## Town Info Meeting About Group Homes and Their Residents

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

The recent controversy about the opening of a Group Home on Nelson Road has opened a lot of eyes and ears around Danby. The opening was a surprise to both the Town government and to local residents, and it resulted in serious concerns. Some of these concerns were based on rumors and misinformation, and some of them could be resolved by having useful information and guidance in the first place.

As one of the steps that the Town Board is taking to address these concerns, it has scheduled a Townwide Information Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall. Danby residents can learn about why Group Homes are created, the kind of people who live in them, the laws that regulate them, and about steps that neighborhoods

can take to become involved.

We expect to have one or more representatives from mental health facilities present and Neighborhood Watch info from the Sherrif's Department. Invitations have been sent to the State Police, and to our State representatives, Barbara Lifton in the Assembly and Jim Seward in the Senate. Liz Smith, the Executive Director of Unity House will attend and answer questions (for info about Unity House and the process of choosing sites for Group Homes, call her at 315.253.6227.x320). We also expect Heather Campbell, a Danby resident and the Executive Director of Ithaca's Advocacy Center

—continued on page 6 €

# BALD HILL AND BOLD TOOLS

The pleasures and demands of living within Bald Hill, a once-thriving nineteenth century Danby farming community, are now represented by long-abandoned house foundations along a rutted seasonal road. Thanks to a thoroughgoing eight-year investigation conducted, in large part, by descendants of those resident families, the history of that community have now been recaptured.

*Bald Hill, The Lost Community* is a 274-page volume combining text and photos of people, animals, and productive farm activity. Wayne Myers, the the book's principal



## This Month Inside the Danby News:

Town Clerk's Desktop 3
Events 'Round Town' 3
West Danby Water District $\textcircled{4}$
County Legislature Update ④
Assessing Your Assessment ④
Supervisor's Update
West Danby Crafts and BBQ $\ensuremath{\mathbb{5}}$
Town Office Directory $\ldots .5$
Community Library Turns 25
Fire District Receives Grant $\textcircled{T}$
Seniors $\ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots $
Southern Tompkins Town Talk $\ . $
Revisioning Danby Market ⑧
Youth Grants $\ldots \ldots \ldots $
Danby Community Library (9)
Egg Hunt / TaeKwonDo 9
Danby Tree Walk 9
$Calendar  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  $

author, and several collaborators ("our group") chronicle the community's evolution from the initial forest removal around 1810 to a family-based farm economy that lasted until returning trees displaced abandoned farms during the economically depressed 1930s.

The book contains extensive appendices depicting, among other things, a hound dog named Al, sixteen photos of elementary school students and their teachers, and the names of the 66 teachers employed by the North and South Bald Hill schools between 1856 and 1936. There is also information concerning four Civil War soldiers whose names are engraved into the monument facing Danby's Town Hall.

It will be our privilege to meet Wayne Myers and others from "our group" in the Danby Town Hall on Sunday, April 12, 3pm. They will explain how they went about exploring wide-ranging primary and secondary resources: libraries, census records, newspapers, and how they solicited genealogy and reminiscence from fifty contributors. They walked the length of the former community, house foundation to house foundation.

—continued on page 6 🤤

#### • DANBY AREA NEWS

- April 2015 ٠ Layout: Ted Crane ٠ • **Count-n-Label Crew:** • Julie and her family: Ted and • Pamela: and others. • ٠ **Post Office Crew:** • Julie Clougherty, • DiAnna Snyder • • ٠ To contribute: • Danby Area News PO Box 6886 • • Ithaca. NY 14851-6886 • Phone: 607.273.8678 • Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com] ٠ ٠ • Text submissions: • Send text in the body of an ٠ Email message (not as an at-٠ • tachment); or mail typewritten • copy, double-spaced on white • • paper. Short handwritten ٠ submissions accepted; please • write legibly. ٠ • Graphics: JPEG preferred for ٠ ٠ photos, GIF for line graphics. • PNG also works.Check with • editor before sending hard-• • copy graphics. • ٠ Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the • month. Materials may be • ٠ accepted later if time allows. Submissions should gener-• ally not exceed one page. We ٠ • cannot print political material • or letters of opinion. • . The Danby Area News (DAN) is a • • publication of the Danby Com-• munity 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
  - 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:

### PATRON:

**ARNOLD PRINTING CORP** • 604 West Green Street • 607.272.7800 High Quality Printing Services • Recycled papers / Soy based inks Complete Digital pre-press • Family owned and operated

### **SUPPORTERS:**

ACT GREEN BE GREEN, INC. SPRAY FOAM & DENSE PACK CELLULOSE 41 Lieb Road, Spencer, NY 607.319.0766 • [foam@twcny.rr.com]

#### CAROL BUSHBERG REAL ESTATE

607.273.3400 • [carolbushberg.com] Carol Bushberg, Broker/Owner High quality customer service & innovative marketing. 25 years experience selling Ithaca area real estate. Danby resident.

