



DANBY AREA NEWS

COMM. COUNCIL ANNUAL MTG

Submitted by Bob Strichartz, DCC President

The Danby Community Council's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday January 20, 2011, at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall. During the meeting, new Board members will be elected. Any resident of Danby who is 18 or older is eligible to vote. Four positions will be filled (two year terms) out of a total of seven members.

Refreshments will be served and there will be short presentations about the accomplishments of the Council during 2010. There will also be a vote on a motion to simplify and clarify the Bylaws.

Serving on the DCC Board is an enjoyable way to contribute to your community. If you think you are interested, please contact me at 607.277.3058 or [str@math.cornell.edu]. Please note that our Bylaws give preference to candidates who state their intention to run by January 6 (two weeks before the election). ❄

CHILI CHALLENGE... OR CHICKEN?

It's another Chicken and Biscuit Dinner, on Friday, January 14, 2011, 5-7pm, and our local DFC. Danby Federated Church, that is. Gather in the Bird & Bread, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Beets, Apple Sauce, Assorted Desserts, and a Beverage! Adults: \$8, Kids: \$4.

If that doesn't whet your appetite, hang on for...the **2nd Annual Chili Challenge!** For chili challengers and the chili challenged!

Do you think you have the best chili in the northeast? Bring your best pot of chili to this challenge. Do you like to eat chili? You be the judge! Which cauldron contains the best concoction?

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 29, 2011, 5-7pm. Come, and enjoy the music while you boast of the best...or sample them all!

Info: [danbyfederatedchurch.org] or 607.272.1687. ❄

DCC SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by June Pollack

The good news for 2011 from the Danby Community Council Scholarship Committee is that we have funds for the coming year!

Many folks from our community have been working hard to restore cuts to our youth programs, and as of now it looks as though we will be able to serve our youth in many ways in the coming year. If you know that you will be applying for a scholarship for assistance in a program for your child please apply early.

The application is in this issue of DAN, and is also available on the bulletin board across from the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall. Or...you can call me at 607.273.4744. ❄

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Town Clerk's Desktop ③
- Fire District Election Results . . ③
- Danby land Bank Coop ③
- Gas Drilling Task Force ④
- Supervisor's Update ⑤
- Benefit for Danby Food Pantry . ⑤
- Town Observer ⑥
- House Histories ⑧
- Seniors ⑧
- American Legion Dinners ⑧
- Fire Safe Christmas Trees ⑧
- Danby in the Early 1800s ⑨
- Fire Safety After the Holidays . . ⑨
- Danby Library. ⑩
- Weather Preparedness ⑩
- Youth Funding & Programs . . . ⑪
- DCC Scholarship Application . . ⑪
- Calendar ⑫



Bill and Selena Kuhns driveway marker has become an instant sensation on NYS Rt.96B. There's no way you'll miss this house number. Eddie Atayan carved the vigilant eagle. (tc)

January 2011
Layout: Ted Crane
Mailing: Melanie Dilliplane,
Kelly Makosch, and Nathalie
Bessou.

To contribute:
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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 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.

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DANBY NEWS NOTES

Submitted by Ted Crane

**Danby News Delivery: No News is
Good News.** We had almost no com-
plaints about delivery of the December
issue.

The fastest deliveries are happening in
about two days, to Ithaca-route homes
receiving "Postal Pa-
tron" mailings. Other
Ithaca-route homes,
addressed individu-
ally, are getting their
copies about a week
later.

Spencer, Brookton-
dale, Newfield and
especially Willseyville
deliveries are also run-
ning a bit over a week.
But...they're getting
there.

Our goal is "A news-
letter in every mail-
box."

FACES OF DANBY

On an average winter day in Danby,
thousands of vehicles cruise by on
NYS Rt.96B but far fewer travel our
snowy roads.

Find a few of the images of Danby,
scattered around this issue. See our,
"public face." ❁



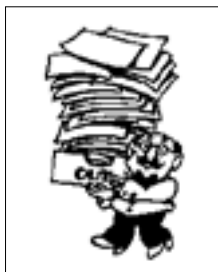
Rick Dobson has been building a mountain on his property in the "uphill" Danby Hamlet. While it isn't, yet, the highest elevation in Town, it offers a great view of the Hamlet. Dobson anticipates a topping-off and dedication ceremony during the 2011 Danby Fun Day, with flags, and honor guard, and brief speeches. He also hopes to make the scenic viewpoint available to the public for "special occasions". (tc)

TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Oh, cruel January! We barely get over the indulgences of holiday parties and staying up late for New Year's Eve when reality hits us. There is no escape from Cold, Dark, and Taxes. There are days when it seems that massive amounts of chocolate are the only thing that will get us through.

