



DANBY AREA NEWS

FUN DAY IS A-COMIN'

Submitted by Christel Trutmann

Danby Fun Day 2011 is set for July 9. For those of you new in town, Fun Day is a summer carnival complete with parade, BBQ, music, and games.

It raises funds for the Danby Volunteer Fire Company. It also gives Danby folk a yearly opportunity to get together with our families and neighbors to celebrate living in Danby. Fun Day is a great time to learn about Danby's history and to chat with the many different groups hard at work on Danby's future, since many of them have booths at Fun Day and walk in the parade.

If you're interested in a vendor booth or marching in the parade, now's the time to apply. (See contact info below or check out the Danby Town web site.) Or, consider helping out with Fun Day by:

- Running a game for an hour.
- Helping to serve the BBQ Chicken or to make popcorn and cotton candy.
- Helping with set-up or clean-up.
- Baking cakes or other goodies for the Wheel o'Treats.
- Donating books to the book sale. Drop off at the Town Hall; pickup available.
- Donating theme baskets, goods or services to the Chinese Auction.

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

For information, see the full list of Fun Day contacts on page 3 of the Danby Area News. ❧

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Depending on when you are reading this, please come—or we hope you came—to the Annual Open House and Book Sale at the Danby Community Library, 10am-3pm on Saturday April 30 in the Danby Town Hall. Entertainment at Noon by Mary B. Lorson on the piano, and refreshments will be served. A good time will be had by all.

Many thanks to all of our library volunteers who work tirelessly to make this event and keep the library open to our community!

We have new, updated volunteer handbooks. This will make your volunteer time so easy. We had 837 volunteer hours logged in 2010 with a small core group of volunteers! If you are considering volunteering even a couple hours a month, please stop in or call Patti Meyers at 607.273.3878.

Part of our annual goal for the library is to expand our use of our computer cataloging system. We are considering collecting patrons' Email addresses to communicate overdue notices or notify when a requested book is in.

Several new patrons have filled out registration cards, but have not signed them: Please stop in and sign them- they are on the desk.

Several new collections are coming from the TCPL in May: Books on CD, Juvenile Fiction, and Juvenile Nonfiction.

Factoid: 2019 items were borrowed in 2010!

Please stop in, Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm and Saturdays 10am-Noon, or look for the "Open" flag. You may also self-check items when the Town Hall is open but please remember to print your name legibly, stamp the date, and make sure you have registration card on file. Thanks! ❧

Danby Book Sale

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Town Clerk's Desktop ③
- Gas Drilling Task Force ④
- Supervisor's Update ⑤
- Fire District Lawn Mowing ⑤
- Life in Danby ⑥
- Comment on the Forest Plan ⑥
- Danby Park Update ⑦
- Dotey of Danby ⑦
- At the DFC ⑦
- Plant Exchange ⑧
- Dividing Plants / Compost ⑧
- Seniors ⑨
- Cooking Outdoors, Safely ⑨
- Danby, NY 14850-8607 ⑨
- Tutoring at the Town Hall ⑩
- Fun Day: Chinese Auction ⑩
- American Legion ⑩
- Youth Programs ⑪
- Calendar ⑫

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

To contribute:
Danby Area News
PO Box 6886
Ithaca, NY 14851-6886
Phone: 607.273.8678
Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

Text submissions:
Send text in the body of an
Email message (**not** as an at-
tachment); or mail typewritten
copy, double-spaced on white
paper. Short handwritten
submissions accepted; please
write legibly.

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

Deadline is the 15th of the
month. Materials may be
accepted later if time allows.
Submissions should gener-
ally not exceed one page. We
cannot print political material
or letters of opinion.

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

We would like to thank these sponsors for their help:

PATRON:

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

SUPPORTERS:

**ACT GREEN BE GREEN
SPRAY FOAM INSULATION**
607.319.0766 • [foam@twcny.rr.com]
2 Pound Closed Cell Foam • 3 inches of
foam only \$2.50/sq.ft. with no minimum

CAROL BUSHBERG REAL ESTATE
607.273.3400 • [carolbushberg.com]
Carol Bushberg, Broker/Owner
High quality customer service & innovative
marketing. 25 years experience selling
Ithaca area real estate. Danby resident.

**EASTMAN ASSOCIATES
DANNY EASTMAN, CPA**
126 Fieldstone Circle • 607.277.0881
[deastmancpa@ithacacpa.net]
Individual, Small Business tax preparation
Day Care, Non Profit and College Students

FRIENDS:

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

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

DANBY NEWS NOTES

Submitted by Ted Crane

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.

