



# DANBY AREA NEWS

## WEST DANBY ANNUAL MTG

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

The annual meeting of the West Danby Community Association will be held at 5pm on Saturday, January 17, in the West Danby Fire Hall.

This dish-to-pass event will also feature a focus on energy saving. We will try to answer the question, "How do I determine what is most cost effective and how do I pay for it or do it myself?" New web-based informational resources from Cooperative Extension, that may answer the question, are generating very positive reviews. Come check it out! ❀

## CHICKEN, BISCUITS...TEA

Submitted by the Danby Federated Church

Come to the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner at the Danby Federated Church! It runs 5–7pm on Friday, January 9, 2009. In addition to the bird and bun, the menu features mashed potatoes, squash, green beans, corn, harvard beets, applesauce, and assorted pies and desserts. \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids.

All Women are invited to a wonderful and elegant Epiphany Tea at the DFC, 4–6pm on Saturday, January 10. ❀

## FISH FRY FRIDAYS

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben

For many years, the country church in Caroline Center (where I attend and serve as organist) has had a Fish Fry the first Friday of every month. It is so well known that we serve between 200 and 300 people!

In January, they're postponing it until the second Friday because many members meet at the church the day before to get everything ready, and the first Thursday this year is New Year's Day.

Several people Danby-ites attend, so we're trying to get the word of the postponement out. Maybe a few additional new Fish Fry fans will attend. See you on January 9! ❀

## DCC ANNUAL MEETING

Submitted by Bob Strichartz, DCC President

The Annual meeting of the Danby Community Council will be held at 7pm on Thursday, January 22 in the Danby Town Hall. The main purpose of the meeting is to elect new members to the Board of Directors. There are three openings for 2-year terms.

After the general election, the Board will choose officers for 2009. We are especially interested in someone willing to serve as Treasurer to replace Asher Hockett, who has ably served in this capacity for the last five years.

Any Danby resident—at least 18 years old—is eligible to serve on the Board and to vote in the election. Candidates should notify Bob Strichartz, the current Board President, 607.277.3058 or [str@math.cornell.edu], of their intention to run by January 8.

The Danby Community Council is a not-for-profit community service organization. We sponsor programs for youths, families and adults (concerts, movies, Halloween party, etc), award scholarships, sponsor the Danby Area News, and we work to foster a sense of community.

Refreshments will be served. ❀

## TOWN BOARDS SEEKING...

Submitted by Carol Szczeplanski, Town Clerk

The Danby Town Board is seeking interested residents who to serve on Town boards and committees. There is currently a vacancy on the the Planning Board and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Interested residents should submit a letter of interest to the Town Supervisor or the Town Clerk (at 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca, New York 14850) indicating their interest in serving on a board or committee. For more information, call the Clerk at 607.277.4788 or the Supervisor at 607.227.2434.

The Town is also looking for members for a Danby Trails Commission, see separate notice in the Danby News. ❀

January 2009  
Layout: Ted Crane  
Database: Colleen Barnes  
Mailing: Beatrice Hogben,  
Lynne Deuschle, and  
Colleen Barnes; and coming  
on board: Melanie Dilliplane,  
Kelly Makosch, and Nathalie  
Bessou.

To contribute:  
Danby Area News  
PO Box 6886  
Ithaca, NY 14851-6886  
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 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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[www.danbyfederatedchurch.org]

If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact  
Bev Fitzpatrick at 607.272.8516 or [fitzies4@yahoo.com].

## DANBY TOWN HISTORY

Submitted by Joan and Roger Grant

Below are excerpts from the diary of Dewitt Traver. They give us a glimpse of life in South Danby 100 years ago. The most interesting entries were pulled from the diary by Lois Traver and presented to her husband, Kenneth Traver, grandson of Dewitt Traver.

Kenneth Traver (the unofficial Mayor of South Danby) resided on South Danby Road, on a portion of the original 800+ acre farm of his grandfather.

Saturday January 16: Lew Coopers wife buried today.

Sunday January 17: Wiliam Maybe died today.

