



# DANBY AREA NEWS

## DANBY CELEBRATES 40<sup>TH</sup> EARTH DAY ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Eric Banford

In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, Danby is having an Earth Day Celebration at Jennings Pond Park on Saturday, April 17, Noon-5pm. This event will include guided hikes, outdoor games, educational booths, hands-on crafts, and much more. This is a rain or shine event, come out and have some fun with your neighbors!



If you would like have a booth at Earth Day, can lead a hike, or would like to organize trail work or garbage pick up, please contact me at 607.277.0183 or [brew\_bird@yahoo.com]. We could also use volunteers at 10am to help with tent setup.

For an updated list of activities, please visit our page on the the Town of Danby web site, [town.danby.ny.us/EarthDay].

There's one more planning meeting, on Saturday April 10, 11:30am-1pm, in the Jennings Pond Park. Rain location: Danby Town Hall. ❀



**Dateline: Danby, NY, Friday, 26-Feb, 10am.** Not a snow plow in sight all morning and I was up at 5am getting ready for work, official arrival time: 7am. Our neighbor could not get his car down the road to get home and I could not get out. The neighbor and my husband got their snow blowers and blew out Jennings Pond Road. The Highway Department is welcome to send us a Thank You note, c/o 3 Jennings Pond Road. Photo by Amy Cusimano

## SPRING CRAFT SHOW & BBQ

Submitted by Marrell Cortright

It's that time of year again! April 17 brings us the West Danby Fire Department's Annual Spring Craft Show and Chicken BBQ, 10am-2pm with the chicken ready around Noon.

Many area crafters are displaying everything from paper quilling, Finnish breads, jewelry, home decor, bags, blankets and maple syrup.

Crafters: only a couple of tables are left for this show. If you would like one, the cost is \$10. Contact me for info: [marrell11@aol.com] or 607.564.0020. ❀

## CONCERT: DAN BERGGREN

Submitted by Bob Strichartz & John Henderson

The Danby Community Council present singer-songwriter Dan Berggren in concert on Sunday, May 2, 3pm, in the Danby Town Hall.

Dan Berggren sings songs that are steeped in the tradition of the Adirondack Mountains. Dan has a way of sharing insightful looks at daily life and he brings a sense of community to his music. He is a singer-songwriter, but includes many old songs in his repertoire. His gentle wit and charm is coupled with an unpretentious style and a warm, rich voice. His music has taken him across New York State and as far away as Eastern Europe and Central Africa. ❀

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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 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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## MITHRIL MINING IN TRAVOR ROAD QUARRY

Submitted by Ted Crane

We've heard several reports about  
the discovery of massive, high-yield  
deposits of mithril ore in the Travor  
Road quarry.

In a press release dated April 1, the  
Mithril Mining and Manufacturing  
Corporation announced that it had  
acquired full access to the surface and  
subsurface rights of the quarry. Gimli  
MacGlowen, President of the Corpo-  
ration, gloated, "We're especially ex-  
cited about the subsurface rights. We  
expect to tunnel deep, deep into the  
earth, far below the Marcellus Shale."  
In response to questions about the in-  
advertent release of a Balrog from the  
depths of MMMC's *Moria* facility, he  
replied, "That very rarely happens."

Local construction companies are  
busily fabricating low-ceiling dwell-

ing quarters for mine workers and  
decorating them to the most modern  
dwarves' taste.

President Gimli promises ample em-  
ployment for local workers but, "Haul-  
ing ore carts is easy labor compared to  
the drilling our skilled dwarves per-  
form, so there will be no profit shar-  
ing."

MMMC claims a long-standing re-  
cord of environmental protection  
that meets all dwarvish standards: the  
height of crushed ore tailing mounds  
never exceeds three dragon lengths,  
and liquid wastes are only spread on  
unproductive land where elves dwell.

**In other news...the  
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.



## TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

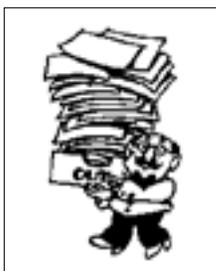
Have you heard the NPR series, "This I Believe?" As a writer, a historian, and now as your Town Clerk, I believe in the importance of public access to public records. I believe in the value of FOIL. FOIL, the Freedom of Information Law, reaffirms your right to know how your government operates. FOIL is also your way to obtain detailed information about the workings of local government—information you might need to assist you in your daily life.

