



# DANBY AREA NEWS

## DANBY IN THE ITHACA JOURNAL

"I enjoy writing the Danby Town Talk, which appears every other Thursday in the Ithaca Journal. For future columns I would like to include Danby history, special events, activities, government, clubs, special anniversaries or births or graduations, etc., etc. The column is intended to portray life in a small, rural town such as Danby and advise Journal readers of what is going on in our community. Please send information to me (and include a contact person with a phone number or e-mail, where appropriate) by calling 273-6530 or by e-mail at <gayhuddle@hotmail.com>. I can also get mail at 65 Gunderman Road, Ithaca.

"My deadline is the Monday before the Thursday that the column appears. Some editing may be done by the Journal but I will try to get in as much information as possible each time. Thank you!"

—*Gay Huddle*

## WDCA ANNUAL MEETING AND DISH-TO-PASS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

The West Danby Community Association meal and meeting originally planned for last month has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 5, at 5:00 p.m. at the West Danby Fire Hall. The focus of discussion to digest over is the future of development in West Danby. Folks are invited to discuss and brainstorm what the Town of Danby's comprehensive plan might mean for West Danby in the near and not-so-near future. We'll have one or two people involved in the Town's comprehensive planning on hand to answer questions, but the idea is to get a feel for what is possible and what resi-

dents would like to see. We will also keep it friendly!

A short(!) business meeting will follow to summarize WDCA's 2004 activities and elect the slate of officers for 2005, which all are welcome to stay for. For more info, call Peter at 564-0030 (eves).

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On the snowy night of January 24, fifteen residents attended the Danby Community Council Annual Meeting. The new board of directors is as follows: Carol Bushberg, Bill Halton, Andrea Hazard, Asher Hockett, Dan Klein, and Kim Rice-Narusch. There is still one seat open.

Thanks and appreciation go out to retiring board members Jody Scriber, Faith Sternstein (2 years each), and Priscilla Cartland (3 years). Their service to Danby has been important, and they all plan to stay involved in various ways.

The new meeting time for the Community Council has not yet been established. If you want to know when it is, or if you want a copy of the Annual Report, or if you have interest in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact Dan Klein, 272-7582, <danbydan@hotmail.com>.

## PARK ORGANIZATION MEETING

The Danby Community Park Association will hold a reorganizational meeting and election of new board members at the Danby Town Hall on Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 pm. Details and updated information will appear in the March News.

*Submitted by the DCPA Board*

February 2005  
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Deadline is the 15th of the  
month. Materials may be  
accepted later if time allows.  
Submissions should gener-  
ally not exceed one page. We  
cannot print political material  
or letters of opinion.

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Proceeds to benefit the Fire Department



## HOW WELL IS YOUR WATER?

Residents of Tompkins County who drink water from privately owned residential wells will have an opportunity to test their well water for contamination and learn how to best protect their wells. A program sponsored by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and the Town of Danby is being offered from 7:00–9:00 pm on Wednesday, February 16 at the Danby Town Hall. Thanks to funding by the Tompkins County Department of Health, participants will receive a 75% discount on bacteria and nitrate testing.

The program will provide information on common sources of water contamination, maintenance methods, water sample preparation, and interpretation of test results. Participants will receive bottles for taking water samples, which will be collected the following morning between 8:00 and 9:30 am at the Town Hall for analysis by a certified laboratory. Results will be distributed by mail.

Preregistration is required at the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network office, (607) 532-4104 or at <manager@cayugalake.org>.

Well users are encouraged to test their water yearly, or sooner if a change is noted in the water. While public water supplies are regularly tested, private wells are the responsibility of the owner.

## LIBRARY NOTES

What's new in 2005? Young adult fiction, biographies, juvenile fiction and adult paperbacks this month. The book discussion group will start up again on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We have a new video display shelf so our video collection is more accessible. Look for our new double rocking chair to snuggle up with a friend and a good book. Please remember to return borrowed materials promptly. We are striving to find lost or misplaced overdue items. If we do not get a response to our reminders, the Tompkins County Public Library may contact you to recover missing items signed out in your name. As we depend on the downtown library for our revolving collections, we must be account-

able for the materials lent to us in Danby. Thanks to everyone for the cooperation and support that led to a successful 2004 Danby Community Library season!

