



DANBY AREA NEWS

FOCUS ON GAS DRILLING INFO

Public Information Session - August 22, 7pm

This issue of the Danby Area News contains many articles addressing natural gas extraction (hydrofracking) and the actions that the Town is taking to protect itself and its residents. In addition to our Town Supervisor's update, it includes contributions from the Gas Drilling Task Force, a message from a citizen's group that is circulating a petition, information about the County's presentation of its gas well mapping effort, advance warning about upcoming public hearings, and even a summertime interview with a local ghost.

On Monday, August 22 residents will have an opportunity to ask questions about the legislation the Town Board is considering, and to learn more about the law-making process. The meeting is intended to let people air concerns in advance of the formal public hearing set for September 12.

This is a very good time to clarify concerns, get involved, and hear what others have to say. Take the time to read the articles inside for more details.



Jeff Luoma makes a bad situation look good, in the Fun Day Parade. Photo: Ted Crane

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Town Clerk's Desktop ③
- Jennings Pond Schedule ③
- Danby Fun Day Thank-yous . . . ④
- Supervisor's Update, con't ⑤
- Fire District Energy Savings . . . ⑤
- Gas Drilling Task Force ⑥
- Concerned Citizen's of Danby . . . ⑥
- Barn Dance at Slow Lane ⑥
- Public Hearings in September . . ⑦
- Mapping Potential Gas Wells . . . ⑦
- Danby Phantoms ⑧
- Ithaca High Reunion / Seniors . . ⑧
- West Danby Picnic ⑨
- Dotson Park / American Legion . . ⑨
- Community Library ⑩
- Kayaking in the Moonlight . . . ⑩
- Life in Danby ⑩
- Youth Programs ⑪
- Calendar ⑫

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

Even the occasional readers of my column in the Danby News know that I keep asking, "Please send, call, Email any and all questions you might have about the Town, what you like, what you see, suggestions, questions, and concerns." I thank all of you who have contacted me.

This month, I have a special request. Danby is embarking on some serious land use issues—and laws—that will have lasting effects on the Town and its residents.

Our Boards have frequently talked about and taken action on issues related to our Comprehensive Plan and the current Zoning Law (for example, our Storm Water Regulations and our Road Construction laws). These issues have been brought before the public through information forums and public hearings.

As you know, the Town has been working toward mitigating and controlling the effects of gas drilling operations, beginning over two years ago with our implementation of Road Laws. We are now considering a ban on certain types of industrial activity, including gas drilling.

The cost of writing these laws is a concern, but the expense of litigation to defend a ban is a bigger concern. The entire budget of the Town is a drop in the bucket compared to what a gas drilling company can easily afford to dedicate toward legal and court costs.

Many residents believe that gas drilling has a very real potential to dramatically change our quality of life, however you want to define it. The Town Board feels the pressure applied by residents on both sides of the issue. Our Comprehensive Plan, which has been crafted, revised, and reaffirmed during the last fifty years, reflects our residents' strong desire to preserve the rural character of the Town. This goal may be threatened by the recent turn of events.

—continued on page 5

August 2011
Layout: Ted Crane

To contribute:
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Text submissions:
Send text in the body of an
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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

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 Pub-
lic Access Internet Facility in Town
Hall. A wireless hotspot is already
operating—indoors and in the park-
ing lot. If you'd like to use it, register
at the Town Clerk's office to get the
password.

Within a few weeks, desktop comput-
ers 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

"...We're Gonna Get Married..."

One of the happier aspects of my job is the issuance of marriage licenses, and the pool of people who can be married has just expanded.

On June 24, Governor Cuomo signed into law amendments to the NYS Domestic Relations law. They state that, "[a] marriage that is otherwise valid shall be valid regardless of whether the parties to the marriage are of the same or different sex." The law further states

that, "No application for a marriage license shall be denied on the ground that the parties are of the same, or of a different, sex."

There is no ambiguity regarding a Town Clerk's duties in the issuance of marriage licenses: the law states that a clerk must issue a license to applicants who meet the legal requirements set forth in the Domestic Relations Law. In addition, the State Comptroller's Office has

advised that a clerk must issue a certificate of marriage to a couple who have been issued a marriage license (by that clerk), once that license has been endorsed and executed by the person who solemnized that marriage.

