

# DANBY AREA NEWS

## GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE

Submitted by Kathy Halton

A group of Danby residents has been meeting to discuss gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale underneath Danby. The group includes landowners who have signed leases with a gas company, landowners who are interested in learning more about gas leases and leasing, and other residents who have questions and concerns about both leases and drilling.

What they all have in common is a concern that gas drilling should not have a negative impact on Danby: its natural resources, its economy, or its infrastructure.

The Task Force is an official committee of Danby government. Its meetings are open to the public and the public is invited to participate. Two meetings are planned for September: a planning meeting on Wednesday, September 9, and an open forum on Wednesday, September 23. Both meetings are at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall.

The planning meeting will discuss two projects: a letter-writing campaign to our Federal, State, and Local legislators regarding concerns and ideas on protecting our community, and planning for the upcoming open forum, entitled *Understanding the Terms of Your Gas Lease*, to be presented on September 23.

Property owners who currently have land covered by an oil or gas lease are encouraged to attend the September 23 meeting; other owners and residents who are interested in the contents of these leases are also invited.

In the near future, New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will release a Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) containing proposed controls over how gas drilling is done in our area...and how our water will be protected. The Task Force will host another open meeting to respond to this proposed set of regulations. Together with other Danby residents, they will write to the DEC about changes that are required to meet our community's needs.

For more information about the meetings, contact Kathy Halton at 607.273.0533. ❀

## CONCERT: PAUL MERRILL TRIO

Submitted by Bob Strichartz, Danby Community Council

The Paul Merrill Trio will perform a concert of jazz standards and originals in the Danby Town Hall on Sunday, September 20 at 3pm. If the weather is cooperative, the concert will be out on the lawn by the gazebo.

The trio consists of Paul Merrill, trumpet, Dino Losito, organ, and Steve Reichlen, drums. Merrill is the Director



Paul Merrill

of Jazz Ensembles at Cornell. Merrill is well known locally as a performer and composer. He has toured with the Phil Woods Big Band and is a member of the Central New York Jazz Or-

chestra. Losito and Reichlen perform frequently with several local groups.

Like other events in the Danby Community Council's Concert Series, this concert is free. The DCC receives grant support from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County. There is also a box for donations at the concert, if you'd like to contribute.

What a great way to celebrate the arrival of Fall! ❀

## DFD Hosts CHICKEN BBQ

Submitted by Roger Grant

The Danby Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a take-out Chicken BBQ on Friday, September 4, starting at 4:30pm, until it's all gone.

Takeout Chicken halves or Dinners will be available at the Danby Fire Station, with proceeds to help defray construction expenses. The Department thanks you in advance for your support. ❀

September 2009  
Layout: Ted Crane  
Mailing: Melanie Dilliplane,  
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Bessou.

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

## CANDIDATES CHOSEN

Extracted from Joel Gagnon BVW submission

The Danby Fire Hall was packed on July 29 for the Democratic Party Caucus. This town-meeting-like gathering is empowered to choose the Democratic Party candidates for local office; the public is invited, but only registered Democrats can vote. Between 65 and 70 people attended the meeting.

The Danby Republicans choose their candidates by petition (candidates and their supporters collect signatures from registered Republicans to earn a place on the ballot); in the event that there are more candidates than positions, the nominee is decided by a primary election in September. This year, the only Republican candidate for a local position is Eugene Beavers, who is running for a second term on the Town Board.

Gould Colman, the elected chair of the Democratic Caucus, led the attendees through a series of nominations, speeches, and secret ballots. One local position, Highway Superintendent, was unopposed and Carl Seamon was nominated by consensus. All the other positions were contested.

Carol Sczepanski and Pamela Goddard were nominated for the Town Clerk position. Sczepanski noted her 20-year long, dedicated service to the Town and asked for the group's support. Goddard cited her background as a historical archivist and freelance writer, and her desire to help the Town government work more smoothly and make better use of contemporary media for communication with the public. The vote was for Goddard, 40 to 23.

Three people were nominated for the two open positions on the Town Board: Kathy Halton, Dylan Race, and Eugene Beavers (a Republican). Halton cited her background as a nurse as motivation for her interest in emergency preparedness, as well as her current work on behalf of the Town to help prepare the community for the impacts of gas development. Race, a violin maker, cited the threat of development in his neighborhood as something of a wake-up call that got him interested. He spoke of being a good listener interested in supporting community. Beavers was not present, but was praised by John Shepardson during his nomination speech. The vote was 51 for Halton, 49 for Race, and 7 for Beavers.