A recent article in the *Ithaca Journal* provided a full page of helpful tips for making a FOIL request. You should clearly identify the records you are seeking, make the request by Email, if possible, and follow up to make sure that your request was received.

The IJ article mentioned access to records related to assessment, taxes, and local government spending. While these are all important, they are not the only items subject to a FOIL request. In fact, *all* records are accessible, except records those which might cause an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or would impair, endanger, or cause substantial injury to an individual or agency.

Minutes of meetings are some of the most important, and most accessible records from local government. As stated in the *Association of Towns* manual for a Town Clerk's office, "The basic legislative record of a Town is the minute book of the acts of the Town Board, the governing body, maintained by the Town Clerk. The minute book is, in fact, the only chronological and historical record of the operation of the town. The Town Clerk is the author. The record the clerk prepares will be retained for its historical and its legal value when, where, and if the action of the Town Board is subject to future litigation. This is an awesome responsibility and the manner in which it is discharged will affect directly and significantly both the individual Town Clerk and the Town in which she serves as one of its most important and visible local officials."

Minutes include reports from boards and committees and provide a window into how and why local laws and ordinances are created. Minutes for Danby's Town and Planning Board meetings are available on the Danby web site, [[town.danby.ny.us](http://town.danby.ny.us)]. They are also made public in a notebook in the Danby Reading Room in the



Town Hall. Give them a read. Keep up with what your boards are doing. You just might find yourself wanting to get involved in some of the activities going on in Danby. At the very least, you have a right to know what your government is doing.

### Clerk Training

Both new Town Clerks and those who have been in service for many years have much to learn and remember. I'll be joining Town Clerks from across the state for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the NYS Town Clerks Association. This year's conference takes place during April 25-28.

The major changes in dog licensing proposed by New York State are a hot topic. I'll also attend sessions on legal issues, records management, effective communication, tax collection, marriage licenses, and open government. In short, there are seminars covering many of the areas that are part of a Town Clerk's diverse job. There are so many different aspects to being a Town Clerk...well, you can imagine why clerks never get bored.

Closer to home, I'll also attend a series of half day workshops about electronic records management: Electronic Records Inventory (April), Managing E-mail Effectively (May), and Preservation of Electronic Records (June).

The Town Clerk's role as guardian of local government history has become much more complicated in the digital age. Over the next few months I'll be gaining the most up-to-date skills to help members of our community access the information they need. ❁

## FINANCIAL SPRING CLEANING

How about giving your finances a little spring cleaning? Try these Cooperative Extension workshops:

*Making Ends Meet*, Thursday, April 15, 1-3pm, in Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Avenue in Ithaca. Learn to set specific financial goals, create a spending plan, make wise spending choices, reduce utility bills and more! All participants in Making Ends Meet receive an assortment of free money management tools.

*Exploring Credit and Debt Management Issues*, Tuesday, April 20, 6-8pm, same location. Establishing good credit, strategies to pay down debt, obtaining and understanding a credit report, credit pitfalls to avoid, and more!

Free and open to the public, but registration required. Call 272.2292 to register or for more info. ❁

# GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE

Submitted by Katherine Halton

Members of a Task Force sub-committee have been working on getting several unique natural areas in Danby certified by the NYS as "critical environmental areas." This means that they may require a specific inspection by the DEC of these areas before gas drilling can begin, due to their importance to the town and their uniqueness. They are looking at the process of getting this certification from the DEC, after they visit these areas and identify them.

Cornell Law students affiliated with the Task Force continue to work on their special projects regarding land use issues: legal questions and pipeline rights of way; subsurface trespass issues with gas drilling; home rule and the role of towns, and others.

The Town of Danby passed its own set of stormwater regulations in March, and has also shown interest in becoming a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This would make the Town of Danby become the first entity to be notified when a company plans to do any construction or drilling. We have seen, even in Tompkins County, that sometimes towns and residents are not notified before these things begin.

