



DANBY AREA NEWS

OPEN BURNING IN DANBY

Submitted by Paul Hansen. Code Officer

Since 2009, New York State has prohibited any burning of trash, and has very strict limitations on other open burning. *No burning at all is allowed from March 16 through May 14.*

During the rest of the year, essentially, the only open burning allowed is:

- Campfires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in width or diameter.
- Small cooking fires.
- In Towns like Danby with populations less than 20,000, you may burn brush with tree limbs less than 6 inches in diameter and less than 8 feet in length.

The Department of Environmental Conservation regulates burning in Danby, and in case of any questions or to report open burning violations call the DEC hotline, 844.332.3267. Report any fires by calling 911. ❄️



PANCAKE BREAKFAST SEASON

If you can't have snow, you can still have pancakes! Both the Danby and West Danby Fire Departments are offering Pancake Breakfasts during the winter months.

The menus differ slightly but both Departments offer a hearty meal, good friends, and a chance

—continued on page 3 ➡

DINNER AND A MOVIE: WDCA ANNUAL MEETING

Submitted by Peter Fraissinet, West Danby Community Association

Come join us on Saturday, January 23, 5pm, in the West Danby Fire Hall for a community meal, a (very!) brief business meeting to elect our WDCA officers, and then settle in for fun and mischief watching Buster Keaton in *The General*.

Choose from four hearty, homemade soups, assorted breads, and (hopefully!) a selection of pickled veggies graciously shared by local home canners. What's in your cupboards? Pickled beets? Dilly beans? Mustard pickles? Sauerkraut? We'd love to try some! Desserts are most welcome too!

Here's the soups that'll be on the stove for you:

- Roasted butternut squash with coconut milk and curry (vegan)
- Potato - Kale
- Turkey - Barley - Vegetable
- Chili (con carne & vegetarian)

Following dinner, we'll hear a brief talk from Roger Kimmel Smith about the early film industry, Buster Keaton, and our feature, *The General*, which is recognized as one of the most important films ever made. Buster Keaton's comedic genius is timeless. Everyone will enjoy this film. If you have never seen a Buster Keaton film, you are in for a treat! We'll have popcorn, cider, coffee, tea, and desserts during the film.

We will take the opportunity while gathering as a community to make a difference. Please bring something to donate to the Danby Food Pantry if you can (non-perishable foods, paper goods, pet foods).

There is no charge for this event, but donations will be gladly accepted to help defray costs, any extra going to the food pantry.

We look forward to seeing you there! ❄️

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January 2016

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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 for photos, GIF for line graphics. PNG also works. 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: 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

Once again, the cruel month of January is upon us. We barely get over the indulgences of holiday parties and staying up late for New Year's Eve when reality hits us. There is no escape from Cold, Dark, and Taxes. The nights are dark and, while this year hasn't been especially cold or snowy, that pleasure is balanced by...

Tax bills are sent out at the very end of December and should be in your mail box during the first week of January. If, for some reason you do not receive your Town, Fire, and County property tax bill by that week, give us a call. Please note that if your taxes are paid by an escrow service, the original bill is sent to the bank or payment service. If there has been a change in your escrow status and the bill should come to you, let us know. We can print out a duplicate copy at get it to you right away.



Please remember that Town Clerks are only tax collectors. We don't assess your property or set your tax rate. I know that

there's little I can do to make January better than it is, but I can promise that the candy bowl will be filled with chocolate kisses including plenty of dark chocolate. Sue McLellan and I can renew or issue dog licenses, issue marriage licenses and parking permit tags, and answer questions about Town government at the same time.

The end of the year is a good time to look back at the business of 2015. Taxes are the main revenue source for the Town, but not the only source. Revenue received in a calendar year can be an indication of how busy we were. Indications are that 2015 was an average year for the Danby Town offices. Average is OK.

We received permit funds for 54 building permits in 2015, down from 70 in 2014, but matching the 10-year average of 55 per year. Development has kept the Planning Board and Board of Zoning Appeals busy as well, with 8 appeals going to the BZA in 2015 (above the 10-year average of 5), and 5 Planning Board site plan reviews and hearings (vs. the average of 10 per year). One of issues considered by the Planning Board is the proposed change to Planned Development Zone #10 (the old Angelheart facility on Gunderman Road) has taken more time and effort than most other site plan reviews and hearings during the past several years.