Two candidates for Town Supervisor were nominated: Ric Dietrich and Carol Sczepanski. Sczepanski spoke of

## ENVIRON MGMT COUNCIL

Submitted by Roberta Dixon

### EMC Announces the Annual TIY Award

This September, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council will present its first Transportation Initiative of the Year (TIY) award. The award will recognize new or existing transportation-related programs that have had a positive impact on the environment and area residents. The nomination process and final decision as to who (or what) will receive the reward is being coordinated by the EMC's Transportation Committee.

As a member of the Transportation Committee, and on Joel Gagnon's recommendation (thank you, Joel!), I have nominated one of our local efforts: The Brown Road Project.

There is a very steep hill, just north of the railroad crossing on Brown Road, that cuts through silt and clay. For many years, the ditches on this hill have been an incessant source of sediment flowing into Inlet Creek. Carl Seamon, our Highway Superintendent, decided to line the ditches with rocks. The crew did a beautiful job and, between resurfacing the road and lining the ditches, this one project has had a meaningful impact on water clarity in Inlet Creek, particularly after major storm events.

Highway ditching is a major source of erosion and sedimentation in the Cayuga Lake watershed; and Carl's project was a sustainable and logical solution to this problem. While it is not uncommon for larger projects to get most of the *buzz* (i.e., press coverage), it is important to recognize and highlight the not-quite-so-well-known projects that also make a difference. As an EMC member and Danby resident, thank you Carl and crew, for your hard work and sustainable solution. ❁

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representing everyone; the current Supervisor, Dietrich described the many challenges facing the Town and how he is working to address them. Dietrich prevailed in the vote, 44 to 8, with 1 blank ballot.

During August, several independent candidates submitted petitions to run for local offices. The Danby Steward petitions included candidates similar to the Democratic slate, while Al Becker will be on the Land Owner ballot line for Supervisor and Carol Sczepanski will be listed as a candidate for Clerk on the Experienced Professional line. ❁

# TOWN OBSERVER

A short extract from Joel Gagnon's Broader View articles

## August Town Board Meetings

While August is typically a fairly slow month, there was plenty of action at the Danby Town Board meetings.

**New Highway Trucks:** Highway Superintendent Carl Seamon requested permission to buy two trucks, a pickup for his use and a 1-ton truck used, among other things, to plow smaller roads and parking lots. The vehicles would replace others that are no longer reliable. Normally, such a request would be part of the budget process, but efficiencies in the Highway Department have produced enough of a fund balance to permit the purchase. The Board authorized the solicitation of bids to be reviewed by the board in September. Up to \$140,000 may be needed for these vehicles.

**Concerns About Drilling:** The board passed a lengthy resolution, patterned on one passed in Dryden, voicing concerns about exploitation of the gas in the Marcellus Shale formation and requesting those concerns be addressed in the draft supplemental environmental impact statement currently being crafted by the DEC. Copies of the resolution were to be sent to State and Federal officials and relevant DEC staff.

The resolution calls for a delay in permitting until an adequately staffed and funded inspection and enforcement program is in place. To fund that program, the resolution calls for a severance tax and permit fees. It requests that part of the collected monies be used to train local emergency response personnel. To facilitate that training, it calls for disclosure of all substances to be introduced into wells. It further requests state enabling of local regulation of construction and placement of gas drilling facilities and the authority to shut down operations in the event groundwater protection or storm water runoff regulations are violated. It also requests that water resources be protected by legal guarantees requiring restoration of private water supplies or the construction of public water supplies.

**Regional Internet Access:** A resolution in support of a project to bring broadband Internet access to much of the region was passed. This initiative, requesting Federal stimulus funds, supported by Supervisor Ric Dietrich, is being put together by Chuck Bartosch of Clarity Connect. It would create an open access fiber optic network with connections to homes and businesses via a combination of wireless and fiber-to-the-home.

The project goal is a low-cost network that would reach almost all potential customers. A \$30/month fee for subscribers is projected, with subsidies for those who cannot afford that cost. The "open access" feature will allow other providers to use the network; two cable companies, one telephone company, and three wireless Internet service providers have already entered into agreements to do so. Besides Danby, the Tompkins County Legislature and several other municipalities have passed resolutions of support.

