



# DANBY AREA NEWS

## DANBY HOUSING GROWTH

Submitted by Sue Beeners, Danby Zoning Officer

The following shows housing units and other major construction completed since the 2000 Census. In estimating population increase from 2000 to present, the 2000 average of 2.53 persons per household was used.

As shown, Danby grew by an average of 17 new housing units per year during the 1990s, but more than 20 new units per year since the date of the US Census, April 1, 2000.

	1990 Census	2000 Census	March 31, 2008
Population	2,858	3,007	3,424 (est)
Households	1,040	1,187	n/a
Household Size	2.75	2.53	n/a
Housing Units	1,087	1,264	1,429
1990-2000 increase: 177 units, average of 17 per year			
2000-2008 increase: 165 units, average of 20.6 per year			

Based on the year-2000 average of 2.53 persons per housing unit, the estimated population of Danby has increased by 417 since 2000.

—continued on page 6

## PLANNING BOARD OBSERVER

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

At its March meeting, the Danby Planning Board focused discussion on two major topics: facilitating agricultural land use and how to conduct hamlet planning.

### Redeveloping Agriculture in Danby

Elizabeth Keokosky, a Danby resident, is proposing the creation of what she calls a, "Land Bank Cooperative." With agricultural commodities at record high prices and fossil fuel prices making biofuels increasingly attractive,

—continued on page 6

## FISH FRY AT THE FIRE HALL!

Here's a reminder about the West Danby Fire Department aFish Fry at 4pm on May 10th in the Fire Hall on Sylvan Lane. The \$8 dinner (\$7 for seniors) includes fish, fries, and coleslaw. Get there soon, before the fish fly and the dinners are all gone! For more info, Scott Wendt, 607.564.0367 or [westdanby466@aol.com]. ❀

## MEMORIES OF PANCAKES!

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company recently offered three pancake breakfasts, on January 27, February 24, and March 30. An average of 200 breakfasts were served at each event and this is a great number for us.

If you haven't partaken of these renowned food fests, here's a summary: You pay on arrival (\$6, \$5/seniors, \$4/children) and receive an order slip. Sit wherever you like at tables and chairs in the Fire Station meeting room and truck bay. Fill out your order slip: what you want, how much you want, and whether you have a special request (eggs scrambled, over easy, over hard, etc). Choices include eggs, ham, sausage, pancakes, toast, French Toast, hash browns, hot chocolate, orange juice, coffee, tea. Our wait staff picks up your order slip and delivers the orders; you can enjoy beverages while your order is prepared.

The breakfasts were not without glitches: random shortages of food or beverages, and periodic pile-ups of breakfast orders had the cooks working double-time. Many of you had to wait in line, a tad too long, when surges of customers filled the available seating. We thank you for your patience during these episodes. The fire station is being renovated during the summer of 2008. A larger

—continued on page 5

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONCERT

The Danby Community Council's next Concert Series event takes place on Sunday, June 1 at 3pm. Singers from *Colman's Well* will perform in the Town Hall. ❀

May 2008  
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Colleen Barnes

To contribute:  
Danby Area News  
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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 hard-  
copy graphics.

Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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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Ted and Connie Merritt.

# DANBY TOWN HISTORY

Submitted by Joan Grant, Town Historian

## Tompkins County Barn Report and Contest

Tompkins County is home to hundreds of historic barns. Some of these are known and highly visible, but many are hidden, undiscovered treasures of our past, and are swiftly disappearing from the landscape.

In an effort to recognize our important agricultural heritage, Historic Ithaca has created the *Tompkins County Barn Project* contest to help our citizens discover and celebrate this significant type of landmark.

Anyone with an interest in their older barn, silo, chicken house, or other type of agricultural outbuilding is encouraged to enter. Who knows...you might have the oldest barn, tallest silo, biggest chicken coop, best corn crib, or the only existing hop house in the county! After an entry is received, judges will review the information. The winner will be announced in late summer, along with various Best of Class awards.

The contest is part of a three-part endeavor whose main goal is to collect a county-wide inventory of historic agricultural buildings, and to educate the public about our rural heritage.