Several simple calculations involving big numbers determine what you'll see on your Town and County tax bill. The Town Board and Fire District each passed a budget during November. Thanks to careful planning and belt-tightening, the Town's total tax levy actually decreased this year by 0.53%, equivalent to a \$2.90 decrease for every \$100,000 of assessed value. By comparison, County's tax levy increased almost 6%.



Will your tax bill actually decrease? That depends on whether your property assessment went up, down, or stayed the same during the 2010 round of re-assessments. Fire protection, water services, and highway maintenance all cost money. Danby is doing the best it can with the least amount possible.

The tax bills are printed by the County's Tax Assessment office, and are not delivered until the very end of the year. They'll be in the mail before the new year, and payments will be accepted starting at 10am on Monday, January 3, 2011.

In order to be as accessible as possible, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10am-1pm on Saturdays. Please remember, though, that Town Clerks are only tax collectors; we don't determine your assessment or set the tax rate.

I know that there's little I can do to make January better than it is, but I can promise that the candy bowl will be filled with chocolate kisses straight through to Valentines Day. I look forward to seeing many of you during the dark, cold days of January and February. I can renew or issue dog licenses, issue a marriage license (they don't need renewing), notarize documents, and even answer your questions about Town government at the same time. Chocolate?

Any questions? Call 607.277.4788 or send Email to [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us]. ❁

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION RESULTS

Submitted by Deanna Bowles, Fire District Secretary

Congratulations to Gene Beavers, for his election to a 5-year term as a Danby Fire Commissioner. We look forward to having him on the Board.

The Danby Fire District also recognizes Wayne Holden for his dedication as a Fire Commissioner for the past 25 years. Wayne is retiring as Commissioner this year, completing his 5th 5-year term. Wayne remains a very active member of the Danby Volunteer Fire Company.

Thank you to the 151 registered voters who braved the winter weather to vote in this year's election, and to our very capable Election Board: Linda Howe (Chair), Mary Oltz, Sharon Boda, Scott Wendt, and Mel Westmiller.

As we look forward to 2011, our Organizational Meeting will be Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:30pm in the Danby Fire Station. All meetings are open to the public. ❁

	Total	Jeff Baker	Gene Beavers	Invalid Votes
Districts 1 & 3 (Uphill Danby)	115	34	76	5
District 2 (West Danby)	36	1	35	-
Grand Total	151	35	111	5

DANBY LAND BANK COOP

Submitted by Betsy Keokosky

The Danby Land Bank Cooperative is actively looking for new members.

We are a two-year-old organization and this year have a contract for sale of biomass (weeds and hay) to Broome Biomass (a new startup in Newark Valley) for the Fall of 2011.

Members will get fields brush-hogged and mowed and get agricultural assessment on property taxes when group gets \$10,000 or more in income.

Our annual old and new member meetings will be held on two Saturdays, January 22 and February 19 at 10am in the Town Hall. Be sure to come and check things out. Find information at [danbylandbank.com] or contact [info@danbylandbank.com] or 607.342.5430. ❁

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE

Submitted by Candace Collmer

The Task Force met at the Danby Town Hall on Wednesday evening, December 8. As mentioned in the Danby Area News last month, Kathy Halton is now getting some well-deserved help with the Task Force meetings. Jennifer Tiffany is preparing the agenda and chairing the meetings and Candace Collmer is serving as secretary, preparing minutes of meetings, and writing the updates for this newsletter. Kathy will continue to participate in meetings and she will report as liaison from the Town Board and the Tompkins County Council of Governments.

Given the high interest and good attendance at the two recent informational forums sponsored by this group during the fall (Todd Miller's "Aquifer System" talk in September and Anthony Ingraffea's "Information Informed Citizenry" in November), the Task Force proposes to continue these educational forums in 2011, hopefully at a frequency of every other month. A list of potential topics and speakers was compiled; we hope different Task Force members are pursuing some of these with the aim to schedule the next forum for sometime in February. Anyone with suggestions for future speakers or topics is welcome to contact the Task Force (see the end of this article).