Funds received for hunting and fishing licenses in 2015 were nearly identical with those in 2014. Requests for marriage licenses have slowed, with only three in 2015. Could it be that all, or most, who wish to be married in Danby have already done so?

Income from dog license renewals is similar to 2014. \$7,840 has been collected so far, and there are more renewals to come in the next few weeks. More people are renewing their dog licenses on time in order to avoid late fees being attached to the bill.

To date (December 16), the Town Clerk's office has collected \$28,256 in total receipts, less than in 2014 but in line with the 10-year average of \$26,625. These collections are not enough to cover expenses in the Town Clerk's office, let alone the activities of the Code Office and the review boards. But these fees do help defray some costs.

In order to be as available as possible, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 10am-1pm on Saturdays. The first day of tax collection is Saturday, January 2. I'll be there if you will! The last day to pay Town and County tax without an additional finance charge, or to begin paying with the installment option, is Monday February 1. As always, we are closed December 31 and January 1 for the New Years holiday, and we are closed on Sundays and Thursdays.

Questions? You can contact me at 607.277.4788 or [townclerk@townofdanbynyny.org]. ❁

➤ **Pancake Breakfasts, cont'd from front page—**

to help the Firefighters offset the expenses of being prepared to fight fires.

At the "uphill" DVFC, the next breakfast happens on Sunday, January 24, 8-11am, in the Fire Hall at 1780 Danby Road. It'll be followed by events on February 28 and March 20.

"Downhill" in the Fire Hall on Sylvan Lane in West Danby, the breakfasts are named after the milestones of the year. The next one is the *Sweethearts Breakfast* on Saturday, February 13, 8-11am and it'll be followed by the annual St.Patty's Day event. Get your sausage, Patty! ❁

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

How Local Politics Has Made Me A Better Person

Submitted by Dan Klein, County Legislator

I am now halfway through my first four-year term on the County Legislature. I usually write about concrete matters—budgets, programs, and issues facing both taxpayers and elected officials. But, right now, I want to take a moment to write a little about how I think of local government and politics.

I still remember very clearly the moment in 2007 when I received the phone call telling me I had gotten enough votes to be on the Danby Town Board. I instantly felt different. I knew in that moment that my thoughts and opinions mattered in a different way now. Before, I was free to say anything I wanted. Now, my words and actions would have real consequences on real people's lives.

Since then, I've constantly asked myself, "Who do I represent?" Is it the people who vote for me or all residents of the county? Should I give more weight to the desires and opinions of the residents Danby over those of people in Lansing? Do I owe anything to my fellow legislators? How do I balance the interests of the approximately 700 County employees with the interests of the taxpayers who finance their jobs? Or was I elected to just make whatever decision I want?

I spend a lot of time talking with and hearing from people I disagree with. When I was just Dan Klein the gardener, I had the option of ignoring whomever I wanted. But now I don't think I can do that and still be doing my job. I have to take that extra step to really try to understand what people are saying, to spend time exploring if maybe we really do have some common understanding of the issue, and to look for ways for them to be able to get what they want while still doing what I believe is correct. This is not easy, sometimes not possible, and I'm not saying I come close to always achieving this. But I really feel that if I don't try, I am not fit for public office.

One of my favorite local quotes is by Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick. He said, "Government is in the forever business." At first I took this quote to mean we always have to be thinking about the future. Over time, I've come to realize that "forever" also includes the present. Balancing present needs with future needs is really key to what government does. Someone who only worries about how a decision will affect them in this moment is missing part of the big picture. But so is someone

who thinks they know exactly what will happen in the future and thinks they know exactly what we must do to get there, regardless of the cost in the present.

So I think the job description of politician is someone who can see across time and space and can reconcile the inherent differences in all people. Since Superman and the Dalai Lama are not available to run for local office, we are left with me, and you, and our neighbors.

