



DANBY AREA NEWS

DANBY COMMUNITY COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Bob Strichartz, DCC President

The Danby Community Council is looking for new members for its Board of Directors. The Board members will be elected at its Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall.

Any resident of Danby, 18 years of age or older, is eligible to run. Five of the seven Director's positions need to be filled (one or two year terms). Officers for coming year will be elected by the Board from among the Board members.

Serving on the DCC Board is an enjoyable way to contribute to your community. There are monthly meetings; and Board members may volunteer to help with our activities (non-Board members are also frequent participants). Please read June Pollack's article to get a sense of the many things that the DCC does.

If you are interested, please contact me at 607.277.3058 or [str@math.cornell.edu]. Note that the DCC by-laws give preference to candidates who state their intention to run by January 14, two weeks before the election. This can be done by phone or email. ❖

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE

Submitted by Katherine Halton

The Task Force has been very busy this month, preparing our Town's response to the proposed new gas drilling regulations (the dSGEIS) issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) on September 30.

Among the many topics covered by the proposed regulations, we decided to focus on four areas:

- ① how little voice the local municipalities have in the process; lack of home rule for municipalities
- ② implications for local fire and rescue companies, absent from the regulations

DCC CONCERT: VAN NORSTRAND BROTHERS

Submitted by John Henderson

Andrew and Noah Van Norstrand return to Danby with their high-energy mix of Celtic, Appalachian, Scandinavian, Bluegrass, and World Beat music on Sunday, December 13, 3pm, in the Town Hall.

When they last performed in Danby, five years ago, the brothers had just gained national attention via the *Talent from Twelve to Twenty* contest on public radio's *Prairie Home Companion*. Andrew is no longer a teenager, but he and Noah are still musical phenoms. Andrew learned to fiddle when he was eight years old and his kid brother, not to be outdone, taught himself to play shortly afterward. It wasn't long before they became multi-instrumentalists.

Since then, their repertoire has exploded with original songs and tunes and explorations into a host of musical styles and rhythms. They blend their voices, play twin fiddles, pick up guitar and mandolin, and pound on other strings or drums to entertain, amuse, and astound the whole family. The Community Council's concert series is supported by NYSCA Decentralization Grant, administered by the Community Arts Partnership. ❖

- ③ lack of consideration of the cumulative impact of gas drilling on local communities
- ④ the provision that local public health departments will be responsible for testing water wells near gas rigs, with no accompanying funding.

Residents of the Town and the County have many other issues with the dSGEIS, but it's impossible to cover them all.

There was a discussion of the pipeline construction that will precede the building of gas pads and drilling. More information needs to be provided to the Danby community on that subject. There will need to be many, many gathering lines to bring the natural gas to the main

—continued on page 4

December 2009
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Text submissions:
Send text in body of Email
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handwritten submissions ac-
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Graphics: JPEG preferred.
TIFF, GIF, or PNG accepted
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editor before sending hard-
copy graphics.

Deadline is the 15th of the
month. Materials may be
accepted later if time allows.
Submissions should gener-
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DCC PROGRAMS IN 2009

Submitted by June Pollack

The Danby Community Council provided a variety of programs and activities for the community during 2009.

Youth programs are a major focus for the Council. Laura Smith, our new Youth Program Manager from Cooperative Extension, developed nine different programs involving Danby youth, including the ever-popular Primitive Pursuits, campfire cooking, games, ceramics, Danby explorations, and gift making.

In addition, youth were hired through Cooperative Extension to work at the Farmer's Market, the Jennings Pond trail, and to assist at Danby Fun Day and the Danby Community Council Halloween party.

The Community Council's scholarship program was able to award financial assistance to thirteen youths, to attend a variety of programs they might not otherwise have been able to afford.

The Council also provided include eight concerts at the Town Hall. The varied programs included Jazz in the gazebo, Folk, and Classical music.

The summer Jennings Pond programs, offered by Julie Kulik, for families were very successful and well attended. Bev Fitzpatrick was able to arrange a training session in autism awareness for the Fire Department.