For more information and a contest entry, contact Jessica Evans at Historic Ithaca, 607.273.6633. Dryden and Lansing have already begun town-wide barn surveys and our Town of Danby should also be represented in this historic endeavor. ❀

## SHORTER NOTICES!

### Bereaved Parents Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the bereaved parents support group will be on Tuesday, May 13, 5:30-7pm at Hospicare on East King Road in Ithaca. This is a peer-run group serving parents or grandparents who have lost a child or grandchild. For more information about the group, please contact Carlo Troise at 607.255.9470.

### Foster Care/Adoption Informational Meeting

Considering becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent? The Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold an informational meeting at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 West State Street, on Thursday, May 8, Noon-1pm. Tompkins County has a special need for foster families in the Ithaca City School District.

Please call 607.274.5266 for more information. ❀

<b>Fun Day Theme: Celebrating Neighbors and Community</b>	<b>• Fun Day Date: Saturday, July 26 •</b>	
Name _____		Craft and/or Vendor Description:
Address: _____		
Phone and Email: _____		
I agree not to hold the Danby Fun Day, its organizers, or the Town of Danby responsible for any injury due to my (our) participation.		All animals must be under control at ALL times. Leash, lead, or harness.
Signature _____	Date _____	Please send this completed form and a check for \$10, payable to "Danby Fire Department" to: Sharon Gaden, Danby Fire Department, 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.
<b>Craft/Vendor Application Form</b>		Some fine print: • Fun Day starts at 10am and ends around 4pm. • Setup begins at 8am. • Vehicles must be removed to off-site parking by 10am. • The fee is \$10 for a 10x10 space. We apply this fee towards our event expenses. • There is food available; bathrooms, too. • Forms and checks due by July 12, 2008.
Signature _____		(Required; for those under 18, parent or guardian must sign)

Danby Fun Day Craft/Vendor Application (see page 4)

## EMS THANKS

Submitted by Roger Grant

This year, EMS week is May 18-24. The theme of the week is: *EMS - Your Life is Our Mission.*

The Danby Fire District would like to thank our EMS providers for the professional delivery of medical emergency care. The nations emergency care system is immense, and requires the coordination and collaboration of many partners, including many hours of training. Most of all, we wish for our towns, a safe and healthy year. ❀

## Danby Fun Day - July 26, 2008 Celebrating Neighbors and Community

Hey, Neighborhoods and Community Organizations! The July 26 Fun Day, BBQ, and Parade is our big opportunity to have fun and to show our support for our all-volunteer Danby Fire Company.

Let's look forward to a day of music, the famous Danby Fire Company Chicken Barbecue and other food, kids' games, displays, crafts, fire safety demonstrations, a Chinese Auction, book sale, and much more!

Can you help us in **planning** or spend a few hours on July 26 helping out? Our next meeting is on May 7 at 7pm in the Danby Fire Station. Contact Sue or Sharon, see below.

**Parade:** Support our Danby Fire Company and our Town with some great community parade entries! How about getting together with your neighbors on a float or walking group that expresses the special character of your neighborhood or community organization? Parade Entry Forms have been mailed to last year's participants. Contact Amy, see below.

**Wheel O'Treats:** Twenty-five cents can win you a cake or pie or cupcakes or cookies, if your lucky number comes up on the Wheel o' Treats! It's a fun game, and the price is still 25¢. Look for the wheel to begin spinning at 11:30am. We will need donated treats again this year, so if you can supply some, contact Gay, see below.

**Book Sale:** Help raise funds for our fire department... those books you've enjoyed and no longer want can be donated to the Danby Fun Day Book Sale. For info or to make pickup arrangements, contact Leslie, see below.

### FOUND CAT NEWS

*If you have never loved an animal/pet, then a part of your soul remains unawakened.*

A nice solid gray, short-hair cat with a white bow tie and a notched left ear has found our front door. He seems friendly but will not allow anyone to touch him. He has been hanging around our home in Olde Towne Village for about two months.