The word "politician" seems to have a lot of negative connotations. I understand that. When we think of "politician," we are probably thinking about State and Federal politicians. State and Federal politics are a big unpleasant mess in my opinion. Local politics, on the other hand, is me and you and our neighbors trying to find reasonable solutions to everyday issues. I am someone who is trying to take in all the information that's out there, take the temperature of the people in the county, weigh various options, predict how the options might play out, help move us in a direction that will be good for individuals and good for society, and not hurt people along the way. And I need to be ready to hear and think and understand and do things that I might not otherwise do because all this listening and reading and weighing and predicting and moving and thinking and acting is not about me—it's about the 100,000 people of Tompkins County.

To the degree that I can, I must put others before myself, just as many other people do with their families, communities, friends, and jobs. That's why, unexpectedly, being in politics has made me a better person.

Starting next month, I will return to writing about actual issues facing the county. Thank you for your indulgence for this article. Contact me at [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582. ❁

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, January 7, at Noon in the Danby Church. All seniors over 55 are welcomed to join us for a dish to share luncheon.

Big thanks to Ted and Connie Merritt for organizing our December holiday gathering at the Hollybrook Country Club. About 70 of us enjoyed a nice buffet and good music. Ted's raffles are always fun: this time twelve poinsettia plants were prizes as well as a few cash gifts. ❁

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

I do believe I can say most of the Danby residents I know are in a flutter over the weather. So am I; I do know that perhaps this is not mainstream thinking, and it is not thinking I could have gotten away with if the kids were all still home, but *snow was a part of Christmas.*

In spite of all the snow events we engaged the kids in, they all moved south at the first opportunity. I love it. They've gone south and I have no snow. Maybe I have a premature knee jerk reaction to our last winter.

The Highway Department likes the weather. All that salt and sand we spread on roads; all the overtime, all the wear and tear on our equipment, they are all breathing a sigh of relief.

Topics that come up at meetings of the Council of Governments often have me wondering how to get feedback from Danby residents whose opinions I am supposed to represent.

During the CoG meeting today (you can see records of these meetings on the County's web site), topics included a minimum/living wage for the County's working residents. I had to abstain as I really do not know how I should vote on this issue. I will be inviting speakers and residents to attend a future meeting to have a discussion on this topic.

Another topic was the shutdown of Caroline's rescue squad, and this conversation soon spilled over to Fire Departments. Much of our way of life depends on our Fire Departments: insurance on our homes, and how

quickly they can responde to emergencies. Most all municipalities had questions about ways in which we can give more support to this vital resource and to its sister organizations, the Rescue Squads.

This will not be a simple task, but I do believe if we do not ask the difficult questions now, we will only be faced with a bigger problem down the road. Volunteer ranks are diminishing, both by aging out and by not being replaced. Training requirements and certifications for EMTs are increasingly more challenging. The private sector needs to be brought into this conversation as well. The question of volunteer vs. paid staff to provide these services is daunting in and of itself, requiring input from residents to the cost of options and their consequences.

I believe this is a Town-wide discussion as well as a County discussion and it will be a topic on next months Council of Governments meeting agenda. I will be listening and trying to learn more.

What a difference a winter can make. I do hope your sleigh does not get stuck in the mud. See you all in the next year.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at [\[supervisor@townofdanbyny.org\]](mailto:supervisor@townofdanbyny.org). ☘

Wanted: Drone with decent camera and good operator to take aerial video of Danby countryside. Reply to [\[box.888@danbyny.org\]](mailto:box.888@danbyny.org). ☘

Town Office Info

Town Clerk • [\[townclerk@townofdanbyny.org\]](mailto:townclerk@townofdanbyny.org)

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm;

Saturdays 10am-1pm

Highway Department • [\[highway@townofdanbyny.org\]](mailto:highway@townofdanbyny.org)

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

Code Enforcement Office • [\[code@townofdanbyny.org\]](mailto:code@townofdanbyny.org)

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Wed, 9am-5pm; Thu, 12:30-5:30pm

Town Court • [\[courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org\]](mailto:courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org)

Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031 • Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.



Gould Colman and his vintage tractor enlivened the DCC Harvest Festival by providing wagon rides to young Danby-ites. Not just your average rolling tours, either. Gravity was suspended for an eternity when the wagon crested the sledding hill in Danby's Dotson Park.

