



DANBY AREA NEWS

TRACKING IS... MORE THAN TRACKS

Submitted by Julie Kulik

On February 14, eleven folks joined Linda Spielman on a wander through the State Forests off of Michigan Hollow Road. Ostensibly, we were gathered together to learn about the tracks of native species, but ahh...we learned so much more!

To quote Paul Rezendes, author of *Tracking and the Art of Seeing*, "Tracking an animal is opening the door to the life of that animal. It is an educational process, like learning how to read. In fact it is learning how to read. Following an animal's trail may bring you closer to the animal physically, but, more important, it brings you closer to it in perception. The longer you follow the animal, the deeper you enter into a perceptual relationship with its life."

Intrigued? We will be meeting with Linda twice more in April (Sundays 4/18 and 4/25, Noon-2pm, locations TBA). A group of Danby folks will also continue to meet, track and collect data about this beautiful place we call home! Contact Julie Kulik for more information at [julieofthewoods@mac.com] or 607.379.3390. ❧

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Ralph Bowles, Fire Commissioner

I hope everyone has noted that construction at the Danby fire house is progressing nicely. We are seeing walls inside and all kinds of plumbing and wiring stuff. We are very pleased with the contractors and impressed with their winter work.

We had commissioner training this past Saturday at the West Danby station. This was a state mandated course for all new or re-elected commissioners, and involved many aspects of running a fire district. There were twelve attendees from around this area. The course was taught by the fire district attorney. Lunch was catered by The Italian Carryout and Dolce Delight. Our thanks to the West Danby Fire Department for hosting this event. ❧

DCC CONCERT: SHEHERAZADE TRIO

Submitted by Bob Strichartz

The first concert of the Danby Community Council's 2010 Concert Series will be a joint performance by the *Sheherazade Trio* (Susan Waterbury, violin; Elizabeth Simkin, cello; Jennifer Hayghe, piano) and bass-baritone Robert McGaha on Sunday, March 14 at 3pm in the Danby Town Hall. The program will include trios by Clara Schumann and Brahms, and songs by Robert Schumann.

The Trio consists of Ithaca College faculty members who have performed frequently both together and in other local chamber groups. McGaha is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, where he met his wife Jennifer Hayghe. (Months before he was born, their son William attended a concert of the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, while Jennifer played Beethoven's Piano Concerto #4.) McGaha has sung with many regional opera companies, and also moonlights as a production manager for sports on CBS, ESPN and NBC.

The Danby Concert Series receives grant support from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County. All of the programs in the series have free admission.

Watch for announcements of concerts to come in future issues of the *Danby Area News*. ❧

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- West Danby Fire Update ③
- Town Clerk's Desktop ③
- Gas Drilling Update ④
- West Danby Water District ④
- Supervisor's Update ⑤
- Town Observer ⑥
- At the DFC ⑦
- Seniors ⑧
- Aging Services ⑧
- One Stop Tax and Pantry ⑧
- Save Energy, Save Dollars ⑧
- Quilting Workshop ⑧
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors ⑨
- Earth Day Planning ⑨
- The Danby White Hawk ⑩
- Community Library ⑩
- Youth Flyer ⑪
- Calendar ⑫

March 2010
Layout: Ted Crane
Mailing: 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 the body of an
Email message (**not** as an at-
tachment); or mail typewritten
copy, double-spaced on white
paper. Short handwritten
submissions accepted; please
write legibly.

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

Deadline is the 15th 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.

The Danby Area News (DAN) is a
publication of the Danby Com-
munity Council (DCC) produced
by contract with the Town of
Danby. All statements are those
of the contributors, and do not
necessarily reflect the views of
the editors, sponsors, the DCC
and its officers, or officials and
employees of the town of Danby
All works remain © of the con-
tributors. Please provide a SASE
if you wish to have materials
returned. The DAN and DCC are
not responsible for typographic or
other errors.

We would like to thank these sponsors for their help:

PATRON:

ARNOLD PRINTING CORP • 604 West Green Street • 607.272.7800
High Quality Printing Services • Recycled papers / Soy based inks
Complete Digital pre-press • Family owned and operated

SUPPORTERS:

ACT GREEN SPRAY FOAM
29 Lieb Road • 607.207.0888
[actgreenfoam.com]
[foam@twcny.rr.com]
Residential & Commercial Applications
Open Cell and Closed Cell Technology

FRIENDS:

**HIGHLAND FARMS BOARDING
KENNEL AND STORE**
168 West Miller Road • 607.273.3251
[www.highlandfarmskennel.com]
Hill's Science Diet. Treats & toys,
Embroidered Gifts.