There are new Federal stormwater regulations coming soon to towns like Danby, and we have been looking into becoming a model town for these new regulations. This would involve a grant to give Danby funding to monitor and document the stormwater that flows from the southern end of Danby into the Susquehanna River watershed. The Town has met with people to investi-

gate this grant, although no decision has been made.

One of the Task Force members, Ed Kokkelenberg, met with State Senator Jim Seward to discuss the gas drilling issue. Ed has been researching the gas industry and its plans for the future, and also the larger economic picture in which this industry operates. Senator Seward seemed interested in having updated information on the gas industry and its possible impact on this area.

A new organization, to bring together lease holders who are having second thoughts about what they signed, had its first meeting in March. Many people were thinking of the old type of gas wells when they signed leases. Landmen had assured them that this gas drilling would not involve harmful chemicals, and that it would be the same as the old type of vertical gas drilling. Now the lease holders are finding out that they signed on for a very different kind of experience, and they are coming together to identify their options. The group (*F*)leased can be reached at two Email addresses: [fleasedny@gmail.com] and [ellenzharrison@gmail.com].

There are still plans for "Listening Project" training to be held on a weekend afternoon at the end of April. Trainees would be expected to commit one weekend afternoon a month to the process of going out into our community and listening to what our neighbors think about the gas drilling issue. We will be listening to them, and using a prepared short list of questions that we can ask. If you're interested, contact me at [khalton@twcny.rr.com].

The next two meetings of the Danby Gas Drilling Task Force will be in Town Hall at 7pm on Thursday, April 8, and Tuesday, April 20. Everyone is welcome. ♣

## Danby Community Council Scholarship Application

The Danby Community Council provides scholarships to youth who are Danby residents and need financial support to attend special camps/programs (sports, computer, art, dance, music, etc.). Funds are limited, so please apply quickly.

Youth's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of camp/program \_\_\_\_\_ Program Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of camp/program \_\_\_\_\_

Camp/Program Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the youth currently eligible for a free or reduced cost lunch program? \_\_\_\_\_

**I verify that the information provided on this application is accurate.**

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the application, with proof of enrollment in program and (if applicable) payment of deposit, to:  
Danby Community Council  
c/o June Pollack  
43 Hornbrook Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
Questions? Call 273.4744 or  
Email [dpollack6@twcny.rr.com]

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

There's been lots of talk this month about Broadband Internet access. How much can I say, before I am just crying wolf in the state forest? The rules keep changing and new players keep us scrambling to provide information.

For me, I am looking for high speed Internet capability for all residents for about thirty dollars a month. I see this as a right, the same way I view electricity, running water, and phone service: an essential ingredient to quality of life.

I am frustrated by the current situation, where Danby is left out in the cold because the "last-mile build-out" is not profitable for service providers.

There is a raft of current initiatives:

- Partnership in a regional proposal. I could not get behind that project because it would not address Danby's concerns (see the recent Ithaca Journal article).
- Partnership with Cornell and the County for possible grant from Google.
- I still support Clarity Connect's application to use Federal stimulus funding for a last-mile build-out.

Last year's stimulus bill also required the FCC to come up with a broadband plan, and it was delivered to Congress on March 16. The plan argues that high-speed Internet access is no longer just a luxury but is critical for economic development, education, health care and other aspects of daily life.

If all of the above proposals do not work out, we need to find "new" money that would come on top of the \$7.2 billion for broadband included in the 2009 stimulus bill. The Commerce and Agriculture departments are handing out that money now.

New money might come from the FCC proposal to tap the funding that now subsidizes telephone service in poor and rural areas, the Universal Service Fund, to bring high-speed Internet connections to all Americans.

When rural areas lack broadband access, it's often because phone and cable companies haven't found it worthwhile to invest in dragging high-speed lines to remote places—like Danby—with few subscribers.

One way the FCC hopes to expand broadband use is with wireless technology.

Talks are underway to address the basic problem that no one is a "point person" for a local plans and maps

for build-out using local money. The problem is that we seem to be chasing money, writing time-consuming grants, and not making any meaningful progress. Should we explore local options and commit taxpayer money?

