



DANBY AREA NEWS

DANBY HISTORY: GETTING TO KNOW BALD HILL

Submitted by Pamela Goddard

Danby may not have commercial centers, but it does have close-knit neighborhoods. On Thursday, March 17 at 7pm, the Danby History Group invites you to learn about one such neighborhood that has undergone major changes in the past 100 years.

Wayne Myers will read a chapter from his book-in-progress on the Bald Hill community and will display some of the photographs he has collected. The program is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served.

The area that is now the Bald Hill section of the Danby State Forest was once a thriving micro-community with a school, active farms, and supportive interrelationships. Wayne Myers has dedicated himself to collecting and preserving the memory of that community through photographs, family histories, and other stories. This program will focus on Bald Hill “genealogy” (the relationships between families on the Hill) and particularly on the impact of the Civil War on this community. Myers will answer questions after his reading.

Anyone interested in Danby history is encouraged to join the Danby History Group. This informal group explores the history of people and places in Danby. The group is currently gathering information to be included in history sections of the Danby web site; it also provides articles of historical interest for the Danby News, and organizes occasional public events. Topics include house histories, relevant names for family research, and neighborhood histories including West Danby, South Danby, Bald Hill, and the central Danby hamlet. To get involved, call Mary Ann Barr at 607.272.3634 or Pamela Goddard at 607.273.8678. ❁

MOVIE NIGHT: “BEETS AND BEANS”

Submitted by Bob Strichartz, Danby Community Council

On Saturday, March 26 at 8 pm in the Danby Town Hall, the Danby Community Council will present a free showing of the movie *Beets and Beans: Living and Dying with Hospice* by Sue Perlcut. This half-hour documentary will be followed by a discussion with the director and members of the Hospicare staff.

The film attempts to dispel some myths about what it means to work with a Hospice provider. It interweaves the rich journey of patients, caregivers, and family members, at different points in their interactions with hospice services, as their lives are touched by hospice. ❁

TOWN-WIDE MEETING

Submitted by Kathy Halton on behalf of the Town Board

All of the committee members in our various Town committees and groups, as well as members of the public, are encouraged to attend a town-wide meeting to discuss the future of Danby--where we want to go and how we will get there.

We have a lot of groups that work for the benefit of the town: Planning Board, Town Board, Conservation Advisory Committee, Danby Fire District, Danby Volunteer Fire Company, West Danby Fire Department, Danby Land Bank Coop, Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Council, Community Library, Danby Seniors, the Food Pantry, Town Historian, Water District, Recreation Partnership, Beautification Committee, Youth Services, Gas Drilling Task Force, West Danby

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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March 2011

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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: Welcome to
twelve new Danby News households!
We discovered a dozen Newfield-Post-
Office addresses on West Danby Road,
Beech Hill Road, and Dawes Hill Road
and have added them to the Danby News
mailing list.

Hey, there, Tupper Road! There aren't
many Danby houses, 'cause they're only
on the east side of parts of the road. But
if you're on the west side and still feel like
you live in West Danby, give us a shout
and we'll add you to the list.

Submission Guidelines: Visit the
Town of Danby web page, and have
a look at the "Danby News" section,
[town.danby.ny.us/DAN]. If you're
thinking of sending something for
publication in the Danby News, there's
two documents to read: the *Guidelines*
and the *Submission Guidelines*.

The first document describes what is,
and isn't acceptable material for publi-
cation. If it's acceptable, we'll make an
effort to include it; *generally, we print
everything we receive!*

The second document gives some hints
about how to prepare a submission.
Following these guidelines makes the
editing and layout easier.
A very terse version of these guidelines
is presented in the column on the left
side of this page.

**TOWN OF DANBY
WEB SITE**

Have you visited [town.danby.ny.us]
yet?

There's a lot of information about the
Town of Danby on that site. You'll
find meeting agendas, minutes, and
relevant documents. You can see the
list of happenings in Danby. And,
links to Danby-related web sites! ❁

TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Many people make a New Year's Resolution to lose weight. Here at the Town Hall, it's no different. Not to brag, but we've recently lost several hundred pounds... of paper from the underbelly of the Town Hall Vault.