We are feeding him until we find his owner; he sleeps on our front step. For more information, contact Marge, 607.277.6933 or [marge@baka.com]. ❧

**Crafters and Vendors:** You are invited to participate in Danby Fun Day!

- Fun Day starts at 10am and ends around 4pm. It includes a parade, music, displays and vendors, demonstrations, a Chinese Auction, and games.
- Setup begins at 8am.
- Vehicles must move to off-site parking by 10am.
- The fee is \$10.00 for a 10'x10' space. We apply this fee towards our event expenses.
- There will be plenty of food if you get hungry. There is a chicken barbecue starting at Noon, and an ongoing burger/hot dog/soda/water stand throughout the day, as well as an ice cream stand. Bathrooms are provided as well.
- Deadlines: Forms and Checks are due by no later than July 12, 2008.

Spaces are limited, and will be assigned on a first-application basis. There's an application form in this issue of the Danby Area News, and at [danbynews.tedcrane.com/]. Contact Sue, Marrell, or Sharon, see below. ❧

#### Danby Fun Day Contact Directory:

- Sue Beeners 607.277.0799 [sbeeners@aol.com]
- Sharon Gaden 607.659.3116 [danby071302@yahoo.com]
- Amy Cusimano 607.272.4634 [amymc@twcny.rr.com]
- Gay Huddle 607.273.6530 [gayhuddle@hotmail.com]
- Andrea Hazard 607.272.8791 [ahazard@twcny.rr.com]
- Marrel Cortright 607.564.0020
- Leslie Connors 607.277.1717

## TOWN HOURS

#### TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559  
Mon, 9am-12:30pm, Tue-Fri, 9am-4pm

#### 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.

## DANBY PLANT EXCHANGE

Submitted by Dan Klein

The 16th annual Plant Exchange will take place on Sunday May 18, Noon-3pm, at the Danby Fire Station on NYS Route 96B. This free event is an opportunity to swap, donate, and try new perennials, houseplants, seeds, annual seedlings, and anything else garden related.

It is not necessary to bring a plant in order to get a plant, nor is it necessary to stay the whole time. For more information contact Dan Klein at 607.272.7582, or [danbydan@hotmail.com].

Stay on track with more plants: Cornell Cooperative Extension's Spring Garden Fair at the Ithaca High School. Over 40 vendors will be there, providing annuals, perennial, shrubs, trees, herbs, vegetable plants etc. Also, educational programs running all day. ❁

**Pancake Memories, continued from front page—**

kitchen and meeting room are part of the planned improvements. We hope you will plan to join us for breakfast during the winter of 2009.

In addition to the fire station membership, we were fortunate to have many community members offer help. Thank you to the following community members: Jack Baker, Susan Beeners, Debaura Dahl, Earl Eckdahl, Bill Farrell, Liz Healey, Garry Huddle, Jean Miller, Sheridan Sager, Connie Szczepanski, and Sarah Wyatt. ❁

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Please cut out and place in a prominent place, then come use Your Danby Community Library! We have 10 new /Books on CD/ for your listening pleasure. ❁

### **DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY at the Danby Town Hall**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 11:30am-1:30pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm**

**...and when the *Open* sign is out!**

**At other times, when the Town Hall  
is open, you can use our "self-check."**

## DANBY FIRE DISTRICT GRANT STATUS

Submitted by Bea Hogben

The Danby Fire District, representing the Danby and West Danby Volunteer fire companies, recently applied for two grants offered by the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Assistance to Firefighters program.

The first application is a \$285,000 request, for a rescue-pumper to replace Danby's 19-year old engine. The second is for multiple sets of turnout coats and pants for the firefighters, and a stationary airfill system to refill the air bottles for self-contained breathing apparatus.

If awarded a grant, FEMA pays 95 percent of the award and the District would be responsible for only 5 percent--a great bargain. The District was successful in obtaining FEMA AFG grants in 2004 and 2005 when it applied for grants to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus, a thermal imaging camera to aid in fire detection and rescue, and training equipment such as computer software, a desktop computer, two laptops, and two projectors. The District unsuccessfully requested the rescue-pumper grant in 2006 and 2007. FEMA will announce awards during the second half of 2008, so please keep your fingers crossed for your fire district.