Danby is putting together its work plan for this year. If residents feel this is an important issue we need you to make your opinion known. ❁

## HELLO, DANBY NEIGHBORS

Submitted Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Columnist

I am looking for more stories for the Danby Town Talk column that runs in the Ithaca Journal every Thursday. In particular, I would like some "book reviews", spring cleaning tips, gardening ideas, how you spent the winter months (did you head south or take up skiing or enroll in a class, or...?), and of course family stories are always fun to share in the column! I have been given the go ahead to cover not only Danby, but West Danby and Newfield and South Hill, as our Danby kids attend South Hill Elementary School (which reminds me that I sure would like school stories, too). The town talk columns are meant to represent the lives of people who live in those towns....I enjoy putting the stories together for print, but you are what the column is all about! Pictures are welcome, also.

Thank you and Happy Spring. ❁

## 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

### March Town Board Meetings

Property assessments were the focus of a lively interaction between members of the Danby Town Board, others in attendance, and representatives of the Tompkins County Division of Assessment during the Board's March 1 agenda meeting.

Tompkins is the only county in New York with a county-wide department rather than local assessment. The assessment division is touching base with local governments throughout the county, and was represented by Irene Kehoe, its new assistant director, and Kathy King, the staff person responsible for Danby assessments. Much of Kehoe's presentation was of a general educational nature. She noted that NYS requires a uniform percentage of value (Tompkins County uses 100%).

Many Danby landowners have been dismayed to see the value of undeveloped land rising rapidly. Kehoe responded that assessments are based on sales of comparable properties. Despite the appearance that houses are assessed separately from the land, that is not really the case. The question asked is, "What would this property sell for if put on the market?" The judgment is based on a drive-by evaluation, supplemented by whatever additional information the department can garner.

Assessors are not able to enter a property without the owner's permission. This prompted a question about whether some people might be letting the street appearance of their houses deteriorate in an effort to keep their property value down. Kehoe responded that they try not to let cosmetic appearance influence the value unduly; while some people may try to game the system, there are others who try to keep up the public face of their properties even when its overall condition may be poorer than is evident from the street. She urged anyone who feels that they are being overassessed based on street appearance to contact the department for an interior inspection.

Do gas leases increase the value of the land, or decrease it? Kehoe said that so far, she isn't seeing much effect; the department is taking a wait and see attitude. If sales show an impact, values will be adjusted accordingly. She described the case of one property owner who complained that the gas lease on an adjacent large parcel had devalued her property, making it hard to sell. Kehoe said the evidence is not yet there to support this assertion. In this particular case, the asking price was

\$80,000 more than the assessed value. While it might not sell at that price, the difference may not be due to gas leasing and the inability to sell at the asking price tends to support the accuracy of the assessed value. The department is "capturing" as much information as it can about gas leases to stay on top of the situation.

Dealing with the potential impacts of gas development again played a prominent role in setting the agenda for the meeting. Councilperson Halton reported that the gas drilling task force has a subcommittee working on mapping parts of the town that could be termed "critical environmental areas". These are likely to include the unique natural areas already identified by county-level studies, supplemented by additional areas the group concludes are worth adding.

Given the concerns about potential groundwater contamination in an area that relies entirely on well water, some assert that most of the town could reasonably be considered a critical area, but that seems unlikely to happen.

Last month, the Board passed new stormwater legislation aimed at preventing and controlling runoff into streams and wetlands. That legislation requires that stormwater protection plans (SWPPs, pronounced "swips") be approved before any significant land disturbance. It was expected that the NYS DEC would cooperate with the Town, but a close reading of the fine print in the DEC's regulations has shown that full cooperation requires the town to have "MS4" status. This status places some heavy duty requirements and responsibilities (to document and monitor sources of discharge into water bodies) on the Town. While Danby does not have sanitary sewers, its culverts and drainage ditches (including roadside ditches) that discharge into streams are covered.

In addition to a commitment to assess and test these discharges, being an MS4 entails having a plan for ongoing monitoring and annual reporting. In short, a substantial administrative burden. Most Towns in Tompkins County are already MS4s. Danby has thus far avoided being required to participate in the program because it lacks sewers, but the state is clearly moving in the direction of required participation; with Danby likely to opt in soon, why not now? "In for a penny, in for a pound," said Ric Dietrich of the situation the Board faces. Although councilpersons expressed concerns about cost of MS4 compliance, the vote was unanimous to proceed. In a related action, the board appointed Sue Beeners and Russ Klinger, the Town's Code Enforcement staff,

to be Stormwater Management Officers as provided for in the Town's new stormwater regulations.