Groups and committees working on topics related to gas drilling presented reports. These included:

- A report from Ben Altman of the Critical Environmental Area (CEA) committee that summarized its work so far on mapping regions of Danby that are critical for water protection. The plan is for these to be registered for official CEA designation with the State.
- An update from Kathy Halton and Anne Klingensmith on ongoing work to determine the number of current or expiring gas leases held by property owners in Danby.
- A report from Kathy Halton on the November 23 meeting with the Towns of Dryden and Ulysses, who are currently conducting petition drives towards banning hydrofracking within their towns.
- A report from Kathy Halton on work being done by Delta Engineering for Danby and other Towns on road assessments and road use agreements.
- A report on the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping to view multiple layers of information about Tompkins County, as presented by Karen Edelstein and Zach Patton to the TCCOG Gas Drill-

ing Subcommittee.

- Ed Kokkelenberg provided copies of handouts prepared by the U.S. Energy Information Administration about its 2009 Annual Energy Review.

The public is always welcome to attend these meetings and bring up issues that concern them. The next meetings are planned for Wednesdays, January 5 and January 26, in the Danby Town Hall at 7pm. For more information, contact Jennifer Tiffany [jst5@cornell.edu], Kathy Halton [khalton@twcny.rr.com], or Candace Collmer, 607.257.5737. ❧



The Highway Department "crew" enjoyed a thank-you breakfast for their efforts toward the construction of the new Highway Barn. From left, Jim Seeley, Kent McNeil, Charles Ward, Jeff Ward, Frank Rossen, and Brad Berggren. (Photo by Ted Crane)



TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Tues–Fri, 10am–5pm; Sat, 10am–Noon, Mon, closed.

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.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

January is coming and, with it, the first of many rounds of taxes that you'll pay during the coming year. Danby, luckily, only hits you once a year, and we try very hard to make it a gentle tap.

Our feather touch, however, is a tiny bit heavier than it might have been, because we're trying to think beyond this year, to soften the blow of anticipated expenses. Unlike other levels of government, we're not robbing the cookie jar, we're saving for our future.

For example, extra money was appropriated into special accounts that can only be used to smooth out projected spikes in contributions we are required to make to the State.

As of this writing, we are moving paper on our NY-SERDA projects, staying on schedule for completion later in 2011.

Emergency management issues are a big question for the Town. Gas-related emergencies could quickly overcome a Town's resources, triggering a situation that calls for additional support. Based on preliminary information, I've been working with the County and Council of Governments to make sure that adequate training is available for our first responders: Town officials, the Highway Department, and the Fire Companies. Memorandums of understanding among municipalities and the County, along with shared service agreements, all need to be a part of our management plan. All the Town's resources need to participate together.

Fire Companies have had these mutual response agreements in place for years. Now, we have to fit the Highway Department and the Town Government into the plan, along with neighboring municipalities. Agreements like these are mandated by the state and are required for FEMA reimbursement.

These changes might also have some bearing on the role the Town's information officer, currently the Town Clerk, plays.

After a special year-end meeting on December 30, the Town Board will resume its meetings in January. Watch for the meeting minutes, both online [town.danby.ny.us] and in the "Minute Book" in Town Hall.

The Board put a lot of "quality time" into the Youth Services issue during December, and funds were assigned from a contingency account, adding to those already allocated. Our Youth programs include the rec-

reation partnership, summer employment and camps, Jennings's pond (a consistent employer of Danby youth) and more. Youth services fulfill vital needs for Danby youth. We need a frank and open discussion with all the residents who are impacted by these services.

Please stay tuned for our attempts to reach out to all stakeholders.

As always, if you know of an issue the Town should address, please contact me, [supervisor@town.danby.ny.us]. ❁

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS: A BENEFIT DINNER FOR THE DANBY FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Peter Fraissinet

About a year ago, folks in West Danby put together a dinner to benefit the Danby Food Pantry. It was a startling success, raising more than \$500...and a carload of non-perishable goods. Not to mention the camaraderie and some fine music by Toivo.

Times aren't a lot better now than they were last year, and we're going to do it again! Here is the plan:

- Saturday, January 29, 2011, 5pm
- West Danby Fire Hall (Sylvan Lane, off NYS Rt.34/96)
- A buffet-style dinner of ham (or a vegetarian option), potatoes, vegan baked beans, cole slaw, applesauce, and of course the famous West Danby dessert table.
- Live acoustic music to dine by.