What's our weight loss secret? The New York State Records Retention and Disposition Schedule MU-1, used by cities, towns, villages, and fire districts.

The purpose of the MU-1 is four-fold: to ensure that records are retained as long as needed for administrative, legal, and fiscal purposes, that State and Federal

records retention requirements are met, that records with enduring historical and research value are identified and preserved permanently, and to *encourage and facilitate the systematic disposal of unneeded records.*

While some Town records (most notably, official minutes and hearing proceedings, local laws, and legal determinations) should be retained permanently, most others have a retention schedule of one to

six years. For legal and practical purposes, municipalities are encouraged to regularly dispose of old records. Small towns, like Danby, have limited resources for storing and preserving documents. Routine records, especially duplicates and publications or reports that are duplicated in other places, clutter up our small vault and make it difficult to find the documents needed for fiscal, legal, or historical research.

As all of us with cluttered desks and file cabinets know, it's all too easy to procrastinate sorting through and disposing of the records that are no longer needed. Our Records Management Project Assistant, Mary Ann Barr, has been sorting through boxes of records from the 1970s, 80s, and 90s. Several hundred pounds of sensitive paper records have been taken to Challenge Industries for shredding. Non-sensitive records have been recycled.

The remaining records are getting more organized, and shelf space is available for new records as they are created. When you visit Town Hall and see our green recycle bins overflowing with yellowed paper, you can smile in the knowledge that records are getting under control.



In other news, we had a very successful tax collection month during January. Thanks to the support of Danby taxpayers, I was able to write a check for \$1,922,308 to the Town Supervisor. This money covers most of the expenses for Danby's government. In particular, \$905,436 goes to the Highway Fund (caring for our roads), \$595,330 goes to the General Fund (operations in Town Hall), \$370,890 to the Danby Fire District, and \$50,652 to the West Danby Water District.

If you want more details, you are welcome to read a copy of the Danby Town Budget. This public document is available in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town web site.

Town and County taxes continue to be received at the Danby Town Hall through March 30, but they must be paid in full (the installment plan can only begin during January). Interest equal to 1% of the total was added to each bill in February, and another 1% in March. After April 1, taxes are collected by the Tompkins County Finance office; a 5% penalty is added, plus interest at the rate of 1% per month.

If you did choose the installment plan, your second installment must be paid to the County.

As mentioned in the February Danby News, new office hours for the Town Clerk, to better reflect the needs/work requirements at the Town Hall, begin in March. The office will be open Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm, and on Saturday, 10am-Noon. The office will be closed Sundays and Thursdays.

And, yes, the chocolate kiss bowl remains full.

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



Pamela Goddard and Mary Ann Barr holding the 1853 map of Tompkins County, unearthed from the vault in Town Hall.

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE

Submitted by Candace Collmer

The Gas Drilling Task Force (GDTF) continues to monitor state and national events of importance to Danby residents.

During February, acting NY Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens said that he expects the DEC to release the revised Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on shale gas extraction in June, to be followed by a 30-day comment period. Also, the DEC will begin issuing permits for shale gas extraction using high-volume hydrofracking without waiting for the results of the Federal EPA study on the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing (due in 2012).

Upcoming local events include:

- Michael Dineen, a member of Concerned Citizens of Ulysses, will address the GDTF meeting on March 23, about the door-to-door petition it used to learn the views of residents on the issue of gas drilling. A petition supporting a ban, in the Town of Ulysses, on drilling for natural gas using slickwater horizontal hydrofracturing was signed by 1,047 residents. The signers (80% of those who were offered the petition) represent the demographic characteristics of the Town. The petition was presented to the Ulysses Town Board on February 8.

According to Dineen, "We concentrated on hitting all areas of the Town, and it turned out that our petitioners were very typical, demographically, of Ulysses registered voters. We didn't ask demographic questions of the petitioners. We got the demographics from the registered voter list, which we used as our starting database. As petitions came in, we matched the names to the reg voter list (or added the person to the list if their address was in Ulysses). I don't know if you want to add this, but one of the Board members said that it was, 'the most professional petition presentation [she] had ever seen'."