### FRIENDS:

Highland Farms Boarding Kennel and Store 168 West Miller Road • 607.273.3251 [www.highlandfarmskennel.com]

Danby Federated Church "A Place for All" 1859 Danby Road • 607.272.1687 [www.danbyfederatedchurch.org] Barn-Livin' LLC Green Homes for Blue Collars [www.barnlivin.com]

Are you interested in becoming a sponsor? Help the Danby News build community! For info, contact [danbynews@tedcrane.com].

## DANBY NEWS NOTES

Submitted by Ted Crane

Submission Guidelines: Before submitting an item for the Danby News, please have a look at the Submission Guidelines. You can request them by Email from the editor at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or find them in their temporary location at [danbyny.org/DanbyNews]. 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.

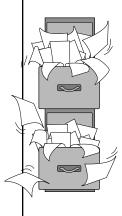
A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page.

## TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

"Hello. You've reached the office of the Clown Turk, Clown of Danby." April Fool. For several years, I've wanted to do that. If you called on Wednesday, April 1, you just might have heard me say it. We don't get many opportunities to play or be foolish in the Town Hall. People come to our desk with serious questions and serious tasks--whether paying taxes, licensing a dog, or being issued a handicap parking permit.

Speaking of taxes, note that the Town Clerk's office



does not collect local taxes after March 31. From April 1 onward, any unpaid Town and County taxes are collected by the Tompkins County Finance Office, 125 East Court Street, Ithaca. The phone number there is 607.274.5545. Second installment payments (payable at the County Finance Office) are due by July 1, 2015.

We have a serious reminder for dog owners. As per state and local law, your animals must be licensed annually. Dog licenses are sent out monthly, on the anniversary of the month in which the

original dog license was issued. Make sure that your companion's vaccines are up to date...and pay your dog license renewal on time. If you do, there is no additional fee. When you pay late, after 60 days, a late fee of \$3 per month is added to dog license cost. This additional fee helps cover extra mailing and processing costs without penalizing responsible dog owners. We have found that, during the past year, dog owners have been far more conscientious about being up-to-date with license renewals. Thank you.

The Town Clerk's office is able to offer useful help for those with disabilities that impair mobility. People who have never needed a disability parking permit may be surprised to learn that the Department of Motor Vehicles does not issue handicap parking permits. All applications are processed at the local level, by the Town Clerk where you live. Bring medical certification, in the form of a completed application form and/or signed letter to the Town Clerk's office.

Parking permits may be issued for either a temporary and permanent disability. The red Temporary Parking Permit hang tags are generally issued for up to six months (sometimes longer, per a doctor's prescription). Blue Permanent Parking Permit hang tags are issued for five years, and can be renewed as needed. Permanent permits are issued to persons who are not expected to recover from conditions such as arthritis, lung disease, use of portable oxygen, or other impairments that impose unusual hardship in getting around.

The NYS blue and red hang tags are valid in any designated space, everywhere across the state, with two exceptions. Cornell University issues its own permits. If you have a regular need to park there, you should contact Cornell Transportation. Similarly, the New York City Department of Transportation issues a City Permit that allows persons with disabilities to park at most curbsides. Designated spaces for statewide parking permits are available off-street in parking lots.

April through mid-May, the Town Clerk's office is open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 10am-Noon on Saturdays. (Saturday hours are closed after Mother's Day weekend, but may be arranged by special appointment.) As always, we are closed on Sundays and Thursdays, and there are chocolate kisses in the candy bowl.

Questions? Call 607.277.4788 or send Email to [pgoddard@townofdanbyny.org].

### **EVENTS 'ROUND TOWN**

This column appears monthly, featuring brief descriptions of events—current and upcoming months—around Danby. If you have a non-profit event that the general public is invited to...send a notice to the Danby News!

#### Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Bird with biscuit, mashed potatos, vegetables, rolls, dessert, and beverage. Free, but donation appreciated. April 10, Friday, 5-7pm. In the DFC, 1859 Danby Road.

#### Spring Craft Fair and Chicken BBQ

Coming up on April 11, in the West Danby Fire Station on Sylvan Lane. Local crafters selling their handmades and homebaked items, 10am-2pm. Chicken BBQ cooked and served by the firefighters at Noon.

#### Lunches & Games For One And All

Homemade Soup & games. Noon on April 20, in the DFC.

#### Ladies Tea

Ladies of all ages welcome in the DFC on Saturday, May 2, 4-6pm, for light refreshments and a program. Wear a hat of any type if you wish.

Please sign up ahead of time, if you can, by calling 607.272.1687 and leaving a message.

#### Danby Fun Day

Save the date! Danby Fun Day 2015 will be Saturday, July 11, 2015.

•

•

•

#### WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

The end of winter will surely figure prominently in this month's edition of the Danby News and so it will in this update from the West Danby Water District.

We had a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" branch line freeze at a depth of 63" in the beginning of March. That is roughly a foot deeper than I thought we had to concern ourselves for frost line depth in this region.

The unusually cold winter also caused a greater number of frozen meters this year than in the past. Fortunately, only one required an entirely new meter, while the others were repaired by replacing cracked bottom plates.

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, County Legislator

#### The Sparkler Law

In November 2014, New York State passed a law that allowed the sale of sparklers. However, the law does not apply automatically. Instead, each county must decide for itself if it wants to allow the sale of sparklers within its borders. Sales would only be allowed from June 1 to July 5, and from December 26 to January 2, only from NY State licensed retailers, and only to people eighteen years of age or older.

Sparklers are defined in the law in 370 words, a definition which spells out three different types. In case you are not familiar with the term, sparklers are hand-held devices that produce a shower of sparks when ignited.

This law is characterized by those in favor of it as a personal choice and as a local economic issue.

One group that is opposed to this law is the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. They point out

#### ASSESSING YOUR ASSESSMENT Submitted by Ted Crane

Sublittled by Ted Challe

In mid-March, a lot of Danby residents received envelopes with an ominous return address: Department of Assessment. Nothing from that address is junk mail.

I wanted to see how my reassessment compared to other folks. That led to an interesting bit of research. I would like to share some of what I learned. It softens the numbers a bit and explains a bit of what's happening. All of this information is publically available if you know where to look...or ask. Moody and Associates completed its work on the pump house during March 16-18. They cleaned

the well and installed a submersible pump. We also have a backup submersible in storage, two new 2" valves to replace leaking gate and check valves, and a repaired concrete pad where the pump shafts are set. This work will complete our grant funded water project.

We have been continuing the long process of ridding the kinks of synching of the new billing software with the

meter reading software. It may be that we will finally be able to bill using it this billing period.

That is the news from the West Danby Water District. 💲

that sparklers are responsible for over 3,000 emergency room visits a year. And they cite statistics that more than one-quarter of fireworks injuries are to children under fifteen.

By the time you read this, the Tompkins County Government Operations Committee will have voted on whether or not to advance this law to the full County Legislature. If it does go to the full legislature, there will be a public hearing held, probably sometime in April. If this is an issue you want to comment on, check the Tompkins County web site (google 'Tompkins County meetings') or contact me directly.

Sometimes we deal with seemingly small issues like sparklers. But it's important to me to spend time thinking about all angles of a thing before voting on it, and to hear from (607.272.7582 or [danbydan@hotmail.com]) any residents who want to comment.

The Tompkins County Department of Assessment (TCDoA) is in charge of assessing properties; the Town of Danby has nothing to do with that effort. The DoA takes pride that Tompkins is the, "only true countywide assessing unit in New York State." In some counties, assessments may not have changed since the Civil War. Whether or not the modern approach is a good thing, it means you can get answers very quickly. All of the assessment data are online.

*Imagement Online* [property.tompkins-co.org/] can be used to compare old and new assessments on a —continued on page 8  $\supset$ 

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

It has been a long winter and people are frustrated with all that they have had to endure during a winter full of relentless cold and snow. With that in mind, I was still pretty overwhelmed during the Town Board meeting on Monday, March 16.