A free-will donation requested—please give what you can! We will also have a table set up for donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletry items; pet foods are also welcome. Joan Barber, who runs the Danby Food Pantry, reminds us that cash is the most useful donation, as it allows the Pantry to obtain what is most essential, and often at a great discount.

Please plan to come, and thanks in advance!

If anyone would like to volunteer to cook, set up, serve, or clean up, please contact Peter [pf13@cornell.edu] or 607.564.0030 during evenings.

This event is organized by the West Danby Community Association. A very short Annual Meeting of the WDCA will take place after dinner, and all are welcome to stay for that. ❁

TOWN OBSERVER

A short extract from Joel Gagnon's Broader View articles

War Dogs Get Their Due

A law proposed to create the framework for the Town to administer and issue dog licenses, while also providing for dog control and proper treatment of dogs, was the subject of a public hearing in early December. It is based on a model law drafted by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and has been widely adopted by municipalities all over the state. This action was precipitated by the State's decision to get out of the dog licensing business...while requiring local governments take on the work.

At the request of one councilperson, Danby's proposed version of the law did not include the exemption for "war dogs" that was in the model law. That deletion generated an avalanche of interest from residents, who asked that the provision be restored.

In addition to a couple of dozen written opinions, several people in attendance spoke to the issue. All but one commenter supported exempting war dogs (dogs that have served in the military, often in hazardous duties such as bomb sniffing) from the licensing fees.

There may or may not be any such dogs in the town of Danby, so the \$10 fee itself was certainly not an issue. Many saw the deletion as a slight against the service of those in the military or, conversely, saw the exemption

as a way to honor military service. The Board quickly retreated from its original intention and restored the exemption. Since doing so could be construed as a material change to the proposed law, which normally requires another public hearing, a "Statement of Necessity" was also passed, stating that a second hearing would not be possible because the ratification and filing of the law was required before the end of the year.

BZA Appointment

The Board appointed Joe Schwartz to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Joe served a couple of years on that Board back in the 1980s and also served four terms on the Danby Town Board. He will serve the remainder of term of Christine Decker, who is moving out of the town.

Highway Department Equipment Changes

The Highway Department asked permission to buy a bigger spreader for its pickup truck. This truck is used for scouting the roads for trouble spots and is equipped to do minor plowing and surface treatment. This often saves having to call out one of the large plow trucks to deal with a relatively small job. They were authorized to spend up to \$5000 to do so. They also asked permission to dispose of one of the Town's oldest plow trucks and two pickup trucks. The plow truck may go to another Town that has expressed interest in it. The pickups will be auctioned off. The Board authorized both actions.

—continued on next page



Town Observer, continued—

2011 Danby Budget Passed: Levy Up; Rate Down

The November 15 budget hearing was thinly attended, with only two commentators. The budget passed unanimously following the hearing. The amount to be raised in taxes will increase 3.4% in the General fund, 2.25% in the Highway fund, 0.8% in the Water District fund, and 1.9% in the Fire District fund.

In most years, those increases would have translated into about a 2.5% increase in everyone's tax bill. Fortunately for many taxpayers, new houses have been built, others have been sold at higher prices, and some owners have seen an increase in the assessed value of their properties during 2010. These changes led to a more than \$7,000,000 increase in the tax base since last year. With more property value to share the load, each property's portion of the tax is smaller! For every \$100,000 of assessed value, your tax bill will be \$2.90 less than last year.

One major budget change was the cost of operating the Town Clerk's office. The Clerk has been gradually working through a backlog of papers and filing that has built up over the years. The Clerk's salary did not increase, but the budget for office assistance is almost 22% larger.

Workers' Compensation is up 9% and the pension fund expense is up more than 14%. Funds allocated for medical and hospital insurance are increased substan-

tially, despite the expectation that the intermunicipal insurance cooperative will save the Town money when it begins operation in January. Expenditures in that line were substantially greater than anticipated during 2010, due to the delays in launching that cooperative venture. The Town has been budgeting conservatively in the face of uncertainty—that conservatism paid off in minimizing the budgetary impact of the delay.

Comments on the budget were supportive of the Board's (and Bookkeeper's) efforts to restrain spending in this economic climate. Ronda Roaring commented that there was no good way to assess how much time the taxpayers were buying for the dollars budgeted for salaries. She was told that efforts are underway to provide that information. Based on what is already in hand, she was told that the justices' salaries worked out to just over \$12/hour.