PUBLIC ACCESS INTERNET

The Town Board has approved a Public
Access Internet Facility in Town Hall.
By the time you read this, a wireless
hotspot should be operating—indoors
and in the parking lot. If you'd like to
use it, register at the Town Clerk's of-
fice to get the password.

Within a month or two, desktop com-
puters will be available for visitors who
don't bring a wireless-enabled device.

**TOWN OF DANBY
WEB SITE**

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

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

Welcome Sue McLellan

Visitors to the Danby Town Clerk's office may see a new face. Say a warm "hello" to Sue McLellan, Danby's new Deputy Clerk and Project Assistant. Sue will be working one or two days a week helping residents with dog license renewals, answering the phone, and assisting with the wide variety of clerical duties in the Clerk's office. In addition, she will spend approximately 15 hours a month helping bookkeeper Laura Shawley with monthly accounting needs, such as payroll and the monthly billing.



Sue lives on Gunderman Road with her husband and their four Chinese Crested dogs. She recently retired from a career in Administration and Finance at Cornell, where she monitored, maintained, and reconciled departments accounts, including working with some of the same providers who service the Town of Danby. She has been a office manager in the

Johnson Graduate School of Management and was the Executive Staff Assistant to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Cornell. Her organizational skills include preparing budgets, establishing and maintaining databases, and preparing quarterly and annual reports.

Laura and I were pleased by the level of interest in this position. We interviewed seven of sixteen applicants and quickly appreciated the high level of bookkeeping and organizational skills offered by the candidates. In the end, though, Laura and I were in complete agreement: Sue's work experience, curiosity, and cheerful manner stood out. We were impressed, not only by the way she answered our questions, but by the questions she had for us. Sue will be a wonderful asset to our small Town government.

A Fine Town Wide Meeting...

I would like to extend my personal thanks to everyone who participated in the April 7 Town Wide Meeting. Twenty five volunteers stood up to speak about the diverse activities in the Town, including fire and emergency rescue, providing recreational opportunities for Danby youth and families, getting food to those in need, celebrating local history, and preserving and protecting Danby's rural character. Many of these reports

have been compiled into an attractive hand-out, which is available for free in the Danby Town Hall.

There are times when the financial, social, and environmental challenges facing Danby seem overwhelming. This meeting opened the door to understanding that none of us work in isolation. Those who attended, left with a deeper appreciation of the ongoing work that makes Danby a better place. I left that meeting grateful for all of the people who put in long hours toward preserving and improving Danby.

Special thanks go to Kathy Halton and Sue Beeners who put in long hours contacting community members and preparing a welcoming atmosphere. Everyone worked together to make this a success. We can look forward to future gatherings when we can begin to talk about where we go from here.

As a reminder, office hours for the Town Clerk have changed to better reflect the needs/work requirements at Town Hall. Hours in May are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10am-5pm and most Saturdays 10am-Noon. During the Summer, starting on Memorial Day weekend, the Town Clerk's office will be closed Saturday mornings. And, yes, the chocolate kiss bowl remains full.

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

FUN DAY CONTACTS

Vendors:	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]
Kids 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
Everything Else:	Christel Trutmann	(see above)

GAS DRILLING UPDATE

Submitted by Kathy Halton

A large crowd attended Art Berman's presentation at the Danby Town Hall on March 31. He spoke about the larger economic context of Marcellus Shale gas drilling. His research into existing shale gas plays—Texas and other areas—points out the exaggerations about the amount of extractable gas and how long the plays remain viable. His opinion—that gas companies are not really able to profit from gas extraction at the current price—has not been popular, but is gaining wider acceptance.

Mr. Berman also spoke during that weekend's Cornell Law School forum on gas drilling; many members of the Task Force attended. The keynote address by Professor Susan Christopherson, of Cornell's Planning Department, described the economic effects of gas drilling on local communities. Christopherson's current class has been focusing on the Marcellus Shale experience and will share with this community when its work is completed.

Recently, the main focus of the Task Force has been the Rapid Waters Unit Management Plan, drafted by the Department of Environmental Conservation's Forestry Service. It is a guide to the future of the Danby State Forest and the Shindagin Hollow Forest. It is especially important to Danby residents because the state forest includes about 25% of Danby.