Photo: Ted Crane

BRUSH AND WILDLAND FIRES

Submitted by Edward C. Kokkelenberg, Fire Commissioner

Brush and Wildland fires (BWF) were in the news out west and may become of more concern for the North-eastern US. The New York Times wrote,



The sooner that firefighting agencies, public officials, ... and citizens acknowledge the impact that climate change is having on the frequency, intensity, duration and behavior of fire, the sooner that they will begin to develop new responses.

BWF results from insufficient rain fall, drying winds, and high temperatures. Climate change has brought these conditions more frequently to places that had rarely experienced them in the past. This winter's El Nino should also mean less precipitation for the North-eastern US.

BWF threatens our homes in Danby as we have built into the Wildland-Urban interface (WUI), where houses intermingle with trees and undergrowth. We currently encounter some four to eight brush, woods, and grass fires each year; some are in relatively inaccessible areas. To fight these fires, the Danby Fire District has two brush fire trucks: a 24-year old one in West Danby and a 36-year old one in the Danby fire station.

Brush trucks are expected to go off-road or up narrow driveways and country lanes, and to carry water, firefighters, and appropriate tools such as fire hose and nozzles, shovels, saws, and extinguishers.

Our trucks have very limited off-road capabilities and their projecting front bumpers further limit the locations they can reach. We also use the brush trucks in other situations: in traffic control, extra pumping or hose capacity, and as initial attack trucks for structure fires.

As we review our older fire apparatus, we are considering replacing our old brush trucks: the two trucks have cost us almost \$8,000 in repairs in the last 30 months and we are anticipating a significant added cost to repair our oldest one in the near future.

Modern Brush Trucks are generally one of three kinds. The minimalist school has moved towards using four wheel drive, heavy duty pickup trucks with a skid

mounted separate engine, water pump, water tank, and hose. These units carry a modest number of tools and are relatively inexpensive to buy; generally under \$70,000 with skid unit, communications gear, lights, tools, and compartments.



A more powerful truck, using a heavier engine and chassis (an F550, for example), and carrying special equipment for wildland fires and able to serve as a small fire truck for

other calls, is a second option. These can pump water while moving, allowing "running attacks" on vegetation fires. These would cost about \$120,000.

Finally, there is a move to multi-purpose vehicles. As the number of volunteers falls, staffing multiple specialized vehicles becomes difficult, so vehicles that can deal with a wide range of emergencies are desirable. Manufacturers have developed a WUI fire engine that can maneuver in



country settings and act as a back country brush truck--including pump-while-rolling--yet carries enough water,

pumping capacity, hose, and tools to serve as a light urban fire engine and rescue truck. Four wheel drive capability and automatic tire pressure adjustment to maximize traction allows them to climb steep hills and make it through sand, snow, ice, clay, mud, water streams, and rough terrain. The other features such as high ground clearance, high angles of attack and departure (to handle sudden changes in grade), and a highly flexible suspension combine to get these trucks into challenging areas. Of course, this versatility comes with a larger price tag.

At the current time, our smaller brush trucks are able to handle our brush fires. But the Fire District needs to plan ten and fifteen years into the future. As climate change occurs, as the number of volunteers continues to be a limiting factor, and as people build into the Wildland, we may need to consider an intermediate truck on an F550 chassis or even a multi-purpose WUI truck.

Please look at the National Fire Protection Association web site for things you can immediately do to minimize the impact of a Wildland fire on your home: [nfpa.org], click on "Safety Information", "For Consumers", "Emergency Preparedness", "Natural Disasters", and then "Wildfires".



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM DANBY'S COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION!

Submitted by Michele Lenhart

What are your goals for 2016? Dotson Park may be able to help you achieve them! If your goal is to be more active, then grab your winter gear and head to the park to sled, snow shoe, cross country ski, or even play snow disc golf!

If you want to get more involved in the community this year, join the DCPA board. We are looking for people who have about an hour to spare each month to talk about the park, and help keep things running. No experience necessary! If your goal is to save money, all of the park activities are free!