Derelict House Leads to Petition Drive

Residents in the area of East Miller Road presented the Board with a petition and about 40 signatures, asking that action be taken to deal with a derelict house at 704 East Miller. Its owner is a Florida resident, and the house is on the market. The property has been posted as condemned and the owner served with an order to remedy its condition by February 16. Failure to address the problems could result in further action by the Town, leading up to demolition at the owner's expense. ❁



The Danby "uphill" Hamlet, one wintry afternoon. The Danby Community Park is on the left, Town Hall is on the right, and the Federated Church is in the distance. The ubiquitous NYS Rt.96B...is hard to miss.

(photo by Ted Crane)

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Danby Seniors will meet on Thursday, January 6, at Noon in the Danby Church for a dish-to-pass luncheon.

We had a lovely holiday luncheon at the Oasis Club and our thanks go out to Pam and Doug for doing a nice job with the meal! Several folks went home with a poinsettia or cash door prize.

If you're a senior—aged 55 and more—come and join us for some good fellowship! ❀

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

At the Ithaca American Legion, we had a busy December. The Cops, Kids, and Toys program on December 11 was a success for us and we are looking toward a prosperous New Year.

We have a Steak Dinner coming up on January 8. For just \$10 you get a choice of Baked Potato, French Fries, or Onion Rings; vegetable of the day; the salad bar; dessert; coffee; and a roll.

We also have a Fish Fry on January 21. It features the same accompaniments, and its only \$10.

If anyone is looking for a place to have a small gathering or a wedding reception, don't forget that we at the American Legion can help. We have small rooms and a large (about 100 people) banquet room available. Just give us a call at 607.272.1129. If anyone has an interest in this program, contact the Ithaca American Legion Post Commander, Dale Burgess, for details at 607.272.1129. ❀

FIRE SAFE CHRISTMAS TREES

Submitted by Adam Crown

A new, very short video clip illustrating the speed and intensity of a Christmas Tree fire has been added to the Fire-safe Danby blog at [firesafedanby.blogspot.com/].

The 5-second tree ignition is followed by a room-full conflagration. The video is accompanied by tips for safely displaying trees and other holiday-season safety advice. ❀

HOUSE HISTORIES

Submitted by Joan Grant

As Town Historian, I receive many calls and letters each year from individuals who are researching their families. It's fun to be able to help. Since last spring, the Municipal Historians of Tompkins, County, along their friends, have been working on a project to encourage people to research the history of their homes.

We have free cards available that are called *house tags*. You can fill out these cards put in a safe and easily accessible location in your house. The *house tag* would stay with the house, so future owners can have information about the history of the house.

On January 14, 2011, 7-9pm, in the newly refurbished Danby Volunteer Fire Company, Roger (Deputy Historian) and I will conduct our first *fill out your house tag* meeting. We will have maps of Danby on hand plus a host of research materials. There will be work tables and chairs set up, and we will be there to help you fill out your card and answer any questions. This project is fun to do and doesn't really take a lot of time.

The *house tag* is the short version of the House History but, if you are so inclined, we will have the long version available for you.

Roger and I really hope that you will be able to join us. If you have any questions in advance, please call us at 607.272.7335.

Other meetings will be scheduled if this date doesn't work out for you. ❀



On an uphill rural road, we find the sense of rural openness that makes Danby a unique location and the home of so many wonderful people living life in the Slow Lane. (photo by Ted Crane)

DANBY IN THE EARLY 1800S: A GROWING TOWN

Submitted by Karen Laun

The 3rd in a 5-part series about the history of Danby.

The building of the Ithaca-Owego Turnpike and the incorporation of Danby during the early 1800s coincided with a series of firsts for this fledgling town. The first school was built in 1800-01, the first Post Office was established in 1801-02, the first store in Danby Village was opened in 1806, the first church society was organized in 1807, and the County's first brass band (with all Danby musicians) was assembled in 1829.

Religion played an important role in Danby. Just a few years after the first church society was organized, the Presbyterian (later Congregational) group erected the church 1859 Danby Road; it is now the oldest existing church in all of Tompkins County. The first Methodist congregation was established in 1811 and the Baptist church started in 1826 in what is now Town Hall. Dr. Lewis Beers continued to be a great influence in Danby and established the Church of New Jerusalem (a Swedenborgian church), where he also preached. The first church in West Danby, the Baptist Church on Valley View Road, was not built until 1840. By the end of the 1850s there were eight churches in Danby.