If drilling is permitted in the Danby State Forest, it will impact this community. The draft plan provides a framework to address the past, present, and future conservation of forest ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and recreational trails, but also addresses the possibilities of ex-

ploration and development of oil and natural gas resources within the state forest.

Quite a few Danby residents attended the Forest Service's public April 14 session on the plan, and several offered verbal statements. All the comments, including those from Danby, questioned how the DEC mission regarding the state forest could possibly be compatible with drilling for natural gas, given the roads and pipelines that would be constructed, crisscrossing the state forest. The Task Force is currently working on a written response to the management plan, and will also be advising the Town Board on many aspects of the plan.

During its April 13 meeting, the Task Force discussed the impact of gas leases on land values and assessments. Even a neighbors' gas lease can affect land value [see sidebar]. The Tompkins County Council of Governments is focusing on this issue; they have been meeting with bankers, realtors, and lawyers. They've learned, for example, that the set-backs proposed by the DEC are smaller than those required by large lenders; as a result, lenders may refuse to offer (or buy up) mortgages.

There are many, many forums and workshops on gas drilling, all over New York State, currently going on. Andrea Hazard has been keeping track of them and sending weekly updates to our mailing list. If you would like to receive these, contact Jennifer Tiffany, [jst5@cornell.edu] or Kathy Halton [khalton@twcny.rr.com].

The May meetings of the Task Force will be at 7pm on Wednesdays, May 11 and 25, in the Danby Town Hall. The public is invited. ♣

A SELLER'S EXPERIENCE

Submitted by Tony Serviente

We recently gave some thought to relocating to a smaller home in Danby. We called a realtor to get an idea of house value and market conditions. We also called the bank with mortgage questions. This is what we learned.

The realtor said that people are starting to get nervous about [gas] leased land near a potential home. While a realtor has no obligation to tell the potential buyers that adjacent land is leased, the realtor must disclose when a mortgage has been declined because of that leasing. Apparently, some realtors are now checking leasing maps, either for buyer or seller.

The bank said that, at present, they were not declining mortgages on properties adjacent to leased land, but they had recalled some mortgages on properties that had leased surface rights, and were not issuing mortgages on leased land. Other banks might be following different rules.

Based on this information:

- Lease your land for drilling and the bank might recall the mortgage, or might not offer new mortgage to a buyer.
- If a mortgage is declined to a potential buyer, you must disclose this to every other potential buyer. You may only be able to sell to a cash purchaser.
- If you live next door to leased land, the bank isn't recalling mortgages, yet.
- Live next door to leased land where a mortgage has been declined and your property value may suffer.

Suddenly, fracking's impact is not hypothetical. Even without any active drilling, the effects are apparent. Both supporters and opponents of drilling may have difficulty selling property; property values may decline and mortgages may be declined or recalled.

In the end, we decided to stay where we are but, as we are surrounded by leased land on three sides, we wonder if our place will be sellable in the near future. ♣

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

The Town of Danby thanks all of you who participated in our recent Town meeting. It was a humbling experience to see and listen to the diversity of our resident's commitment to their community.

We have received numerous requests to do a follow up. If you were there, or if you missed it and have an area of interest you would like to pursue, please let us know.

Some of us traveled down to Candor to participate in the Rapid Waters public comment session. The State's vision for the Danby State Forest—25% of the land within our Town—is thought provoking.

One of the speakers talked about what this area looked like in the not so distant past: the barren landscape, drastic reduction of a diverse habitat, and the loss of many native birds, animals, and little bitty things. How far we have come since then, to see habitat sufficient to sustain the return of some of our native heritage.

All of the speakers alluded to the threat, presented by the State's plan, to the very spirit of the forest; it would let the State designate certain areas of these lands as industrial sites. Most of the speakers devoted all of their comment time to this issue.

The Town is in the process of writing our response and comments, to the State; these will be reviewed at our May meeting of the Town Board.

I have tried to keep you updated on our various efforts to reduce fossil fuel consumption. After a winter spent going through the ins and outs of commingling different biomass fuels in boiler systems, we went with a wood-chip-only boiler. In the end, the reliability of a single-fuel system overcame our desire to connect to Danby's Land Bank Coop as a fuel source (the project funding did not allow us to use the Land Bank's biomass bales as the single-fuel source). In spite of this, we will continue to try and keep an open mind on projects of land management, so critical to the Town's future interests.