- The GDTF is a co-sponsor of the Cornell Environmental Law Society Conference on March 31-April 2 [www.lawschool.cornell.edu/research/ELS/].
- The GDTF has invited conference speaker Arthur Berman to give a public talk at the Danby Town Hall (time to be announced, probably Thursday, March 31). Berman, an expert on global economic issues related to oil and gas, will address his concern that the rapid depletion of fracked gas is more likely to produce an economic bubble than sustained economic benefit.

The Critical Environmental Areas (CEA) subcommittee of the GDTF continues its work on defining the boundaries of such areas within Danby (mostly in state forest land, state parks, Tompkins County Unique Natural Areas, and conservation easements). They are assessing any historical significance and collecting information about the plants, bugs, fish, frogs, reptiles, and mammals found within the areas (bird information is available through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology).

If anyone is able to help with the project, please contact Ben Altman, [benaltman123@gmail.com].

The importance of having such areas well defined was one take-home message of a project done last fall by Cornell graduate students, and presented during the February 9 meeting of the GDTF. The students had examined local governments and zoning precedents in PA (Bradford County) and NY, to assess what controls local municipalities might be able to put in place to protect their citizens, economy, natural resources, etc. from negative impacts of gas drilling. Carefully considered road use laws and well-defined CEAs were both identified as critically important.

The public is always welcome to attend and participate in the GDTF meetings. The next meetings are planned for Wednesday, March 9 and March 23, both in the Danby Town Hall at 7pm.

For more info, contact Jennifer Tiffany, [jst5@cornell.edu]; Kathy Halton, 607.273.0533 or [khalton@twcny.rr.com]; or Candace Collmer, 607.257.5737. ❁

TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mo-Tu-We-Fr, 10am-5pm; Sat, 10am-Noon; Thu, 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

Well, the mercury says that it is almost fifty degrees outside. That's what it says, February 14 at nine thirty in the morning. Should I stop writing and get outdoors?

This time of year, after so many long cold and dreary days, I am torn: to write my article, or to flee my responsibilities and absorb the sun? Oops, I'm back, the weather won, as the temperature dropped and the wind picked up. Looks like the indoors is a good choice.

Being supervisor of a small town like Danby is being in the business of making choices: do this or that. Paint the Town Hall or pave the driveway, apply for a grant to move a project, or ask our Highway Department to build its own salt shed. Some decisions are straightforward, while some are more convoluted. Almost all decisions of any consequence involve money and time; since both of these are in short supply, being mindful of where our resources are invested is always necessary... and always questioned.

Some decisions are specifically local, like the Town budget, while others are County-wide, like Broadband, cell towers. The toughest ones sit on the boundary between local and regional, like road laws, Youth Services, and the Recreation Partnership.

Since I wrote last month, asking for your input on Youth Services and the Rec Partnership, I have been surprised at the number of residents who have no idea what these services are. That got me to wondering whether the Town is communicating effectively with its residents. Have we done enough to inform you about the goals and specific projects that the Town has made a commitment to?

To that end, we are engaging in a number of Town-wide information sessions. The Community Council will be looking to you for information and feedback on how we should proceed with programs that primarily affect our youth. The Town is taking the initiative by planning an early-April conference of all of our Boards and Task Forces. This will be a formidable task, as we have so many residents working on so many projects: some independently, some in connection with larger organizations, some with the County, and some working here at home.

The goal of bringing together all these projects and people, is to share what they are doing, for each to find out what the others are doing and to galvanize their efforts to ensure overall continuity.

Some choices I can make all by myself and some choices need your input.

Please keep posted. Try to help the Town by letting us know how you make decisions, what your priorities are, and what choices you would make.

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

WEST DANBY CRAFT SHOW

Submitted by Marrell Cortright

The West Danby Fire Department's Annual Spring Craft Show and Chicken BBQ will take place on Saturday, April 9, 10am-3pm. The chicken will be ready around Noon.

