away every year for this purpose; do you believe this practice should continue? I have heard from some of you, who feel we are just throwing money away.

The Highway Department opened bids for its new truck, and the Board approved its purchases, to be paid out of money set aside for this purpose.

The County's Youth Services Department will be meeting at the end of April with interested municipal leaders. CYS will present a recent “needs” report and is soliciting feedback. These ongoing dialogs are designed to find a sustainable direction for the future.

Love the warmer weather!

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

NEW CODE OFFICE HOURS

The Code Enforcement Office has changed its hours. It will be open Monday thru Wednesday, 9am-4pm, and open Thursday and Friday by appointment only.

For information, contact [code@town.danby.ny.us] or 607.277.0799.

Town Hours

Town Clerk

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm

Highway Department

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169
Mon-Fri, 6am-2:30pm

Code Enforcement Office

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559
Mon-Wed, 9am-4pm; Thu-Fri, by appointment

Town Court

Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031
Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

Solarize

➔ *Bringing Solar Home, continued from front page*

process, and initiate enrollment. Enrollment for solar installs in 2013 will close at the end of June. Attendance at a meeting is not required to enroll. People who enroll in the program will have their sites evaluated by the installers to determine the feasibility of a solar installation.

Our goal is to transform your interest in solar energy into action!

Here's our schedule of meetings, all free and open to the public, although only residents of Caroline, Dryden, and Danby are eligible to enroll during 2013. ☘

Date	Time	Place	Address
23-Apr Tue	7-9pm	Dryden Fire Hall	26 North Street
1-May Wed	7-9pm	Varna Comm. Ctr.	943 Dryden Road
7-May Tue	7-9pm	Brooktondale Comm. Ctr.	524 Valley Road
18-May Sat	10am- Noon	Caroline Town Hall	2670 Slaterville Road
21-May Tue	7-9pm	Danby Town Hall	1830 Danby Road
29-May Wed	7-9pm	Danby Fire Station	1780 Danby Road

DANBY TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Correspondent

I look forward to receiving stories from families in the Danby, West Danby, Newfield, and upper South Hill neighborhoods, for the /Danby Town Talk/ column that appears every Thursday in the Ithaca Journal. Pictures are also welcome. Please send your story to [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or call me at 607.273.6530. Thank you! ☘

SOLAR SYSTEMS OF DANBY, PART 2

Submitted by Dan Klein

Last month I highlighted some of the 12+ homes in Danby that have solar power. Here are some more.

Tom Seaney and Nancy Medsker of 67 Marsh Road have both a solar electric system (installed last Fall) and a solar hot water system (installed 4 years ago). Tom says, "This time of year when we don't see the sun for days, it's a challenge to get excited about using solar energy. But the benefits are real when you see the water temperature on your solar storage tank get up to 150 degrees at the end of a sunny day or when you look at the electric meter and see the arrow pointing to your house as the source of the electricity instead of the grid." Tom can be contacted at [tseaney@gmail.com].

Larry and Barbara Chace of Durfee Hill Road had a solar electric system installed by Taitem Engineering last summer and are happy with it. The system provides up to 50% of their electricity, the biggest user of which is their geothermal heating system. Larry can be contacted at [rlc1@etnainstruments.com].

Zelda and Jake Blaine on Muzzy Road have had solar electric for 4 years and solar hot water for 5. "We love the systems, both are very low maintenance."

Another family in Danby, who preferred to remain anonymous, has had a solar electric system for 12 years. "We are very happy. They system has nearly paid for itself already. The State and Federal incentives are not as great now as they were when we got ours, but still worthwhile."

Guillermo Metz and Amanda Walts on Durfee Hill Road have solar electric for 8 years. Says Guillermo, "Solar electric (PV) systems are very simple, particularly when you're grid-connected (we're not and that has led to some complications with system components). I think the panels themselves are beautiful and the idea that they are collecting energy and making electricity is remarkable. We are looking into installing solar thermal." Guillermo can be contacted at 607.272.2292 or [gm52@cornell.edu].

And finally, I want to mention my solar systems. I have both solar electric and solar hot water. I love to look at the meters at the end of the day to see what we generated that day. We got a good deal from a State program for people who heat their water with electricity who want to convert to solar. To find out more about that program, or our solar systems in general, feel free to contact me, 607.272.7582 or [danbydan@hotmail.com]. ☘

AT THE WALDORF SCHOOL: JOIN THE CIRCUS

Submitted by Erin Fitzgerald

Acrobatics • Action Art • Human Pyramids • POI Group Games • Tight Wire • Flying Yoga • Hoops Juggling • Spinning Plates • Our Own Inventions

The Ithaca Waldorf School is excited to host *CircusYoga Camp*, July 15-19 9am-3pm at its new building, 20 Nelson Road in Danby. The camp will be utilizing the school's new 800-square-foot, sunlight-filled community room, and its 80 acres of fields and forest.