Many of the Town's essential services are connected to multi-jurisdictional contracts. We must cooperate with other Towns—and the County—on roads within the Town, Animal Control, Recreation, Summer Camps, After-School Programs, and Health Care Insurance.

We continue meetings about the shared Animal Control contract. While we have completed the dog enumeration in Danby, the counting continues in other

Towns. We are a step closer to the information needed for Towns to calculate their shares of the contract.

Additional meetings on Youth Services and the Recreation Partnership are bringing to light the full effects of budget cuts. There is a growing concern about the ability of participating municipalities to continue contributions at the previous levels of funding. The contracts might become unsustainable.

I have been impressed over and over in meetings, both outside our community and within it, what a dramatic and diverse town we live in.

According to the new census data, of all the Towns in Tompkins County, only Danby and Caroline have grown (increased population). This will give Danby a larger share of sales tax revenues and will help us to keep your total real estate tax bill under control.

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

FIRE DISTRICT LAWN MOWING

Submitted by Ralph Bowles, Commissioner

The Danby Fire District is soliciting proposals for lawn mowing at the Danby and West Danby Fire Houses for the 2011 season. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal should contact Ralph Bowles, 592 Troy Road, Ithaca, NY, or call 607.273.2820, for a list of requirements.

Sealed proposals, based on those requirements, will be considered during the May 10, 2011 Fire District meeting, 7:30pm at the Danby Fire Station. ❁

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.

LIFE IN DANBY

This month's observations of life in Danby

Submitted by Julie Kulik

Thanks for the reports everyone, keep them coming!

Many of the species this month come from an incredible group of young people participating in the Monday afternoon Primitive Pursuits program. One Monday in March, we were drawn to a swamp area alive with frog sounds. We explored, and stood quietly for a very long time—15 of us—and only one frog was spotted. The calls (of at least 3 species) were so loud that we were forced to leave after a while, yet they remained invisible to most of us. Amazing creatures!

Some neighbors, flashlights in hand, met on a warm, rainy Danby night and helped over 100 Spotted Salamanders—and about 12 Jefferson Salamanders—cross the road, safe from cars. Great fun, hope to see more of you out there next year.

We have a question from a Danby neighbor: “I would be very interested if anyone knows of an active Northern Goshawk nest site in Danby this spring. In the East, they mostly nest farther north, but there are records of them nesting in the area.”

Here are the reported findings this month. See you in the woods!

Mammals: Ithaca College Ground Hog, otter tracks, Muskrat, Beaver, Red Fox, Skunk (almost all white).

Birds: Northern Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Phoebe's (returned on April 8, last year was March 18) displaying Turkeys, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a gregarious Pileated Woodpecker, Broad Winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Green Heron. A reminder to put hummingbird feeders out the first week of May. Also, a Raven rookery, and 14 Caspian Terns (foraging and likely headed up to the 1800-pair breeding colony on Galloo Island in northeastern Lake Ontario.

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE DANBY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

by Eric Banford

The NYS DEC is accepting comments on a draft plan for the Rapid Waters Unit, which includes Danby and Shindagin State Forests. This plan includes provisions for future drilling for oil and gas, which many think will put these forests at great risk. As stated in Environmental

Conservation Law Article 1, Industrial activity on this scale is counter to the DEC's mission:

“The quality of our environment is fundamental to our concern for the quality of life. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of New York to conserve, improve and protect its natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control

water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.”

Written comments will be accepted until May 14, 2011. The complete plan can be found at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/72384.html

The DEC will accept comments by Email at jmclancy@gw.dec.state.ny.us or by US mail addressed to NYS DEC, Division of Lands and Forests, Attn: John Clancy, 1285 Fisher Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045-1090. ♣

Amphibians: Wood Frog, Spotted Salamander, Jefferson Salamander, Spring Peeper, Toad.

Plants/Trees: Leeks, Sassafras, American Chestnut (!), Tupolo/black gum tree.

Insects: two beautiful Citrine Sallow Moths—an orange-striped, yellow moth that feeds on Witch-hazel, which happens to be growing in the yard.

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



An early morning photo outing brought home this image of an Osprey, just after catching a wide-mouth bass at Jennings Pond. Photo: Melissa Groo

DANBY PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

Now that winter is finally over, we're ready to get to work in Dotson Park. Work parties are scheduled for the first Saturday of every month throughout the spring and summer, starting with trail clearing on May 7 (rain date, May 14). Work will begin at 10am and continue at least until 2pm. If you'd like to help, contact me at [dotsonpark@gmail.com] or 607.272.7189.