A space with a table is available for \$10. Anyone wanting a spot can reserve one by contacting me, 607.564.0020 or [marrell11@aol.com].

Did you know that the West Danby Fire Department is on FaceBook? Find us and be our friend! ❁



It's a Deere. A "John Smith" Deere.

DANBY IN THE 20th CENTURY: A MODERN TOWN IS BORN

Submitted by Karen Laun

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

The twentieth century in Danby was both an end and a beginning.

It was the end of a predominantly rural farming lifestyle for the majority of the residents, but it was also the beginning of an era where people recognized that it was important to preserve the land and the heritage of the town in other ways.

Although, even today, farming is a strong presence in the Finger Lakes region, farming families have found it increasingly difficult to make a living that way. Automobiles and improved roads brought greater mobility, and Danby residents began to work elsewhere, either in Ithaca or to the south in Binghamton, Corning, Elmira, or Owego.

This meant there was less need for local services: churches closed when the congregation couldn't support a minister, post offices closed when rural free delivery began, general stores and other shops closed when people could drive to the larger stores in Ithaca. Passenger trains became less common, and the West Danby depot closed in 1940. The small schools closed as well, with Danby students eventually scattering into the surrounding school districts. Some of these old stores, schools, and churches have been torn down, but others have gained new lives as private homes.

The decline in the farming community is most evident today in the Bald Hill area. During the Great Depression, poor farmers in this area suffered foreclosure or abandoned their farms. Others agreed to sell their land to the Federal government as part of President Roosevelt's Resettlement Program. This land became the 7000-acre Danby State Forest. The remains of stone foundations and family cemeteries can still be found in the forest. Today, the Friends of Bald Hill are dedicated to preserving the rich history of the families who once lived in this area.

Another aspect of the Resettlement Program was the establishment of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp on Fisher Settlement Road. The young men in this camp planted trees in many of the abandoned farm fields. The CCC was a remarkable program developed to help the unemployed during the Depression. In New York they built roads, trails, fire towers, and dams. CCC workers are also responsible for the sturdy yet elegant stonework in Buttermilk Falls and other gorges in the area.

In the late 1930s and 1950s, there were some forays into gas drilling—not profitable, but an early signal of the much larger gas drilling venture we face today. In the 1980s the County Dump was finally moved from Hillview Road in West Danby because of the contamination of wells and wetlands. The Lindsay-Parson Biodiversity Preserve, established in West Danby in 1997, is used for research in biodiversity and chemical ecology.

A rose-colored view of Danby's past might imagine an unchanging pastoral landscape where life moved to timeless rhythms. However, even this brief glance at the history of Danby reveals that this small town has undergone constant change and the often controversial events of the outside world have always intruded. And yet, much remains the same—new people move to town, prosperity comes and goes, and the beauty of the landscape remains for all to enjoy. ❁

...this
small
town has
undergone
constant
change...

Town Meeting, continued from front page—

Community Association, Danby Community Park Association, and many more.

We would like to identify what goals we are each working towards for the community, how we plan to get there, and what we are doing at this time to that end.

It is important that we all know and appreciate all the work that is done right here in our town to make it a better place, and that if any chance arises to get to know each other, and possibly work together on these goals, that we don't miss out on that.

Please come to the Town Hall at 7pm on Thursday, April 7. Bring a small snack to share! ❁

FIRE DISTRICT TREASURER POSITION

The Danby Fire District is in need of a new treasurer as a result of the resignation of long time treasurer Juddson Leonard. Mr. Leonard served the Fire District faithfully for many years, both as District Treasurer and as a chief Officer of West Danby Fire Company.

The fire district treasurer is appointed by the Board of Fire Commissioners for a one year term ending on December 31 each year. It is a paid position. The treasurer is fiscal officer of the fire district receives and has custody of all district funds. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining all financial records, bank accounts, reports of the district and paying all district bills.