Similarly, any government official who performs marriage ceremonies must do so to comply with this law.

July 25 was the first day for same sex couples to apply for a marriage license. In advance of that date, the NYS Department of Health updated the related forms and shipped them to Town Clerks. Special training was offered to help clear up any questions. For the most part, the process is no different than it was in the past.

A couple who intends to be married in New York State must apply—in person—for a marriage license and sign the license in the presence of the Clerk or the Clerk's Deputy. At least two forms of identification must be provided: a photo ID and a birth certificate. Once issued, a marriage license is valid for 60 days, beginning the day after it is issued. Although the marriage license is issued immediately, there is a 24-hour waiting period before the ceremony may take place. The waiting pe-

riod is waived when a couple was previously married in a another state and simply want to renew their vows and receive a New York State marriage certificate.

The paperwork has changed a bit, primarily to comply with the directive that all language should be gender neutral. The headings above the two boxes where personal information is provided now *both* say, "Bride/Groom/Spouse," and the person filling out the form may circle one of those titles. The personal information boxes allow participants to record gender, but this is optional information. Clerks may not ask for proof of gender. A marriage license may have any combination of grooms, brides, and spouses.

Any couple intending to wed in the State of New York may obtain a marriage license at the Danby Town Hall during our regular hours. I look forward to doing my small part, helping couples become formally and legally wedded. I particularly celebrate couples who may have waited decades for this moment.

Summer Intern...

If you visit the Danby Town Hall on Wednesdays, say hello to Raven, our summer intern. Raven is learning about activities in the Clerk's office but she is no stranger to Town Hall, having been involved with Danby's youth programming for several years. A quiet, yet dedicated worker, she has already helped with mailing dog license renewals and preparation for Danby Fun Day. She is currently weeding out duplicate material from our files. Raven will be with us through mid-August.

As a reminder, Summer hours for the Danby Town Clerk's office are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10am-5pm. The office is closed Saturday mornings (in addition to Sundays and Thursdays) into August. And yes, the chocolate kiss bowl remains full.

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

JENNINGS POND SCHEDULE

Submitted by Amy Cusimano

Open for the season! Sunday–Thursday, 1-6 pm; Friday and Saturday, 1-8pm; weather permitting and subject to life guard availability.

Additional lifeguards are needed!



Photo by Ted Crane

THANKS FOR FUN DAY 2011!

Submitted by Christel Trutman

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Danby Volunteer Fire Company and share Fun Day with us. Thanks to the vendors, paraders and musicians who entertained us with their passions and creativity. Thanks to the weather for being so gorgeous.

And, heartfelt thanks to all the folks who helped to plan, prepare, serve up and break down Danby's Fun Day 2011—your help made Fun Day possible, and your good company made it a pleasure.

Mary Ann Barr • Tony, Paula, and Branden Carlisle • Bob "The Letterman" Chase • Leslie Connors • Mason Cusimano • Ted Crane • Danby Youth Group (Julie Kulik) • Danby Balloon Group (Yeshe Dorfled, Sophia Patt, Mary Lauppe) • Bill Farrell • Bev and Bernie Fitzpatrick • Dick Hautala • Andrea Hazard • Linda Howe • Gay, Garry, Maddie, and Jeff Huddle • Ted Jones • Heidi and Aaron McNeil • Sara Michaels • Laura Morgan • The Nitchman Family • Jean and John Rowley • Mike Rutzke • Sheridan Sager • Tom Seaney • Linda and Connie Sczepanski • Matt Ulinski • Dustin Wegner • Sue and Brett Willcox • Jonathan Zisk
(If your name should be on this list but isn't, we thank you too and apologize for the oversight.)

AUCTION THANK-YOU

Submitted by Sharon Gaden

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank the many individuals and businesses who contributed goods, services, and support and made the Chinese Auction a success during Danby Fun Day 2011 held July 9. We continue to be amazed at your generous donations.