The issue was the impending opening of a Group Home on Nelson Road. That's as much as we knew, going into the weekend of March 14 but, by Monday, we had also learned that the mix of developmentally disabled individuals included two who are registered sex offenders. We had also learned that the neighborhood's existing residents were planning a confrontation with The Town Board.

I scrapped the agenda and invited representatives from Unity House, the non-profit organization behind the effort to open the group home, and the County Sheriff's Department, which is responsible for monitoring sex offenders, to attend the meeting.

The residents were outraged, frightened, and concerned, and made no bones about their it. At times, the meeting felt out of control.

The Town of Danby has no legal authority to regulate group homes like the this one. Both Federal and State laws supersede any potential Town Law on this topic. Nevertheless, the Town has become the focus for residents' concerns.

Some residents who attended the meeting felt that it was not the proper forum for the discussion to take place, as the Town Board already had a meeting agenda

## West Danby Craft Fair and Chicken BBQ

Submitted by Marrell Cortright

The West Danby Fire Department's Annual Spring Chicken BBQ and Craft Show will be on Saturday, April 11, 10am-2pm. The chicken will be ready around Noon.

Many area crafters will be there, selling their handmades and homebaked goodies and Finnish Bread. Coffee and donuts are for sale first thing in the morning. The BBQ is cooked and served by the firefighters of West Danby. with several important items to deal with. Although it was a difficult meeting to run, I would not have had it otherwise. Residents need to feel that their government hears them, that they have a forum to express themselves and be heard. The emotion and anger needed a place to vent.

Some say that this issue could have been handled differently. If the Town had been informed in advance, if it had been presented with full disclosure about the Unity House's intentions and with a profile of the likely residents of the Nelson Road home, we would have encouraged and participated in a proactive program to inform local residents.

The Monday meeting also brought out the question of whether Nelson Road was the only possible location for such a facility. This question echoed others that we have heard recently. The Town has had land use regulationszoning--for years, and over and over the same theme recurs, separating emotion from the laws that govern Town decisions.

Being a Board member and a custodian of the Town's best interests has its good days and its not so good days. I believe everyone on the Town Board has been repeatedly confronted by the Town's residents' feelings on the one hand and the Law on the other. We feel the emotion but we are compelled to understand and follow the law, even when the law tells us we cannot do anything at all. It is not always what we want to hear, but listen we must.

As always, if there is an issue the Town should address, please contact me, [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org].

## **Town Office Info**

Clown Turk • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org] Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559 Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-Noon Highway Department • [highway@townofdanbyny.org] 93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169 Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm Code Enforcement Office • [code@townofdanbyny.org] Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559 Mon-Wed, 9am-4pm; Thu-Fri, by appointment Town Court • [courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org] Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031 Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

#### • DANBY AREA NEWS

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

.

#### Bald Hill and Bold Tools, continued from page 1—

Wayne Myers will be in the Danby Town Hall on Sunday, April 12, 3pm. In addition to tales from and about "the book", look forward to seeing exhibits from his extensive collection of hand tools and artifacts. Have a hands-on experience with the original cordless implements. The commitment and coordination shown by Myers and "our group" in this eight-year-long grassroots enterprise was a pronounced accomplishment...especially while also otherwise employed.

This occasion is being cosponsored by the Danby Community Council and the Danby Community Library.

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY TURNS 25!

Submitted by Patti Meyers

The Danby Reading Center (now the Danby Community Library) opened its doors in April 1990. When the FingerLakes Library System discontinued its rural Bookmobile services, we were able to establish the Reading Center in the Danby Town Hall with the help of community petitions, the support of Frank Proto, our County Representative, and the Danby Town Board.

Donna Decker and her son, Matthew, were instrumental in bringing this request to the Town Board and the Finger Lakes Library System Board of Trustees. Matthew completed his Eagle Scout Project by working as a volunteer at the Reading Center and building nine bookshelves for the books. You can still see them today in the library.

In 1992, the Tompkins County Public Library assumed responsibility for oversight and, since then, we have become The Danby Community Library, run by volunteers and supported by the Town of Danby. You might remember a brief time, while the Town Hall underwent renovations, when the library was housed on Gunderman Road.