Don't forget to come over and try a round of disc (Frisbee) golf on our 9-hole course. It's fun for everyone regardless of age or agility. Down at the end of Daisy Lane, you'll see a mailbox in the field with course maps in it. We will also have discs available for loan so you can try this exhilarating game for yourself! Call or Email to make a request.

This month's board meeting is scheduled for May 19, 7pm in the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome. ❧

STAY HEALTHY WITH FOOD STAMPS

Submitted by Melissa Young

Are you age 60 or older? Let's Spring into good Health! • Every day seniors just like you use Food Stamps to help buy nutritious foods to help stay healthy.

- Up to a million older New Yorkers may be eligible for food stamp benefits, but most have not yet applied.
- Help strengthen our community! Every \$5 spent in benefits nearly doubles to \$10 in local economic activity.
- As an added help to seniors, most medical expenses may be counted toward raising your monthly benefits.
- Income guidelines may be higher than you think, call for a free prescreening to find out if you may be eligible.

Please contact the Nutrition Outreach & Education Program, 607.272.5062.x21, or Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga, 324 West Buffalo Street, Ithaca, NY. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Prepared by a project of the Nutrition Consortium of NYS, USDA/FNS, and NYSOTDA. ❧

AT THE DFC...

Ladies of all ages are invited to a Paris (S.D.) Fashion Show and supper, Sunday, May 15, 4:30pm, at DFC. Wear your favorite fashion statement and join us for this program and supper. This is open to the community. Contact Bonnie, 607.272.1606, or the church to sign up to attend this event. ❧

DOTEY OF DANBY

Submitted by Jim Reagan

The old man's yelling and carrying on interrupted the early morning Sunday calm, and the crashing sound of a ceramic coffee cup startled Shelby, Dotey's fawn from last season. The mama deer looked up and reassured her daughter that there was no danger, as they were well hidden in the thicket.

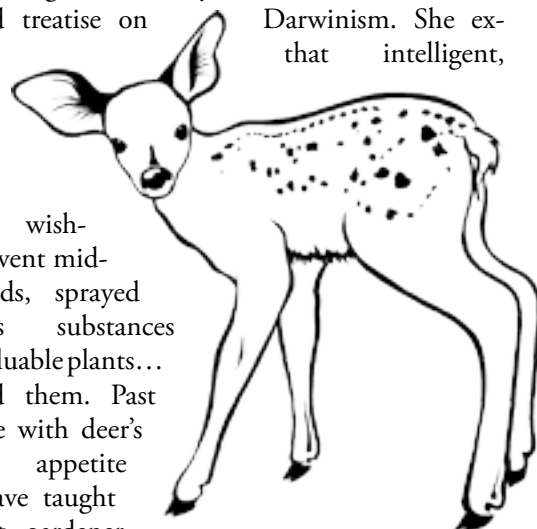
Dotey, feeling sated with Holland petals still on her taste buds, rolled her eyes in disbelief at the histrionic spectacle. Shelby, still young and tender-hearted, was feeling a bit guilty about making the old man so agitated, but the succulent tulip buds had been an incredible delight after a long winter of boring, tasteless fodder.

Dotey, sensing little Shelby's distress, launched into a detailed treatise on Darwinism. She explained that intelligent,

industrious, and deserving gardeners, wishing to prevent midnight raids, sprayed obnoxious substances around valuable plants... or fenced them. Past experience with deer's voracious appetite should have taught a diligent gardener

about timely maintenance and prevention; a slothful individual would only be rewarded with stubs, year after year. Dotey revealed that an assiduous horticulturist enjoyed a life of relative peace and tranquility, while the indolent would experience emotional outbursts, shattered coffee cups, and dangerously high blood pressure.

Shelby asked if they were doing the old man a favor by eating his unprotected plants, in the hope that he would learn a more proactive approach to gardening. Dotey's pride in her daughter's comprehension of the situation was unbounded, and she promised an additional taste treat in the weeks to come: the Asiatic lilies. Shelby wondered if Mr. Darwin might intervene on that score. Dotey, always trying to see the positive, assented that there was always that hope, but she knew her gardener...oh, so well. ❧



PLANT EXCHANGE

Submitted by Dan Klein

The 19th annual Plant Exchange will take place on Sunday May 15, 1-4pm, at the Danby Fire Station on NYS Rt.96B. This free event is an opportunity to swap, donate, and try new perennials, houseplants, seeds, annual seedlings, and anything else garden related.