Thank you to: ABC Oriental Rug Carpet Cleaning • August Moon Spa at La Tourelle Resort • Autozone • Bangs Ambulance • Castaways • Cat's Pajamas • Cayuga Lakes Cruises • The Corning Museum of Glass • Cost Cutters • Danby Community Quilters • Dandy Mini Mart • Eastern Mountain Sports • Finishline Auto • Flax Designs • Glenwood Pines • Grants Plants • Grass Roots Festival • Helen Emery • Highland Farms Boarding Kennel & Store • A J Hollenbeck & Son • Inc. • Hollybrook Country Club • Ithaca Suffer Jets • Ithaca Flower Shop • Jerome Fire Equipment Co • Inc. • John Thomas Steakhouse • La Tourelle Resort • Mane Event • Manos Diner • Maxie's Supper Club • Max's Classic American Grill • Museum of the Earth • Raymond-

A big thanks to the Oasis Dance Club for hosting a fundraising Sock Hop, Saturday evening after Fun Day.

Additional thanks to the members of the Danby Volunteer Fire Company for being fundraisers and general laborers as well as emergency responders, and to the Danby Fire District Commissioners for grilling up some fine barbecue.

Finally, two ladies deserve special recognition for orchestrating Fun Day. Sue Beeners (Code Enforcement Officer by day, intrepid Fun Day commander-in-chief by night...and morning, and afternoon) did more coordinating and organizing than we'll ever even know about, all with a wonderful sense of humor. Sharon "*I'm-Only-Doing-The-Chinese-Auction-This-Year*" Gaden dauntlessly procured the many generous Chinese Auction prizes, in addition to filling many other Fun Day and fire company roles. Hats off to them for another successful Danby Fun Day! ❀

ICE CREAM THANK-YOU

Submitted by Marrell Cortright

A thank you from the West Danby Fire Department to everyone who bought ice cream from us. We appreciate everyone's continued support. We sold out before 2pm! ❀

CAKE WHEEL THANK-YOU

Submitted by Gay Huddle

I would like to thank all those who made treats for the Cake Wheel. Everyone had fun and \$125 was raised for the Danby Fire and Rescue Department.

Special thanks to Garry, Jeff, and Maddi Huddle for helping at the booth and keeping things running so smoothly.

I'm happy to say that the cake wheel is a popular stop each year at Fun Day and, as long as bakers will keep baking and kids/adults will keep placing their quarters on the numbers and taking a chance on a spin, the cake wheel will continue! ❀

Hadley Corp. • Route 96 Power and Paddle • Ringwood Raceway • Sciencenter • Shafer's Tour & Charter • Sherwin-Williams • Statue Cruises • The Rose • Tops Friendly Market • Willcox Tire & Service • Eddydale Farm Stand • Beatrice Hogben • Autosalvage of Ithaca • Lee Newhart Insurance. ❀

Supervisor's Update, cont'd from front page—

The question of an actual ban has been carefully considered by the Town for a long time. It has not been a question of whether a ban was necessary to protect the health and welfare of the Town's residents, but of whether a ban would be legal and effective.

After careful consideration, and with input from several Attorneys, the Town has concluded that a ban on gas drilling could be effective, and is currently drafting legislation.

The mandated procedure to pass a local law requires several months, and a vote could occur as early as September. This vote will be well in advance of the earliest date when the NYS DEC could issue permits for gas drilling.

You may be aware that a petition is being circulated in support of a ban on gas drilling. Since the Town Board is already considering a ban, the petition can be seen as part of an effort to educate and alert residents: now is the time for discussion and for staying informed. We urge you to attend public hearings, or just to read the the minutes of hearings and meetings.

So, if someone comes to your door with a petition, give it serious thought; the Board will take the input of residents into consideration when the issue must be decided. If the wording of the petition is not an exact match for your opinion, ask the carrier to record your thoughts.

Information about how to assist the petition organizers by carrying it to as many of our residents as possible is presented in a separate article in the Danby News.