The board finally appointed new members of the planning board, but deferred selection of a new chairperson. Steve Selin was appointed to a 7-year term and Bob Roe to a remaining term (4 years) of David Mastroberti, who recently resigned. Both apportionments were by unanimous votes. There is still a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the applicant for the position has yet to be interviewed.

There were a couple of road-related actions at these meetings. In response to a NYS DOT requirement, the Board passed a resolution assuring the State that if Danby highway actions damage a state highway, the Town will repair the damage. The Town doesn't often do work in the state right of way, but it could happen, as it did during the recent West Danby Water District repairs. Having this assurance on file will enable the town to take action without first getting a work permit from the DOT.

In another road-related action, the Town is participating in a County Council of Governments-sponsored meeting with an engineering firm to look at options for evaluating road condition prior to its use by heavy industrial equipment traffic. The hope is that whatever strategy is eventually adopted, costs could be shared among Towns.

The Board also moved a couple of slow-moving projects forward slightly.

- A meeting for highway department officials and a consulting engineer will look at options for a salt storage building; alternative options to a wood structure will be explored.
- Broadband Internet access came up again, with the Board passing a broadly-worded resolution authorizing the Town Supervisor to provide documentation and letters of support for a regional broadband grant application due in March.
- The health consortium inched forward with a resolution ratifying the proposed addition of a union-appointed voting member to the Consortium Board of Directors and the associated creation of several union committees to advise and participate in decision-making. That project may get under way by June if objections to an apparent conflict of interest (labor voting in decisions about compensation) is resolved (the State has ruled it is permissible). ❧

## HAPPENING AT THE DFC

Will chickens ever become an endangered resource?

Not before the next *Chicken and Biscuit Dinner!* It'll take place on Friday, April 9, 5-7pm, at the Danby Federated Church. The menu includes the squawk and the bread, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce, Pies and Assorted Desserts, and a Beverage. Fee: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children.

The Mobile Food Pantry truck sponsored by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier is in the DFC parking lot 1-2:30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month. The Mobile Food Pantry is a converted beverage truck used to deliver fresh produce, dairy products, and other food and grocery products directly to distribution sites where people need. This month's delivery is April 26, 2010. ❧

## FORMER FIRE VOLUNTEERS

Former Members of the Danby Volunteer Fire Company needed for interviews as part of an academic research project (studying for Fire Officer III). Absolute confidentiality guaranteed. Contact Adam Crown, [ifv@lightlink.com] or 607.277.3262. ❧

## GETTING READY FOR THE SUMMER FARMERS' MARKET

Submitted by Christel Trutmann

Calling all Danby-area growers, craftspeople, and entertainers!

It's that time of year when we start planning our gardens and meaning to start spring-cleaning. As you do, think about putting in some extra corn or potatoes—or whatever you're growing—and selling at the Danby Farmers' Market!

Danby is full of talented growers, craftspeople, and musicians, and those of us who want to enjoy their talent! We're looking for vendors and performers for this summer's Farmers' Market, and also for people to help with planning and advertising.

If you have suggestions, ideas, or time to help make the Danby Farmers' Market bigger and better, please get involved! Contact me at [ctrutmann@gmail.com] or 607.342.1062. ❧

## DON'T STALL, CALL!

Submitted by Linda Wyatt, Fire/Life Safety Educator, EMT-I

Many parts of the country and the world have a serious problem with people calling for an ambulance when they don't really need one. For some, it's a free ride to the hospital. Others don't have a regular doctor and don't know where else to turn. For those who live alone, it's their only human contact. Some don't know how to tell when to call, so they call for things that really aren't emergencies.

Fortunately, Danby doesn't have that problem. We don't get a lot of 911 groundless calls. Offhand, I can't think of one. We have the opposite situation. We have people who don't call when they should. Who put off calling because they don't want to be a bother. Who are fiercely independent and hate to ask for help.

I understand not wanting to ask for help. Wanting to handle things on your own, your own way, without anyone else's interference. There is a lot that a competent person can handle on their own, even with medical issues. Learn first aid. If you have any sort of medical condition, learn about it, understand it, and be prepared for any issues that might come up.