DANBY FEDERATED CHURCH
"A Place for All"
1859 Danby Road • 607.272.1687
[www.danbyfederatedchurch.org]

DANBY NEWS ADMINIS-TRIVIA

Submitted by Ted Crane

Good News on Delivery

It's a pleasure to report that we've had
two consecutive months—January
and February—of quality delivery ser-
vice from the good ol' USPS. Let's go
for three!

Sponsorships

If you're reading this, you've probably
noticed the *Danby News* sponsor list
above. It's a little like public radio: not
exactly advertising, but a way to let
readers know who's helping.

The *Danby News* cost is covered by
the Town of Danby, but additional
income—from the United Way (the
Youth Flyer) and our sponsors—al-
lows the Community Council to offer
more programming, youth services,
and scholarships to Danby residents.

If you have a local business, please
consider a sponsorship!

Town of Danby Web Site

The Town of Danby has a web site,
[town.danby.ny.us]. If you have a
question about the Town, it's a great
place to start looking for answers. If
your answer isn't on the site, you will
find lots of contact information to
continue your search.

All the most up-to-date meeting and
event information is on the web site,
along with timely notices—updated
info was added half a dozen times dur-
ing the West Danby water outage.

If what you want isn't on
the web site, drop a note to
[webmaster@town.danby.ny.us] and
describe what you couldn't find. May-
be, next time, it'll be there!

Save A Little Bit of Tree

If you are receiving a "stickered"
copy and would prefer to save a little
bit of tree (and postage!), the *Danby
Area News* is available online at
[town.danby.ny.us/DAN]. Please ask
[danbynews@tedcrane.com] to remove
you from the sticker list. ❁

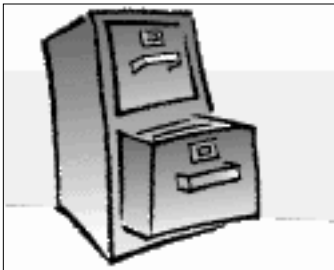
TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Special meetings for setting priorities, grant writing, a public hearing and passage of a package of local laws, and a water emergency. February was a busy month at the Danby Town Hall, and your new Town Clerk has been kept on her toes. They say the best way to learn a job is by doing it, and this month I've quickly learned about being a Public Information Officer during a community crisis, about the financial link between Town and County for tax collection, about the role of a community facilitator arranging use of the Town Hall for public meetings, and about being a legal clerk submitting the proper paper work for Local Laws.

There's been plenty of real-life material to work with. In fact, at least a dozen resolutions were passed during the February Town Board Meeting—all involving active work projects for Danby. Town staff was kept busy drafting grants for projects which will increase Danby's energy efficiency, protect ground water, and (eventually) save the town money.

For at least a decade, Town Highway Department has needed a covered salt storage facility to protect ground and surface water and to economize highway operations. Currently, road salt is stored in an open mound, not far from a stream and wetland. During the February Board meeting, the Town Board of the Town of Danby gave the Town Supervisor discretionary authority to secure a



Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) in preparation for the construction of a salt storage facility, and to seek a proposal from a qualified professional engineer for the purpose of preliminary design and the estimating of the maximum probable cost. A proposal for

a Member Item Grant was submitted to Congressman Maurice Hinchey, requesting \$150,000 for this project. These are major steps for a much long-delayed project.

Danby is teaming up with several municipalities on grant applications to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. At least two grants are in the works: one to fund an *Energy Management* person to work on such projects as developing zoning guidelines for sustainable development and implementing regional plans that reduce energy use in various sec-

WD FIRE DEP'T UPDATE

Submitted by Marrell Cortright, President

The West Danby Fire Department thanks everyone who attended our Sweethearts Breakfast on Valentine's Day. With such overwhelming community support, we just felt that we should say thank you to everyone for coming out for the breakfast.

We also felt we should apologize for being caught short. To those who had to wait so long while we sent out for more eggs, and to those who did not get bacon, sausage, or—towards the end—pancakes, we are sorry. We have had previous breakfasts when we've ran short towards the end...but we have never run out of food in the middle of a breakfast.

We are having our Annual St. Pat's Breakfast this month on Sunday, March 14. We hope everyone will come back to support us again and we promise to have *much* more food this time. Thank you! ❀

tors. Danby is also submitting a proposal to research gasification of biomass as an alternative energy system at the Town highway barn. If this grant is funded, the Town Highway Facility will have a biomass heat installation that includes a multifuel boiler similar to one recently installed at the Cayuga Nature Center. The CNC's multifuel boiler is already saving that organization money and reducing carbon emissions.

Perhaps the biggest achievement for the Town Board was the passage of a Stormwater Legislative Program—a series of laws for Stormwater Management, Erosion and Sediment Control. The Town laws have a lot of fancy legal language that gives Danby a direct say about large scale projects (industrial activity, such as gas drilling operations) that affect erosion, stormwater, and sediment flow, but also includes easy-to-follow requirements for people who are building homes. These laws are being prepared for delivery to the State.