CircusYoga is an innovative practice that powerfully unites individuals, families and communities through a creative mixture of yoga, circus and play!

Waldorf education provides holistic learning opportunities to develop children's emotional, intellectual and social capacities. Many Waldorf schools across the country have Circus skills and games as part of their physical education programs. CircusYoga camp at IWS fits right in with stimulating children's imagination through physical games and stories, and bringing fun team building activities, where children of all abilities can feel confident and enjoy themselves.

The program is also offered at the Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts during the week of July 22-26. Each summer camp week will end with a celebration! We'll show our friends and family what we have created during our time together and invite them into a kid-led workshop of our own design.

Camper ages: 7-13 (kids 14 and up can apply to be student leaders). Camp Directors: Erin Maile O'Keefe & Amy Cohen.

Camp fee: \$225. For information, contact Tonya, 607.256.2020 or [ithacawaldorf@gmail.com]. ❄

"[Primitive Pursuits] is fun, exciting, epic! We get to play really fun cool epic games, build great forts, learn some new and important things, and the teachers are smart and sweet and brave and cheerful...it's amazing!"

-SM, age 9

Check out the Youth Programs on page 11

YOUTH GRANTS AVAILABLE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty, Community Council

The Danby Community Council has money available to help defray the cost of youth enrichment programs such as summer camps, ongoing lessons, and more. Youth must be 21 or younger and reside in Danby at least half-time. Up to \$100 per year per child is available, thanks to funding from the United Way and the Town of Danby.

We especially encourage folks who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch to apply, but no one has yet been turned away, so don't be shy! Applications are kept strictly confidential.

We're very pleased with the recent increase in first-time applications, so spread the news to friends and let us help you fund your child's summer activities! We're now accepting applications for programs in July thru September--the deadline to apply is June 15. Find applications on the Town Hall bulletin board, or contact me at [youthgrants@danbycc.org] or 607.272.7189. ❄

➔ **Fun Day 2013 Chinese Auction, continued from front page**

available and it is dependent on the generosity of donors.

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company is requesting donations for the Chinese Auction from anyone with new or gently used items, or who can offer services. Welcome donations also include handmade items such as crocheted items, quilts, sculptures, etc., or maybe you'd like to donate a theme basket. Here are a few basket ideas: dog lover's basket, coffee or tea basket, reading basket, sports basket. The idea for a basket is unlimited.

We are grateful to business owners who in past years have donated free haircuts, oil changes, coal, gravel, grassroots tickets, restaurant gift certificates and much, much more.

The kids have their own Chinese Auction too. The ideas for a basket for the children's Chinese Auction is endless, here are a few: dress-up basket, artist basket, science basket, gardening basket, truck, planes and automobiles basket, puzzles and crafts.

All donations are greatly appreciated and help us continue to offer the popular Chinese Auction at Fun Day. If you have a donation, please contact Sharon at 607.659.3116 or [sgaden@danbyfiredistrict.org], or Paula at [pcarlisle@danbyfiredistrict.org] (subject line Fun Day). Thank you! ❄

21ST ANNUAL PLANT EXCHANGE

Submitted by Dan Klein

The 21st annual Plant Exchange will take place on Sunday May 19, 1-3pm, at the Danby Fire Station on NYS Rt.96B. This free event is an opportunity to swap, donate, and try new perennials, houseplants, seeds, annual seedlings, and anything else garden related.

It is not necessary to bring a plant in order to get a plant, nor is it necessary to stay the whole time.

It's better to divide plants in advance so they don't suffer in the heat on the day of the Plant Exchange. So start dividing perennials, planting a few extra annuals, and taking houseplant cuttings. Also, label what you bring if you can.

For more information contact Dan Klein at 607.272.7582 or [danbydan@hotmail.com]. ❁

HELP SENIORS WITH YARD WORK

Submitted by Katrina Schickel

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging maintains a list of individuals who would be willing to do yard work for senior citizens in the spring and summer months. The office is currently updating its list and is in need of more workers. If you might be interested in assisting seniors with yard work on either a volunteer or paid basis, please contact the Office for the Aging at 607.274.5482. ❁

BIG BIRDS WITH WINGS, BEAKS, AND CLAWS

Danby Youth Program participants sat spellbound in Town Hall when handlers from Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology presented a number of raptors, large and small.