Earlier this year, the Danby Volunteer Fire Company also applied for a grant that provides Polaris 6-wheeled all-terrain vehicles to fire companies but our application competed with 2,000 others and was rejected. This vehicle would've helped us deliver personnel and equipment to remote locations when needed for rescues (such as injured or lost hunters or hikers) or brush fire attack.

Our next grant application will be completed in May and is offered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for fire suppression equipment pertaining to firefighting on state forest lands.

In other news, the Danby Fire District is pleased to report it has received notification from Senator Seward that a legislative initiative in the amount of \$15000 was included in the 2008-2009 state budget to be used for equipment for the Danby fire station addition. ❁

**Planning Board, continued from front page—**

the business model she proposes would aggregate available land for use by entrepreneurs who need it. She is developing the idea for her Master's Thesis.

Danby has a lot of unused and little-used acreage that might make sense to return to production. The cooperative she proposes would act as a broker, or middleman, making it easier for those in search of usable land to find it.

Putting money into the hands of land owners (by sharing in the profits of farm contractors, and by qualifying the owners for agricultural assessments) would reduce the pressure to sell to developers. The planning board listened with interest, offered encouragement, and suggested the names of several Danby landowners who could be approached to gauge interest.

Cooperative Extension also runs a program called *Land-Link*. This database helps to connect land owners with those looking for land, either beginning farmers or those looking to diversify. Free and confidential, the service is geared toward enabling one-on-one negotiations rather than aggregating land for large enterprises.

Landowners interested in leasing, loaning, or selling, and would-be farmers looking for land should contact Cooperative Extension at 607.272.2292. This program covers Tompkins, Tioga, Schuyler, Cortland, and Chemung counties.

**Hamlet Planning**

The sense of the group seemed to be that, since there are currently relatively few proposals needing the planning board's attention, the board itself can play a more active role.

How best to involve the public? Meeting with an invited group of "key stakeholders" to organize the task was proposed, but the concern was raised that those not invited would take offense. If all are to be invited, then the board should be positioned to effectively constructively harness the resultant interest. Organizing the overall effort in advance is vital.

The board agreed to review existing documents, particularly the Comprehensive Plan's objectives and strategies related to hamlet planning, as a basis for thinking about how to structure the task. This review was expected at the board's next scheduled meeting, on April 17. ❁

**Danby Growth, continued from front page—**

**Summary of Danby Construction Completions**

Shows housing units completed, by year, since 2000 Census. Mobile homes in parks are considered permanent housing.

Temporary mobile homes shown are not included in the calculation of total new housing units. Renovations, additions, and accessory structures are also not included. ❁

**COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT**

Submitted by Sue Beeners, Danby Zoning Officer

The NYS Office for Small Cities has awarded a \$25,000 Technical Assistance Grant to the Town of Danby, to construct a Community Development Plan targeted towards revitalizing the Central and West Danby Hamlets as sustainable centers of housing and commerce.

The entire community will be involved in defining a future vision for the Hamlets. The Plan will also help position Danby for future grants. Stay tuned for more information. ❁

**New Housing Units Completed in Danby, By Year**

Class of Housing	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Pending
Single family	11	7	23	19	21	12	5	15	3	7
Two-family	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Convert 1- to 2-family	-	-	2	-	2	1	2	2	-	-
Doublewides on lots	2	6	5	1	1	-	1	2	1	-
Mobile homes in parks	4	2	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
<b>Total New Units</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

## Community Council Youth Programs May 2008

Programs are for youth who live in or near Danby; the age range is listed for each program. All programs are free. Look for brochures and registration forms at the Town Hall and on the web.

For Tom's programs, to have a brochure mailed or faxed to you, please contact Tom Archibald, 607.272.2292 x222, [tga4@cornell.edu], or visit [http://www.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/rys/local.htm].

**Elementary Photography—Grades 4-5 & homeschoolers**  
Thursdays, April 3-May 8 (all day on April 17) (2-4pm)  
South Hill Elementary School

Spring is a wonderful time to explore and enjoy photography. Come join us and some students from Enfield elementary School to learn and practice digital photography skills. We'll start with the basics, and focus on nature photography (so be ready to be outside!), and we'll go from there.