Please note that park meetings will be held at 7:30pm on the 3rd Thursday every other month in 2016. So, January 21 will be our first meeting--as of press time it will be held at Ithaca Beer Company, but please check with us at [dotsonpark@gmail.com], [dotsonpark.org], or "like" the Danby Community Park Association on Facebook for more information. See you in the park! ❁

PERMACULTURE WORKSHOPS

Submitted by Eric and Cathleen Banford

Signup is here for a permaculture workshop series in Danby open to Tompkins County residents. Would you like to find ways to engage your whole family in hands-on learning about growing food and sustainability? Permaculture design fosters a growing understanding of nature's patterns, and generates models of sustainable living—always with the goal of achieving maximum productivity with minimal labor and use of outside resources. The Danby Community Council is helping to sponsor this permaculture workshop series to help you get started.

There will be opportunities to learn through both theory and hands-on workshops starting in February and running through June. These workshops will be geared toward adults and very focused youth (roughly 14 and up), though we would also like to invite whole families to join in the hands-on portions of the course. If you are interested,



John Hoffmann and Randi Beckmann belt out a lively Old-Time song during the Community Council's concert presentation of *Long John and the Tights* in December 2015. Stefan Sender's well-tuned banjo picking kept the hall hopping!
Photo: Ted Crane

please contact us, [visionspringsgardens@gmail.com] or 774.212.2872. Now is the time to give us input if there are topics that you would like us to cover.

Cost will be sliding scale (\$10 to \$30 per week, 18 weeks total). Work trade will be available to some attendees. The series will be a mix of two hour, weeknight evening lectures and weekend workshops. It will also include tours of local farms to see permaculture in practice. We hope you join us! ❁

FIRE DISTRICT VOTING:

December: New Commissioners

January: New \$453,124 Bond Referendum

The results of the December 8 voting for Fire Commissioners are in! Twenty Eight Danby voters went to the polls.

Candidate	Danby	West Danby	Total
Katherine Anderson (5-year term)	21	6	27
Kevin Faehndrich (2-year term)	21	6	27
Invalid	1	0	1

Congratulations to Katherine and Kevin!

Commissioners Propose New \$453,124 Bond

On December 8, the same day as the voting for new Commissioners, the Fire District issued a legal notice describing a Bond Referendum to be held January 5, 2016, 6-9pm. Voting will take place at both fire stations, 1830 Danby Road and 47 Sylvan Lane.

The notice appeared in all the required places: on the bulletin board in Town Hall, the Town web site, and, presumably, in the Legal Notice section of the *Ithaca Journal*. For those who missed it, here's a recap and some additional detail.

The Bond Resolution (that must be approved by voters) allows for the purchase of two new firetrucks, along with accessories and services, for a total of \$753,124. Of this, \$453,124 will be financed by the issuance of serial and/or statutory installment bonds. The rest, presumably, will come from fund reserves that will be augmented by the roughly 23% increase in the Fire District levy, that you'll see on your tax bill in January.

This bond will be added to the existing debt service—currently paying down bonds issued for two previous engine/pumpers and the stations—of more than \$110,000 per year, one quarter of the Fire District's budget.

The need for these trucks was described in Commissioner Kokkelenberg's article in the October, 2015 issue of the *Danby News*. The need for another two trucks is described in his article, elsewhere in this issue.

Voters, hopefully more than 28 of them, should take the time to learn about the need for, and cost of, these purchases, and take part in the voting on January 5. ❁

DANBY BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Janice Beal

The next meeting of the Danby Book Club will be held on Sunday, January 24, 4pm, at 1011 Fisher Settlement Road. We will discuss *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed, a New York Times Bestseller.

Please join us! Questions? Call me at 607.589.6924. ❁

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Mobile Food Truck is sponsored by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

All persons needing food are welcomed to come and should bring their own bags and boxes. There is usually a variety of items including produce, sometimes bread/bakery, canned goods, juices, etc.

The next "Truck" (it's always the 4th Monday of the month) will be Monday, January 25 at Noon. It will be held at the Danby Fire Station for the months of January, February, and March. We will resume meeting at the Danby Church in April. ❁



Young engineer firing the trebuchet during the Danby Community Council's Harvest Fest in October 2015. Photo: Ted Crane



Unidentified Found Objects, modern and rusty, at the recent DCC event. Hint: a lawnmower blade sharpener, an IBM 029 card punch programmer, and mouse balls. Photo: Ted Crane

TOWN SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR BOARDS

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Have you ever thought about getting more involved in local government? It's not too soon to think about board appointments for 2016. The Danby Town Board will seek applications for several boards, including

- Planning Board, 7-year term
- Board of Zoning Appeals, 5-year term
- West Danby Water Commissioners, 5-year term
- Conservation Advisory Council, 2-year term, 3 open seats
- County Youth Services Board
- Board of Assessment Review, 1-year term

The Town Board will also review applications for persons interested in serving as Town Webmaster and Town Historian (one year terms).

