Song Recital at the Town Hall

Submitted by Bob Strichartz for the Danby Community Council

The Danby Community Council's concert series continues with a recital by tenor David Parks, accompanied by pianist Rebekah Jordan-Miller, in a program of songs by American composer Richard Hundley on Sunday, April 2, at 3pm, in the Danby Town Hall. Admission is free.

David Parks, a Professor of Music at Ithaca College and a Danby resident, is well-known to local audiences for his many outstanding performances. He has performed around the world, from Carnegie Hall to Sarajevo to South Africa. He has sung all the major oratorio roles for tenor, as well as a wide variety of operatic roles. Rebekah Jordan-Miller is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and is a staff accompanist at Ithaca College. She has performed widely in Canada and the US and has recorded two CDs.

The composer Richard Hundley has written a body of concert songs that are performed by internationally known artists. *Opera News* said, "Some of his pieces are heart-stoppingly beautiful. His melodies stay in the mind." The *Christian Science Monitor* agreed, "He is an impassioned lyricist, who loves to caress the words with beguiling melody." Come hear for yourself!

The concert series is supported by public funds from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County/NY State Council on the Arts through the Decentralization program.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company is cooking stacks again! Sunday, April 2, from 8–11:30am, enjoy the pancakes and good company at the Fire Hall. Afterward, take a slow walk to the Town Hall for the concert!

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by Carol Bushberg for the Danby Community Council

The Scholarship Committee of the Danby Community Council would like to make the community aware that approximately one thousand dollars in scholarship funds are available to benefit the young people of Danby and West Danby.

Last year, we received so few applications for these funds that some of the scholarship money went unspent. This year, the Committee would like to award the entire amount.

The Scholarship Committee is enthusiastic about assisting families in being able to afford quality programming and experiences for their children. In the past, our awards have helped with the cost of summer camps, art and music programs, travel costs for performers, seminars, and leadership programs. Scholarship funds can be used for any youth related activity, no matter when in the calendar year the activity occurs.

Scholarship funds are paid directly to the programs in which our Danby youth participate. The Scholarship Committee assists families in many circumstances and financial hardship is not required to be eligible for these funds.

If you are a Danby or West Danby resident and would appreciate some assistance with the cost of your child's after school activities, please fill out an application (see page 6, opposite the Youth Flyer, in the *Danby Area News*)! Questions? Call Carol at 607.273.3400.

ITHACA FARMERS' MARKET!

April 1, Day of the Fool...jugglers, stilters, and Good Stuff at the first Steamboat Landing Market of the year. A portion of sales benefits the TC Public Library!

April 2006

Layout: Ted Crane

Database: Colleen Barnes

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To contribute:

Danby Area News

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Phone: 607.273.8678

Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

Text submissions:

Send text in body of Email

(not as an attachment); or

mail typewritten copy, double-

spaced on white paper. Short handwritten submissions ac-

cepted; please write legibly.

Graphics: JPEG preferred. TIFF, GIF, or PNG accepted but discouraged. Check with editor before sending hardcopy graphics.

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

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We would like to thank these sponsors for their help:

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CONTENTED COUNTRY GIFTS

297 Jersey Hill Road • 272.3009 • [contentedcountry.com] Hundreds of gift items available right here in Danby. Baby gifts, locally made maple syrup and crafts, stationery and note paper.

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HIGHLAND FARMS BOARDING KENNEL AND STORE

The "Doggie B & B" • 168 West Miller Road • 273.3251

[www.highlandfarms.baka.com]

Retailer for Hill's Science Diet dog and cat food, plus natural pet treats and Greenies. Save a trip into town.

FRIENDS:

THE YOGA CORNER

Community Corners, 903 Hanshaw Road • 257.3677 • [www.theyogacorner.com] Offering hatha yoga classes in the Svaroopa style for beginners, seniors, pregnancy and more. Great for back care, migraines, and management of middle age aches and pains. Call Ann Kinner Johnson, Danby resident since 1976.

GRANT'S PLANTS

97 Michigan Hollow Road • 272.7335 • [grantsplants@juno.com] Selling annuals, perennials, and some herbs.

SIEGARD'S DAY CARE

355 South Danby Road; 1.5 miles off Rt. 96B • 273.2003 NYS Certified—15 years. Full/Part Time & After School, Located in the Spencer-VanEtten school district.