We are looking forward to another successful year of programming for our youth and the Danby Community. ❄

DANBY SENIORS

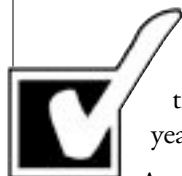
Submitted by Marjory VanDeMark

Big thanks to Linda Howe for spending the morning of November 5 cooking delicious turkey and gravy for our November "Thanksgiving" meal! We had great attendance that day, and the TCHD held its flu clinic right after, so many of us could get our flu shots.

In lieu of our regular December meeting, we'll be enjoying a holiday luncheon out at the Oasis Club on Thursday, December 3.

Our first meeting in the new year will be on Thursday, January 7, at Noon in the Danby Federated Church. The Danby Seniors group is open to everyone, age 55 or older. While the Seniors meet in the Church's Fellowship Hall, it is not a church organization, it's a Danby community group. Come and join us for good food and good times. ❄

ELECT A FIRE COMMISSIONER ON DECEMBER 8



The annual Fire District Election is coming up on Tuesday, December 8. One of the five Fire Commissioners is elected every year for a five-year term.

Among other duties, the Fire Commissioners are responsible for creating and managing the budget for the Fire Departments in Danby and West Danby. Funding for this budget is independent of the Town's budget, and appears on a separate line of the County/Town Tax bill that will appear in taxpayer's mailboxes in the next few weeks.

The deadline to declare candidacy was November 18. As of "press time", the declared candidates were Ralph Bowles and Adam Crown.

In response to popular demand, the voting schedule has been extended this year, and now runs from 5-9pm. Registered voters should go to either the Danby or West Danby Fire House to vote.

This is not an unimportant election; the taxes levied by the Fire District are comparable to the levy for the Town itself. Last year, only 105 voters participated, up from 39 in 2007. The Fire District has been trying to publicize this election, so let's have an even better turnout in 2009! ❄

DANBY SAVES ENERGY \$\$\$

Submitted by Shawn Lindabury, Cornell Coop Ext

The Town of Danby will perform energy efficiency work at its Town Hall and Highway Department that will reduce energy costs, save taxpayer money, and reduce the environmental impact of Town operations.

The Town expects to save \$2,645 annually through upgraded lighting systems and new programmable thermostats in the two facilities. Three-quarters of the \$8,000 project cost is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA); the remainder is funded by the Town.

Town taxpayers will recoup their contribution to the project cost through energy savings within just nine months. The project will decrease the annual emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas contributing to global climate change, by 14,319 pounds, the equivalent to saving 737 gallons of gasoline per year. ❄

DOG ENUMERATION NOTICE

Submitted by Carol Szczepanski, Town Clerk

The Town of Danby is in the process of completing a door to door dog enumeration. Under New York State law, it is mandatory that all dogs four months of age or older be licensed. Additionally, a current rabies vaccine certificate must be provided to license a dog.

If you have a dog that is licensed, you will need to show the license (signed renewal form) and rabies certificate for each dog you have, please have them readily available. If you have a dog or dogs that are four months of age or older that do not have a valid license, you will be assessed a \$5 fee per unlicensed dog in addition to the regular licensing fee.

You may license your dog at the Town Clerks Office during regular office hours, Tuesday thru Friday, 9am-4pm, and Saturday 9am-Noon. You must provide a current rabies vaccine certificate and proof of spaying / neutering if applicable. The license fee is \$12 per spayed or neutered dog and \$20 per unspayed or unneutered dog. If you license your dog prior to being visited during the enumeration, you will not be assessed the additional \$5 fee. If you have any questions regarding licensing your dog, please contact the Town Clerk at 607.277.4788. ❧

Gas Drilling, continued from page 1—

transmission lines running through Danby. Several experts say that these pipelines will actually have more impact on the land than the gas rigs themselves. The Public Service Commission has authority over these pipelines.

The Tompkins County Council of Governments sponsored a very large, well attended meeting in November, with three speakers focusing on the dSGEIS: David Kay from Cornell, Ed Marx from the County Planning Department, and Helen Slottje, a local lawyer who works with gas drilling issues.

A second meeting, later in November, allowed Tompkins County residents to respond *on the public record* to these proposed regulations.

The Town officials continue working local ordinances that will help to control the gas drilling activity once it begins, and they include stormwater regulations, road ordinances, and light and noise ordinances. Although the NYS DEC has extended the dSGEIS comment period to December 31, we will need more time to create these laws.