An unexpected crisis is probably the best "teacher". From February 8 to 13, my instructor was the water emergency in the West Danby Water District. It was gratifying to contribute as one of the several parts of local government, which worked together to identify the leak, to distribute bottled water, and to inform people about the problem and the need to boil water during those days. This relatively minor emergency was a good "dry run" for a larger emergency that our community might face in the future. ❀

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE

Submitted by Katherine Halton

This last month has been very busy for members of the Danby Gas Drilling Task Force. In late January, several Danby residents traveled Albany to discuss gas drilling with NYS legislators. We were among about 500 other people from New York State who went to Albany for a rally and for these meetings. The one thing that we heard from all the lawmakers we met, was that *they are only just now beginning to hear about gas drilling* as an issue in the State, and that they don't really know much about it. In many cases we were able to sit with them and discuss our concerns, and to hand them some written information that they could study after we were gone.

We have a project beginning in the Task Force to locate special areas in Danby that we wish to protect (like wetlands, etc.), and which we will want to register as "critical environmental areas" so that when gas drilling begins here, there will have to be a "site-specific" study done to see if these are appropriate for drilling, and perhaps to protect them further.

We are also planning to begin a "Listening Project" in order to assess the knowledge and attitudes about gas drilling in our local community. Some training will begin in March. This assessment project has already begun with two surveys: one, late last year in the Danby Area News, and another pair of online surveys that you can find from Town of Danby web site [town.danby.ny.us/GasDrill]. If you get a chance to fill it out, it will add to our knowledge of our community.

Several people in the Task Force group are working on a study project about the long-term economic and environmental consequences of gas drilling, and the way that this industry fits into the larger energy picture of the United States. We hope to share this information with Danby residents soon.

And lastly, the Town Board has just passed a new set of stormwater laws that regulate land disturbances, and require construction projects to have a Stormwater Prevention Plan (SWPP). The SWPPs vary from simple ones for home building to complicated ones for large land disturbances such as the gas drilling pads. Their purpose is to prevent run-off of polluted water or any kind of materials harmful to our waterways. Danby is unique in that we have watersheds that flow north into

Lake Cayuga and onward into the Great Lakes system, and watersheds that flow south into the Susquehanna River and continue to the Chesapeake Bay.

We are again very fortunate, this semester, to have several Cornell Law students working with our Task Force on issues related to gas drilling, including both compulsory integration and gas pipeline construction.

The Gas Drilling Task Force continues to work on public education for the Town of Danby, and we welcome new members to our meetings and our Email list. Contact me at [khalton@twcny.rr.com] or come to a meeting in the Town Hall at 7pm on Wednesday, March 10th or Monday, March 22. ❁

H₂O—WEST DANBY WATER

Submitted by the West Danby Water Commissioners

Hello West Danby Water Customers! In 2010 we have already seen a lot in our water district. The retirement of Roy Casterline, the Water Plant Operator from December 1973 to December 2009, has been one of them. Thank you Roy and Mary for the years of great service.

The new Plant Operator, Carl Seamon, brings great experience from being Assistant Plant Operator under Roy. The new Assistant Plant Operators, Eugene Beavers and Tod Sukontarak are currently learning the ropes.

In mid-February, we had our first major water break since 1974. On February 8, a 6-inch water main broke at 36 Station Road, causing loss of service for some customers until February 10, and a *Boil Water* order from the Tompkins County Health Department until February 13. The Health Department's *Boil Water Notice* brings to reality that our system, installed in 1967, is of an age where substantial infrastructure maintenance and replacement are needed.

Based on the T.G. Miller engineering analysis of 2009, the West Danby Water District Commissioners will devise a comprehensive repair program that balances cost effectiveness with the immediate system needs. We look forward to having further reports on this program as we continue to analyze our needs.

We thank the customers of the West Danby Water District for their cooperation and patience during this trying event. We will continue to work hard to develop a plan for upgrades and communicate with our customers as we go. ❁

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

It is a quiet day, but Town business has been hopping this week. We've been through

- NYSERDA grants for a biomass burner at the Town Highway Barn to use fuel supplied by the Danby Land Bank and for an advisor (shared with other Towns) to help us with energy conservation
- Better Housing workshops for possible housing opportunities for the Town
- Meetings with Highway Superintendents to review new laws governing our roads
- A water main break in West Danby
- Work on funding--including possible bonding--for a Highway salt shed
- and, to keep it all interesting, talks concerning amending our new stormwater regulations in anticipation of new EPA regulations.