JESSICA LOVE'S FAMILY DAYCARE

1560 Danby Road • 256.8582

NYS Certified since 1997. Accepting ages 2 & up Full/Part Time & After School • Food Program offered

Danby Town History

Submitted by Joan Grant, Town Historian

Water Witching

Water witching, water dowsing and water divining: the Art of Finding Water. It is a unique talent that is still in use in many parts of the world to this day.

A Brief History—The practice is thought to date back at lease 8,000 years, its origins lost in long-forgotten history. French archaeologists have discovered cave paintings that depicted a dowser surrounded by onlookers.

In 1640, dowsing was made popular by a French Baron and Baroness. They went so far as to publish a book on the subject but, unfortunately, they died in jail while awaiting trial for sorcery. This event possibly led to the term, "water witching." The practice of dowsing continued and arrived in America as part of the cultural lore of English and French settlers.

Theories—No one really knows exactly how witching works. There are many theories, but it isn't based upon any known scientific laws. Some believe there is a connection established between the witcher and the sought-after water. Others theorize that electromagnetic or other subtle geological forces contribute.

Harry Joel, an electrical engineer, has his own theory of why dowsing seems to work so easily. "I noticed on my portable AM radio, that running water changes the reception and superimposes some strange sounds on the RF signal.

"The earth's electro-magnetic field definitely is deformed by underground water. However, I have not found any scientific treaties that explore this phenomenon in any detail."

Albert Einstein was convinced of the authenticity of dowsing.

Process—The tools used in finding hidden water vary. Dowsers most frequently use a rod or stick, witchers a stick and diviners a rod. The classic sticks are forked twigs from the peach, willow or dogwood trees. Rods are of metal angle iron or "V" shaped metal.

The witcher holds the tool tightly in both hands, palms facing up, at about waist level and walks ahead steadily. When the witcher is standing above water the end of the stick will vibrate and then pull downward. A sec-

ond pass, at a 90 degree angle to the first, is often used to confirm the location.

Our Local Connection—For those of you who don't know, Ken Barber, a life long Danby resident, is a water witcher. He's been finding well sites for 45 years. He said his first experience was at approximately the age of 12 when, on a lark, he went to watch his neighbor witching and found it to be very interesting. His stepfather could also witch and taught Ken the basics. Ken said that over the last 45 years he's found 40-50 well sites in Danby, Slaterville, Ithaca's West Hill and Aurora. He says he has, "never witched a well that didn't work."

Ken's tool of choice is the cherry twig but he says that, "any tree that produces a fruit with a pit will do." He finds a fresh straight cherry twig, 12–16" long with a diameter of approximately ³/8".

He follows the same procedure as described above. He says he begins walking and when he feels the twig pull down hard he continues to walk until the pull eases up. He then walks out and comes back crossing the original line on a perpendicular angle to more precisely identify the spot to drill. Ken is unpretentious when discussing his witching talents. He has never charged for finding a well, he simply seems content with his ability to help.

Corrections and Additions

The March article about the Danby Fire of 1889 was actually loaned from the collection of Ken Travor of South Danby Road. We appreciate his generosity.

The poem from February's article was written by Lilian Jackson Braun, author of *The Cat Who...* books.

Easter Egg Hunt

Submitted by Debi Brown, head bunny since 1998

Oh my, our Easter Bunny has lost his eggs! Help us find them. Make your way over to West Danby and meet at Hatch's Pavilion at the Old Baseball Diamond on the corner of Brown and Short Roads.

Aim to arrive on Saturday, April 15th, and don't get there early or late...11am *sharp* is the only right time.

If your wascally wabbit's fuzzy ears are twitching for more information, try calling 607.564.0398. Ask for the big bunny.

Danby Quilters

Submitted by Christine Decker

The Danby Community Quilters are planning a one-day quilt show in June. We are looking for Danby quilts, recently made, or heirlooms, for the show. This is an opportunity to find that quilt stashed in the attic, or to show off your prized work of art, and to see quilts owned by your neighbors and friends.

Danby Community Quilters meet every Friday morning from 9–11am, and are completing their third quilt to raffle this summer at the Danby Fun Day. *Danby Wildflowers* is a beauty—piece work in the center is surrounded by an appliquéed border, all in cream and heather pastels. You could be the lucky winner, and the proceeds benefit the community center! Tickets are available now; contact Mary or Chris (below) to purchase tickets or to volunteer to sell some tickets.

Quilters of all levels of expertise are invited to join our group. As is the quilting tradition, everyone shares their skills, and we have fun learning from and teaching each other. Please join us! This is a great way to meet other Danby quilters. Contact Mary Oltz, 273.2950, or Chris Decker [ckdecker4@hotmail.com].