Saturday April 17: George Bogart falls out his wagon and kills him coming from Spencer tonight.

Monday April 19: John Mannings wife funeral.

Thursday June 17: Ed cultivates potatoes, first time.

Sunday June 27: Eugene and Lauret is here. (*Eugene and Lauret were Dewitt's brother and sister.*)

Wednesday September 16: Ed and I go to the State Fair. Start from Wilseyville, fare \$2.10 from Ithaca.

Friday December 10: Write Sarah Cooper a letter to find out what she asks for her place here and offer her \$1,800. ❄

## DOG FOOD AVAILABLE

Submitted by Steve Griffin, Foodnet

Foodnet has received a donation of a ton (literally) of Science Diet and Nutra dog food from Banfield Pet Hospital. This food is available to senior citizens, for their pets.

If you're a senior with a dog, or known another older adult whose dog would benefit, please contact LuAnne at 607.266.9553 to make reserve some food and to make pick-up arrangements.

Foodnet may also have some cat food available. ❄

## FIRE COMMISIONERS MEETING

An Organizational Meeting for the Danby Fire District will be held at 7pm on January 6, 2009, in the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby Road. The District's regular business meeting is later in the month, at 7:30pm on January 20, also at the Station. (*This is the group that determines your Fire Tax-editor*) ❄

## PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Submitted by Sharon Gaden

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company will be cooking hot breakfasts at the Fire Station again this winter! Breakfasts will be held, 8-11:30am, on three Sundays January 11, February 8, and March 15, 2009.

Breakfasts include pancakes, french toast, eggs (made the way you want them), ham, sausage, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, orange juice. Our breakfasts are justifiably renowned: they're made to order, served on warm china, and served by wait staff. There is lower pricing for children and for seniors.

With luck, these will be the last breakfasts served prior to the renovation of our Fire Station. The renovations, planned for the spring of 2009, will provide much-needed space for the kitchen and will be a great help for future events.

For those who would like to have a low cost, highly visible address sign to mark the driveway of their home, purchase forms will be available during the breakfasts. These signs are sprouting up in Danby and West Danby, and are extremely helpful to emergency personnel who are trying to find an address. If you haven't purchased one of these signs, please consider doing so. They really do make a difference. Fire Company members will install the sign for you (if requested)! ❄

## DANBY TRAILS COMMISSION

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

The Danby Town Board is seeking people who are interested in being involved in a Danby Trails Commission. The Commission will investigate the possibilities for a future trail network in Danby as well as strengthen the status of the current trails. There are no specific requirements or meeting times at this point—we are just soliciting interest. Please contact me at [danbysup@hotmail.com] or 607.227.2434. ❄

## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Remember this photo? After an almost-comical set of errors, we can now report correctly that the identification should have been, "Max and Ezri Rubenstein-Miller." Our apologies! ❄

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

The New Year. What surprises will this new year bring? Certainly, last year—2008—goes down in my mind as one of my most pivotal years.

The Town is in good shape as far as I am concerned and is well positioned to meet the new demands that will surely challenge us in the future. We go forward debt free, a status that many municipalities would envy. We have sound reserves, and I feel confident that we have a tight ship ready to confront whatever gets thrown at us.

It has been a real pleasure to serve the citizens of the Town. I am sure that I speak for all of us who work for the Town of Danby, in offering you all our warmest greetings and wishing you a peaceful New Year.

Speaking of which, the Town is looking for residents to participate in several meaningful roles:

- Membership on the Planning Board and the Board of Zoning Appeals. (see separate notice elsewhere in the Danby News).
- Involvement in a Danby Trails Commission. (see separate notice elsewhere in the Danby News).
- To represent the town on the county's Youth Services Board. This person would work to secure funding for the Community Council. It's a critical job for next year, as we expect major funding hits for health care, medicare, and schools, and they will cause legislative entities to look for programs that can be cut.

In the gas-well drilling arena, we are pushing the County to create new resolutions to allow the Health Department to require disclosures about chemical usage. We are also supporting County resolutions to voice opposition to the State's practice of passing budget problems to localities, and therefore onto property taxes.