We are proud of our collection of Fiction and NonFiction Books for children and adults, books on tape and CD, and VHS and DVD films. We have a rotating collection of items from Tompkins County Public Library that changes every three months. As always, we could not exist without our excellent volunteers and the support of the Danby Town Board and the Danby Community.

Happy 25<sup>th</sup> to the Danby Community Library!

\$

#### Group Homes, continued from page 1—

to discuss the presence of sex offenders in residential neighborhoods.

Heather has provided a brief statement as a preview of what you might learn during the meeting.

The last news you want to receive is that a sex offender has moved in next door. Upon hearing such unwelcome news, your sense of security is likely shaken. You want your neighborhood to be safe. What can you do? Here are five safety tips to keep in mind when you are concerned about sex offenders in your neighborhood.

1. Remain Calm. Learn the facts about sexual abuse and sexual assault. Many people who have been arrested and convicted of a sexual offense pose a minimal threat to anyone in the neighborhood. Counseling and supervision are generally effective and reduces the threat of re-offending.

2. Safety Plan. Create a family safety plan. Do this whether you live next door to a known sex offender or not. Your children and family need to know what to do if anyone approaches them sexually. Remember that sexual abuse is most likely to happen with someone you already know and trust.

3. Engage Respectfully. Communicate respectfully with others in your community. Attend public meetings. Ask questions. Learn more about the sex offender and how they will be supervised by probation or parole. Be an active part of the community prevention plan.

4. Pay Attention. Learn about the restrictions placed on the offender. If you notice anything suspicious or inappropriate by the offender notify the police or probation/parole officer.

5. Don't Wait. Most sex offenders are not identified in our neighborhoods. Sexual offenses are one of the most underreported crimes. Authorities cannot notify you about most people because they have not been identified. Don't wait to be notified. Talk to friends and family now. Make sexual safety a priority in every neighborhood, all of the time.

For more information on what you can do, visit [stopitnow.org] or [enoughabuse.org]. If you have questions, are concerned for the safety of yourself or someone else, or if you are a survivor of sexual abuse who could use support, call the Advocacy Center's 24-hour hotline 607.277.5000 or visit [theadvocacycenter.org].

• • • •

. . . . . . . . . . . . . .

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

•

### Danby Fire District Receives *Firehouse Subs Foundation* Grant

Submitted by Edward Kokkelenberg, Fire Commissioner

The Danby Fire District contains two Fire Companies, both volunteer. One is located on Route 96B in the Town of Danby, and the second on Sylvan Lane in West Danby. The two companies have about 65 volunteers, 30 of which are actual firefighters with the rest being support personnel.

Each firefighter is required to be properly equipped with protective gear including safety shoes, gloves, goggles, safety glasses, etc. The State of New York requires Fire Fighter Turn Out or bunker gear be replaced every ten years.

Turn out coats and pants are high tech items with very high temperature protection, water and abrasion resistance, safety connections, etc. to protect the wearer.

We recently ordered six sets of coats, pants and a thermal imaging camera costing about \$21,000 all

together. The Firehouse Subs Foundation stepped forward and gave the Fire District a \$20,687 grant to help us offset these costs.

The firefighters, the Chiefs, and the Commissioners extend a big "Thank You" to the Firehouse Subs Foundation. \$

Cost to Da	tfit a Fir	efighter	
Helmet	500		
Hood	35		
Radio	800	- 463	
Breathing Apparatus	7,000	-	
Pants and Coat	1,600		
Gloves	100	1	
Boots	175	-	
Total \$10,210			
Volunteering? PRICELESS!			

### DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, April 2, at Noon in the Danby Church. All seniors 55 and over are welcomed to join us for the dish to share luncheon. In May, we'll move to the 6pm meeting time.

Alice Humerez reported that the travel committee has three trips lined up

- April 22 to the Susan B. Anthony House & Museum and the Women's Rights National Historic Park
- June 18 to the Cortland Country Music Park for a dinner show and dancing
- September 15 to the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse for *The Calamari Sisters' Big Fat Italian Wedding*

The March meeting was hosted by Delores Berghorn and John and Margie VanDeMark. We welcomed three new members to the group. Ted did three raffles with gift cards as prizes.

#### SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Columnist

Even through the rough winter we experienced, I was receiving great stories for my column from Danby, West Danby, Newfield, Brooktondale, and upper South Hill. Keep them coming, please, and feel free to send me information about any of your events that you would like me to share with readers.