ADOPT/FOSTER INFO MTG

To anyone who may be considering becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent and wants more information, Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold informational meetings at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 West State Street, Ithaca, NY on Thursday, April 13, 2006, Noon–1pm.

Tompkins County Youth Services is also looking for Host Homes for teenagers for short-term respite.

Please call 274.5266 for more information.

American Legion

Submitted by Bill Brown, Post Adjutant

Mar 26 Chicken barbecue, Noon-gone

Apr 8 Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30-7pm

Apr 23 Chicken barbecue, Noon-gone

Apr 29 Steak Dinner, 5:30-7pm

The chicken BBQ is a ½ bird for \$4.50; the \$7 dinner includes two sides (choose from baked beans, macaroni salad, salt potatoes). Post 221, 1231 Danby Road.

COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE

Submitted by Melissa Brill

Seeds are ordered and greenhouses are up! Four local farms are inviting you to become a member of their community supported agriculture project (CSA) and receive fresh organic and biodynamic food June through November.

The Full Plate Farm Collective thanks all those who supported them in their first year and would like to invite the community to join them in their second.

Members have a choice between farm pickup or delivery. Pickups are at *Stick and Stone* (Wednesday from 2–7pm) and *Three Swallows Farm* (formerly known as Ann and Jeff's Farm) on Nelson Road in Danby (Saturday from 10am–3pm).

As a member, you come to the farm and select from the harvest what you'll use for the week. We don't set limits if we don't have to. Memberships also include pick-your-own crops like herbs, flowers, peas, beans, community events including the Farmer's Ball, and a weekly newsletter to share recipes for what you received and news from the four farms.

For information, contact Melissa 351.3789, [brillme lissa@hotmail.com]. Brochures are also found at the Danby Market, cafes and the library.

Town Hours

TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559 Tue–Fri, 9am–4pm; Sat, 9am–Noon

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm or by appointment

TOWN COURT:

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Tue, 7pm

Danby Community Library

Tue & Thu 3:30–5:30pm, Sat 9:30am–2:30pm All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

Comprehensive Plan Task Force

Submitted by Sue Beeners

Here's an unofficial summary of the CPTF meeting on March 8, 2006. The Town Clerk has official minutes.

- 1. The 2006 work plan under the Tompkins County general planning services contract. The Task Force reviewed the proposed 2006 work plan, which would include:
- Continuation of the GIS Mapping Project
- Conceptual recommendations on Subdivision and Zoning Regulations updates
- Assistance in Survey of Hamlet Area Residents
- Scoping of an Open Space Inventory and Plan, for possible development in 2007

The Task Force recommended to the Town Board that the work plan be approved, with the following modification: that the item related to Assistance in Survey of Hamlet Area Residents be changed to "Assist Town in initiating Strategic Plans for the Hamlets". (As of March 13, the Town Board has not yet approved that work plan.)

2. Bonus lots for agricultural land reservation. The Task Force reviewed a draft revision to the Zoning Ordinance. As proposed, when eligible agricultural land or other eligible land with certain agricultural soils is reserved for such uses as agriculture or forest management, then additional lot entitlement may be added.

For example, with every 5 acres reserved, there would be one additional lot entitlement.

The Task Force made some modifications to the draft, and then approved it in concept. It sent the draft to the Planning Board and Town Board requesting that these boards approve it in concept as well.

- 3. Proposed "Right to Farm Law". Chairperson Ray Van de Bogart introduced a model draft, "Right to Farm Law", and asked that the Task Force review it for the next meeting. The draft law would supplement right to farm provisions in the State Agriculture and Markets Law. It would emphasize to existing and to new residents that the Town encourages agriculture, and would request that the community be understanding of the nature of day to day farming operations. A similar draft has been widely adopted in other nearby towns and across the state.
- 4. Proposed Round "2-B" revisions to the zoning ordinance. A draft showing proposed revisions was circulated. It attempts to incorporate concepts that were reviewed by the Town Board and Planning Board last fall. The Task Force will review that draft for its next meeting.
- 5. Joint town board/task force meeting, Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at 6:30pm. The Task Force accepted the Town Board's request for a Joint Meeting. The meeting is primarily to discuss the work for the Task Force for the coming year. The Joint Meeting will be followed by the regular Task Force meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the Task Force Meetings.

Danby Town Talk in the Ithaca Journal

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Correspondent

As I write my Danby Town Talk column for the Ithaca Journal, I am enchanted by the memories that come back to me and by the stories told by Danby folks.