Please address comments or questions to me, [[danbysup@hotmail.com](mailto:danbysup@hotmail.com)] or 607.227.2434. ❁

## FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by L. Patrick Caveney, Chair, Danby Fire Commissioners

Danby Fire Commissioners thank the voters of the Danby Fire District for the turnout to the December 9, 2008 Fire Commissioner Election. There were 105 votes cast. Richard Oltz was the winner over Adam Crown by a small margin. This demonstrates that Danby residents care about their fire protection.

District	Voters	Oltz	Crown
1 & 3	83	42	41
2	22	17	5
Total	105	59	46

We would also like to provide an update on the status of the Danby Station addition and renovation. Design was completed and bids for construction were solicited in October. Due to various factors, the bids received were in excess of the amount approved by voters at our referendum.

Since then, the building committee has worked with the architect to reduce costs while preserving the needed additions and renovations. We now have a proposed design that we feel can meet our needs within the cost goals as approved by the voters. It is anticipated that we will have the architect's design and specifications com-

pleted early in 2009 so that the bid process can be completed in time for a spring 2009 construction start.

Danby residents are also reminded that Fire District Meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held on even numbered months at West Danby Station and odd numbered months at Danby. The commissioners are open to any suggestions for improving the fire protection to the Town of Danby. ❁

## TOWN HOURS

### TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Tues–Fri, 9am–4pm; Sat, 9am–Noon, closed Monday

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT (SUMMER HOURS)

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon–Thu, 6am–4:30pm (closed Jul.4 thru Jul.11)

### 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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

# TOWN OBSERVER

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

## November Planning Board Meeting

The Board passed a resolution thanked Matt Cooper for the new “Welcome to Danby” signs, commissioned by the beautification committee. They will be installed during the weather break in, hopefully before spring!

A resolution of support for the energy and greenhouse gas emissions element of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan was passed. This element will supplement the plan, adding a strategy for coping with an environment of increasing energy costs. The County Legislature is scheduled to vote on that proposal following a public hearing in December.

Public concerns, especially those from Bald Hill road residents, of the prospects for future development in the Danby Hamlet, were discussed. Board members emphasized the difference between the outcome of the public workshops and what the consultants might actually propose.

Andrea Hazard, in a letter to the board, suggested that the public process was biased in favor of development within a half-mile of the Town Hall, which had been judged as the center of the hamlet by those attending the workshop. Her sense was that other places—such as the former store location at the corner of Gunderman Road—could reasonably have been chosen and would result in very different suggestions regarding future development locations.

## Hillview Road Landfill Citizens’ Advisory Committee

This County-level committee is charged with advising the Legislature on matters surrounding the former landfill on the Danby-Spencer town line. There are continuing concerns about the accuracy of data collected by the ongoing, DEC-mandated groundwater monitoring.

Test data in the last few years have shown an increasing presence of thallium. Repeated presence in the 2007 results, and again in recently-collected data, casts doubt on the possibility of laboratory error.

When the data was questioned, revised data were supplied and the thallium values disappeared. The committee questioned the trustworthiness of the data. To restore trust, independent validation was suggested.

If the current data is testable, the County will be asked to fund the validation. If it is not possible to validate

the recent data, then the contract for next year’s monitoring will require samples be collected and analyzed in a way that would enable independent review.

## Comprehensive Plan Implementation Task Force

Another long meeting focused on what the Town Board would be willing to entertain and when. The eventual conclusion was that if the Town Board is to revisit the last revision of the subdivision regulations, it would be best done sooner rather than later.

The group also agreed to propose a conservation commission charged with helping to protect land in the rural parts of Danby. It might facilitate land transfers to new owners committed to agricultural use, and help the Town acquire and hold conservation easements. Gifts to the Town, or targeted acquisitions could also protect key resources, such as aquifer recharge areas.