It is not necessary to bring a plant in order to get a plant, nor is it necessary to stay the whole time. It's better to divide plants in advance so they don't suffer in the heat on the day of the Plant Exchange. So, start dividing perennials, planting a few extra annuals, and taking houseplant cuttings. Also, if you think of it, label what you bring.

For more information contact me at 607.272.7582 or [danbydan@hotmail.com]. ❧

DIVIDING DAYLILIES & PERENNIALS

Submitted by Pat Curran

Spring is the right time to divide many perennials. Learn how to divide daylilies, Siberian iris, Hosta, bearded iris, Phlox, and others. Come prepared to work! This class will tackle plants from the Teaching & Demonstration Gardens at Extension and Master Gardener private gardens, but you can also bring a plant from home. Rain or shine (indoors if wet).

The class will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 6-8pm, at Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Avenue, in Ithaca. Fee is \$10; pre-payment is required; limited to 15 participants. Please call 607.272.2292 for more information or registration. ❧

MAY DAY: COMPOST FAIR

The Master Composters of Tompkins County will host the 17th Annual Compost Fair on Sunday, May 1, 2011, Noon-4pm, at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Avenue in Ithaca.

Compost Fair attendees will learn how to turn food and garden waste into usable and nutrient-filled material. Activity stations will provide hands-on experience and lots of information on the what can be composted, types of bins to use, how to build a bin and when to turn a compost pile. Activities, food, and live music promise fun for the whole family!

The Fair is free and open to the public. For info, contact Adam Michaelides, [acm1@cornell.edu]. ❧

CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOIL

Submitted by Jim Reagan

Some hold the opinion that the majority of gardeners, like myself, are unrepentant thieves and scalawags, and we must own up to that perception. Many of us who play in the dirt become extremely acquisitive and covet the plantings of others, some of which may be hard to come by or terribly costly.

Thieving is one way in which the frugal gardener can be sure to have a range of impressive plantings flourishing on his well appointed grounds. It is unfortunate, for those with any sort of conscience at all, that purloining plantings can become quite addictive.

Do not trust any horticulturist who walks about with a trowel on his person. Be suspicious of the garden visitor whose wandering eye scans your perennial bed while speaking to you. Code phrases such as, "Oh, lovely...I don't have that," can only mean one thing to all but the most nascent of gardening hobbyists. It is best, at times such as these, to divide the thing up immediately and present it to your guest as a gift, rather than put them to all the trouble of stealing it while you are out having your tires rotated or your hair done.

Plant thieves are not totally without consideration for their victims, as they usually only take a root, a cutting, some seeds, or the tiniest of divisions, and most have rationalized this away as not really robbery at all. Stealing is a way to expedite things a bit, without the hassle of asking, having the proprietor digging it up, bagging, giving tedious instructions, and a dull herbal history.

Plant thieving also has the benefit of avoiding the awkward, embarrassing moment should your request for *some of that* be denied; thus saving everyone a lot of emotional turmoil and hurt feelings. ❧

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS DANBY?

Submitted by Tom Gavin

Dr. Tom's book is out! Get *Life at DrTom's: Mostly Humorous Anecdotes by a Mostly Retired Cornell Professor* in many formats—iPad, Nook, Kindle, or PDF, among others—for any computer, at [lifeatdrtoms.com]. Soon it will also be available at all retailers that sell eBooks.

One of the anecdotes in the book is titled: "What in the world is Danby?" ❧

COOKING OUT... WITHOUT COOKING YOUR GOOSE

by Adam Crown, Fire & Life Safety Educator

Summer's almost here. No, really, it is.

You may be one of the many people looking forward to enjoying delicious meals cooked outdoors as soon as weather permits. Me, too.

Here are a few reminders from the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) about cooking out safely.

The Bad News

- Fire departments respond to around 7,900 home fire incidents every year involving grills, hibachis and barbecues—5,000 outside fires and 2,900 structure fires.
- June and July are the peak months for grill fires.
- 33% of structure fires that involve grilling start on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.