The program will be repeated—and all Danby residents of all ages are invited—on a Sunday in June.

Stay tuned for this and other programs presented by the Danby Community Council! ❁



Photo: Matt Cooper

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday May 2 at 6pm. Note the change of time to evening for the summer!

Thanks go out to Priscilla Barber for leading the April meeting in Ted's absence and to Bill & Judy Cuyle for hosting. Eileen Savino, from the Office for the Aging, spoke regarding their services.

Our June meeting will be June 6 at 6pm. There will be no meeting in July, as our regular time falls on the July 4th holiday. We will meet on August 1 instead, with a BBQ at Merritt's at 4pm.

On June 26, we have a bus leaving Danby Church at 10am to go on a two-hour luncheon boat cruise on Seneca Lake. The cruise features the instrumental duo, *Finger Lakes State of Mind*. You can sign up at the next meeting or contact Margie VanDeMark for more information.

On October 1, we'll be going to see the Hank Williams *Lost Highway* story at the Merry Go Round Theater, with dinner after at the Springside Inn. Contact Ted & Connie Merritt for more information or sign up at a meeting. ❁

AT THE DFC...

Chicken BBQ

Saturday, May 25, 2013 Noon-'til. Take out or eat in. BBQ Chicken, baked beans, salt potatoes, cole slaw, rolls. Ice cream and beverage.

All events at the Church, 1859 Danby Road. ❁

FRACKING AUTHORS SPEAK

Submitted by Kathy Halton

Two authors of recently published books dealing with gas drilling came to Cornell University during April, and talked about their books and their experiences with gas drilling.

Tom Wilbur, the first speaker, writes for the *Binghamton Press and Sun Bulletin*, and has been writing about gas drilling for several years. His book is called *Under the Surface*. He was not a very good speaker, but the message he wanted to get across to the audience was a very important one. Our experience with the natural gas industry here has had one important result: to make us all much more aware of the costs and risks of energy extraction, and to force us to consider the whole process of drilling for gas and its possible impact on local communities.

Up until now, drilling has occurred in distant places where we could ignore the costs and benefits of it. Now it's in our backyards, and we are much more engaged. More importantly, we are thinking more about the larger energy questions of our day. This is a good thing, Wilbur argued. I have not read his book yet, but plan to soon. A copy of it will soon be in Danby Community Library for anyone else to read.

Seamus McGraw was more entertaining as a speaker and his book, *End of Country*, is also quite easy to read. His mother lives near Dimock, PA, and has leased her farmland to the gas industry. He described the various people who have become active in working on the gas drilling impacts in that area, and has written very well on the industrialization of this hardscrabble farming community.

McGraw's book has a good section on the development of natural gas in this country. He tries to be impartial about whether it is a good thing or not, but does not hesitate to describe the mistakes made and damage done to the land in and around Dimmock. He draws a good picture of the background of the residents of this area, and the financial stresses that these farmers are facing due to the decline of small farming in the Northeast. The book's narrative ends around 2009/10, so there are recent events that occurred that we don't hear about. This book will also be in the Danby Community Library.

Anyone who is interested in reading about this topic, and is tired of the stridency of some of the discourse in the last few years will appreciate these two authors, who are attempting to present a more neutral approach to the question. ❧

DOTSON PARK NEWS

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

By the time you read this, the newest addition to the park will be finished: a kiosk for maps and information. The kiosk was funded by a Sustainable Tompkins Neighborhood mini-grant and built by volunteers, many of them students from Ithaca College's Service Saturday program. The April 20 work party utilized locally-harvested locust that was donated and milled by longtime Danby residents! Come check it out, and take a walk or play some disc golf while you're there.

We're looking for a working, but not fancy, push lawnmower to keep the trails weed-free this summer. If you have an unused mower sitting around, taking up space in your garage or barn, please consider donating it to the park—it's tax-deductible!

We need board members! We're currently running on a skeleton crew of just three directors. Board elections will be held during our annual meeting on June 15. Terms are three years and require attendance at monthly meetings. Those who utilize the park are especially welcome. We're all busy, but please consider making a commitment to our community park by serving a term on the board. Contact me for more information at 607.272.7189 or [dotsonpark@gmail.com].