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!

Some of the DCC Concerts and Events in 2016

Usually on Sundays, 3pm, in Danby's Town Hall:

February 7: *Light, Brown, and Alej*: Jazz

March: *Grady Girls*: Irish

April or May: Bee Talk with David Hopkins

July: Aquatic Insects with Alex Flecker

At the DFC

Danby Federated Church, 1858 Danby Road

Chicken And Biscuit Dinners: Friday, January 8, 5-7pm.

Chicken and Biscuits, mashed potatoes, squash, apple sauce, corn, green beans, harvard beets, beverage and desserts. Also on 2/12, 3/11, 4/8.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Friday, January 22, 1-6pm. Walkins welcome. Donors get a \$5 Dunkin' Donuts gift card.

Free Lunch: Soup, Friends, and Games, January 18 at Noon. Continues on 3rd Mondays, thru April. Join us for a good time and good company in the heart of winter.

At the Danby Volunteer Fire Company

Breakfasts. Sunday, January 24, 8-11am. Pancakes, eggs, french toast, sausage, home fries, beverages. Also on 2/28, 3/20.

At the West Danby Fire Department

Breakfasts: Sweetheart's Breakfast, Saturday, February 13, 8-11am. All the yummy breakfast you can eat. Also on *St. Patty's Day* ❧

Persons interested in serving in these capacities should fill out an application (available at the Town Clerk's office) or write a letter of intent listing professional, educational, or other experience that would assist the applicant in serving, and answering the following questions: Why you are interested in this position and what you hope to accomplish in this position. Include mailing address, Email, and telephone contact information.

More information about each and any of these appointments is available from the office of the Town Clerk at the Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca NY 14850. Contact 607.277.4788 [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]. ❧

BROADBAND IN DANBY UPDATE

Submitted by Ted Crane

Several Danby Broadband fans sent me info about a recent press release from the office of the New York State Attorney General's office. The A.G. has launched an online form where New Yorkers can test and then submit data on the Internet speeds they are receiving at home.

In October, the Attorney General sent letters to Time Warner Cable, Verizon and Cablevision asking for documents related to whether the Internet speeds they advertise are actually what households are receiving.

This is of particular interest to Danby residents, whether they're "big company" customers or they're getting service from smaller ISPs like Frontier or Clarity Connect.

The new online test is an opportunity for consumers to discover whether the advertised speeds are accurate. Full instructions for taking the broadband test can be viewed at [ag.ny.gov/internet-speed].

I tried it and, sadly, the test did not work on any of my (admittedly older) computers. The good news is that you can use other speed test pages and then, using the same instructions, report the results you obtain from those pages. Be sure to take more than one sample, from different "target hosts". Try [speedtest.net] (not .com!) and, when you're done, obtain the result summary by clicking "My Results"; or [speakeasy.net/speedtest] and get a summary by clicking "Results History".

Meanwhile, We're Waiting For...

A month or so ago there was a rumor that Clarity Connect was almost ready to begin a rollout to Danby customers. Well, maybe they were, but the new rumor is that NYSEG took a bit longer than expected to provide power to Clarity's phone poles. Latest estimate...by the end of the year, maybe?

Danby residents who have previously indicated interest will be contacted by Clarity. Others can contact Clarity via its web site, [clarityconnect.com], or by calling 607.257.8268.

Coming: reports from newly connected households. I can tell you that my own connection looked pretty good for its first two-plus months (6Mbps down, 2Mbps up), but then a configuration change lowered the speed somewhat...and Clarity is working to resolve the problem. ❀

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Happy 2016!

Thanks go out to Tompkins County Public Library for waiving our fees for our TCPL collections! Related to this, our deliveries do not happen every week, as we are on a schedule of returning a collection every three months or so. If you have a downtown return that you bring to DCL, there is no guarantee that it will get back before it's due date so it's best to return those downtown.