The Good News

It's easy to avoid a tragedy by using some common sense a following a few simple safety rules:

- Only use propane and BBQ grills outdoors
- Place the grill away from your house, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches
- Keep kids and pets away from the grill area
- Keep your grill clean; remove fat and grease buildup
- *Never* leave your grill unattended

For Charcoal

- If you use starter fluid, use *only* charcoal starter fluid. *Never use gasoline* or any other flammable liquid
- Never add any flammable liquid to the fire
- Keep starter fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources
- If you use an electric charcoal starter be sure to use a heavy extension cord rated for outdoor use
- When you're finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container

For Propane

- Check the gas tank for leaks before you use it for the first time each year
- Apply soapy water to the hose—a leak will create bubbles. If you see or smell a leak, turn off the gas tank and the grill and have it serviced before you use it again. If the leak doesn't stop, call the Fire Department.
- If you smell gas while you're cooking, get well away from the grill and call the fire department. Do *not* move the grill.

For more on grilling and other Fire & Life Safety Tips visit *Firesafe Danby* at [firesafedanby.blogspot.com/]. ❁

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, May 5, at the summer hour, 6pm.

Thanks to our hosts for April: Jim & Marge Hovanec, assisted by Dawn & George Parks and Mary Oltz. Also big thanks to Linda Howe for cooking up our delicious Easter ham. Ted led us in some fun Bingo games and there were three lucky winners.

We have a luncheon cruise on Cayuga Lake's *MV Manhattan* reserved for Wednesday, June 22. Contact Margie 607.273.8046 for details or to sign up. All seniors 55 and over are welcome to join us! ❁

DANBY, NY 14850-8607

Submitted by Ted Crane

The article about Postal Addressing in last month's Danby News caught the eye of a local postmaster, and we've been given updated information for mailers.

Today, yes, that's *today*, it's possible, even likely, but not guaranteed, that mail addressed to, "Danby, NY 14850" or "Danby, NY 14883" will be delivered.

The reason it works *today* is that long-time postal employees know about Danby and its multiple-ZIPcode problem. Even though "Danby" is not one of acceptable alternate names for "Ithaca" or "Spencer" (in the above examples), they know about Ithaca and Spencer routes that deliver to the Town of Danby. When a sorting machine rejects the address, these helpful workers manually drop the piece of mail into the correct pile.

Sadly, though, when these workers retire, the sorting machines will take over and the machines will follow strict rules set by the Postal Service.

The rules are something like:

- 1) If there is a 9-digit ZIPcode, ignore the name of the town and deliver to the correct carrier route.
- 2) If there is only a 5-digit ZIP, look at the town name.
- 3) If the town name is one of the acceptable alternatives for the 5-digit ZIP, send for delivery.
- 4) Otherwise, the mail is not deliverable.

So, the advice given in the April issue of the Danby News was partially correct: you can use "Danby", but only if you specify the full, 9-digit ZIPcode. This extended ZIPcode can often be found on utility bills, bank statements, and other "official communications." You can also find it online at [zip4.usps.com]. ❁

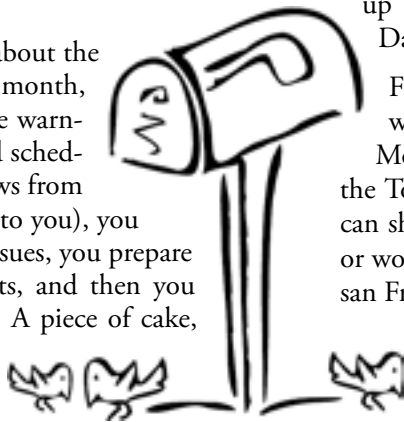
DANBY NEWS MAILING SPECIALIST

We're still looking for a new mail-master for the Danby News! Christel Trutmann has offered to fill in, temporarily, until we find a new guru.

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?

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. ✂



AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

Things are winding down for the summer here at the Legion but we still have a few upcoming events.

On May 7, we will be hosting a 90th Birthday Party for John Hart starting at 3pm. We will be having a Spaghetti (Pasta) Dinner to Benefit the American Legion Boys Baseball Team, 5-7pm. The meal (Salad, Pasta, Meatballs, Bread, Coffee/Tea) is \$8.

On May 21, we will be having a D.J. playing, 5pm-'til for Armed Forces Day, honoring our female Veterans.

We had several meetings for the upcoming block party on July 23. We have the band *Triple Play* scheduled to play, 5pm-'til. We will kick off the day with a Pancake Breakfast, 7-10am, followed by a Motorcycle Fun Run, and then the actual block party.

Need to dispose of a worn or tattered flag? We have a drop box out front on the deck to put your old flag in. At the same time, stop by as we are in the process of ordering 3' X 5' flags to sell to replace that old one. ✂

TUTORING AT THE TOWN HALL

Submitted by Bob Strichartz, Danby Community Council

The Danby Community Council is planning to start up a program of tutoring for students who live in Danby.