## December Town Board Meetings

A contract for dog control services to be provided by the Tompkins County SPCA was approved. In lieu of an accurate count of dogs in the town, it relies on population to arrive at a contract price. The cost will be about \$9500, similar to the ’08 contract price.

The board passed a resolution of support for the energy and greenhouse gas emissions element proposed for the County’s comprehensive plan.

The Emergency Towing Law was discussed at length. A motion to pass failed. The Code Enforcement Officer suggested changing the text to reference state law. That change will require a new public hearing. Meanwhile, the existing law remains in effect.

The board passed a resolution revising upwards the income limits for partial tax exemption for real property owned by disabled persons with limited incomes. The County periodically revises its table of income limits; most municipalities follow suit.

A health insurance collaborative being investigated by the County-level Council of Governments was discussed. Hopefully, costs can be lowered by banding together and self-insuring. This initiative is projected to be implemented in 2010.

Russ Klinger was appointed Assistant Code Enforcement Officer, the Town switched banks from Tompkins Trust to HSBC, meeting times were set, and the Town Clerk authorized to advertise vacancies on the Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Board of Water Commissioners in West Danby. The current appointments expire December 31. ❁

## HAMLET PLANNING UPDATE

Submitted by Sue Beeners on behalf of the Planning Board and the Hamlet Planning Steering Committee

During the Sustainable Hamlets Planning Project public information meeting on December 4, 35 attendees reviewed and commented on a Summary of Findings.

The Summary was based on input received during October's public design workshops and on the Preliminary Concept Plans for the Central and West Danby Hamlets. The overall intent of the Project is to provide a long-range vision to guide hamlet development, reinforcing the goals of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, which provide for orderly growth, promote a sense of community, and conserve rural character.

For Central Danby, the vision is to strengthen the area defined by the Town Hall, the Community Park, and the Danby Federated Church, and to gradually improve it as an area where residents can congregate, recreate, and do daily business. New roads and trails would link housing to this town center.

Land near the housing could be kept as open space to reserve the rural character of the area. A Danby Store would be encouraged. The ultimate goal is not to create a full-blown commercial corridor, but to increase housing near the town center to the point where simple local commercial services become economically viable.

In West Danby, a goal is to plan for limited new housing infill within the current Water District. Home rehabilitation programs would be targeted to specific properties with the highest need. Trail connections to nearby open space areas would be improved, and public transit improvements made where feasible.

Based on this meeting, the Concept Plans will be refined, and a Draft Plan will be submitted in late January. This plan will be subject to hearings by both the Planning Board and the Town Board.

Feel free to contact the Hamlet Planning Steering Committee via Sue Beeners, 607.277.0799 or [sbeeners@aol.com] if you have any questions or comments.

## SUSTAINABLE TOMPKINS AWARD

The Danby Sustainable Hamlets Planning Project was recently recognized by Sustainable Tompkins as one of 82 efforts by local organizations and businesses to, "Promote the long-term well-being of our communities and region."



Ric Dietrich and Sue Beeners at the Sustainable Tompkins Awards

What is *sustainability* as it relates to local planning? Several definitions were identified at a recent conference held by the New York Planning Federation. Sustainability enhances community well being and economic opportunity, and protects resources. A policy of sustainable development recognizes that appropriate growth lies somewhere between no growth and unlimited growth. It can help plan ways to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future residents to meet their own needs.

### Danby Fun Day - July 11, 2009

### FUN DAY CONTACTS

- Parade: Sue Beeners (see below)
- Wheel O'Treats: Gay Huddle 607.273.6530  
[gayhuddle@hotmail.com]
- Kids Games: Andrea Hazard 607.272.8791  
[ahazard@twcny.rr.com]
- Book Sale: Leslie Connors 607.277.1717
- Vendors: Sue Beeners (see below)
- Sharon Gaden (see below)
- Marrel Cortright 607.564.0020
- Everything Else: Sue Beeners 607.277.0799  
[sbeeners@aol.com]
- Sharon Gaden 607.659.3116  
[danby071302@yahoo.com]

## Community Council Youth Programs January 2009

Danby Youth programs are intended for middle school aged youth living in Danby. They are free and usually on weekdays between 3:30 and 6:00pm. Detailed brochures are available by contacting Laura at [1js257@cornell.edu].