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



Ben Hogben with his FarmAll, and Connor Baker with the modern "Your odd job is my job" in the Fun Day Parade. Photo: Ted Crane

**DANBY FIRE DISTRICT
ENERGY SAVING PROJECT**

Submitted by Patrick Caveney, Commissioner

An energy audit was conducted by Dana Ayers, a representative of the NYSEG/RG&E Small Business Energy Service Program, and both Danby and West Danby Fire Stations. This was initiated thru the Six Town Energy Coordinator, Ken Thompson of Town of Dryden.

The survey indicated that a significant energy savings could be achieved at Danby Station by updating lighting in the old truck bay. A district investment of \$398.85 will result in a significant savings with an estimated 3-year payback. NYSEG will contribute \$930.55 of the \$1329.40 total project cost by EnerPath.

Additional benefits will be improved lighting and lower lamp replacement costs, along with continued future availability of replacement lamps.

The Board of Fire Commissioners voted to implement this project at the July 12, 2011 meeting. ❁



TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK • SUMMER HOURS

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
Mo-Tu-We-Fr, 10am-5pm; Sat and Thu, closed.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169
Mon-Fri, 6am-2:30pm

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

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TOWN COURT:

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Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF DANBY

Submitted by Gay Garrison

The "citizen's petition" to ban heavy industry/fracking for natural gas in Danby has met with enthusiastic support. About 95% of those approached so far have signed on, in excess of 300 signatures.

We have been going door to door, road by road. It is a daunting task to reach all the members of the Danby community and we are asking for your help as we work to demonstrate support for this extremely important legislation.

The roads that have not yet been fully covered by volunteers include:

East of NYS Rt.96B: Amy Lane, Coddington, German Cross, Banks, and Deputron Hollow Danby Road (96B).

West of NYS Rt.96B: Danby Road (96B), Yapple, West Miller, Gunderman, Bruce Hill, Comfort, Lieb, Bald Hill, Michigan Hollow, Smiley Hill, Hill, Curtis, Fisher Settlement, Larue, Brock Hill, Howland, Travor, and Van De Bogart.

West Danby Hamlet: Spencer Road (34/96), Brown, Emery, Tupper, Van Buskirk Gulf, Beech Hill, Dawes Hill, Short, Station, Valley View, Maple Avenue, Sylvan Lane, Walding Lane, and Hillview.

Our group is named "Concerned Citizens of Danby" and we will be having meetings soon to coordinate routes, train volunteers, and answer questions. We thank you for any help you can give.

If you can help out, please contact Gay Garrison, [gaysemail@yahoo.com], or Anne Klingensmith, [aek@twcny.rr.com] or 607.256.9308. ❧

POTLUCK AND BARN DANCE

Submitted by Ted Crane

Ever been to a barn dance? Now's your chance, you're invited! A few Danby-ites have been attending the weekly Contra dances at Bethel Grove, in the Town of Dryden and they've been spreading the word that Danby is ready for some fun. And, yes, it's free!

On the evening of August 5, we're moving the dance up to *Slow Lane*, in the barn at the corner of Comfort and Lieb Roads, just uphill from Jennings Pond. Plenty of parking.

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE UPDATE

Submitted by Jennifer Tiffany and Candace Collmer

The public is welcome to attend and to participate in the meetings of the Danby Gas Drilling Task Force. Its next meeting is on Wednesday, August 10, 7pm, in the Danby Town Hall.

More comments to be prepared for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

The possibility of shale gas extraction in New York State is back on the front burner. The NYS DEC has released a proposed revised draft of the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on the Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program. An additional section of the draft--discussing social and economic impacts--is scheduled to be released at the end of July. A 60-day comment period is expected to begin on August 1 and end on September 30.

The recently released document is over 1,000 pages long. Links to it, and other documents can be found on the Town's web site:

[town.danby.ny.us/GasDrill]

The web site also contains links to our comments to the previous, 2009 version of this document and other useful information.

We urge readers to learn more about this and related local initiatives and to use the opportunities available to make their opinions known.

The GDTF is working on written comments/responses to the SGEIS. We will assess whether, and how effectively, the new draft addresses our concerns. Anyone interested in helping with the review and comment, please contact us or come to the August 10 meeting.