**Insurance Consortium:** The Town has a seat on the Board of Directors of the Greater Tompkins County Health Insurance Consortium. Laura Shawley, the Town's bookkeeper, was appointed to fill that seat. Ric Dietrich observed that Towns seem to be appointing people to this board with strong budget knowledge, not surprising given the importance to the budget of health care costs. Dietrich was appointed alternate director.

**Stormwater Management:** The Board authorized the Code Enforcement Officer and the Town Attorney to draft a storm water management and erosion and sediment control law for Town Board consideration. This action is important because the State seems to be moving in the direction of requiring it in the not-too-distant future, and because it would give the Town a little bit of leverage when dealing with gas drilling companies.

**Contract Negotiations:** Supervisor Dietrich updated the board on negotiations with the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). The process officially began on August 4, so it is early in the negotiations. Both parties have agreed to a major rewrite of the agreement to address multiple ambiguities.

**Other Action:** The Board passed a resolution authorizing demolition and cleanup of a Bald Hill Road residence destroyed in a January fire, set the hourly compensation for the Deputy Town Clerk at \$15/hour, created a gas drilling task force, authorized further investigation of options to improve energy efficiency of Town buildings, ratified the appointment of Russ Klinger to the position of Code/Fire Enforcement Officer, and appointed the Town bookkeeper to audit the Town Clerk, Court, and the Water District. ❁

## OXYGEN MASKS FOR ANIMALS

The members of the Danby Volunteer Fire Company thank Danby residents Thomas and Janet Gray of Highland Farms Kennel & Store for their recent donation of animal oxygen masks to the Fire Company. ❁



## CALLING 911 IN DANBY

Submitted by Linda Wyatt

When you call 911, do you know who will answer the phone? What *should* happen is that your call will go to Tompkins County Dispatch and they will send us on our way. But that doesn't always happen.

Danby is unusual because we have homes in five different zip codes: 14850 (Ithaca), 14867 (Newfield), 14883 (Spencer), 13864 (Willseyville), and 14817 (Brooktondale). Two of those belong to towns in a different county, even though the houses are in Tompkins County. I know some of you have dealt with this for many years. I grew up having to explain it over and over.

What makes this a problem for 911, is the change in telephone systems over the years. When I was young, there was one phone company and one kind of telephone! Now, there is an almost infinite variety of phone companies. The problems first arrived with the use of cell phones.

Sometimes, if you call 911 from a cell phone, the call is routed to the county where your phone is registered, rather than where you actually are. If you travel, this can be a big problem. It has happened many times that a rescue squad has been sent to an empty house, while the homeowner is in trouble miles away!

Now, even landlines can have a problem. If you use a digital phone service, like Time Warner, or one of the Internet-based phone services like Vonage, they may not have you set up to direct 911 calls to the correct location. In your records, if it says you live in Spencer, or Willseyville...it looks like Tioga County to someone who doesn't know how things are around here! If you're in that situation, call your service provider and make sure that they know you live in Tompkins County.

If you call 911, make sure you are talking to Tompkins County Dispatch, not to another county. They should identify themselves when answering the phone but, if they don't, you can ask. We recently had an emergency where care was delayed because the call was sent to the wrong county, and it took several minutes for them to figure that out and send the right fire department. Please help this not happen again! ❧

## FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Ralph Bowles, Fire Commissioner

We are being asked when the firehouse renovation/addition will start. Wish I could give a better answer.

We had the contractors ready to start, when the specter of asbestos reared up. It seems that there is a layer of old floor tiles--containing the frightening stuff--under

the present tiles. So now we have to have a survey of the building done, and then contract for the removal of that stuff, before building can begin. More delay!

The trailer behind the pavilion is there to contain the contents of the firehouse while construction is in progress.

We are negotiating for a newer rescue

vehicle to replace our aging rescue truck in Danby. A nearby fire company has a nice used vehicle for sale at a reasonable price. We can buy this out of savings, but we must solicit and receive bids. This is being done and we hope for results soon. ❧



Tod Sukontarak and Matt Cooper of West Danby Woodworks built the new Court bench. They specialize in interior woodwork, and use locally-sourced materials whenever possible. The bench is made from quarter-sawn white oak and plywood, with the solid wood purchased from Danby Hardwoods on Hornbrook Road. Photo by Gay Huddle

## 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.

## SHOULD DANBY HAVE AN HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

Danby has an interesting history and many lovely old homes and barns that need to be preserved. Some people have expressed an interest in starting a historical society.