WELL AND WATER TESTING

Submitted by Eloise Greene

After seeing on the TC Gas Map ([\[tcgasmapp.org\]](http://tcgasmapp.org)) that the Cayuga Lake Beagle Club has leased its gas drilling rights, I contracted to have our well water and stream tested.

Not only does the Beagle Club land feed neighboring wells, its streams flow to Michigan Creek—a watershed for the Susquehanna—in the Danby State Forest. The NYS DEC designates this corridor a freshwater wetland, and Tompkins County lists it as *Unique Natural Area 171*. Michigan Hollow has a special peatland ecosystem, a minerotrophic fen, that takes ten thousand years to form.

The potential damage of gas drilling to Danby is devastating. The Bureau of Land Management estimates that an average well pad disturbs four acres and leads to another twelve acres of new roads. Underground hydrofracturing can contaminate aquifers. The sites will remain degraded and contaminated for decades.

The water testing was intended to provide a baseline against which to assess possible contamination by waste fluids from nearby gas wells. It was conducted by the not-for-profit Community Science Institute in Ithaca; CSI used three other laboratories for several of the tests. The tests included in the CSI suite include: Calcium, alkalinity, total hardness, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, turbidity, pH4, chloride, specific conductance, chem. oxygen demand, gross alpha radioactivity, gross beta radioactivity, methane, ethane, ethylene, MBAS (detergents), barium, iron, manganese, arsenic.

The cost for two sets of tests (my well and the stream) was \$857. Assuming that the testing labs could handle the volume, it would cost \$436,000 to baseline test the drinking water of Danby's one thousand households. ❧

Danby is considering a moratorium for drilling activity in the town, until these ordinances can be heard by the public and enacted by the Town Board.

Two local resolutions were passed by the Danby Town Board at its November meeting: the first asked the NYS DEC for an extension to the dSGEIS response time, while the second requested that the Town of Danby be considered an "involved agency" when the gas companies begin work. ❧

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

As I write this column—in mid-November—it's 47° F outdoors, and I hear that it'll reach a high in the mid 60s. It's an altogether wonderful day for an early-morning stroll. As the sun came up, its misty light cast that late-autumn reddish glow over the countryside.

Staring at our woodpile, with the world so quiet I can hear the dew dripping, I should feel grateful. Instead I wonder how many loads I can get out of the woods before the snow comes.

The Danby Trails Committee, while working on their five-year plan, has recommended that the Town should erect some kiosks, perhaps at Jennings pond, that draw attention to Danby's unique distinction: it sits on top of a continental divide. Specific plans are being developed, and a grant will be applied for.

Another sign—or kiosks—is proposed to direct people to find information on the various trails in the area and how to access them. After reviewing several concepts, the Trails Committee will meet with the Finger Lakes Land Trust, the Finger Lakes Trails, the State, and the Town to talk specifics.

Please attend the meetings or contact the Trails committee for more information, or to express your reaction to this project. (Ronda Roaring, 607.589.4031 or [rondaroaring@hotmail.com])

The Town has received a grant to make its facilities more energy efficient. This grant is an 80/20 split. The Town pays only twenty percent of the cost, so it is estimated that the energy savings will recoup our expenses within nine months.

The Town's budget for 2010 has been approved, and we will provide the details online for residents to see. See page 7 for various budget discussions.

The potential for Gas Drilling remains a high priority, and the Town is preparing to send its response to the proposed regulation (a.k.a. the "Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement") to the State. Many people are giving a great deal of time on this, and I thank them for all their hard work. This has been a very challenging issue for the Town of Danby. It is a complex situation, and we will do everything we can do to ensure that taxpayers and homeowners are provided with all relevant material in order to make wise decisions. ❁

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Ralph Bowles, Fire Commissioner

The first big thing right now is the upcoming Fire Commissioner Election. One commissioner has to be elected for a five-year term. We hope all citizens will come to the Danby or West Danby fire house to vote on December 8, 5-9pm.

We have increased the time by one hour--now starting at 5pm—at the request of several citizens. See you there.

The other big thing is that the Danby fire house project has sort of started. The asbestos problem has been removed. The pre-engineered part of the building has been ordered. We hope to see real construction start soon.

Our budget for 2010 has worked out to cover our needs and results in a slight decrease in tax rate.