I think about when there was a small man-made skating "rink" across the street on the school grounds. I remember the fun times we had as families rooting for the Moses Peter Over-30 Slowball team. I recall the international night dish-to-pass suppers held at the Danby Elementary School. I run into grown adults who spent time at my house as "day care kids." I can

taste the heart-shaped pancakes made for me on my Valentine birthday by the crew at the Fire Station breakfasts. I look at pictures of the Easter egg hunts at the school, and searching for the perfect Christmas tree at the Pirate's Club, fishing at Jennings Pond.

I so enjoy writing the Danby Town Talk column but need *your* stories and memories. This column is meant to convey to readers what life is like in a small, rural neighborhood such as ours.

Danby is rich in history but lots of it is before my time, so I depend on *you* to help me share this history. Pictures are always welcome, also.

Thanks for the memories! My 35+ years in Danby is time lovingly spent!

Danby Community Library

Submitted by Patti Meyers

"This is who and what Pearl Meyers believes she is, who and what she is to herself. But what is she to us? A twenty-year-old woman. A woman who is starving, a woman chained to the flagpole in front of the American embassy in Dublin, Ireland. A woman who is lying on the ground." -- from "Pearl" by Mary Gordon

Happy Spring! We have lots of books on gardening and Spring projects that will help you plan and make days fly by until you are outdoors enjoying great weather.

New collections to look for are Adult Fiction (M-Z), Juvenile Nonfiction, Instructional Videos, and Adult Nonfiction. Many thanks to our volunteers who spend their time selecting these books at Tompkins County Public Library and bringing them to the shelves of our Danby Community Library. Thanks also to TCPL for their continuing support of the community libraries in so many ways.

Come in and borrow a Spring picture book for the "little bunnies" in your life. Special thoughts go out to Joanne Church for sunnier days ahead.

Danby Fun Day!

Submitted by Sue Beeners

Fun Day, Parade, and Barbecue Update

Calling all Danbyites! Spring is here, and just around the corner is hot weather, and the July 15 Danby Fun Day, Parade, and Barbecue! This year's working theme is... **Water**. Our goals are to:

- Celebrate Central and West Danby's settlement along waterways and Jennings Pond. Central Danby Hamlet is on a major watershed divide (south to the Chesapeake Bay, north to the St. Lawrence River).
- Fun Day games and Fire Department demonstrations using water, possibly with a dunking booth and hose competitions.
- Water-themed parade entries. Parade participants, let your imagination flow freely!

We need your planning help! Contact:

Fun Day: Andrea Hazard, 272.8791

[ahazard@twcny.rr.com]

Parade: Amy Cusimano, 272.4634

[amymc@twcny.rr.com] Sue Beeners, 277.069 [sbeeners@aol.com]

BBQ / Food: Danby Fire Station 272.8114

Danby Community Council Scholarship Application

attend special camps/programs (sports, computer, art, dance, music, etc.). Funds are limited, so please apply quickly.

Youth's Name

Date of Birth ______ Telephone & Email ______

Address _____

Parent/Guardian's Name ______

Please send the application, with proof of enrollment in

The Danby Community Council provides scholarships to youth who are Danby residents and need financial support to

Address of camp/program _____

Is the youth currently eligible for a free or reduced cost lunch program?

I verify that the information provided on this application is accurate.

Signature of Parent/Guardian ______D

Please send the application, with proof of enrollment in program and (if applicable) payment of deposit, to:

3

Danby Community Council c/o Carol Bushberg 908 Steam Mill Road Ithaca, NY 14850

Questions? Call 272.7582!



Community Council Youth Programs April-June 2006

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, at the Town Hall, and on the web: [http://www.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/rys/local.htm] To have a brochure mailed or faxed to you, please contact Tom Archibald, 607.272.2292 x222, or [tga4@cornell.edu]. Remember, these programs fill up, so register early. Feel free to sign up even if a program is already underway.

Primitive Pursuits—Grades 4-8

Danby Federated Church

Fridays, April 14-June 16, 3:30-6pm

Come join us to learn ancestral living skills such as friction fires, shelter building, native crafts, nature awareness, tracking & more! This is an extremely valuable environmental education program that connects participants to their local environment through the study of earth living skills and nature awareness.