Our tireless volunteers will be updating registration cards for patrons who signed up in 2010, to make sure our contact information is current. Any time you would like to become one of these volunteers, please let us know!

A nice way to honor someone is to donate a book in their name to our community library. We place a bookplate in the front cover to honor the person and the donator. We lost a longtime volunteer and avid reader when Beatrice Hogben passed away. The library volunteers have dedicated the new Nicholas Sparks book, *See Me*, in her name. ❀



New Books in the Danby Community Library Photo by Cindy Parlett

SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal columnist

Please send your items for the Southern Tompkins Town Talk column to me at [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or call 607-273-6530. ❀

Community Council Winter 2016 Youth Programs



Hi Danby, Travis Judd here, with updates on what's right around the bend! With 2015 finishing well, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know more of our youth, community members, and about our Danby community. If 2015 is a precursor to what 2016 will look like, ecstatic doesn't even begin to describe my hopes for the New Year!

We are getting going right away with some very engaging programs, listed below. If you have any questions about the new programs or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [ttj22@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.222.

Additional program announcements will be in this newsletter, in Danby's Town Hall, on our web site [ccetompkins.org/4-h-youth/rural-youth-services], and in flyers given out during lunchtime in school.

These programs are free of charge for Danby Youth ages 8-14.

Biology Tuesdays-Grade 5 and up

Tuesdays, January 5-March 1, 3:30-6pm
Danby Federated Church

Come see the beautiful parks and ecosystems that are right under our noses. We will be visiting local natural areas to observe the wildlife, look at the flora of the area and take advantage of the natural resources close by. We will also be visiting local, nature focused organizations to deepen our understanding of where we live.

Lunch Bunch-Grade 6- 8

Tuesdays, January 5-March 1, lunchtime
Boynton Middle School Cafeteria

Come play games, do crafts, hang out and have fun during your lunch time. Come meet some new faces and build a new crew of friends!

Rocketry-Grade 5 and up

Thursdays, January 7-March 3, 3:30-6pm
Danby Federated Church

Yup, that's right. Rockets. We will be learning how rockets work and exploring various types of fuel. We

will test various rockets and prepare for a finale launch on the last day. Transportation is available to get to Danby.

Iron Chef-Grade 5 and up

Fridays, January 8-March 4, 3:30-6pm
Danby Federated Church

Bring your cooking expertise, an open mind and be ready to eat some great food. Each week will be focused around a new cooking challenge for your group and will compete with the others to create the best dish. Food preparation, taste, ingenuity, teamwork, and leadership will be the areas of closest examination for each competition. No experience is necessary, just an open mind to try some new food! ❁



Hope Grietzer and Tom Hodgson performing during a recent concert in Danby. (Not visible: Rick Manning, fiddler extraordinaire.)
Photo: Ted Crane

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Dec 28 • Mon

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Mobile Food Truck**
5:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Dec 31

6pm 🏛️ Slow Lane, 888 Comfort Road
Community New Year Dance Celebration

Jan 1 • Fri

🏛️ **Christmas Bird Count**

Jan 2 • Sat

9am 🏛️ Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

Jan 5 • Tue

6-9pm 🏛️ Both Fire Halls
Fire District Bond Referendum

Jan 7 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Seniors**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Jan 8 • Fri

5-7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Chicken & Biscuits**

Jan 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**

Jan 12 • Tue

7pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Jan 18 • Mon

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Lunch, Games, Fun**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**

Jan 19 • Tue

7pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Jan 21 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**
7:30pm 🏛️ Ithaca Beer Company
Danby Community Park Association

Jan 22 • Fri

1-6pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Red Cross Blood Drive

Jan 23 • Sat

5pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall
West Danby Community Association: Dinner & Movie
Benefit for Food Pantry; Buster Keaton in *The General*

Jan 24 • Sun

8-11am 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**
4pm 🏛️ 1011 Fisher Settlement Road • **Danby Book Club**

Jan 25 • Mon

1-2pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Mobile Food Truck**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Feb 4 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Seniors**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Feb 6 • Sat

9am 🏛️ Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

Feb 7 • Sun

3pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Community Council Concert**
Jazz w/ Light, Brown, and Bernard-Papachryssanthou

Jul 9, 2016 • 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 ☎️ 607.273.2950
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