Observant folks will note that we have put in service a new rescue vehicle. We are constantly trying to improve our volunteer service. ❁

DANBY TOWN TALK

Gay Huddle's column appears every Thursday in the Ithaca Journal; the deadline for submissions is the prior Sunday. Send info (pictures are welcome) for publication to Gay, [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or call her at 607.273.6530. ❁

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Wed–Fri, 10am–5pm or by appointment

TOWN COURT:

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Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

TOWN OBSERVER

A short extract from Joel Gagnon's Broader View articles

Danby Fire District: Modest Spending Hike

The Danby Fire District's Board of Fire Commissioners held a public hearing on its budget on October 20. Pat Caveney led the audience through the document, highlighting the areas of change from the 2009 budget.

The biggest difference from 2009 is that the payments for interest (on bonds used to fund the Danby Fire House additions and renovations) will jump from about \$15,000 to over \$45,000. To counter this impact, several other line items were reduced, including the building capital reserve, audit, and fuel lines. The rationale for reducing the building capital reserve appropriation was that the Danby building refurbishment should provide a limited-time reduction in the need for capital expenditures. As older bonds are retired, the capital reserve item will be increased, minimizing the tax impact.

An audit, first undertaken last year, had been an unknown expense budgeted at \$10,000. It came in at \$7,000, and the district has entered into a contract that will keep it at that level for three years. Similarly, fuel expenses were overestimated in light of very volatile prices last year, so this year's fuel budget was reduced.

The net effect of these and other adjustments (notably, salaries were held constant) was an overall budgetary increase of 1.7 percent. If the tax base is unchanged from 2009, that would translate to a comparable increase in fire tax levy and virtually no change in the tax rate.

October Planning Board Meeting

A review of the sketch plan for a proposed replacement of one of the self-storage units in Michael Hovanec's *Fort Locks* facility at 1395 Danby Road was the focus of the October Planning Board meeting. There was little comment from the Board, and the required public hearing was scheduled for November 18, the next Planning Board meeting date.

Hovanec also sought feedback from the Board on another proposal he is considering, related to a 5.3 acre property he owns on Muzzy Road. The property, uphill from the Gospel Church of Ithaca, is in a low density zone. The recently-completed duplex on the property is the maximum allowed in a low-density zone. Hovanec proposed the addition of two more duplexes, all accessed by way of a common driveway. This would require the prior creation of a planned development zone to allow the use.

Planning Board reaction to the idea was negative or neutral; increased density in the low density zone was cited as the underlying concern. Since the proposal would require a rezoning (akin to passage of a local law) to move forward, Town Board action would be required. Hovanec was asked to approach the Town Board to gauge their willingness to entertain rezoning.

The terms of three of the planning board members, chairperson Bob Roe, and alternate members Joel Gagnon and George Blanchard expire at the end of 2009. The Board recommended to the Town Board that Roe and Gagnon be reappointed.

November Town Board Meeting

During its meeting on November 9, the Town Board passed its 2010 budget. Negotiations with the union representing Danby's highway workers are not complete, but the board is required to pass its budget during November. It was decided to proceed, using an estimate for increased labor costs, and hope for the best.

Mike Hovanec engaged the board with an informal sketch plan for a planned development district he may ask for. As originally presented to the Planning Board in October, the plan involved three duplexes in a 5-acre parcel on Muzzy Road. The Town Board was shown a plan for only two duplexes, one of which has already been built.

Hovanec pointed out that a special permit would normally be granted for two duplexes on a parcel of this size—if the parcel had 400 feet of road frontage. However, with just over 100 feet of frontage, even the construction of the first house has already required a variance. Several Muzzy Road neighbors expressed their opposition to the plan. Councilperson Klein was forthright in stating that he did not support rezoning; other members of the board did not clearly communicate their inclinations. They did indicate that, after further examination, they would revisit the question at the agenda meeting in December.

Two resolutions were passed relating to the draft supplemental generic environmental impact statement (dSGEIS); see Katherine Halton's article.

In related action, the Town Board declared itself lead agency for SEQR review of a storm water "legislative program" and scheduled a public hearing 6:30pm on December 14. There are three laws proposed: a storm water management and sediment control law, which sets soil disturbance triggers for management actions (the triggers are more stringent for disturbances of steep

—continued on next page

TOASTY IN TOMPKINS

With winter bearing down, Tompkins County residents are looking for ways to button up their homes against cold drafts and high energy bills.