Anyone who wants more information, please contact Jennifer Tiffany, [jst5@cornell.edu], Kathy Halton, [khalton@twcny.rr.com] or 607.273.0533, or Candace Collmer, 607.257.5737. ❧

Arrive early, and bring a dish-to-pass for the potluck supper at 6pm. Might as well bring a chair and a battery lantern, too! About 7pm, there's an open band (bring your instrument!) playing waltzes, and we've arranged for some more really great musicians to begin playing for the Barn Dance at 8pm.

All the dances will be taught (if you can walk, and if you can usually tell your left from your right, you've got the necessary skills!) and you don't need to come with a partner. You'll go home with a smile on your face. ❧

PUBLIC HEARINGS TO ADDRESS GAS DRILLING LEGISLATION

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

In the Hollywood version of legislative activity, the process of passing laws sometimes appears simple: a handsome politician stands up to propose action, the bad guys scowl, the *yeas* and *nays* are counted, and the newspapers publish the result. Nothing could be further from reality; when the Town of Danby enacts a law, it must follow strict rules of procedure mandated by the State of New York.

Once the legislation is formulated (in itself, a detailed and time-consuming process), neighboring Towns and bodies must be notified and given time to comment, official notices must be published, the public must be allowed an opportunity—a public hearing—to present written or verbal comments, the environmental significance of the legislation must be determined (this requires comments and a public hearing of its own) and voted upon, and then, finally, “the vote” can be counted.

The Town Board is currently considering two legislative items: an Amendment to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, and an Amendment to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance.

As of this writing, the Town has scheduled Public Hearings for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment at 6:30pm and 6:45pm on Monday, September 12, 2011 (first, the environmental review hearing and then, the hearing on the Amendment itself) in the Danby Town Hall. It is anticipated that additional Public Hearings

will be scheduled for the Zoning Ordinance Amendment at 7:30pm and 7:45pm on the same date.

The Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Danby’s Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2003 and hasn’t been updated since then. The document guides the governance of the Town: it provides motivation and justification for the laws that the Town wants to adopt, but does not actually create any laws or rules.

The proposed Amendment supports efforts to preserve and protect the health and welfare of the Town and its citizens by providing for orderly and controlled growth. It introduces clear definitions of “industrial” activities, and explains why prohibiting and regulating high impact industrial and commercial uses and operations (including, but not limited to high volume hydraulic fracturing) will preserve and protect the rural, small town character of the Town and promote the public health and welfare.

Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance

This Amendment updates the existing Zoning Ordinance by clarifying the allowed uses of land in the Town and by distinguishing between “light” uses and “heavy impact” commercial and industrial operations. It defines terms describing industrial uses, such as “High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing” and prohibits natural gas and oil exploration and production, along with related activities, within the Town.

For more information please contact me at 607.277.4788 or [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us]. Written comments may be submitted by Email, mailed to 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, or faxed to 607.277.0559. ♣

MAPPING POTENTIAL DRILLING ACTIVITY IN DANBY

Darby Kiley, a Tompkins County Planner, and Art Pearce, a member of the Tompkins County Council of Governments Task Force on Gas Drilling, are going from Town to Town to discuss efforts to map the potential “buildout” of gas wells in Tompkins County.

They will bring *Looking Down from Above: Mapping Potential Drilling Activity in Tompkins County* to the Danby Town Hall at 7pm on Tuesday, August 23, hosted by the Danby Gas Drilling Task Force.

The TCCOG mapping presentation helps policy makers and citizens see where well pads might go in Tompkins County—and the Town of Danby—as permitted

by current regulations. It illustrates the possible well placement in relation to houses, streams, steep slopes, and schools. It also provides information about how access roads and pipelines could affect the landscape.

The Tompkins County Council of Government’s Mapping Working Group developed this set of photos and maps to help residents visualize how drilling might change the landscape of this county. It includes data from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation’s draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement and information about the rate of drilling development in Pennsylvania. The group hopes to provide a quick tour of areas where drilling is already active and to illustrate potential local impacts of shale gas extraction. ♣

DANBY PHANTOMS FREAK ON FRACKING

Submitted by Jim Reagan

Oh no! The tattered shade on the second floor window is up, and Margot, that chatty ghost, is beckoning for me to come closer for a visit. Its odd how the ghostly set, exactly like the living, rambles on without really listening to what I have to say. One would hope that they might have learned to enjoy listening as much as talking, being ethereal and all that. No such luck.