*Submitted by Patti Meyers*

## PROPOSED OPEN SPACE LEGISLATION

The January 5 meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Task Force resulted in a group consensus around what changes in our land use laws to recommend to the Town Board for possible enactment prior to the end of March expiration of the moratorium on subdivisions and rezonings. Changes to the subdivision regulations are the most extensive. These are aimed at steering development away from environmentally sensitive or agriculturally valuable areas and into areas where building would have reduced character-altering impacts. All initial subdivisions of land in what are now the Low Density and Medium Density Residential Zones would be subject to this process, the end result of which would be identification of conservation areas (minimum of 60% of the land area) and buildable areas. Lot creation would not be limited to the buildable area, but the buildings (agricultural buildings excepted) would. Wetlands, flood plains, stream corridors, and steep slopes would be fully included in the conservation area. Additional, preferably contiguous, land would be added to these if necessary to produce the 60% minimum, with unique natural areas and agricultural land among the priority areas to include.

The zoning ordinance would also change to adjust the overall density of development to match the 60-40 pattern of the subdivision regulations. Lot sizes and frontage requirements would not change, but the number of lots that could be created would be calculated based on the greater of 1 lot for every 200 feet of frontage or one lot for every 5 acres of land. Please note that we are describing how many lots can be created, not their size. For example, a 100 acre parcel could be divided into 20 lots (1 for every 5 acres) — more if the frontage exceeded 20 X 200 or 4000 feet. The subdivision regulations would set forth the process for carefully looking at the 100 acres and determining where at least 60 acres would be designated conservation area, where non-agricultural buildings would not be allowed. The

20 allowed lots would then all be located at least in part on the 40 buildable acres (that's where the houses and their septic systems would have to go), but could include some or all of the conservation area if desired.

There are other proposed changes besides these, including a beefing up of the public notification requirements by adding a provision requiring signs posted at the boundaries of properties proposed to be subdivided early in the process so neighbors are aware and can monitor the process at an earlier stage.

The revised Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance are posted on the Town's web page (<http://www.town.danby.ny.us/>). You are invited to attend a joint meeting of the Town Board and Planning Board on February 7 at 7 P.M. where the proposals will be explained in considerable detail by Crystal Buck, County Planner and task force consultant. Formal public hearing will follow in March, barring unforeseen major problems.

There are additional pieces to the open space protection package still being worked on by the Task Force. These are not quite ready to be passed on to the Town Board and will be considered for passage after the moratorium expires. These include further revisions to the Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance, an affordable housing ordinance, and regulations to help minimize erosion and runoff, as well as a package of changes to enable the creation of a Conservation Commission to conduct a purchase of development rights program for the Town. All are welcome to join in the Task force's work. The group has decided to meet in the future on the second & fourth Wednesdays of the month, 7pm, at the Town Hall.

*Joel Gagnon, Task Force Chair*

## HISTORY NOTES

Over the course of 2005–2006 I will be writing about the life of Dr. Lewis Beers. I will not be writing about him in every issue of the Danby Area News as it would be far too lengthy and could easily become boring. Each part though will be numbered for easy reference.

*Sincerely, Joan Grant*

## DR. LEWIS BEERS — PART 1

Lewis Beers, who was born in 1768, was originally from Stanford, Connecticut. He was the second of four sons and the third of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Abner Beers. Abner senior was a carpenter.

As a child Lewis was an excellent student and in very good health. At the age of 12 he began to learn carpentry from his father. When he was 14 he was permitted to work in the fields doing "a man's work of mowing the grass with a scythe and reaping grain with a cradle." In the summer of 1782 he refused to let on that working on the harvest was causing him a great deal of pain in his knee. He continued to keep it a secret through the last day of harvest. "The following day one knee became highly inflamed, and he was kept in close confinement for four weeks. Before he could walk again the other knee went through the same process. He slowly recovered but never regained that state of activity and strength that he had possessed."

Since Lewis wasn't able to have the active life he'd once enjoyed he began to read whatever he could get his hands on and it was mostly of a religious vane. In April of 1784, when he was 16, the school district members of his Connecticut hamlet came to him and asked if he'd like to become a teacher. He consented and taught there for four years. He had 40 students and received \$40 every three months as pay. He opened and closed each school day with a prayer and on Sundays he taught Sunday school. His elders suggested to him that he might want to study for the ministry and he took their advice. He continued to teach school while he studied theology. After a few years he became skeptical of the Calvinistic Presbyterian dogma and gave up his studies at the age of 20. He had though familiarized himself to a good extent with the "Swedenborgs theology" and found it more to his liking.