The education of the children was not neglected and the first school was built in the Beers Settlement at the turn of the nineteenth century. A second school, in the Dumond and Yapple neighborhood, soon followed. By the 1850s there were sixteen one- and two-room schoolhouses educating 880 children. Some of these small schools were used all the way to the 1940s.

The turnpike brought increased traffic to the area and, with it, a need for taverns, inns, and stores. The first store in Danby Village was opened in 1806 by Abner Beers of the industrious Beers family. An 1853 map of Danby shows blacksmith shops, general stores, mills, wagon shops, boot and shoe shops, and tanneries.

The first tavern was opened in 1811 by Deacon Hezekiah Clark—who probably ensured the good behavior of his visitors by virtue of his position in town. This building still stands today at 1874 Danby Road. Another notable early tavern, at 2613 Danby Road, was operated by Leonard Hall and owned by his descendants until the 1920s. The upstairs ballroom has a spring floor and was probably a livelier place to visit than Deacon Clark's house. C.C. Howell ran Howell's Hotel at the intersection of Bald Hill Road and the turnpike.

In addition to the schools and stores and churches during the early 1800s, the arrival of an African-American family was another possible first. Prince de Plessis (also known as Prince Duplex), from Wolcott, CT gained his freedom by serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He fought during most of the war and is even said to have wintered in Valley Forge with George Washington's Continental Army. He and his wife, Lement Parker, moved to Danby with some of their children in 1811. In 1819, when he finally received his military pension, de Plessis was able to pay his debts and purchase a 45-acre farm a few miles west of the village center. He and his wife lived here for the rest of their lives and are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery.

Part IV will look at Danby in the second half of the 1800s, a time when new immigrants, new technology, and the devastation of war brought great changes. ❧

FIRE SAFETY AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

Submitted by: Jeff Baker

Now that most of us have opened all our gifts, put the Christmas tree outside, and packed away the decorations, I want to share a warning about one gift that a lot of people may have received this past holiday season: Candles.

Candles are no longer used just for dinner parties. In fact only a small percentage of candle fires start in dining rooms. Candle sales are booming and candle usage has increased fivefold during the past ten years. To put this in perspective, house fires dropped 50% between 1980 and 1998 but, during the same period, the number of house fires caused by candles increased 31.4%.

The number of people killed by house fires started by candles has skyrocketed as well. Nationally, deaths from candle-related fires rose 88.2% between 1980 and 1998.

Where do candle fires start?

The top ¾ of candle fires start in Bedrooms (44%), Living/Family Rooms (19%), and Bathrooms (11%). Kitchens and Dining Rooms round out numbers.

The top three causes of the candle fires?

36% - candles left unattended, abandoned or inadequately supervised.
18% - combustible material was left too close.
9% - started by children playing with candles. ❧

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

I am making New Year's Resolutions:

1. I will print my name clearly on the card when I check out items from the Danby Community Library, so the volunteers can read it.
2. I will return all items on time and look for overdue items.
3. I will update my registration card so the volunteers have current contact information and will know that I remain interested in being a patron.

Look for featured Holiday books (including Richard Paul Evans' *Promise Me*) and other Author Displays in the library.

New Books:

- The Confession by John Grisham
- Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest by Stieg Larsson
- Freedom by Jonathan Franzen

New Books on CD:

- Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier
- Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk by Davis Sedaris
- Obama's Wars by Bob Woodward

New DVDs:

- Toy Story 3
- Inception (mid December)

New Children's Books:

- Ten on a Sled by Kim Norman
- Olivia Goes to Venice by Ian Falconer
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth

New Collections from TCPL:

- Juvenile Fiction and Non Fiction
- Several of the Boxcar Children series

And a big welcome to our new (and returning) volunteer: Pauline!

Please, please, please place your returns inside our "Schoolhouse", a wonderful box made for us by George Parks. Please do not leave them on the desk, where they might get lost. We must find and process your returned item before someone else may take out the item out. ❧



The Danby Federated Church, all dressed up for the season. (tc)

WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS ...DON'T DEPEND ON FIDO!

Submitted by Cheryl Nelson, TC Emergency Mgmt Committee

Living in Central New York means that you probably either love or hate winter. A pristine snowfall on a crisp morning is beautiful, but winter usually means getting up early to de-ice your car, listening to hear if the kids have school, taking longer to get to places, or listening to the weather report to see if you need to lay in supplies in advance of an approaching storm.