Picture Perfect-Grades 4-8

Boynton Middle School

Thursdays, April 13-May 25, 2:30-5pm

Do you like photography? If you think taking pictures is fun, then check out this program: we will make old-fashioned pin-hole cameras, do some Polaroid art, and dive into the digital world as we explore different ways to take pictures. Taking it even further, we'll make photo collages and find ways to make your pix look 'picture perfect'...so that we can even put them up on display if you'd like.

Youth Beautification Brigade-Grades 3-8

Danby Town Hall

Saturdays, May 6, May 20, and June 3, 9am–Noon Come hang out and have fun as we make the Town Hall even more beautiful than it already is. We'll finish building a garden bench around a tree trunk, plant some flowers, and have fun in the sun while we're at it!

Danby Farmers' Market-Grades 6-11

Pavilion at the Danby Fire House

Thursdays June 1–22 (3:30–5:30pm),

Tuesday June 27 (11am-1pm),

and Thursdays June 29–August 24 (1–6pm)

Whether you're 14 years old or older and looking for a job, or whether you're a little younger and looking for a great volunteer experience, the Farmers' Market awaits you this summer. You will get to be outside, meet lots of people, learn skills that will help you get more jobs later on, discover where our food comes from, practice cooking, and more. In June, we'll meet to get ready for the season (including some fun field trips to the Ithaca Farmers' Market and to a local farm) and then open for business on July 6. If you're 14 or older and want to work be sure to apply early to have a better chance of getting the job!

TEAM FUN: Fun Day Planning-Grades 3-8

Danby Town Hall

Fridays, June 23–July 14 (9am–Noon) and Saturday July 15 (9am–3pm)

Raise your hand if you like Fun Day! I know I do. Just think how extra fun it would be to join the team that makes Fun Day possible. We'll design a T-shirt that will be sold during Fun Day and we'll touch up the old games and make up new ones. During Fun Day on July 15, we'll be responsible for running games and crafts and just making sure all your neighbors have LOTS of fun

For more information, or to share your ideas about potential youth programs, feel free to call. The more the merrier, so please don't hesitate to come and try these wonderful free programs. Homeschoolers are more than welcome. Youth who don't go to Boynton are also more than welcome to come to the program that meets there. Wherever you are, in or near Danby, just come! See you soon!!

Danby Community Council Danby Area News 1830 Danby Road Ithaca, NY 14850 NON-PROF ORG ECWRSS U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 352 Ithaca, NY 14850

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Danby Area News: Event Calendar

Apr 2 • Sun

8–11:30am Fire Hall

Pancake Breakfast

Apr 2 • Sun

3pm 🕰 Town Hall

Concert: Parks and Jordan-Miller

Apr 3 • Mon

6:30pm 🙀 Town Hall

Town Board Agenda Meeting

Apr 5 • Wed

6:30pm @ Town Hall

Joint Meeting: Town Board and Comprehensive Plan Task Force, followed by the regular CPTF meeting.

Apr 6 • Thu

Noon 🔑 Federated Church

Danby Senior Citizens Dish-to-Pass Lunch

...Easter Ham will be provided!

Apr 6 • Thu

5pm 🕰 Town Hall

Revitalization Committee

Apr 6 • Thu

7pm 🙀 Town Hall

Community Council

Apr 8 • Sat

5:30pm 🚇 American Legion

Spaghetti Dinner

Apr 10 • Mon

6:30pm @ Town Hall

Town Board Meeting

Apr 11 • Tue

9:30–11:30am 🛍 Market

Meet Your Representatives—County Rep Frank Proto

and Town Supervisor Ric Dietrich

Apr 15 • Sat

11am sharp! A Hatch's Pavilion, West Danby

Easter Egg Hunt

Apr 23 • Sun

Noon American Legion

Chicken Barbecue

Apr 27 • Thu

7pm 🕰 Town Hall

Planning Board

Apr 29 • Sat

5:30pm American Legion

Steak Dinner

Jul 15 • Sat • Danby Fun Day

ONGOING

Seniors Strength Training Group Federated Church Mondays, 9am.

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

Danby Fire Company Fire Hall

Mondays, 7pm; monthly mtg 2nd Monday, 7:30pm.

Danby Food Pantry & Federated Church

3rd Thursday, 6–8pm, 3rd Friday, 4–6pm.

Danby Community Library Reading Group Town Hall 4th Tuesdays, 7pm.

Danby Quilters Group ♥ 273.2950

Mondays, 6:30pm, Fridays, 9–11am.

WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

- Danby Town Hall 1830 Danby Road
- Danby Community Library 1830 Danby Road
- Danby Market 1774 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 Hall 1231 Danby Road