Candidates should:

- Be a resident of the Town of Danby
- Possess a working knowledge of Quicken, QuickBooks, MS Word & MS Excel
- Be willing to undergo training related to Fire District Financial Criteria
- Be able to attend all regular District meetings and provide monthly Treasurer's Reports to the Board of Fire Commissioners
- Possess sound communication skills
- Be of good character and bondable

Interested candidates for the Treasurer position should submit a resume to Danby Fire District, PO Box 6600, Ithaca, NY 14851 by April 8, 2011. ❧

DANBY NEWS MAILING SPECIALIST

For more than two years, Melanie Dilliplane has been the Danby News' "go-to" person, our addressing and mailing specialist. It's been a pleasure to turn each issue over to her and her competent friends, knowing that it'll be prepared for and delivered to the Post Office, post haste.

Time passes, and she writes that while it's only a once-a-month volunteer job, other commitments are pressing. It would be great if someone could take over...soon.

Here's what you need to know about the job: around the middle of the month, you get a week or more advance warning, followed by a more detailed schedule. You pick up the Danby News from the printer (or have it delivered to you), you apply labels to about 1/3 of the issues, you prepare the paperwork and mailing flats, and then you deliver it all to the Post Office. A piece of cake, no? Yes?

TOWN HALL JOB OPENING

Applications are sought for the redefined position of Deputy Clerk/Project Assistant. This part-time position will be shared between the offices of the Danby Town Clerk and the Bookkeeper/Assistant to the Danby Town Supervisor.



The Deputy Clerk/Project Assistant will assist with day to day operations in the Town Clerk's office and financial accounting in the Bookkeeper's office. Applicants should be detail oriented, reliable, able to learn dedicated/specialized computer programs, work with confidential information, and enjoy working with the public.

Flexibility (managing a variety of duties and possibly shifting hours) and creative thinking are a plus. This position could be perfect for a self-employed or retired person seeking part-time work with an interest in Town operations.

Hours are 14 hours a week (generally two days) as Deputy Clerk in the Town Clerk's office and 15 hours a month as Project Assistant in the Bookkeeper's office. The Project Assistant's hours will be concentrated into the ten work days leading up to the presentation of monthly financial reports during the Town Board's "Second Monday" meeting.

Those interested in applying for this position should send a letter of interest to the Town Clerk at the Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca NY 14850. Letters of interest will also be received at [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us]. Please include your mailing address, Email address, and telephone number. Applications will be received through March. It is anticipated that qualified candidates will be interviewed in late March or early April. ❧

Do you have a yen to volunteer, an hankering to help out, and are you ready to step up to the plate? It's a warm feeling to see your name on the masthead, and to know that people appreciate your efforts!

If you're interested, please contact me at [danbynews@tedcrane.com]. If there's a landrush of interest, here's things that'll be a plus in your favor: ability to print mailing labels; familiarity with US Post Office paperwork, ability to pick up from the printer. ❧

LAND BANK: RAISING CHICKENS

Submitted by Elizabeth Keokosky

If you always wanted some experience with chickens, but never quite got around to it, now is your opportunity. The Danby Land Bank Cooperative received a small grant from Sustainable Tompkins to work with members (or non-members) to demonstrate building a portable chicken house, to distribute plans, and to buy and butcher broiler chickens.

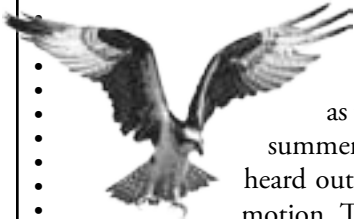
We will be partnering in this project with the Groundswell Center. A portable chicken house allows it to be moved to new spots that chickens can scratch and fertilize. Participants will have to pay for their own chicken house materials and chickens.

The program will probably start in April. If you are interested or want more information contact me at 607.347.5430 or [info@danbylandbank.com].



OSPREYS IN DANBY

Submitted by David Lee Howe



I had the pleasure, yesterday afternoon (February 3), to witness something as awesome as the Bald Eagle that I saw this last summer on Michigan Hollow Road. I heard out back of the house a great commotion. The Crows were cawing out their alarm call with great passion and agitation.