All Danby residents, 18 and older, are voting members of the Danby Community Park Association. Come to our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 15 to be part of the action. New Board member elections will be held, as well as a report of the past year's activities. Next month's issue of the Danby Area News will have more details.

Many thanks to the volunteers who came out on April 20 to help with the kiosk and other park work. And many thanks to those of you who have pitched in money to help pay our insurance bills for the year so that we can keep the park open and growing! We are an all-volunteer organization and rely on grants and donations, as we are not a municipal park and receive no funding from the Town of Danby. Please contact us about making a donation or volunteering! ❧

Anyone who is... tired of the stridency of some of the discourse... will appreciate these two authors



DANBY COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR IDEAS!

Submitted by Amanda Walts

All year long, the DCC is quietly hard at work helping to coordinate such things as youth programs, grants for area classes/camps/programs for local kids, music at Fun Day, concerts, special programs, and so much more!

This is an exciting time at the DCC as many new ideas are brewing about how to make Danby an even more lovely place to call home. And we want to hear from you! Next month in the Danby News, there will be survey asking for ideas about what types of programs, events, activities, etc. you would like to see happening.

Please take the time to complete it. Thank you in advance and stay tuned for times and dates for community meetings about the same topic. ❀

YOUTH PROGRAMS: CORRECTION

In my article on youth programs last month, I neglected to mention an important funding source for our Danby Youth Programs: Tompkins County. The County contributes close to a third of the DCC's annual youth programming budget. I apologize for the omission. —*Julie Clougherty*. ❀

INTERESTED IN BEING A FULL-TIME LIFEGUARD?

Submitted by Mary Ann Kozak

Summer is just around the corner. If you are a Danby resident, over sixteen years old, and you are interested in becoming a lifeguard for the Jennings Pond Swim Program during July and August...



contact Amy Cusimano, [amymc@twcny.rr.com], or me, [mkozak1@twcny.rr.com]. We will interview you and sponsor your lifeguard training, if you are eligible. Get a jump on the summer! ❀

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended our Annual Open House and Book Sale!

A regretful goodbye and thanks to two volunteers who are moving on:

Betsy Lamb (my co-director) and Jan Beal (who volunteered briefly but made a big effort).

We appreciate all the efforts of our volunteer corps and understand when circumstances call you away.



We are always looking for new volunteers to help out our core group who work tirelessly to keep our library going. Please leave your contact information at the library, Contact us at [library@town.danby.ny.us], [danby.community.library@twcny.rr.com] or 607.277.4200, or stop in to our monthly volunteer meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm at Town Hall.

Wanted! Overdue and "lost" books:

Jumanji (picture book) by Chris Van Allsburg
Ten Timid Ghosts on a Christmas Night (picture book)

Swapping Lives (large type fiction)
The Gods of Newport by John Jakes
The Scorpio Illusion by Robert Ludlum
Fatal Waltz (TCPL mystery)

Meet Niki Alling, local author

Niki has lived in Ithaca for 21 years and in Danby since 2004. She has a grown son and daughter and three grandchildren (one brand new!). Niki has worked with the Ithaca School district for 14 years and is currently a teacher's aide in the Belle Sherman Pre-K.

Niki began publishing her picture books last year and generously donated quite a few to the Danby Library. She wrote *How Do You Peel a Banana*, *When I Build with Blocks* and *Hearts are for Loving*, to name a few. She gets her inspiration and feedback from the kids in her life.

Niki has also written poetry and stories, and belonged to the Romance Writers of America. Rumor has it that she also has written a novella. You can borrow Niki's books from the Danby Community Library, or buy them at Barnes & Noble, online at Amazon, or through her blog at [nikialling.com]. ❀

Community Council Youth Programs May-June 2013

Danby Youth Flyer

Hi All! I am very much enjoying my new job as Danby Youth Program Manager. This past session of programs had great enrollment and was full of lots of fun, games, crafts and shared leadership. Over spring break we had an amazing visit from the Cornell Raptor program and played lots of games and warming up by a fire on a chilly day at Jennings Pond. I am excited to offer another set of programs that will run for next two months and then stay tuned for summer programs! I am also advertising a few youth employment opportunities. Happy spring!

- Simone Lackey

Program flyers and permission slips are available at the Danby Town Hall, South Hill Elementary (Ms. Sommer's office), Boynton Middle School (Main Office), and can be found at [ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby]. Questions? Contact me at 607.272.2292 x222 or [sc1223@cornell.edu].