To help prepare for the chilly months ahead, Tompkins Community Action's Energy Services Department is presenting *Toasty In Tompkins*, a series of informational sessions focusing on funding options available to make energy saving improvements more affordable.



At each session, staff members will present information about energy efficiency tax credits, loans, and subsidies that ease the cost burden of expensive energy saving improvements such as insulation, new appliances, and heating systems repair or replacement. There will also be prize giveaways and energy saving tips to help attendees stay toasty all winter long.

At the Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner Room West:

- Thursday, December 3, 6:30-8pm
- Monday, December 7, 6:30-8pm
- Tuesday, December 15, 6:30-8pm

For more information, call 607.273.8816.x155 or visit [tcaction.org].

THE ROAD TO YOUR TAX RATE

Submitted by Ted Crane

Sometimes, curiosity is expensive. This year, the urge to see how our taxes are created got the best of me, so I attended the Town Board and Fire District budget workshops and hearings. Here's part of the procedure, "Determining the Tax Rate." I'm using example numbers from the Town's 2010 "General" budgeting.

① A Budget is created from the anticipated expenses and revenue for the next year. This is a lengthy process, the details are beyond description. **Result: \$683,047.**

② The Tax Levy is calculated by subtracting non-tax revenue from the Budget. **Result: \$575,682.**

③ The County Assessment Department calculates the Total Assessed Value of all properties in the Town. **Result: \$247,788,743.** Yes, \$250 million dollars.

④ The Tax Levy is divided by the Total Assessed Value, and rounded to four digits to determine the Tax Rate. **Result: 0.2323%.** This number is very small, so it is often expressed "per thousand" rather than "percent", using the "‰" symbol. **Result: 2.323‰.**

⑤ At this point, the County and Town tax bills can be prepared. The bills will include line items for

the Town	5.897‰
	(2.323‰+3.574‰ for Highway)
the Fire District	1.433‰
the Water District	3.613‰

Town Observer, continued from previous page— slopes and areas adjacent to streams), and two simpler laws that insert references to the storm water law into the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations.

Danby Budget Highlights

In spite of reduced spending in Danby's 2010 budget, taxes will increase slightly.

A roughly 3.5 percent increase in the tax levy (the amount to be raised by taxes) was offset by a \$5 million increase in the tax base (the total assessed value of all properties), so that the net tax rate went up only about 1.4 percent). With the fire district tax figured in, the total increase is a bit over 1 percent. If your assessed value is unchanged from last year, your Town tax will go up about \$7.50 for every \$100,000 in value.

How can taxes go up when expenses are reduced? Most of the increase comes from two sources familiar to many households: reduced interest income and saving for the future.

Interest rates have dropped precipitously during 2009 and the Town realized only about \$7,000 instead of a projected \$33,000. Since interest is used to pay expenses, this is equivalent to an unexpected expense.

The Town also chose to put the 2009 fund balance (money left unspent at the end of the year) aside, to pay for future highway department purchases. This savings, it is hoped, will reduce the tax burden in the future.

There are some noteworthy additions to the budget. One is an additional \$10,000 for the Code Enforcement office assistant, prompted by a desire to reduce the backlog of work in that office. Another \$10,000 was appropriated to the highway budget to build up its equipment capital reserve fund.

The Town's contribution to the NYS Retirement fund is expected to increase about 40 percent during 2010, and that amount is factored into the budget. That number may double in 2011 unless the state legislature intervenes to change the rules.

AT THE DANBY FED CHURCH

All events at the church, 1859 Danby Road.

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Friday, December 11, 2009, 5–7pm. Chicken and Biscuit, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce Pies and Assorted Desserts, Beverage. Adults: \$8, Children \$4.

Come Back Home For Christmas

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2009 7pm.

Giving Tree for Danby Food Pantry families

Danby Federated Church is collecting new items for the parents and children who go to the Danby Food Pantry to select as gifts for the holidays.

A *Giving Tree* with tags listing the items for the gift selection is at the church. Please select a tag, purchase the items on the tag, and return the unwrapped items to the church by December 15.