My kindling is gone, my woodpile needs attention, I have just noticed spiderwebs all over the house. It's time to focus on matters at home.

The dog starts barking and I see my neighbors coming up the drive. They do not look happy. It's not a woodpile conversation on their mind. Instead, they hand me a single sheet of paper with the following typed out:

Compulsory integration. You and your neighbors haven't signed a lease or any other agreement with an oil or gas company. But a single landowner does, and that property is 60 percent of the land around you. You are—as permitted by NY State law—sucked into the process whether you like it or not.

You have not signed a lease, but you have just been informed that a gas line will be running through your property...whether you want it or not.

You have a well and are worried that if gets contaminated you can't sell your house...whether you want to or not. Testing your water system is recommended (it costs a lot of money) and you just learned that if these tests do not target specific chemicals, then the tests are probably worthless.

You have a lease and you just found out that there is legislation pending that holds you financially liable if the drilling damages your neighbor's property...or health.

There are numerous "old gas wells" in Danby. You have just found out that gas companies are preparing to use this sort of well (in neighboring towns) to dump millions of gallons of toxic chemicals.

Can they do that in Danby?

I explain that these and many other issues are on the Danby Gas Task Force's agenda and that my neighbors should attend those meetings to learn more...and to lend a hand. They reply that they are very busy right now and do not have time to attend meetings.

I try to answer that "government" can't, all by itself, answer all of these questions for its residents, partly because our local government has limited powers in this case—the State and Federal governments have reserved that right for themselves. I sigh, and say that each of us needs to take some responsibility—by contacting State and Federal legislators—for dealing with the situation that we find ourselves in.

As they walk back down my drive and out into the snow, I am not sure that I made my neighbors feel all warm and cuddly, but I hope that I've given them good reasons to become participants in the process. ❁

TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Tues–Fri, 10am–5pm; Sat, 10am–1pm, closed Monday.

Note: Monday, February 1, 10am–5pm.

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: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031

Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

TOWN OBSERVER

A short extract from Joel Gagnon's Broader View articles

February Town Board Meetings

A public hearing regarding a trio of laws establishing Town-level regulations for stormwater management (to minimize and contain erosion in areas disturbed by construction) lasted for over an hour on February 8. After the hearing, during the Board's Regular meeting, the laws were passed unanimously.

The stormwater laws are similar to State laws covering the same activities, but will put the Town in a position to enforce them. The local version also contains a somewhat more sensitive triggers relating to steep slopes and proximity to streams.

One concern expressed during the public hearing was the potential cost to the Town for enforcement of the regulations. Sue Beeners, the Code Enforcement Officer, responded that, for the most common type of construction (single family houses), not a lot of additional time would be required. For larger disturbed areas (over an acre), fees would cover the increased costs, although the time for inspections may become an issue.

Questions about access for inspection also came up. How would the Town know of violations? Could the Town enter a property to inspect as it deems appropriate? The answer was that the law provided for just such access. Since both the State and the Town could enforce rules, inspection and enforcement will need to be coordinated with the DEC, and DEC has indicated that they would be willing and wanting to accomplish. During the discussion, the possibility that the Federal EPA may well require ongoing surveillance of well drilling that would exceed the requirements of this law. That would ease the task of enforcement for the Town.

The construction of a salt shed for the highway department was also discussed at length. This is a longstanding issue. The Town has never had covered salt storage in the past. Over the years, a site adjacent to the Town barns was acquired and preliminary engineering was done some years ago. The Highway Department is now asking the board to consider putting up a building with or without grant money, but grant to fund a significant portion of the cost have been applied for. The guess at the moment is that the building will cost in the neighborhood of \$425,000. The Town of Newfield recently erected a similar building, and that structure can be used to explore costs. The Board supported the gathering of additional information to make an informed

decision. Depending on the amount of local funding needed, the project could be financed with bond anticipation notes and bonds for 5 or 8 years.

Work is continuing on drafting laws to protect the Town's roads from the impact of heavy vehicle traffic. The Board authorized the hiring of Dave Herrick, an engineer, to conduct an intermunicipal forum about way to determine structure and condition of existing roads. The Town is also exploring the possible use of ground-penetrating radar for this purpose. Costs for these initiatives will be shared among several towns, with Danby playing the coordinating role.

The board also approved its annual agreement with the Highway Superintendent for the spending of highway funds. This legally-mandated agreement sets forth what work will be done, and where. This year, the agreement listed no specific projects, but indicated the amount to be spent and required the Highway Superintendent to seek authorization for projects.

Two resolutions were passed, authorizing the application for NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) grants in conjunction with several other municipalities in the county (described elsewhere in the *Danby Area News*).