I don't like to stop during my run for health, but one does not like to be rude and disappoint apparitions. Especially those with very little to do and few stimulations. Still, I wish that they could be aware that we, the living, have certain health concerns and time constraints.

Margot, that's what I call her, wants to talk about fracking! She's hard pressed to conceal her surprise and disappointment when I explain that I do not really know all that much about the subject. Margot has lots of time to contemplate the issues of overpopulation, the wasting

of natural resources, and the possible economic, social, and political upheaval should potable water become a scarce commodity.

According to my talkative wraith, the other ectoplasmic types in Danby—most of whom still have family in the area—are equally upset with the prospect of destroying what we take for granted; clean, free, life-giving water. Meetings have been called, usually at the cemetery off of Bald Hill Road, and several spirits have volunteered to mentor the living while this emergency lasts.

Mocking me just a little, Margot wonders how much use my exercise regimen is going to be if I can't get a glass of clean water once I get home all hot and sweaty. I've promised to look into it and not just to shut her up either. Maybe these ghosts are on to something. Once we dirty our water, there's no going back.

Margot is a little boring and presumptuous, but she's just looking out for us. You can't hate her for that. ❀

ITHACA HIGH '66 REUNION

Submitted by Gay Huddle

The Ithaca High School Class of 1966 celebrated its 45th Reunion in July. We would like to give special thanks to Oasis Dance Club's Pam and Doug, for hosting us and putting on the perfect party for us to enjoy! We gathered in the courtyard, under the tent, with plenty of tables and chairs and table umbrellas to keep us out of the early evening sun.

The food was wonderful, there were candles on every table, flowers in glass vases, and music provided inside by the popular band, *Radio London*. During the evening, our own classmate, Clint Swank—a very fine musician in his own right—jammed with the band and he rocked! If you are ever looking for a place to hold a special occasion, Oasis, right here in our own neighborhood, is the place to go.

My feeling is that those we spend our "teen years" with, leave an impression on us and often influence who we become or not become. No matter where our paths lead us after graduation, we are somehow always bound to those who shared with us those, "Best of times and worst of times," in High School. I never miss my class reunions because for a few fleeting hours I really am 16 again, and that's just fine with me. ❀

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Danby Seniors have no regular meeting in August. We thank Ted and Connie Merritt very much for hosting our July BBQ at their place. The weather was wonderful, the chicken delicious, and great fellowship. Ted called some Bingo games.

We will be going by bus to the State Fair on its *Senior Day* (no entry charge), Tuesday August 30, leaving Danby at 10am and leaving the Fair to come back at 6pm. There's a good oldies group at the Chevy Court that day! Call Ted & Connie, 607.272.3009 to sign up. No charge for Seniors (non-members, \$10).

On September 28, we're going to the *Marvelous Wonderettes* at the MerryGoRound Theater, with dinner afterward at the Springside Inn. Call Ted & Connie to sign up.

Our next regular meeting will be on Thursday, September 1. Be at the Danby Church at 6pm for our dish-to-pass dinner! All seniors, 55 and over are welcome to attend. ❀

ANNUAL WEST DANBY PICNIC

Submitted by Peter Fraissinet

When: Saturday August 27, 2011, Noon

Where: The Hatch Pavilion, at the corner of Short and Brown Roads, in West Danby

One of our favorite events is the old-fashioned West Danby Picnic at the foot of Bald Hill, and we hope for a fine day. Mark your calendar. All are welcome, so those of you up in Danby's higher elevations, do come on down!

This will be a dish-to-pass luncheon under the pavilion at the old ballfield on the corner of Brown and Short Roads (this wonderful site provided courtesy of the Hatch family).