If you are unable to get a tag from the *Giving Tree*, you could donate one or more of the following: men's and women's gloves, scarves, hats; art supplies like paper, crayons, watercolor paints, for preschoolers through teens; fragrant soaps, hand lotions, for teens and mothers; age appropriate games, puzzles, and educational toys for babies through teenagers.

The families will select gifts during the Food Pantry on December 17 and 18. Anyone may contribute to this project. ❧

DANBY AREA NEWS READ FAR AND WIDE

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

I got an Email from someone in Oregon recently, who had read in the online DAN that we might be setting up a historical society. She was interested because she has relatives from Danby who are buried here.

I've searched the Internet for information about a number of people from this area, the Jennings, for example. You'd be surprised what you can find posted by people in other states who are doing genealogical research of their families.

If you're interested in researching your family, start with the Internet. Some of the Jennings moved from Danby to Georgia and fought in the Civil War for the South. You just might find a long, lost ancestor. ❧

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

Submitted by Linda Wyatt

Every year, according to the United States Fire Administration, fires during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. Here are some suggestions to help keep you and your family from becoming a statistic.

If your holiday celebrations include candles, consider using electric candles. If you absolutely must use wax candles, never leave them unattended and keep them away from furniture, drapes, and everything else that might catch fire...including Christmas trees.

If you use strings of lights, inspect them carefully before plugging them in. Discard any that have frayed wires or loose bulbs. Be especially careful of the older-style lights with large bulbs that heat up. Either replace them with newer, safer lights, or be sure they are not left on for long periods of time or when you are not home. Be careful that lights do not drape down on top of any wrapped gifts under the tree.

If you have a live Christmas tree, keep it well-watered. Limit the length of time the tree is in your house, as the tree is extremely flammable once it dries out. Any artificial tree should be fire-resistant.

Many holiday celebrations include a lot of baking or special meal preparation. Never leave cooking food unattended. Use a timer to avoid overcooking or burning food. Be particularly careful with any extension cords. Don't overload the circuit, and keep cords from hanging off the edges of counters or tables.

As always, be sure you have enough smoke detectors, and test them to be sure they are functioning properly.

The USFA Holiday Fire Prevention Factsheet can be found at [usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/fswy14.pdf].

Have a happy holiday season! ❧

THE LITTER NEWS

Submitted by Ronda Roaring, Adopt-A-Road Coord.

The October 17 clean-up of NYS Rt.96B and 34/96 netted \$10 in bottle and can deposits; it was donated to the Danby Food Pantry. Most of this came from beer cans, with a few soda bottles mixed in.

Most of the bottles and cans that were picked up didn't have a deposit, they went to be recycled. Thanks again to all those who helped. ❧

PREPARING FOR GAS DRILLING IN DANBY

If progress toward the future is measured in terms of increasing industrial activity—gas drilling comes to mind as one example—then the Town of Danby, at the southern end of Tompkins County, is standing in the center of the road to progress.

Industry *is* coming to Danby. We have to establish a plan that will protect the quality of life we expect in our town. The plan must also protect the health and safety of the town's residents.

Knowing what has to be protected (water wells, natural, cultural, and and historic features, agricultural land) is one of the key elements of a plan to protect the town. We're asking all of the town's residents to help us collect this information.

Please take the time to think about your home and your property, and to tell us about features that are important to you. Yes, we need to know your name and address (so we know where things need protecting) but only the "features" you describe will be catalogued.

Please mail responses to, "Gas Drilling Survey, Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850" or Email them to [drillingsurvey@town.danby.ny.us].

If you can't fit everything on this page, please use additional pieces of paper. **Thank you!**

About you

Name _____

Address _____

If we need to contact you

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Wells you know about on your property (possible routes for industrial fluids or gas to escape)

Your water well depth _____

Active oil/gas wells (describe)

Abandoned oil/gas wells (look for old steel casings, 10-12" in diameter, that stick up out as much as 36" out of the ground)

Unique or Sensitive Natural Areas (small wetlands, special or rare habitats, animals, or plants) on your property

Unique Cultural or Historical Areas (trails, parks, recreational areas, historic sites or buildings) on your property

Agricultural Land (crops, livestock, forestry) of particularly high quality or not under an agricultural assessment

Danby's Gas Drilling Task Force thanks the Town of Caroline for the inspiration leading to this questionnaire. ♣



Halloween Party



*Fanciful and Imaginative
Creatures filled the
Danby Town Hall
during the Community
Council's 2009
Halloween Party.
(Photos by Ted Crane)*



Community Council Youth Programs December 2009

After School Programs require pre-registration and are open for youth living in Danby. Contact Laura Smith, Danby Youth Program Manager, with any questions, concerns or requests for a form: 607.272.2292.x225 or [ljs257@cornell.edu].