Efforts to bring broadband Internet access to rural Danby have morphed again. The Town Board agreed to support an application by the Southern Tier Regional Planning Commission (STRPC) for a regional fiber-optic network. A consultant will be hired by STRPC to put the proposal together and administer the grant if it is funded. Federal stimulus funds would fund the actual work, if the grant application is successful.

In other action, the board passed a proclamation declaring February to be *Library Lovers Month* in the Town of Danby, urging all citizens to visit the library and thanking those staffing it for their work. It also authorized Sue Beeners, who plays a lead role in coordinating Danby Fun Day, to apply for a community celebrations grant from Tompkins County to help fund it.

The Town Board met with the planning board on February 22 to continue the joint Planning discussion.

Both the Town Board and Planning Board slightly modified their meeting schedules for 2010. The Town Board will continue to meet on the first two Mondays of each month, but will begin meetings at 7pm.

The Planning Board retained its 7pm meeting time, but moved to the third Wednesday of each month.

Danby Community Council Annual Meeting

The food was great (fresh and dried fruit, milk and dark chocolates, cheese and crackers, mulled cider) and the crowd congenial at the January 28 annual meeting of the Danby Community Council.

Council President Bob Strichartz reviewed the DCC's activities during the past year. The youth programming, under the leadership of Laura Smith, was generally well subscribed, with a core group developing that will serve as the basis for more in the coming year. That program was supplemented with summer evening programs by Julie Kulik at the Danby Pond, which also proved to be quite popular.

The Farmers' Market initiative met its objective of helping youth gain job experience while learning to cooperate and manage a business, but participation was disappointing (more on that below). The Community Arts Partnership-funded concert series was well attended and enhanced both Danby Fun Day and the West Danby Picnic. The Danby Area News, a DCC publication, ended up (as anticipated) over budget, but a combination of budget reallocations and reserves enabled the full 12 issues to be published.

Treasurer Asher Hockett reported that the finances of the DCC remain solid, with the Town Board adding an appropriations for 2010 to fund the full publication schedule for the Danby Area News. The Town also made up for a reduction in County support, which had threatened a number of the Council's programs.

The only item cut from the 2010 budget was the summer work crew. That relatively new program (only two years old) accomplished much good trail work around Jennings Pond. There is still hope that the Town Board may choose to fund that initiative; Ric Dietrich, the Town Supervisor, was the key player in enabling that work during the past two years. Hockett also reported that the funding for scholarships, exhausted in mid-year of 2009, will be continued at the same level, meaning that grants will be competitive.

The election of Board members proceeded without contention, given that there were fewer candidates than positions (there is yet one opening on the board if anyone would like to join the group). New members Christel Trutmann and Pat Curran were elected to one-year terms, and returning members Joel Gagnon, June Pollack, and Bob Strichartz to two-year terms.

The Board met immediately after Annual Meeting and elected officers: Bob Strichartz, President; Joel Ga-

HAPPENING AT THE DFC

It's finger-chicken good time! There's another *Chicken and Biscuit Dinner* on Friday, March 12, 5-7pm, at the Danby Federated Church. The menu includes the bird and bread, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce, Pies and Assorted Desserts, and a Beverage. Fee: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children.

It's *Movie Night* again on March 26, with a showing of *Fireproof*. The movie is free, and so is the popcorn. Child care is provided. Although it received mixed reviews, *Fireproof*, an American Christian drama, was very popular and became one of the highest-grossing independent films of 2008. Synopsis: As a firefighter, Caleb Holt's job is to rescue others. Is he ready to face his toughest job ever...rescuing his wife's heart? Have a couples night out and see this wonderful movie.

And,
the next morning...it's
time for the annual Pancake Breakfast
and Easter Egg Hunt! Come on up to the Fed-
erated Church for breakfast, 8:30-11:30am and
stick around for the egg hunt at 11:30am. Proceeds
of breakfast to benefit DFC Missions. The egg
hunt is intended for ages 3 to 10 years old,
and you don't have to attend break-
fast before the hunt.

All events are open to the community. ❁

gnon, Vice-President; Asher Hockett, Treasurer; and June Pollack, Secretary. During the meeting Julie Kulik proposed asking Linda Spielman (who writes the regular tracking article for the BVW) to do four tracking workshops in Danby. The proposal was unanimously approved, at a cost of \$300.

Discussion about the Farmers Market took into account that several people have expressed concern and have offered to help to try to improve it. Christel Trutmann will consult with Monica Roth of Cooperative Extension, and work with Heather Fowler and anyone else who wants to get involved (contact her at [ctrutmann@gmail.com]). Insurance coverage for an expanded market still needs to be addressed.