At the age of 22 Lewis Beers decided that he needed to improve his intellect and began reading what he referred to as "the popular works of the day." He felt that the added knowledge of these books would give him more to converse about, "especially at parties" as there was a young woman who often attended these social events and of whom he was very fond.

*Resources: Lewis Beers, Danby's Pioneer Doctor; W. Heidt, Jr.*

# CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Better Housing for Tompkins County, Inc. is searching for community support to bring back Group Workcamps to Tompkins County this summer.

As many as 80 local elderly, disabled and low-income families will benefit from the work of 350 to 400 adult and teenage volunteers participating in a group workcamp, coming to our community July 10–16.

The Tompkins County Workcamp will be based at Boyton Middle School, with workers sleeping on classroom floors, eating in the cafeteria and attending programs in the gym.

Local people are needed to help with a variety of volunteer tasks before, after and during camp week, from helping get materials to the sites to helping with camper hospitality at the schools. Those interested in participating should call Heather at 273-2187.

# SNOW IS HERE!

Please keep these safety tips in mind this winter.

- Local law No. 1 of 1990 prohibits parking on roadways. Please park your vehicles in your driveway. This will allow safer and quicker snow removal from our roadways.
- Please don't place garbage cans or recycling bins in the way of removal equipment. The snowplow can miss hitting these items if they are kept far enough back from the shoulder of the road. We do not want to hit them or place snow in them. However, we won't cross the centerline of the road to avoid hitting these items, possibly endangering other motorists or our road crew.
- Lastly, do not tailgate snow removal vehicles. Snow and ice covered roads can present unknown hazards.

These reminders are for everyone's safety. Please do your part to have an accident-free winter.

*William Hall, Superintendent, Danby Highway Dept.*

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## DANBY PARADE ENTRY FORM › PARADE DATE: JULY 16, 2005

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of entry: (circle one) Business   Classic Car   Band   Group   Club   Animal   Other

Name of business, club, group, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Necessary information in detail: Vehicle, animal breed, musical group float etc...

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

All animals must be under control, leash, lead, harness, saddle etc.

I agree not to hold the Danby Fun Day, the parade committee, the town of Danby or the parade responsible for any injury due to my (our ) participation in the parade.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature required; under 18 yrs. of age, parent or guardian needs to sign)

Name and Address of contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off your completed forms to Danby Town Hall or Danby Market.

Questions? Please contact A. Cusimano amymc@twcny.rr.com or S. Beeners at Town Hall.



## FOOD PANTRY

The Danby Food Pantry is adding an extra day. The pantry operates the third Friday of each month from 4:00–6:00 pm. The pantry will now also be open the day before, from 6:00–8:00 pm—usually the third Thursday of the month. The schedule is as follows:

February 20 & 21	March 17 & 18
April 14 & 15	May 19 & 20
June 16 & 17	July 14 & 15
August 18 & 19	September 15 & 16
October 20 & 21	November 17 & 18
December 15 & 16	

The pantry is held at the Danby Federated Church, 1859 Danby Road. Coordinators are Kenneth and Joan Barber. They can be reached at 273-7850, or at the church, 272-1687.

## DANBY FIRE CO.

3 fire calls in December — total for year 2004 = 41  
3 rescue calls in December — total for year 2004 = 79  
We welcome Thomas Schwartz into Danby Fire Company's Junior Firefighter program.

*Submitted by Beatrice Hogben, Trustee*

## TOWN HOURS

### TOWN CLERK

Tues–Fri 9am–4pm, Sat 9am–noon  
Ph: 607-277-4788 • Fax: 607-277-0559

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

93 Hornbrook Road, Ithaca, NY 14850  
Monday–Friday 6am–2:30pm • Ph: 272-9169

### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

Wednesday–Friday 10am–5pm or by appointment  
Ph: 607-277-0799 • Fax: 607-277-0559

### TOWN COURT:

Tuesday eve, 7pm  
Ph: 607-277-4788 • Fax: 607-277-0559

### DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tues & Thurs 3:30–5:30pm, Sat 9:30am–2:30pm  
All offices at Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 except where noted.

## CALENDAR

**JOINT MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD AND PLANNING BOARD**— Monday, February 7, 7pm, Town Hall. A regular agenda meeting will follow.