Rain or shine, with live acoustic mountain music provided by *Rosie's Small Engine Repair* (Steve Selin, Rosie Newton, Emily Thompson). Finer fiddling would be hard to come by, and we thank the Danby Community Council and New York State Council on the Arts for their support.

It's bring-your-own-everything, including table service and a chair if you can; water and lemonade will be provided.

A special aspect to this year's picnic is that the community is wishing a fond farewell to long-time West Danby residents Ray and Shirley Howland. Please come and let's give them a proper sendoff!

For more info or offers to help out, please contact me at [p13@cornell.edu] or 607.564.0030. ❁



DOTSON PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

We've opened new trails in the park, and we invite everyone to come try them out! The longest trail starts (or ends) at the pavilion and crosses open field before entering the woods. After passing through coniferous and deciduous stands of trees, it leads to the disc golf course and field near the big hill at the end of Daisy Lane. A loop can be made by following the road back to where you started.

There are two shorter loop trails, too. If you prefer not to go through the woods, one trail goes through the field starting at the pavilion, and the other is a woods loop at the opposite end of the park. Trail maps will be available in the mailbox next to the parking area at the end of Daisy Lane, with trail distances marked.

Thanks are in order: to Alice Napierski for leading the crew on finishing the pavilion. And thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth at Fun Day to chat, volunteer, or throw some discs. We had a lot of fun seeing everyone!

Questions? [dotsonpark@gmail.com]. ❁

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marvin Eastman

In August, we will be renting spaces for anyone who wants to sell their items at a yard sale, but doesn't have a place to set up. Our Yard Sale date is August 6, 9am-4pm.

On August 20, the Post is hosting a benefit, 2pm-until, to help Charlie Hart, who is in need of a double lung transplant. Charlie, a Vietnam Veteran, has lived in Ithaca most of his life. The fundraising campaign is organized by the National Transplant Assistance Fund, [ntafund.org]. Stop by the Legion, 1231 Danby Road, for more details, or call Barbara Goodwin, 607.272.3909.

We kick off our dinner season on September 10 with a Roast Chicken Dinner including mashed potatoes, a veggie, and salad, all for \$10. Of course, we will have coffee, tea, and bread with the meal.

Hope you had a chance to stop by the Block Party and enjoyed the good time had by all. ❁

LIFE IN DANBY

This month's observations from Danbyites

Submitted by Julie Kulik

Ahh, July summer evenings. Last night I saw baby fawns, the new young crows and many baby rabbits in my neighborhood. It never fails to lift my spirits!

We have had a handful of Danby Naturalists at the Danby Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) evenings in July, where we learned that Bill Evans has photographed 700 different species of moths at his Bald Hill property. Then, with the help of Leslie Connors' skull collection, we discovered the differences and similarities of Danby's diverse animal population.

Watch your Danby Area News for future DCAC evening gatherings, they are great fun. Bring the whole family!

Reported findings this month. Didn't hear from many this month - please be in touch, and see you in the woods!

Mammals: Coyote, Black bear (roughly 300 pounds), Bobcat walking across a road, Grey Fox, and Woodchuck.

Birds: Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl in a barn.

Amphibians/Reptiles: Water Snakes, many Snapping Turtles, Milk Snake.

Insects: Crab Spider, Polyphemus moth (and many other kinds).

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



The Polyphemus moth is named after the giant cyclops—the child of Poseidon—who captured Odysseus during his journey homeward to Ithaca. Photo: Bill Evans

AT THE DFC...

The best of all food groups—the Ice Cream Sundae—is featured during the DFC's *Sundaes on Wednesday* series. Every Wednesday, During August, 6:30-8:30pm, join them for free ice cream sundaes (6:30pm) and wonderful music entertainment (7-8:30pm). ❀

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Where, oh where, have our DVDs gone? Some are missing, some are way overdue, and some have been taken without being signed out? Please look through your DVD collection and return Danby DVDs; they are marked with a bright orange label on the spine.

We would like to keep our DVD collection on the shelves, but these are a very popular item and we may have to resort to having them available only when a library volunteer is there. So, please sign them out and return them as soon as possible. If a volunteer isn't there, you can put them in the "Schoolhouse", the book return, whenever the Town Hall is open. Please, never, ever take an item without using our checkout system. Thank you!