The next meeting of the DCC board will be at 7pm on March 4, in the Danby Town Hall. ❁

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Danby Senior Citizens will meet at Noon on Thursday, March 4, in the Danby Church. We will share a dish-to-pass luncheon after a short business meeting.

All seniors 55 years and older are invited and encouraged to attend.

Thirty Seniors enjoyed a bus trip to the Elmira Clemens Center on February 13, for the amazing Cirque Illumination show preceded by dinner out.

We will meet again at Noon on April 1, but in May we will change to our summertime evening schedule, meeting at 6pm. ❁

4-H QUILTING WORKSHOP

Members of the Tompkins County 4-H and the Tompkins County Quilters Guild are offering a Quilting Workshop on Saturday, March 13. In honor of Emma Canfield, an incredible sewing teacher, we will continue the tradition of sewing the *Crazy Quilt* pattern as a pillow top.

Youth (8+) and adults are invited to register for the event, to be held at the Cooperative Extension Education Center from 10am-4pm. Participants should have *basic* sewing skills and knowledge. They will complete either a 9-square or "Crazy Quilt" pillow top.

Each participant needs to bring lunch, 1 yard of neutral color cotton fabric for the quilt base and pillow back, small pieces of cotton fabric for the pillow cover (at least 6") and a 14" pillow form. Additional fabric and thread will be provided.

This workshop is free, but is limited to 16 participants. Please contact Sherron Brown, 607.272.2292, or [scb42@cornell.edu] to register in advance. ❁

FLY WEST PRIMS ON FACEBOOK

Submitted by Marrell Cortright

Updating everyone each week as to what we have delivered to the shops, what's new on the web site, and upcoming shows are listed on the notes page and there's a link to our web site!

Come be our friend on Facebook so you can keep track of where to find us and what we are up to. ❁

INFO ABOUT AGING SERVICES

Wondering about services for senior citizens? From questions about Medicare to concerns about an older relative, the staff at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging can help you. The Tompkins County Office for the Aging offers information on a wide variety of services for senior citizens and their caregivers.

If our office cannot help you, we can refer you to others who can help. Please call the Tompkins County Office for the Aging at 607.274.5482 or visit [www.tompkins-co.org/cofa]. ❁

ONE STOP: TAX PREP & FOOD PANTRY

Tax preparation help for food pantry clients and other low-income people is available 5-7pm on March 1, March 15, and April 5, thanks to volunteers from Alternatives FCU. Bring your W-2s, 1099s and other info they might need to help you to the original Brooktondale Center building, 526 Valley Road. Walk-ins are welcome, or call AFCU to make an appointment.

The Caroline Food Pantry will be open 6-7:30pm those same days and all other first and third Mondays for the foreseeable future. It's located in the front section of the Old Fire Hall, 522 Valley Road in Brooktondale. ❁

SAVE ENERGY, SAVE DOLLARS

Submitted by Carole Fisher

Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County is offering a free program, *Save Energy, Save Dollars*, to help Tompkins County residents lower their energy bills on Wednesday, March 10, 6:30-8:30pm, and again on Thursday, March 18, 2-4pm. Both programs are at Coop Extension, 615 Willow Avenue, in Ithaca, NY.

Identify the big energy users in your home. Learn about weatherstripping, caulking, air leaks, appliances that cost the most to use, and more. Low-cost and no-cost methods to reduce energy bills will be emphasized. Learn how to get financial help to make larger energy efficiency improvements. Each participating household will also take home an EnergySavers kit worth \$15.

The programs are free and open to the public, but you must call to reserve your seat and Energy Kit: 607.272.2292. ❁

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Submitted by Linda Wyatt

A new law took effect on February 22, 2010; it requires a carbon monoxide (CO) detector in all homes in New York State. If you don't shop at home supply stores, you may not be aware of it.

Amanda's Law was named after Amanda Hansen, a teenager whose life was tragically ended by a carbon monoxide leak from a defective boiler while she was sleeping at a friend's house in January 2009.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless toxic gas produced by incomplete combustion, such as might happen from a malfunctioning or improperly vented furnace or stove. It has been estimated that more than 40,000 people per year seek medical attention for accidental CO poisoning in the United States and approximately 500 of those die. Thousands more suffer from CO poisoning due to smoke inhalation.

Symptoms of mild exposure include nausea, headache, vertigo and flu-like symptoms and are often mistaken for illness, and ignored. Chronic exposure to low levels can lead to depression, confusion and memory loss. Exposure to high levels can cause death within minutes. If more than one person in a house suddenly develops flu-like symptoms at the same time, suspect carbon monoxide poisoning. Call 911 and get into fresh air.