**Primitive Pursuits—Grades 4-8**

43 Hornbrook Rd. in Danby

Mondays, ongoing (3:30-6:30pm)

Youth learn ancestral outdoor survival skills including shelter building, knife safety, fire building, cord mak-

# Danby Youth Flyer

ing, orienteering, outdoor cooking and much more. This popular program is an extremely valuable occasion for youth to get away from the fast-paced lives they often lead and relearn how to look at the world (natural and man-made) through a different lens.

The future benefits are multiple and diverse, for both the environment and the youth.

**Our World, Learning and Service (OWLS)—Grades 5-8**

Stay tuned for updates on what the passionate, committed young Danby citizens have planned! We are a youth-run service learning leadership development group, dedicated to helping out the Danby Community. If you want to make a difference, we are still open to new participants who want to join. If you are interested, call Tom.

Tom adds, "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. Wherever you are, in or near Danby, just come! See you soon." ❁

## PRIMITIVE PURSUITS DAY

Submitted by David Hall, Cooperative Extension

Coming soon: The 7th Annual Primitive Pursuits Day, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension featuring Ancestral Living Skills, Nature Awareness and Sustainable Living programs.

When: Saturday, May 10th from 10-5.

Where: 4-H Acres, 418 Lower Creek Road, Dryden, NY. Covered pavilion available in case of rain.

Cost: \$5 for youth, \$8 for adults, \$20 for families.

Chicken BBQ, 11am 'til gone. Dinner: \$8, Half: \$5.

Workshops are hands-on and will run throughout the day. Workshop Presenters will have information on upcoming programs as well as have primitive items for sale.

- Campfire Cooking & Carving Animal Bone w/Hawk Circle

- Dream Catchers & Finger Weaving w/ Wilderness Way
- Traditional Fish Hooks & Line w/ Thunderbird Atlatl
- Fisher & Tracking Outings w/ Linda Spielman
- Native Cooking w/ Tim Woods
- Torches, Bark Baskets, Coal Burning, Winter Survival, Awareness Games, Drilling Stone, Friction Fires, Spark Based Fire Making & Cattail Tinder, Tree Identification, with Primitive Pursuits
- Primitive Fire Making Competition to be held at 3pm. Bring your friction kits and enter at the sign in desk!
- Additional Programming to be announced with Camp Earth Connections

Pre-registration is not necessary. For more information call David Hall, at 607.272.2292 x261. ❁

Postal Patron

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

May 1 • Thu

6pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church  
**Danby Senior Citizens**  
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Danby Community Council Meeting**

May 5 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Town Board Agenda Meeting (tentative \*)**

May 10 • Sat

4pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall  
**Fish Fry**

May 12 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Town Board Meeting (tentative \*)**

May 15 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Planning Board Meeting (tentative \*)**

June 1 • Sun

3pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
Danby Community Council Concert: Colman's Well

June 5 • Thu

6pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church  
**Danby Senior Citizens**  
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
**Danby Community Council Meeting**

Jul 12, 2008 • Sat

**Danby Fun Day and Parade**

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Danby Community Library Open** 🏛️ Town Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 11:30am-1:30pm,  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm,  
and when the **Open** sign is out!

**Seniors Strength Training Group** 🏛️ Federated Church  
Mondays, 9am.

**West Danby Volunteer Fire Company** 🏛️ WD Fire Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7pm.

**Danby Fire Commissioners** 🏛️ Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:30pm.

**Danby Fire Company** 🏛️ Fire Hall  
Mondays, 7pm; monthly mtg 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:30pm.

**Danby Food Pantry** 🏛️ Federated Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 4–6pm, Thursday the-day-before, 6–8pm

**Danby Community Library Volunteer Mtg** 🏛️ Town Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 6:30pm. Public Welcome.

**Danby Quilters Group** ☎ 273.2950  
Fridays, 9–11am.

### WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

🏛️ **Danby Town Hall** • 1830 Danby Road

🏛️ **Danby Community Library** • 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 Hall** • 1231 Danby Road

The Town of Danby has a web site:  
[<http://town.danby.ny.us>] 📄

Find the Danby News on the web!  
[<http://danbynews.tedcrane.com/>] 📄

\* Tentative dates are based on "the usual schedule";  
Specific information not provided before print deadline.