Then, I saw a huge Bird of Prey in the sky, circling above a deer carcass. Given its enormous, 6-foot wingspan, my first thought was that it a Turkey Vulture, but that was very quickly ruled out upon closer inspection. As it flew directly overhead, I could see that it was a Hawk, one that I had never witnessed here in Tompkins County. It was mostly white underneath with a black band running through its eyes on its white face, and a little black on the joints of its wings. A second bird of prey appeared, circling the carcass in the same fashion, with identical markings on it.

The crows began to hassle them fearlessly and the two birds flew off down Michigan Hollow Road. Perplexed, I ran to my field identification guide, and lo and behold, there it was...an Osprey!

I have lived in Danby for going on four years now, and in Tompkins County my entire life. I have never had

LIFE IN DANBY

This month's observations of life in Danby

Submitted by Julie Kulik

As Yogi Berra said, "You can observe a lot by watching." With those words of wisdom in mind, I'd love to collect our observations of this beautiful place we call home.

At any point during the month, when you see something of interest to you—whether plant, tree, animal or signs thereof (track, scat, etc.)—please pass the observation on to me. In this column, I will present as many of these sightings as I can. As a friend recently noted, "Plants can't run away," so, to protect the innocent, I'll note the exact location only in my private collection database.

I will also be featuring children's observations, collecting them in Danby youth programs (see the *Youth Page*), and through Emails.

Thanks to all who answered my Email plea, here are the sightings I have to share this month:

Mammals	Plants
mink	I know they
grey fox	are down there
otters (two locations!)	somewhere!
long-tailed weasel	
coyote (scat and tracks)	
Birds at Feeders	Birds not at Feeders
common redpolls (100 at a time)	turkey tracks (many)
woodpeckers (downy, hairy, red-bellied, pileated)	2 osprey
mourning dove (flock of 30)	northern shrike
Trees	
We unfenced some young white pines this Fall, which have all been liberally "pruned" by deer this month.	

Please contact me at [jnk54@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292 x222.



the pleasure of witnessing this endangered Bird of Prey. Living so close to Jennings Pond makes logical sense, as the Osprey is a water lover.

Has anyone out there seen these magnificent Birds of Prey in Danby yet, or am I the first? I would love to see them build a home on Jennings Pond.



DANBY TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle

Danby Town Talk, every Thursday in the *Ithaca Journal*, is looking for more stories! Tell me about special events, awards, weddings, births, deaths, anniversaries, school events, or...what you are doing this winter...any great books?. Got some the history about your house or of Danby in general? Pictures are welcome, also.

Please contact me at [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or 607.273.6530. Thank you. ❀

NEW AA MTNG!

A local-to-Danby AA meeting is starting up! It'll meet on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Danby Federated Church Hall, on NYS Rt.96B.

For more info, contact Jean at 607.227.3111. ❀

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

I would, first, like to thank all of the faithful people who braved the wilds on January 8 and February 5 to attend our Steak Dinners. The weather was terrible on those nights and yet...you came out anyway. Thank You!

Sadly, due to a scheduling conflict, there will not be a Steak Dinner in March. We will still be having our Chicken BBQ on March 13 and the Fish Dinner on the 18th.

The Chicken BBQ is available from Noon 'til sold out, and is \$8 each for the dinner or \$5 for just a half of chicken. For your \$8, you will get a mouth-watering half of chicken, a dinner roll and a choice of two sides (Salt Potatoes, Macaroni Salad, or Baked Beans).

The Fish Dinner will run 5:30-7pm and you will get a large piece of Fish, either Baked or Fried, an all you care to eat salad bar, and a choice of Baked Potato, French Freis, or Onion Rings. Served with a dinner roll and coffee or tea, it's all for just \$10.

If you need that special place to have a meeting or a wedding or anything else, we still have plenty of openings on our calendar. Stop in for more details or call the Post at 607.272.1129. ❀



36 music lovers came to West Danby on a slippery Sunday afternoon, February 13, to hear the Mig-narda Duet and eat desserts. The event raised \$954 for the SPCA of Tompkins County. Polly McClure introduced Donna Stewart and Ron Andrico. (Photo by Ted Crane)

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Danby Senior Citizens will meet for a dish-to-pass luncheon, at Noon on Thursday, March 3, in the Danby Church. All seniors, 55 and older, are welcomed to attend.