The new law requires that the carbon monoxide detector meets New York State standards, and that it be installed in an operable condition in dwellings where there are appliances or systems that may emit carbon monoxide, or that have an attached garage. Prior to Amanda's Law, carbon monoxide detectors were required in some homes, depending on when they were constructed or sold, but this new law applies to all homes, regardless of construction or sale date. It also requires anyone repairing or installing an appliance that may emit CO to install a detector if one is not already present.

Carbon Monoxide detectors can be purchased in the same places as smoke detectors, and cost about the same. It is also possible to purchase a detector that does both, for a slightly higher cost. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends installing a detector on each level of your home. Carbon Monoxide does not rise like smoke, so the detectors go on the wall, not the ceiling. Any detector you purchase should have installation information included or you can call your local fire department for assistance. ❁

DANBY EARTH DAY PLANNING MEETING

Submitted by Eric Banford

The Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES) plans Earth Day Ithaca each year. This year, rather than planning one central event, CES is encouraging each of Tompkins County's communities to take part in the 40th Anniversary celebration honoring our beautiful blue and green planet.



So, we are planning numerous events right here in Danby, and would like your help doing so! Do you have a favorite natural place that could use some cleaning up? Let's plan a clean up party! Would you like to lead a hike to your favorite beautiful spot in Danby? Let's schedule that too! Other ideas? Let us know!

Danby's Earth Day Planning Meeting will be on Monday March 15, 6:30-8pm in the Danby Town Hall. For further information, or if you can't make the meeting but would like to participate, contact Eric Banford at 277-0183 or [brew_bird@yahoo.com]. Thanks! ❁

Adoptive/Foster Parenting Meeting Notice

Tompkins County Department of Social Services has a need for foster families for all ages of children but especially for families in the Ithaca City School District and for families who will foster teenagers.

You can help! Come to an informational meeting regarding foster care and adoption on Thursday, March 11, Noon-1pm in the Human Services Building, room 142, 320 West State Street, Ithaca, NY.

For more information, please call 607.274.5266. ❁

AN OASIS FULL OF SQUARES

All'y'all know about the country dancing with DJ Dave Vieser on Saturday evenings, 6-9pm, the Oasis Dance Club, yes? At the corner of Comfort and Rt.96B?

Well, square your sets. Caller Mary Linton is leading a Square Dance at Oasis on Sunday, March 21, 2-5pm! Beginners are welcome, along with the pros. ❁

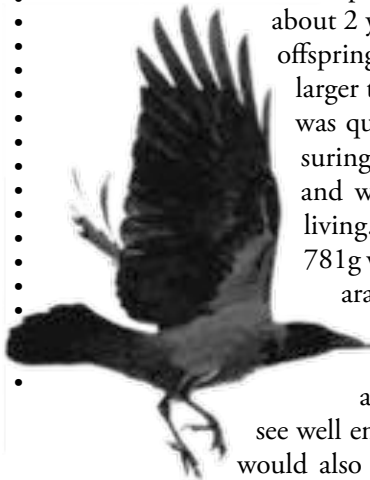
THE DANBY WHITE HAWK: PART 2

Submitted by Laura Woinoski

In the November issue of The Danby Area News there was an article, submitted by Dan Klein, about the "White Hawk" that had been seen and known in our area for 25-30 years. Since then, we've learned more about about the life and death of our beloved white hawk from Kristin Gill, the graduate student who prepped the bird for preservation at the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates.

Gill verified that the bird was indeed a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), but a leucistic red-tailed hawk. Leucism is an absence of all skin pigment, different from albinism, which is an absence of only melanin production. Gill reported that, "Plumage was white with occasional pigmented feathers, which did have patterning and colors consistent with a red tail (there was actually a rusty covert at the base of her tail). She had a gray to black bill, yellow legs, and claws that were mostly white with a streak of black in one. The eyes appeared brownish to red."

Did you just catch that "she" part? Our hawk was indeed, female. We suspected this since she was seen about 2 years ago with newly-hatched offspring. Female red-tails are usually larger than the males, but our hawk was quite small for a red-tail, measuring at 50cm long (body length) and weighing about 981gm while living. She came into the lab at just 781g with no fat reserves. Also, cat-



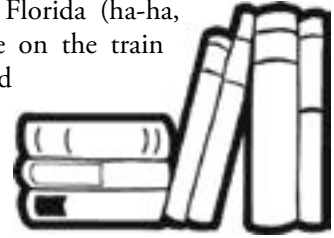
aracts were observed upon arrival. This indicates that, most likely, she died of starvation as a result of not being able to see well enough to hunt anymore. This would also explain why she was letting humans get so close to her during her final weeks.