For the rest of this school year (starting May 2) we will have a pilot program of math tutoring on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 3:30-5:30pm in the Town Hall. This is a drop-in program, so anyone can show up, but if you would like more information or would like to register in advance, please contact Susan Franklin, 607.273.2824 or [sbf386@hotmail.com].

If this program is successful, we would like to add tutoring in other subjects. If you have requests please contact Julie Kulik, [jnk54@cornell.edu]. ✂

FUN DAY 2011: CHINESE AUCTION

Submitted by Sharon Gaden, Sct'y, Danby Volunteer Fire Company

The Chinese Auction has always been a popular part of the Danby Fun Day. To continue to make this event successful, we're asking you to donate new or gently used items—or services—for the Chinese Auction. Auction attendees will browse all available items on Fun Day and purchase tickets to try to win items of their choice. A drawing is held and winners are notified of the item(s) they won.

If you are a business owner, donations can include pledges of services such as hair cuts, oil changes, lawn maintenance service. Last year we had neighbors and families who donated handmade items, gently used items as well as theme baskets (similar items are grouped into a basket or suitable container). Here's a few basket ideas: cat lover's basket, coffee basket, reading basket, sports basket.

Items donated for children to enjoy allow us to also provide an auction for the kids. Ideas for a children's basket: a dress up basket, science basket, reading basket, toys, collector's cards or similar items, etc. The idea for a basket is unlimited.

All donations are greatly appreciated and help us continue to offer the popular Chinese Auction during Danby Fun Day. Contact me at 607.659.3116 or [danby071302@yahoo.com] (subject line: Fun Day). Thank you and see you at Fun Day! ✂

Community Council Youth Programs Spring 2011



These programs are funded by the Danby Community Council, and are free to Danby residents. Registration is required. Please Email or call if you know of children who could benefit from these, or if you have a program idea. Permission slips are in the Danby Town Hall, or can be found at [ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby]

Questions? Please contact:
Julie Kulik, 607.272.2292.x222 or [jnk54@cornell.edu]

Primitive Pursuits

Grades 3-8
April 25-June 6 (no meeting on May 31)
Sleepover on June 10/11
Participants learn about their local environment through the study of earth living skills and nature awareness.

Dungeons and Dragons Workshop.

Grades 5-8
May 18, 10am-2pm, pizza lunch provided.
Danby Town Hall
Dungeons and Dragons (4th Edition) Introduction Game. Father and Son team David and Samson will be

our game leaders, all game materials provided- just bring your imagination. Open to both new and existing (or previous edition) players. Learn the game as you explore a fantastic world of heroes, magical monsters, exciting battles and unforgettable stories with the original and greatest roll playing fantasy game ever made!

Spring Crafts and Games Club

(grades 3-5)
Wednesdays, April 27-May25, 2:30-5pm
Danby Town Hall (bus from South Hill Elementary)
Inside and Outside, we will use natural and recycled materials to create works of art, celebrating the arrival of Spring! Activities may include: clay projects, water color painting, and games in the park.

Lunch Bunch

Inschool program at Boynton!
Wednesdays during your lunch period.
Take a break from the cafeteria! Eat exciting snacks, play games and go outside on nice days. Get to know people you usually don't sit near in the noisy lunch room.

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

- Apr 30 • Sat
10am-3pm 🏠 Town Hall
Danby Community Library Book Sale
- May 2 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board Meeting
- May 5 • Thu
6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Danby Seniors' Luncheon and Meeting
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Community Council Meeting
- May 7 • Sat
10am 🏠 Dotson (Danby) Park • **Trail Clearing Day**
- May 9 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board Meeting
7:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting
- May 10 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting
- May 11 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- May 15 • Sun
1pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
19th Annual Plant Exchange
4:30pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Ladies Fashion Show and Supper
- May 16 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Adv. Council Mtg**
- May 17 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting
- May 19 • Thu
3-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Park Association**
- May 23 • Mon
1pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Mobile Food Truck**
- May 25 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**

- May 26 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**
- Jun 6 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board 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
3rd 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, 3–7pm.
- Seniors Strength Training Group** 🏠 Federated Church
Mondays, 9am.
- AA Meeting** 🏠 Federated Church
Wednesdays, 7pm.
- 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