I visited the Ulysses Historical Society and talked with some of its members and Gina Prentiss, historian for the Town of Dryden, about the role and merits of historical societies.

Having a non-profit historical society can help the town take advantage of various grants available for artifact and architectural preservation.

Although I have my fingers in enough Danby pies, if there is enough interest I'd be willing to help facilitate the creation of a historical society in Danby. In order to determine the interest level, I've set up a meeting on Thursday, September 24 at 7pm in the Town Hall to discuss the matter. Anyone interested in town history and architectural preservation is invited to attend. For information, contact Ronda Roaring, 607.589.4031 or [rondaroaring@hotmail.com].



Jerry Robinson in front; then, left to right: Drue Perault, Bonnie Bordenet Hockenberry, Doug Benjamin, Judy Barber Boynton, Amy Hovanec, Tony Green, Tim Merritt, Jeff Huddle, Eric Miller. Photo by Gay Huddle.

## AT THE DANBY FED CHURCH

### Annual Steak Dinner

The Danby Federated Church invites the community to its *Steak Dinner* event on Saturday, September 12. There will be two seatings, at 6:30pm and 7:30pm, and carry-out will be available.

The menu includes a Charcoal Grilled NY Strip Steak, Salad, Green Beans, Baked Potato, Beverage, and a Brownie Sundae! Advanced Sales Only, \$12 per person. To reserve a meal, call 607.272.1687.

## DANBY TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle

Danby Town Talk appears in the Ithaca Journal every Thursday. Please submit your summer stories about vacations, gardens, good books you read and would recommend, family reunions, etc. And, if you have ideas for stories that you would like to read in future Danby Town Talk columns, please let me know. Pictures are always welcome.

Contact me at [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or 273.6530.

### Trivia

Every Wednesday at 7pm is Team Trivia Night in the Oasis Dance Club, 1230 Danby Road. Teams of four or less go head-to-head answering tricky trivia questions. Our team has broken absolutely no winning records, but we have had lots of fun. The kitchen is open during the evening and the food is delicious! Put together a team and join in for an evening of *free* fun!

### Reunion

A good time was had by all at a recent reunion of Danby neighborhood "kids" (see photo). In a small community like Danby, friendships are forged at a young age. As the years go by, even when paths lead in totally opposite directions, there seems to be an unbreakable bond—easily reactivated—when old friends are reunited. Good memories endure and this is a good thing.

## DANBY SENIORS

Submitted by Marjory VanDeMark

The Danby Senior Citizens will meet for a dish-to-pass supper on Thursday, September 3, at 6pm in the Danby Federated Church. Everyone 55 years or older is eligible and is invited to join.

In October, we'll change to Noon-time meetings. The TCHD Flu Clinic will be held, 2-3:30pm, right after our meeting at the Church. The Health Department will be having additional clinics for the H1N1 vaccine, which cannot be given with the regular flu vaccine. Protection from the flu shot lasts 8-12 months, so it's not too early to receive the vaccine in early October.

Our State Fair bus goes on Monday, August 31, leaving the Danby Church at 9:30am. If you're reading this in time, you can call Margie VanDeMark (607.273.8046) to see if seats are still available.

## DANBY TRAILS

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

On July 15, Danby Town Supervisor Ric Dietrich and Ronda Roaring, Chair of the Danby Trails Advisory Committee met with two members of the Cayuga Trails Club (CTC) and Tim Joseph, Director of the Finger Lakes Region of the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation (OPRHP). An understanding was arrived at concerning the following:

- ① The CTC would like to bring the Comfort Road section of the Finger Lakes Trail off-road.
- ② The CTC supports the idea of a trail between the Jennings Pond trail and the Chestnut lean-to, if it can be done in an environmentally sensitive way. The CTC would construct and maintain that section of trail.
- ③ The OPRHP understands that Jennings Pond is important to the residents of the Town, especially residents of the hamlet, and supports the use of Jennings Pond for community activities in so far as they coincide with acceptable uses of Buttermilk Falls State Park.
- ④ The Danby Trails Advisory Committee will come up with a five-year development and maintenance plan for trails in Danby and this plan will include a five-year plan for Jennings Pond.

For more information, contact Ronda Roaring, 607.589.4031 or [rondaroaring@hotmail.com]. ✨

## KITCHEN GARDEN TOURS

One of the notable local food gardens on Coop Extension's *Kitchen Garden Tour* is in Danby!