Dungeons and Dragons

November 4-December 16, Thursdays, 4-6pm
at Danby Town Hall
Grades 5-8

Work with a professional Dungeon Master in creating a challenging exciting world. Go on voyages without having to leave town!

Family Gingerbread House Making

Come and share holiday cheer with neighbors and friends at Danby's Town Hall. On Saturday, December 19, 1-3pm, we will be creating masterpieces out of gingerbread, white icing, and numerous decorations.

Laura (Danby Youth Program Manager) will provide the icing and cookie material for the base, and is asking each family to provide an edible decoration or two... enough to share with everyone.

This event is appropriate for all ages and everyone is encouraged to bring family members, either young in age or in spirit. RSVP to Laura 607.272.2292.x225 or [ljs257@cornell.edu] by December 16.

Coming Up!

Ever thought about how you could improve your community? Participate in an opportunity to make something great happen here in Danby. Stay tuned for details about how youth can contribute to Danby this winter. (Financial and organizational support from the United Way.)

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

We pay tribute to the memory of one of our volunteers: Esther Dotson, a life well lived.

<i>Winter Reading List If You Liked...</i>	<i>... Try the Author's New Book</i>
Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich	Bright-Sided
A Time To Kill by John Grisham	Ford County
Smash Cut by Sandra Brown	Rainwater
Duma Key by Stephen King	Under the Dome
The Prince of Tides by Pat Conroy	South of Broad
The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger	Her Fearful Symmetry
Flashback by Nevada Barr	13 1/2
The World According to Garp by John Irving	Last Night in Twisted River
Testimony by Anita Shreve	A Change in Altitude
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver	The Lacuna
The Red Tent by Anita Diamant	Day After Night
The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb	Wishin' and Hopin'

We have new Juvenile Fiction, too:

- *Ramona Quimby, Age 8* by Beverly Cleary
- *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl
- *The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma* by Trenton Lee Stewart



Danby youth prepare ingredients for a stir fry to be cooked over a campfire during the after-school program *Campfire Cooking*. During five weekly after-school meetings, the group of eleven built cooking fires and then practiced techniques for cooking with a dutch oven and roasting food on a fire. Pizza-from-scratch and chocolate cake are two examples of the delicious meals this group of Danby youth cooked and then devoured!

Danby Community Council
Danby Area News
1830 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

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DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 27 • Fri

1pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Day-After-Thanksgiving Dinner • Fried Turkey!

Dec 2 • Wed

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby History Group

Dec 3 • Thu

🏛️ Oasis Dance Club
Danby Seniors' Holiday Luncheon
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby Community Council Meeting

Dec 7 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board Agenda Meeting

Dec 8 • Tue

5pm–9pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall, WD Fire Hall
Fire District Election • Come out and vote!

Dec 9 • Wed

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall—**Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**

Dec 11 • Fri

5-7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Dec 13 • Sun

3pm 🏛️ Town Hall
DCC Concert: the Van Norstrand Brothers

Dec 14 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Public Hearing: Storm Water Regulations
Town Board Regular Meeting
7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting

Dec 15 • Tue

7pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Monthly Meeting

Dec 17 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Planning Board Meeting

Dec 21 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall—**Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**

Jan 4 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board Annual Organizational Meeting

Jul 10, 2010 • Sat

Danby Fun Day and Parade

ONGOING EVENTS

Danby Community Council 🏛️ Town Hall
1st 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
1st Wednesday, 6:30pm. Public Welcome.

Danby Fire Company 🏛️ Fire Hall
Mondays, 7pm; monthly mtg 2nd Monday, 7:30pm.

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

Danby Fire Commissioners 🏛️ Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall
3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm.

Danby Community Park Association 🏛️ Town Hall
2nd and 4th Thursday, 7pm.

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

Military Family Support Group 🏛️ Federated Church
2nd Thursday, 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

🏛️ **American Legion Hall** • 1231 Danby Road