Winter can be a little more tolerable if you take a few steps to prepare for the harsh realities. The winter weather's ability to knock out heat, power, and communication services at home, work, or school is a prime concern. People die in traffic accidents on icy roads and of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold. So, to be prepared before the winter weather hits, here are some suggestions for you to consider.

- Build an emergency kit including items like non-perishable food, water, toiletries, battery-operated or hand-crank radio, and flashlights with extra batteries. If you have a kit, now's the time to check it out and be sure everything in it is in working order. Remember to include items for children, family members with special needs, and pets.
 - Keep rock salt, other melting agents, sand, and shovels readily accessible. Keep walkways, building entrances, and driveways clear.
 - Keep adequate clothing and blankets on hand to keep you warm at home or in your vehicle.
 - Prepare or revise your Family Emergency Plan, including what you will do in case of an emergency and where to meet your family in an emergency situation. Family members outside of the area may be good points of contact.
 - Inquire about emergency plans at schools and daycares that your children attend.
 - Prepare your home by repairing air leaks, learning how to shut off water valves, checking fire extinguishers, and changing batteries in fire and carbon monoxide detectors.
 - Maintain your vehicle; have good tires; top off fluids.
- For additional tips on how to prepare yourself, your family, and assist your neighbors, visit [tompkinsready.org/]. ❧

YOUTH SERVICES SUPPORTED

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

A budgetary framework for providing youth services in 2011 was pieced together during December. There was much behind-the-scenes work by Ric Dietrich (Town Supervisor), Asher Hockett (Danby Community Council Treasurer and a member of the County Youth Services Board), and others.

The Town Board added a total of \$6,000 to the funding level it established for the 2010 fiscal year. This contribution will fill the gap in funding, compensating for the County's reduced funding, and permit the hiring of a half-time program coordinator for youth programs in Danby. Most of the programming available to Danby youth in 2010 will continue in 2011.

A new program director will be hired in January and begin providing services in February (the previous director, Laura Smith, left us at the end of the summer, to continue her education).

2012 looks to be even more difficult. Talks are ongoing at the Tompkins County Council of Governments, to try to develop a strategy for providing county-wide services in the face of even more severe budgetary constraints. Both the services themselves and the manner in which they are provided are undergoing close scrutiny. ❧



Youth Program Update

Submitted by Linda Schoffel

A new Danby Youth Program Manager is to be hired! This half/time (20 hours/week) position will be advertised, starting the first week of January. The Danby Program Manager will offer programs for Danby youth, focusing on life skill development through enrichment activities and worker-ready training.

Job descriptions and applications will be available January 4, 2011 on the Cooperative Extension web site [ccetompkins.org/jobs], or by contacting me, [ljs48@cornell.edu] or 272-2292. Danby residents are encouraged to apply. ❧

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]

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Dec 30 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board End-of-Year Meeting
- Jan 3 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board Annual Organizational Meeting
- Jan 5 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- Jan 6 • Thu
Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Danby Seniors' Luncheon and Meeting
- Jan 8 • Sat
5-7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Spaghetti Supper**
5:30-7pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Steak Dinner**
- Jan 10 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board Meeting
7:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting
- Jan 11 • Tue
7:30pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Organizational Meeting
- Jan 14 • Fri
5-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Chicken and Biscuit Dinner
- Jan 15 • Sat
11am 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby History Group**
- Jan 18 • Tue
7:30pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting
- Jan 19 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Planning Board Meeting
- Jan 20 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Danby Community Council Annual Meeting
- Jan 21 • Fri
5:30-7pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Fish Fry**
- Jan 23 • Sun
8-11am 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**

- Jan 26 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- Jan 29 • Sat
5pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
2nd Annual Chili Challenge
5m 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Benefit Dinner for Food Pantry; WDCA Annual Mtg
- Jul 9, 2011 • 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.
- Military Family Support Group 🏠 Federated Church
2nd Thursday, 6:30pm.
- Danby Community Park Association 🏠 Town Hall
2nd Thursday, 7pm.
- Danby Fire Commissioners 🏠 Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall
3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm.
- Danby Food Pantry 🏠 Federated Church
3rd Friday, 4–6pm, Thursday the-day-before, 6–8pm
- 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