> Spring is truly around the corner, and you might have a special graduate that you would to give a shout out to. I love those kinds of additions to the column!

My granddaughter Marci, who grew up in Danby and attended South Hill School, will be one of those High School graduates this year. Where has the time gone? I bet Mrs. Connie Merritt has lots of fond memories of "her little kids" through the years, now all grown up!

Thank you for reading the column, now called Southern Tompkins Town Talk, each Thursday in the Ithaca Journal, and thank you for sharing your stories. This column is your column. Contact me at [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or 607.273.6530. •

•

•

•

. . . . . . . . . . . . .

• • • • • • • •

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

.

#### Assessment Increases, continued from page 4—

property, and to compare with other nearby properties. It also allows comparisons to other, similar properties elsewhere in the Town and County.

Here's the good news: a change in the assessment of a single property does not necessarily mean that the tax bill will change by the same percentage. In general, "the bite" is based on the relationship between the value of one property and the total value of all properties. If an assessment goes up by the same percentage as the total value, the net result of the change is...zero.

Here's an example: George (not his real name) was given a preliminary assessment increase of 48 percent.

In the 2015 preliminary assessment, the total value of all properties in Danby went up about 10 percent, to a bit more than \$317 million dollars. This increase offsets the increase on any single property, so George's 48 percent yields a net of about 28 percent increase in his share of the total Town tax bill. Still, 28 percent?

When was the property last reassessed?
The previous Town-wide review of residences was done in 2008; real estate prices have gone up since then and that's probably a part of the change in current value.
George's assessment hadn't changed since 2009 but, still, a 48 percent increase?

Did the whole neighborhood get pricey? After all, property values can be affected by recent sales and assessments of other properties in the neighborhood. Nope, most nearby property values went up only 15 to 25 percent. George's 48 percent is clearly out of line for the neighborhood.

Finally, how does George's residence compare to other, similar properties, elsewhere in Danby? Turns out, it's about the same.

That leads to the question, What's triggered George's 48 percent increase? That's a question only the TCDoA can answer.

If you do the research for your property and reach the same question, TCDoA of-

fers several levels of appeal: an informal review, a formal appeal, and even a local (Danby-based) grievance board. You can call the DoA at 607.274.5517 to schedule a meeting.

## **Revisioning Danby Market**

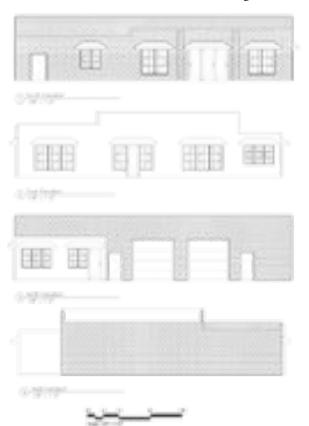
Submitted by Nancy Medsker and Tom Seaney

Remember the old Danby Market, at the corner of Danby Road (NYS Rt.96B) and Gunderman Road? We purchased the property last December and we'd appreciate some input from Danby residents. We'd like to share our vision of the building renovations and some of its use, and to ask your opinion about the use of the rest of the space.

Here's what we are planning: the cinder block exterior of the building will be replaced by a stuccoed facade with lots of windows. The north side of the building (toward Ithaca) will be the entrance to Tom's shop while the south side (toward Gunderman Road) will become the entrance to my studio space. The studio will have some kind of gallery/retail space in it.

The building needs a roof, but we have to wait until the weather warms up before we are able to start working on it.

The rest of the building?



We have plans to find a tenant for a coffee shop but would really like to know if folks think that they would patronize it. It could be about 700 square feet, not enough for a big big operation but with comfy room for a few tables and chairs. We are considering another space, about 350 square feet, for a multi-use space that would be available for art classes or other types of meetings.

We look forward to getting any kind of ideas and input from folks in the

Danby area about any ideas that they might have. You can contact us at [newdanbymarket@danbyny.org].

April 2015

. . . . . . . . .

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

## YOUTH GRANTS FROM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

Financial assistance for Danby youth, up to age 21, attending activity programs is available. It takes the form of a grant of up to \$100 per youth per year. The Danby Community Council administers these grants, based on funding provided by the United Way and the Town of Danby.

Grants are awarded quarterly for camps, lessons, afterschool programs, and more. You can submit now for current (January-March) programs, and the deadline is June 15 for programs beginning in July-September.