On Thursday, September 10, 6-7:30 pm, visitors may tour the extensive vegetable and fruit gardens of Kathy, Bill and Dan Halton in Danby. This site features a circular root cellar dug into the hillside, and another built below ground in the home.

The root cellars are used to store root crops, beer, wine, and rain water for dyeing fibers. The Haltons also make their own electricity from solar panels which stand inside the garden.

Visitors must pre-register for this tour by calling 607.272.2292. The tour is limited to 40 visitors, and there is a nominal fee of \$5/person or \$8/couple. ✨

# Danby Youth Flyer

## JENNINGS POND FAMILY PROGRAMS

Submitted by Julie Kulik

The summertime Jennings Pond programs have been a success!

On Clay Night—July 15—about 25 folks of all ages attended. We cleaned clay from Six Mile Creek and created bowls. Since then, the bowls have been fired at Earth Arts Studio and the resulting pottery was returned to attendees at subsequent Jennings Pond events.

Many folks haven't yet picked up their bowls. They'll be available in the Danby Library whenever it's open!

About a dozen people hiked around the pond during the evenings on August 5 and 12, looking at the birds and animals. We explored the new loop trail, played games, and told stories.

My thanks to everyone who came to the pond to explore the beauty together! ✨

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

We welcome our new volunteers! Stop in and see them when the library is open, Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm, and Saturdays, 10am-Noon.

New collections are coming from the TCPL: Adult Fiction, Picture Books and Books on CD and DVDs.

Did you know? We have the entire collection of books in the #1 *Ladies Detective Agency* series by Alexander McCall Smith. These are mysteries set in Botswana, with vignettes that feature a love of Africa and the wisdom and humor of the main character.

- ① The #1 Ladies Detective Agency
- ② Tears of the Giraffe
- ③ Morality for Beautiful Girls
- ④ The Kalahari Typing School for Men
- ⑤ The Full Cupboard of Life
- ⑥ In the Company of Cheerful Ladies
- ⑦ Blue Shoes and Happiness
- ⑧ The Good Husband of Zebra Drive
- ⑨ The Miracle at Speedy Motors
- ⑩ Tea Time for the Traditionally Built

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## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Aug 29 • Sat

Noon 🏠 West Danby Hatch Pavilion  
**West Danby Picnic and Chicken BBQ**

Aug 31 • Mon

9:30am 🏠 Danby Federated Church  
**Danby Seniors' Bus Trip to State Fair**

Sep 3 • Thu

6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church  
**Danby Seniors' Dish-to-Pass Supper**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Danby Community Council Meeting**

Sep 4 • Fri

4:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall  
**Danby Fire Dep't Take-out Chicken BBQ**

Sep 14 • Mon

6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Town Board Agenda Meeting**  
Public Hearing: Subdivision Regulations

Sep 9 • Wed

7pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Comprehensive Planning Task Force Meeting and**  
**Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**

Sep 12 • Sat

🏠 Danby Federated Church  
**Steak Dinner!** 6:30pm & 7:30pm. Reservations.

Sep 14 • Mon

7:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall  
**Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting**

Sep 15 • Tue

7:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall  
**Danby Fire Commissioners Monthly Meeting**

Sep 17 • Thu

7pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Planning Board Meeting**

Sep 20 • Sun

3pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**DCC Concert: Jazz w/ Paul Merrill Trio**

Sep 21 • Mon

6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Town Board Regular Meeting**

Sep 23 • Wed

7pm 🏠 Danby Town Hall  
**Gas Drilling Task Force Open Forum**  
Your Gas Lease in Plain English

Sep 24 • Thu

7pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**"Should Danby have An Historical Society" meeting**

Jul 10, 2010 • Sat

**Danby Fun Day and Parade**

### ONGOING EVENTS

Danby Community Council 🏠 Town Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7pm

Danby Community Library Open 🏠 Town Hall  
Saturdays, 10am–Noon, 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.

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

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 Community Park Association 🏠 Town Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7pm.

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

Military Family Support Group 🏠 Federated Church  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 6:30pm.

Seniors Strength Training Group 🏠 Federated Church  
Mondays, 9am.

Danby Quilters Group 🏠 273.2950  
Fridays, 9–11am.

### WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

🏠 Danby Town Hall • 1830 Danby Road

🏠 Danby Fire Hall • 1780 Danby Road

🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • Sylvan Lane, off Rt.34/96

🏠 Danby Federated Church • 1859 Danby Road