Most of the time, this will serve you well but, sometimes, there are things you simply can't handle on your own. Heart attacks. Strokes. Breathing emergencies. In these cases, it is important not only to get help, but to get it as soon as possible.

Here are some quick guidelines for how to know when to call 911 for a medical emergency. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list; there is no way to anticipate every possible situation.

### Life Threatening Emergencies

In any of these situations, call 911 as soon as possible. Don't wait. Don't call a friend or family member first. We can assess the situation and start your care immediately, even before an ambulance arrives. And the ambulance, with well-trained paramedics, is almost like bringing the emergency room to you.

- Difficulty breathing where you can't speak an entire sentence in one breath
- Chest pain lasting longer than ten minutes, or combined with difficulty breathing or cool, clammy skin
- a fall from more than three times your height (or 10ft for a child, even if not three times their height)
- any fall with a possible head injury or pelvic fracture
- stroke symptoms such as one sided weakness, slurred speech, sudden trouble walking

## DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

Danby Senior Citizens will meet on Thursday, April 1, at Noon in the Danby Church for a dish to pass meal and short meeting. All seniors 55 and older are invited to attend. In May, we will go to our 6pm meeting time for the summer months.

Thank you to Dan & Kathy Clements and Dave & Ann VanDeMark for hosting in March; also to John & Cheryl Lawrence and Kathy Turscik for hosting in February. We very much enjoyed hearing Sun Liang at our last meeting, who spoke to us about her homeland in China and her teaching experience there. ❀

- altered level of consciousness, especially for a diabetic
- diabetic emergencies
- uncontrolled bleeding
- complications of pregnancy
- drug overdose

### Serious Medical Situations

In these cases, use your judgment. You may be able to go to the Emergency Room or Convenient Care in your own vehicle. Consider calling your doctor's office and asking their advice.

- broken bones or suspected broken bones; not usually life threatening, but you may need help with splinting and transportation
- abdominal pain: seriousness varies with potential cause. Call if you are not sure, or if it suddenly gets worse
- a wound with an embedded object: call if you do not know how, or are not able, to transport yourself safely
- vomiting blood or dark, "coffee grounds" material: call if no one else can drive you; don't drive yourself

### Non-Immediate Situations

Things such as minor wounds, headaches, toothaches, vomiting, flu symptoms. For these sorts of things, if you are able to get medical care on your own, or know how to take care of yourself, you probably don't need an ambulance. Even so, if you have several different things going on at the same time, or have underlying medical conditions, consider calling for help.

Call your doctor first, to ask, if you like. If you feel that something is wrong and you are in serious trouble, even if you don't know what it is, call for help. Trust your instincts. We'd much rather show up and not be needed than not to be there for you when you do need us.

It isn't "crying wolf" when a wolf is really at your door. ❀

## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Submitted by Adam Crown, Fire/Life Safety Educator

Right at this moment, I'm at my desk, gazing out at the winter storm that's supposed to bring in a foot or more of snow. Spring seems impossibly far away, let alone Summer. Before you know it, the world will be swapping a swaddling of white for a whole palette of greens. Now's the time to do some planning: what to plant in the garden, clean-up and repairs, camping trips.

Summer will mean hot days and that will probably mean some water-related activities. You'll want to keep yourself and the ones you love, especially kids, safe from harm while still having fun.

In the service, I spent two years on a ship. The sea is beautiful, but there's danger in that beauty. More than one seaman has found that the ship could roll over in her sleep and disappear almost without a trace. Even inland, there's danger, and it's often the case that you're most at risk when you think you're perfectly safe.

You can drown in a matter of seconds, and you don't need a whole ocean to do it. A lake will work, or a pond, or a swimming pool, or even a bathtub.

During 2005, 810 children under age of 14 drowned. In 2007, an estimated 2,780 kids were treated in emergency rooms after nearly drowning. Severe and permanent brain damage was a result in about 20 percent of those cases. Typically, these drownings occur when a child is left unattended, even briefly.

There are some things you can do to protect children, yours and others. Make sure that pools and spas are enclosed on all sides with a fence at least 5' high, with self-closing and locking gates. Make sure the drains are fitted with anti-entrapment drain covers.