Big thanks go out to Rollie & Sharon Boda and Eloise Phinney for hosting our February meeting...with a pretty Valentine theme. We had a good turnout! Ted led a memory/thinking game and it was Rollie's group that won the prizes. ❀

INSECT PESTS IN THE HOME

Cornell Entomologist Carolyn Klass will focus her discussion on the growing bedbug problem, carpenter ants, and Indian meal moths. Questions on other household insect pests are welcome.

Learn how to prevent infestations, and what to do if they happen. Insect Pests in the Home will be presented on Tuesday, March 8, 6:30-8:30pm in the TC Coop Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca. Fee: \$5. Pre-registration recommended so we can provide enough handouts. Please call 607.272.2292 for more information or registration. ❀

DANBY PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

You are probably aware of Dotson Park, across from the Town Hall on Rt. 96B. Perhaps you've even been in there to walk your dog, to play disc golf, or just to have a look around. You may be wondering what is going on with the Park these days, and that's why I'm writing.

Many people refer to the park as Danby Park, but did you know that the park is not owned by the Town of Danby? The 92-acre parcel of beautiful, undeveloped land is owned by the non-profit Danby Community Park Association (DCPA) and you, as a Danby resident, are a DCPA member by default. No taxes pay for the park, there is no paid staff, and we have no endowment or sponsor. The DCPA is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, currently consisting of five members. Any Danby resident at least 18 years old is eligible to be a Board member.

The park has been about ten years in the making. Much of the hard, dirty, and unseen work is behind us, thanks to the efforts and generosity of many, many people who believed in the original vision and worked very hard to make this park a reality. The original vision for the park was that it would become an important focal point for the community. The vision remains, but the time has come to take a fresh look at how it will be accomplished.

In recent years, much time and effort has gone into efforts to plan and build a community center in the

park. That effort is off the table for now. This is not to say it will never happen, but the Board of Directors has determined that expenses and challenges it brings are much too large for us to handle at our current capacity. So we've narrowed our immediate development focus to five projects that reflect our commitment to being fiscally responsible and realistic, while producing tangible results. Those five projects are:

- Pavilions - for picnicking and gathering
- Playing Fields - multi-use fields requiring a minimum of tree-clearing
- Trails - hiking and cross-country skiing trails
- Disc Golf Course - partially installed and already getting enthusiastic reviews
- BBQ Pit - for fundraising and community events

Getting these projects completed will take a lot of effort, and we really need more people to be involved—not just to contribute labor and money, but also enthusiasm, creativity, know-how, and connections. The park was intended to be a place that builds, and is built on, the community. Your enthusiasm and help are what will enable the park to live up to its potential.

We also need money. As a result of the entrance road construction going over budget, we still owe Tompkins Trust Company almost \$50,000. This debt threatens the future of the park, and it's time to get out from under it so that we can focus 100% of our energy and resources on park development. We also need money in order to build the projects listed above, which will make the park more enjoyable and useable. All donations, of any amount, will help.

All donations made to the DCPA are tax-deductible and may also qualify for matching funds. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has granted us a significant amount of money in the form of an environmental protection fund grant. This money will only come to us after we raise and spend an equivalent amount of cash and in-kind donations, however, so we won't get any of that \$482,000 until we do a significant amount of fund-raising and volunteer work.

We have set an ambitious goal of raising \$25,000 and getting 25 more people actively involved in developing the park by Fun Day 2011. If you want to be among those who help make it happen, please fill out the form below and mail it in. We thank you in advance for your support and your input, and look forward to hearing from you soon!

YES, I want to support the park!

Please use my gift to support:

\$ _____ **Where the need is greatest**

\$ _____ **Pavilion**

\$ _____ **Playing fields**

\$ _____ **Trails**

\$ _____ **Disc Golf**

\$ _____ **BBQ Pit**

YES, I would like to volunteer!