**DANBY SENIOR CITIZENS**—Thursday, February 3, 12 noon, Danby Federated Church. All Danby seniors invited to attend.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE**— Wednesday, February 9, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

**TOWN BOARD MEETING**—Monday, February 14, 7pm, Town Hall.

**WELL WATER INFO MEETING**—Wednesday, February 16, 7pm, Town Hall. See page 3.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**—regular meeting date TBA. See page 1.

**WEST DANBY ANNUAL MEETING & DISH-TO-PASS**—Saturday, February 5, 5pm, West danby Fire Hall. Rescheduled from January. See page 1.

**PLANNING BOARD**—Thursday, February 17, 7pm, Danby Town Hall.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE**— Wednesday, February 23, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**—Monday, February 28, 7pm, Danby Town Hall.

## ONGOING

**SENIORS STRENGTH TRAINING GROUP**— Mondays, 9am, Danby Federated Church.

**WEST DANBY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**— Second Monday, 7pm, West Danby Fire Hall.

**DANBY FIRE COMPANY**—Mondays, 7pm, monthly meeting the second Monday at 7:30pm.

**DANBY FOOD PANTRY**—Third Friday, 4–6pm. NEW IN 2005: also open the day before (Thursday) from 6–8pm. 1859 Danby Road.

**DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY READING GROUP**—Fourth Tuesdays, 7pm, Danby Library.

# Danby Youth Flyer

## Danby Community Council Youth Programs Winter 2005

Here are the fun and educational youth programs for February 2005. Programs are for youth from the town of Danby; the age range is listed for each program. Look for brochures and registration forms in the Danby Store and at the Town Hall — these will have more details and registration forms to be returned. To have a brochure mailed or faxed to you, please contact Ruth Baldwin by phone at 272-2292 ext. 224, or e-mail at <reb53@cornell.edu>, or just download the form off of our website at <<http://www.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/rys/local.htm>>. Remember, these programs fill up fast, so register early.

**Cultural Cooking** — Tuesdays through March 1, 4–6pm, Danby Federated Church. Grades 6–9.

We'll meet once a week to learn recipes from around the world. Expect the unexpected, and be prepared to try new things! You'll decide in our first meeting what countries you most want to explore, so be sure to join us so that your voice will be heard! We will put together a "Cultural Cooking" cookbook of your favorite recipes to sell at the Farmer's Market.

**Childcare Workshop** — WednesdaysthroughFebruary 16, 4–6pm, Danby Town Hall. Grades 5–9.

Join us on Wednesday afternoons and learn to care for babies and young children. We'll put together babysitting survival kits, hear presentations from nurses

and other childcare experts, and even visit a daycare center to practice what we've learned. At the end of the program, you will receive a certificate of participation to present to prospective employers.

**Animal Helpers** — Thursdays through February 17, 3:30–5:30pm. Meet at the Town Hall. Grades 6–10.

We'll go on field trips and invite presenters from a variety of different animal-related organizations, such as the Cornell Vet School, the SPCA, a dairy farm, the Lab of Ornithology, a reptile expert, and a llama farm.

**Funky Garden Furniture** — Mondays, February 21–March 14, 4–6pm, Danby Town Hall. Grades 6–10.

Come help design, build, and decorate a comfortable and attractive park bench to grace the community garden next to the Town Hall. Be sure to join us at the first meeting to help choose a design! After we build the bench, we'll collect old furniture and bring things from home (old tables, chairs, bookshelves, etc) to transform into fun, personal, and useable pieces of furniture. Great for your own home, yard, or as a gift.

**Family Karaoke** — Saturday, February 19, 3–5pm, Danby Town Hall. All Ages.

Come spend quality family time and find your hidden talent as a singer. Perform alone, with family members, with friends in the community, or just sit back and enjoy the vocal stylings of your friends and neighbors.

The Youth Flyer is sponsored in part by United Way of Tompkins County.

## Don't Forget!

High-speed internet access is available for use by youth and adults at the Danby Community Library during regular hours. Educational CD-ROMs are also available.

Danby Community Council  
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# DANBY AREA NEWS

WEST DANBY MEETING RESCHEDULED

PLANNING TASK FORCE  
RECOMMENDATIONS

GET YOUR ACTIVITIES IN THE  
ITHACA JOURNAL!