Primitive Pursuits (Grades 3-8)

Mondays 2:30-5:30, May 6-June 10 (no pgm 5/27)

Meets at June Pollack's (43 Hornbrook Road)

Learn ancestral living skills such as shelter building, native crafts and nature awareness. Explore the outdoors, go hiking and get moving! Please dress for the weather of the day (including rain) and wear clothes that can

get dirty! Bus is available from South Hill Elementary School and Boynton.

South Hill Elementary Lunch Bunch (Grades 4-5)

Tuesdays, May 7-June 11

In-school program during recess & lunch

Come have lunch with others in your grade from Danby, play games, work on crafts and go outside on nice days. We will also get to work on service projects for school.

Fox Walkers (Grades 4-5)

Wednesdays, 2:10-5:10, May 1-June 12

Meets at South Hill Elementary and heads into the 6-Mile Creek Preserve

Get ready to walk like a fox (as silently as possible) and explore the beautiful 6-Mile Creek Nature Preserve. See blooming flowers and flowing water, listen to bird language and if we're lucky (and quiet) catch a glimpse of fox pups playing outside their den (from a distance). Please dress for the weather of the day (including rain) and wear clothes that can get dirty!

Boynton Lunch Bunch (Grades 6-8)

Wednesdays, May 1-June 5

In-school program during recess & lunch

This session we'll be working on making "Above the Influence" posters to march in the Ithaca Fest Parade! ♣

Youth Employment

Youth employment is open to any youth ages 14-17 who are looking for some first-time job experience. If you are interested in applying for any of the jobs listed below please inquire about a job application and send it in by May 13. Applications may be sent to: Simone Lackey, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850. Questions? Contact Simone (info above).

Danby Youth Program Assistant

4-6 weeks, July through August, 12-20 a week, contact for specific dates. Work alongside Simone Lackey assisting in a variety of Youth Summer Programs. Job will include working with youth mostly outdoors in the Danby area as well as going on some field trips. The right person for this job will have skills in nature sciences and awareness, crafts, theater, cooking

and food prep, and working with young people. Transportation to and from programs required.

Records Management Intern for the Danby Town Clerk's Office

One day a week, 4-6 hours. Monday or Tuesday afternoon preferred, as this person will be working closely with the Records Management Assistant as well as the Town Clerk. This job will include assisting with clerical and archival work in the Town Clerk's office. The right person for the job will have accurate word processing, data entry, and record keeping skills. Transportation to and from Town Hall required.

Youth Farm Project

Summer Farm Crew Worker

5-6 weeks, July through August, 20 hours per week. Job includes working on all aspects of a 10 acre vegetable farm, seed-

ing, transplanting, weeding, setting up irrigation systems, and harvesting. Work is 4 days a week, Tuesday through Friday, 3 days on the farm and 1 day spent in development sessions focusing on culinary skills, food justice, sustainable agriculture, and leadership development. Additional opportunities involve selling vegetables at the Congo Square Market on Friday evenings, and working on the farm on Saturdays. Opportunity for part time work into the school year. The food we grow goes to BJM's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program, ICSD, LACS, New Roots, GIAC, and Southside CC. Learn leadership skills, job skills, farm skills, and contribute to our community in a positive way. Transportation required and is available through TCAT. Visit [youthfarmproject.weebly.com/] for more information. ♣

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- May 1 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- May 2 • Thu
6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors Meeting**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Meeting**
- May 8 • Wed
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Public Hearing: West Danby Water District
- May 13 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Public Hearing: Zoning Law Amendment
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**
- May 14 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- May 16 • Thu
3-6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏠 Dotson Park • **Park Association Meeting**
- May 19 • Sun
1-4pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall Pavilion
21st Annual Plant Exchange
3pm 🏠 Town Hall
Concert: The Johnson Girls • Sea Shanteys and more
- May 20 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
- May 21 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Solarize Tompkins Informational Meeting
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- May 23 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**
- May 25 • Sat
Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Chicken BBQ
- May 27 • Mon
1-2pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Mobile Food Truck cancelled, back in June
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Adv Council Mtg**

- May 29 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Solarize Tompkins Informational Meeting
- Jun 4 • Tue
7:30pm 🏠 2353 Spencer Road
West Danby Community Association Meeting
- Jun 6 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Jun 7 • Thu
6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors Meeting**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Meeting**
- Jun 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**
- 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!
- 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

The Town of Danby has a web site with lots more info.
Check it out: [<http://town.danby.ny.us>] 🏠

Find the Danby News on the web!
[<http://town.danby.ny.us/DAN>] 🏠