I can help with:

Fundraising

Outreach/Publicity

Event Planning

Construction

Trailwork

Other; specify: _____

**Return to
DCPA, 309 Third Street, Ithaca, NY 14850.
Many thanks for your support!**

Danby Youth Flyer

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben

The Help by Kathryn Stockett, along with another book, was missing from our Library after Election Day.

Also, would the person or persons who borrowed the following books from the Danby Community Library please return them to us, so we may return them to the Tompkins County Public Library?

A Widow's Hope by Mary Ellis

A Wild Ride Up the Cupboards by Ann Bauer

Thanks for Nothing by Debbie Carbin

Stop in when the volunteers are here, Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm and Saturdays 10am-Noon, to update your registration cards and give us your Email address.

Thanks to all our patrons, our circulation has been increasing. For your information, here are some interesting facts, compiled by Dawn Parks: in 2008, an average of 71 items went out per month; 153 per month in 2009; and 175 per month in 2010. Our top month was in September of 2010 with 219 items selected by you.

The TCPL has loaned us 50 adult fiction books that, available for you until August. Also, a new selection of children's picture books and easy readers will soon be arriving.

We'll be conducting a Book Sale in the Danby Community Library on the last Saturday of April, April 30, 10am-2pm. You all are invited and will find many bargains. Plus, we'll serve free refreshments. ❀



Library volunteers Jarry Purcell and Beatrice Hogben preparing a newly-arrived book for circulation.

Photo by Ted Crane

Community Council Youth Programs Winter 2011

A Message from Julie Kulik:

Hello all, I am the new Danby Youth Program Manager! I have been working with children and teens for all of my adult life. Currently, I also teach at Earth Arts Ithaca. I have been a resident of Danby for 6 years; I'm involved in various committees and have grown very fond of this town, its natural beauty, and the people that inhabit it. I am honored to work more closely with the youth from this area.

These programs are funded by the Town of Danby and Tompkins County, with oversight by the Danby Community Council. Most programs are free to Danby residents, but registration is required. Please email or call if you know of children who could benefit from these, or if you have a program idea.

More programs will be coming very soon! For updates and permission slips, please see our web site [ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby].

Permission slips for current programs are also available at the Town Hall. Questions? Contact me at [jnk54@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.x222.

Primitive Pursuits

Grades 3-8

Mondays, 3-5:30pm;

February-April 11 (no meeting on Feb 21)

June Pollack's (43 Hornbrook Road)

Learn ancestral living skills such as shelter building, native crafts and nature awareness. Explore the outdoors, go hiking and get moving! Please dress for the weather (this is March!) and wear clothes that can get dirty!

Lunch Bunch at Boynton

Wednesdays, Mar 2-Apr 13, during lunch period in Boynton Middle School lunchroom

This IN-SCHOOL program lets you break away from the lunchroom and join other Boynton students from Danby in teambuilding activities, special food additions to your lunch, meeting new people, and youth leadership possibilities! ❀

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 3 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Danby Seniors' Luncheon and Meeting
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby Community Council Meeting
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby Park Association Meeting

Mar 7 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Board Meeting

Mar 8 • Tue

7pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting

Mar 9 • Wed

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

Mar 13 • Sun

8-11am 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall • **St.Patty's Breakfast**
Noon-'til 🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • **Chicken BBQ**

Mar 14 • Mon

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

Mar 15 • Tue

7pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting

Mar 17 • Thu

3-7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Danby History Group: The Bald Hill Community

Mar 18 • Fri

5:30-7pm 🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • **Fish Night**

Mar 21 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Conservation Adv. Council Mtg**

Mar 23 • Wed

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

Mar 24 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**

Mar 26 • Sat

8pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Movie Night: Beets and Beans**

Mar 31 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Arthur Berman on Gas Economics**

Apr 7 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall
Town Wide Meeting

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 Community Park Association 🏛️ Town Hall
1st Thursday, 7pm.

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

Danby Food Pantry 🏛️ Federated Church
3rd Thursday, 4–6pm.

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 Post 221** • 1231 Danby Road