Hello! This is Laura, the Danby Youth Program Manager, with exciting information about upcoming programs! In the months of January and February, there will be a winter exploration program (focused on being



active in the outdoors), a theatre and improvisation program designed to bring out the drama king and queen in all of us, and a cultural cooking club that will tap into the cuisines of many different countries.

I have enjoyed getting to know some Danby folks, and look forward to meeting more. If you are interested in being on the Danby Youth Program Email list please write me at [1js257@cornell.edu]. Please also Email me with any questions you may have concerning the dates, times, and other details of these programs. Have a happy and safe holiday season. ❁

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Here's to a Happy New Year! Didn't we just celebrate the Millennium, and here we are today, almost a decade later.

### Volunteer of the month:

Meet one of our dedicated volunteers: Esther Krebs. Born in Lansing, NY, Esther has lived in Danby for 46 years. She has provided daycare and has also done sewing, repairs, and mending. Esther comes to the Danby Community Library with her friend, Dawn Parks. She is in her second or third year of volunteering and we thank her very much!

If you are interested in volunteer work with the Danby Community Library, make a resolution to help out and call Patti Meyers at 607.273.3878.

In the new year, we will begin circulating Tompkins County Public Library collections and offering Interlibrary Loans. We also have many new books on CD, we have added to our Easy Reader collection, and we have more than 35 new bestseller DVDs.

One of our new DVDs is *The Bee Movie*. Here is a recipe to go with the movie. If you check out one of our movies and get inspired, please tuck a related recipe into the box when you return it and we will display it for other borrowers.



### The Bee Movie Cranberry-Honey Mustard Sauce

This isn't only a sauce. It's also a delicious glaze for roasted poultry, especially turkey. Sadly, it doesn't work as well on a grill.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 jar all-fruit cranberry jam
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 2 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 clove garlic, crushed and peeled

#### Method:

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl and whisk until blended. Brush on boneless chicken, turkey breast, whole chicken, turkey or tempeh, and bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for required amount of time. Makes about 1 1/2 cups. (From *Cook Right 4 Your Type* by Peter J. D'Adamo) ❁

## DANBY TOWN SIGN GURU

Submitted by Gay Huddle

After 2+ years of managing the Danby Town sign (a job I recruited him for "temporarily"), my son Jeff has asked that I find someone to succeed him in the position. He is busy at work and with his family.

Please call me at 607.273.6530 if you're interested and I'll pass your name to Jeff. This is a volunteer job. By helping to get information out to Danby residents, it is very important to the Danby community at large. ❁



Danby Community Council  
Danby Area News  
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## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Dec 29 • Mon

5:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
Town Board Meeting, end of year  
6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
Public Hearing: Emergency Towing Law

Jan 5 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
Town Board Organizational and Agenda Meeting

Jan 6 • Tue

6pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall  
Danby Fire Commissioners, Organizational Meeting

Jan 7 • Wed

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
Comprehensive Planning Task Force

Jan 8 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church  
Danby Senior Citizens Luncheon

Jan 9 • Fri

5–7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church  
Chicken & Biscuit Dinner (also Feb.13, Mar.13, Apr.10)

Jan 10 • Sat

4–6pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church  
Epiphany Tea

Jan 11 • Sun

8–11am 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall  
Pancake Breakfast (also Feb.8, Mar.15)

Jan 12 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
Town Board Meeting

Jan 15 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
Planning Board Meeting

Jan 17 • Sat

5pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall  
West Danby Community Association Annual Meeting

Jan 20 • Tue

7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall  
Danby Fire Commissioners Monthly Meeting

Jan 22 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall  
Danby Community Council Annual Meeting

Jul 11, 2009 • Sat

Danby Fun Day and Parade

### ONGOING EVENTS

Danby Community Council 🏛️ Town Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7pm

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!

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

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 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