Families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch are especially encouraged to apply. For more information and applications, please contact [youthgrants@danbycc.org]. Ś

### TAEKWONDO CLASSES

Submitted by Patty Jordan

Second Degree Black Belt (and West Danby resident), Mr. Casey Hobbie, will be offering TaeKwonDo classes

through the Owego Gymnastics and Activity Center.

The intended audience includes ages 7-adult, with younger students by permission from the instructor. Forms, onesteps, point-sparring, and board breaking will be taught.

Classes will be held on Mondays, 6-7pm at Owego location, and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm in the Spencer/Van Etten Fitness Community Center (in the Spencer



Grange Building). The class fee is \$20/month for one class a week; \$40/month for two classes a week, and \$60/month for all three classes a week.

For more information, contact Casey Hobbie, 607.425.7883 or [cjhtaekwondo@yahoo.com], or visit [cjhtkd.weebly.com]. Ż

## **EASTER EGG HUNT COMING UP!**

Danby Duth Flyer

This year's Easter Egg Hunt falls on April 4. The annual event, organized by the West Danby Community Association, features the Easter Bunny, treats, games, and an enormous Egg Hunt.

The hunt is held at Hatch's pavilion (at Short and Brown). It usually begins *promptly* at 11am; don't be late. Ŝ

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Visit the new Danby web site [townofdanbyny.org] and click on "Library" to see pictures, learn about our hours, self-check, and the outdoor return, and to catch up on news about the Danby Community Library.

Local author, Dr. Bill Thomas, was featured in the Ithaca Journal recently. We have his newest book, Second Wind which he will be featuring on tour again across the country in April. We also have his fictional Tribes of Eden. He has written a total of eight books.

The Family Reading Partnership and Tompkins County Public Library will be donating fifty (50!) Board Books to the Danby Community Library. Ś

## DANBY TREE WALK

Submitted by Don Schaufler

Join forester and Danby resident Don Schaufler as he leads a tree identification and ecology walk on Saturday, April 18, 11am-Noon in Dotson Park.

Some of the trees will just be waking up while most will still be in their winter form. Dress for mud and for the weather.

This event is sponsored by Danby's Conservation Advisory Council. For more information, please contact me at 607.227.3502 or [schauflerforestry@gmail.com]. \$ Danby Community Council Danby Area News 1830 Danby Road Ithaca, NY 14850



## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Apr 2 • Thu Apr 20 • Mon Noon 🔁 Danby Federated Church • Seniors 7pm 🙀 Town Hall • Danby Community Council Apr 4 • Sat 9am 🙀 Town Hall Library Volunteers Meeting 11am 🙀 Hatch Pavilion, corner of Short and Brown West Danby Community Association Easter Egg Hunt Apr 8 • Mon 7pm 🙀 Town Hall Public Information Meeting: Group Homes in Danby Apr 10 • Fri 5-7pm 🚑 Danby Federated Church Chicken and Biscuit Dinner Apr 11 • Sat 10am-2pm 🙀 West Danby Fire Hall West Danby Craft Show and Chicken BBQ Apr 12 • Sun 3pm 👜 Town Hall Bald Hill and Bold Tools: Wayne Myers Presents Apr 13 • 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 Apr 14 • Tue 7pm 🚑 West Danby Fire Hall Fire District Meeting Apr 16 • Thu 3-6pm 🙀 Danby Federated Church • Food Pantry 7pm 🕰 Town Hall • Planning Board Meeting 7:30pm 🙀 Oasis • Park Association Meeting Apr 18 • Sat 11am-Noon 🔁 Danby Community Park Tree Wal.k

Lunch and Games 7pm 🙀 Town Hall **Town Board Meeting** Apr 21 • Tue 7:30pm 🙀 West Danby Fire Hall Fire District Meeting Apr 27 • Mon 1-2pm 🔁 Danby Fire Hall • Mobile Food Truck 7pm 🔁 Town Hall • Conservation Adv Council Mtg May 2• Sat 9am 🙀 Town Hall Library Volunteers Meeting May 7 • Thu 6pm 🔁 Danby Federated Church • Seniors 7pm 🔁 Town Hall • Danby Community Council Jul 11, 2015 • 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

Noon 🕰 Danby Federated Church

American Legion Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road