The age of the hawk could not be verified, as she was only banded in November of 2008, but Danby residents have been seeing her for 25 years or more. The average lifespan of a red-tail is 20 years, so she lived a full life, indeed! She will still live on, in her namesakes of White Hawk Ecovillage, White Hawk Lane, and in the lives of her three young hawks, who are still frequently spotted

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

I am writing this from Florida (ha-ha, but I am about to leave on the train to Florida!) As you read this, Spring should be a lot closer so we have a new Reading List for you, based on Volunteer Picks.



- Beatrice: The Scoop Fern Michaels
- Lavender Morning Jude Devereaux
- Secrets She Left Behind *and*
- The Courage Tree Diane Chamberlain
- Dawn: Moon Rising Eugenia Price
- Betsy: Maisie Dobbs Jacqueline Winspear
- Mary M.: Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
- Barbara Kingsolver
- Joanne: The Elegance of the Hedgehog
- Muriel Barbery
- Patti: House Rules Jody Picoult (after 8-Mar)

Our other volunteers chose some books we haven't featured yet:

- Push Sapphire (The movie "Precious" is based on this novel)
- Remarkable Creatures Tracy Chevalier
- Noah's Compass Anne Tyler

We also have the current Caldecott Honor Books: Picture Books, Juvenile Fiction and Young Adult).

Look for news about our Spring Open House and Book Sale complete with Entertainment! ❀

in her old hunting grounds and beyond. They are piebald, which means they have some of the leucistic effect from their mother. They are mostly white on their undersides and mottled brown/red their backs and tails. You can see them around the Comfort, Miller, 96B loop and are welcome to come birdwatching at White Hawk Ecovillage anytime.

We are currently creating a "tribute" page online. If anyone has pictures of the white hawk or her children, or stories/information to share about her, please email them to [info@whitehawk.org] and we will make them part of the tribute page that will be viewable at [whitehawk.org] this coming spring. ❀


 The logo features the words "Danby Youth Flyer" in a stylized, handwritten font. "Danby" is written in a cursive script, while "Youth Flyer" is in a more blocky, outlined font. The text is set against a light gray circular background.

Community Council Youth Programs March 2010

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].

FOCUS with United Way-grades 5-8

Thursdays, 4:30-6:30pm
at Danby Town Hall

Partner with United Way in a community building and service project. Youth will accept grant proposals for community projects and allocate around \$3000 to selected groups. This program is geared toward youth who are ready to work together as a team to solve real issues in Danby through discussions, community service-learning, and event planning.

Lunch Bunch

Thursdays
at Boynton

This in-school program at Boynton is a fun way to try new foods, create crafts, and go outside during the school day.

Dungeons and Dragons-grades 4-8

Mondays, 3-6pm
at Danby Town Hall

Join the campaign to ancient Rome without leaving Danby! Learn the rules of this role-playing game, and see where the adventure leads you.

Stop Action Animation-grades 5-8

Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30pm
at Boynton

Design and implement your own stop action film. Learn basic techniques and practice writing, directing, and filming.

Dance on Fridays-grades 5-8

Fridays, 3:30-5:30pm
at Boynton

Practice a variety of dance styles with professional instructors. Ballet, hip-hop, contra dancing, and even Jazzercise! No experience necessary--this is a great opportunity to try a new hobby and a great way to work out!

Primitive Pursuits

Mondays, April-May-June, 3-5:30pm
at June Pollack's in Danby

The adventure continues at June's house once the weather warms. Explore the world of tracking and awareness while playing games and gaining understanding of the wilderness around you.

Funky Furniture-grades 5-8

Tuesdays, in April and June, 3:30-5:30pm
at Boynton

Create a bulletin board, paint a step stool, add your own artistic flair to furniture pieces, both large and small.

Animal Explorations-grades 3-8

Thursdays, April-May-June, 3-5:30pm
at Danby Town Hall

Visit the SPCA, bake your own dog treats, and learn about a variety of animal careers and hobbies with hands-on experience and field trips!



Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 1 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board Agenda Meeting

Mar 4 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Danby Seniors' Meeting

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby Community Council Meeting

Mar 8 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board Regular Meeting
7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting

Mar 9 • Tue

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

Mar 10 • Wed

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

Mar 12 • Fri

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

Mar 14 • Sun

8-11am 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall
St. Patty's Breakfast
3pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Community Council Concert: Sheherazad Trio

Mar 15 • Mon

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall—**Earth Day Planning Meeting**

Mar 16 • Tue

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

Mar 17 • Wed

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Planning Board Meeting

Mar 22 • Mon

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

Mar 26 • Fri

7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Movie Night: *Fireproof*

Mar 27 • Sat

8-11:30am 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Pancake Breakfast

11:30am 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Easter Egg Hunt

Apr 1 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby Community Council 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.

The Town of Danby has a web site with lots more
info. Check it out: [<http://town.danby.ny.us>] 🌐