Our beach-read paperbacks are on display along with Civil War books and the Harry Potter series.

Did you know that babies can hear your voice even in utero? It is important to read to children in order for them to hear language and become readers. We have a new book about the importance of reading to babies and a new board book, *Duck and Goose*, thanks to a generous donation through the Family Reading Partnership.

Hope you are having a great summer! ❀

MOONLIGHT ON JENNINGS POND

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

Come join other Danby residents on Saturday, September 10 for a moonlight kayaking adventure on Jennings Pond, sponsored by the Conservation Advisory Council.

Puddledockers will be supplying the kayaks and all equipment and a lesson. We will meet at the pond at 5pm, have a lesson and then kayak the pond under a nearly full moon until 8pm or 8:30pm.

Reservations for kayaks should be made directly with Puddledockers at 607.273.0096. Prices are as follows: standard kayak: \$20, tandem kayak: \$25 (plus tax). The number of kayaks is limited (by the trailer's capacity) to a total of ten kayaks and/or tandems. Rentals will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. However, the event is open and free to all Danby residents (and friends) with a kayak or a canoe.

We have permission from the park to have a small bonfire. If anyone would like to be responsible for providing this, please let me know at 607.589.4031 or [rondaroaring@hotmail.com]. ❀

**Community
Council
Youth
Programs
Summer
2011**

**Danby
Youth
Flyer**

Outdoor Explorers!

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, August 1-3, (FULL).

We will create a primitive village, explore the animals, amphibians, birds and plants of Danby, go Geocaching, and go on the Floating Classroom on Cayuga Lake!

Danby Dinner - Theater!

Tuesday-Thursday, August 9-11, 9:30am-12:30pm
Pot Luck and Performance on August 11, 5:30-7:30pm.
Location: Jennings Pond

We will play theater games, and practice improv skills to get to know each other, pick a story/play to perform, create costumes and a stage from natural materials, and cool off by swimming at Jennings Pond. On Thursday night, we will meet at the pond with our families for a pot luck dinner, and a performance!

Youth Farm Week

Tuesday-Thursday, August 23-25, Family Pot luck on August 25, (FULL).

Activities include helping maintain the UPick fields, with other Youth Farm Members from SouthSide and LACS, games, Cooking, exploring land around farm, setting up a primitive village that we would spend time cooking and playing in. ❁

We've been having a great summer, rambling at Jennings Pond, walking in the Fun Day parade and helping with the Kids' Tent games during Danby Fun Day.

There are a few more programs in August. Most are full, but please contact Julie to be put on the waiting list. Stay tuned for Fall programs in the next issue of the Danby Area News and on the web site.

These programs are funded by the Danby Community Council, and are free to Danby residents. Registration is required.

All summer programs are for ages 8 and up. 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]



Photo by Ted Crane

Aug 2011

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Aug 1 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
- Aug 3 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Sundaes on Wednesday**
- Aug 4 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Meeting**
- Aug 5 • Fri
🏠 Slow Lane / Comfort & Lieb • **Barn Dance**
- Aug 6 • Sat
9am-4pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Yard Sale**
10am 🏠 Dotson (Danby) Park • **Trail Clearing Day**
- Aug 8 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
7:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Department Monthly Meeting
- Aug 9 • Tue
7:30pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting
- Aug 10 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Sundaes on Wednesday**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- Aug 15 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Bid Opening for Biomass Boiler**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Adv. Council Mtg**
- Aug 17 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Sundaes on Wednesday**
- Aug 18 • Thu
3-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Park Association Meeting**
- Aug 22 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Info Mtg: Gas Drilling Legislation**
- Aug 23 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Gas Well Buildout Mapping Presentation
7:30pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Danby Fire Commissioners Meeting
- Aug 24 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Sundaes on Wednesday**
- Aug 25 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**

- Aug 27 • Sat
Noon 🏠 Hatch Pavilion / Short & Brown
West Danby Community Association Picnic
- Aug 31 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Sundaes on Wednesday**
- Jul 14, 2012 • 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