Be sure children are under the supervision of a responsible adult. See to it that every child over the age of 3 gets swimming lessons. Children using air-filled flotation devices should always be closely supervised, with an adult within arm's reach. For water sports such as tubing, skiing or jet skiing, a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life-jacket is an absolute must. Don't use inflatables, inner tubes, or water wings.

Teach your children to respect the water:

- Never swim without permission from a life-guard or responsible adult
- Always obey the posted rules
- Check with the lifeguard to see how deep the water is

## DANBY NEIGHBORS SERIES

Submitted by Eric Banford

As I started to make a list of activities for Earth Day and began to receive suggestions from various neighbors, I realized what a wealth of knowledge we have in our community. Rather than trying to pack them all into a day or a week of activities, I would like to begin a monthly series of gatherings focused on sharing our skills and our stories with each other.

Do you know how to weave, spin, knit or quilt? Are you good at preserving the harvest? Do you tend an orchard? Do you like to tell stories? Do you play old-time music? And are you willing to share these skills with your neighbors? We all have something special to share, think about the things that you love to do, and please consider sharing it with us!

Our first event will be on Sunday May 9, 1-2:30pm, a tour of the organic apple orchards at 303 Gunderman Road. The orchards are maintained by Brian Caldwell, the Field Manager for Cornell's Organic Cropping Systems Project. The tour will include information on organic apple growing in our region. Please join us! ❁

- Always swim with a "buddy"
- Don't eat anything or chew gum while swimming
- Never swim at night
- Never swim when there's a storm forecast and get out of the water immediately if you hear thunder or see lightning
- Never go out on any watercraft unless you're wearing a Coast Guard-approved life jacket
- Never jump or dive into the water unless the lifeguard says it's okay, and never ever jump or dive into water you don't know, or if you can't see possible below-surface obstructions.

Despite taking all the precautions you can think of, sometimes the worst happens. If it does, the longer a drowning victim is deprived of air, the more likely there will be brain damage and the more severe it will be. There's no time to wait for help to arrive. You should learn CPR, and so should every member of your family. It isn't difficult, it isn't expensive, and doesn't take a lot of time. The Red Cross regularly offers courses.

As a final footnote, to adults, remember that the only time alcohol and water mix well is in a highball glass. Do your sailing at sea and do your sipping ashore.

Summertime and the livin' is easy. Let's keep it that way. Be careful out there. ❁

## DANBY FUN DAY AND FIREHOUSE GRAND OPENING

Submitted by Christel Trutmann

July 10, 2010.

The date is set, the contractors promise to be finished, and we're getting an early start on the anti-rain dance for this year's Fun Day!

The big event in Danby since the Sixties, Fun Day 2010 is extra special because it will mark the grand opening of the newly expanded Danby fire station. In addition to the great barbeque, fun activities, and local music you've come to expect, this is a chance to explore the firehouse you helped us build.

Now is the time to start thinking about participating in the celebration. Be a vendor! Start planning your neighborhood parade float or walking group!

Contact us about helping out—kids, adults, and seniors are all welcome and appreciated! Consider:

- Running a game for an hour
- Helping to BBQ the chicken, or to make popcorn and cotton candy
- Helping with set-up or clean-up
- Baking cakes and goodies for the Wheel of Treats
- Donating books to the book sale (Pickup available)
- Donating theme baskets, gently used items, goods or services to the Chinese Auction

Mark your calendars now, and stay tuned for more Fun Day news in the coming months! ❄️

### Danby Fun Day Contacts

Vendors	Mary Oltz	607.273.2950 maryloltz@twcny.rr.com
	Sue Beeners	607.277.0799 sbeeners@aol.com
Parade	Amy Cusimano	amymc@twcny.rr.com
	Sue Beeners	(see above)
BBQ	Christel Trutmann	607.342.1062 ctrutmann@gmail.com
Games	Andrea Hazard	607.272.8791 ahazard@twcny.rr.com
Wheel O'Treats	Gay Huddle	607.273.6530 gayhuddle@hotmail.com
Chinese Auction	Sharon Gaden	607.659.3116 danby071302@yahoo.com
Book Sale	Leslie Connors	607.277.1717
Questions	Christel Trutmann	(see above)

## THE LITTER NEWS

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

You are cordially invited to join other residents of Danby at 9:30am on May 1 to pick up litter along 96B and 34/96. This will be the first pick-up of the year and promises to be a one-of-a-kind event. Crews will work for an hour or two.

Meet at the Town Hall parking lot. Orange vests and plastic bags will be supplied. Children are permitted if accompanied by an adult. For more info, contact me at 607.589.4031 or [rondaroaring@hotmail.com]. ❄️

## FIRE PREVENTION ADVICE

Submitted by Linda Wyatt

With Spring rapidly approaching, the Danby Volunteer Fire Company would like to remind everyone not to leave any outdoor fire unattended, especially during these early warm sunny Spring days, when fire danger is at its highest. ❄️

## SEEING TRACKS IN DANBY

Submitted by Julie Kulik

Welcome to Mud Season! Almost as good as snow for animal tracking!

Come continue the journey of learning to track the creatures in our Danby neighborhoods. Linda Spielman will continue to act as our guide.

New folks are welcome to join us on April 18 and/or 25, Noon-2pm, location TBA. Contact me for more information and the location, 607.379.3390 or [julieofthewoods@mac.com]. ❄️



Linda Spielman points out the details of tracks in the snow during a group walk in February. Photo by Ted Crane.

# Danby Youth Flyer

## Community Council Youth Programs April 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].

### 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! ☺

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Come One, Come All! the Annual Danby Community Library Open House and Book Sale will be on Saturday, April 24, from 10am. There will be treats to eat and entertainment from 11am-Noon by Harold Bush and his Harmonic Music program. Please stop in and see all the changes the volunteers have made in the library, get a good book deal and enjoy the music and instruction on different harmonicas.

We thank the Town Board for passing a proclamation declaring February *Library Lovers Month*. We had 31 patrons visit the Danby Community Library with 136 items circulated!

We appreciate all of our patrons and remind you to bring items back on time. As a small library, we only have one of each title and often have people waiting. When Tompkins County Public Library or Finger Lakes Library Service items are overdue, we miss our return and delivery times. Danby materials have a bright orange sticker on the spine. Look around your house for overdue books, DVDs, or books on CD or tape. In particular, we are missing two TCPL books, *The Brambles* by Eliza Minot and *Why Girls are Weird* by Pamela Ribbon. When you use the self-check, please print your name clearly so we can know who is borrowing the materials.

Spring Reading List, Volunteer Picks by Cindy:

*Before Green Gables* by Budge Wilson

*The Weight of Silence* by Heather Gudenkauf

*An Important Family* by Dorothy Eden

So, Think Spring...Come to the Open House and Book Sale 4/24...and keep enjoying your Danby Community Library! ☺

## DCC SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by June Pollack

The Danby Community Council is fortunate to have funding for scholarships for Danby youth to attend programs during the year. Last year we ran out of money!

If you know the plans for your child, apply well in advance. Even if the program does not start at the time of your application, money will be reserved in order of receipt and disbursed at the appropriate time. Fill out the application on page 4 of the *Danby Area News* or contact me at [dpollack6@twcny.rr.com] or 607.273.4744. ☺

Postal Patron

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Apr 1 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church

**Danby Seniors' Meeting**

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall

**Danby Community Council Meeting**

Apr 5 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall

**Town Board Agenda Meeting**

Apr 8 • Thu

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

Apr 9 • Fri

5-7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church

**Chicken and Biscuit Dinner**

Apr 10 • Sat

11:30am 🏛️ Jennings Pond—**Earth Day Planning Mtg**

Apr 12 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall

**Town Board Regular Meeting**

7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall

**Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting**

Apr 13 • Tue

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall—**Danby Farmers' Market Mtg**

7pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall

**Danby Fire Commissioners Monthly Meeting**

Apr 17 • Sat

10am-2pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall

**Spring Craft Show and Chicken BBQ**

11am 🏛️ Town Hall

**Danby History Group**

Noon-5pm 🏛️ Jennings Pond

**Danby Earth Day Birthday Celebration**

Apr 20 • Tue

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

Apr 21 • Wed

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall

**Planning Board Meeting**

Apr 24 • Sat

10am-2pm 🏛️ Town Hall

**Danby Community Library Book Sale**

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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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