



DANBY AREA NEWS

SONG RECITAL w/ PATRICE PASTORE

Submitted by Bob Strichartz for DCC

The Danby Community Council's Concert Series for 2012 begins on Sunday, March 11, 3pm in the Danby Town Hall with a Song Recital featuring soprano Patrice Pastore accompanied by Diane Birr on the piano and Gordon Stout and Colleen Clark on marimbas.

Patrice Pastore is an electrifying performer and a superb musician; she is also a resident of Danby. The program will include the Emily Dickinson Songs of Aaron Copeland, and the Love Songs of John Tower.

Pastore, Birr, and Stout are all on the faculty of the Ithaca College School of Music. Pastore trained at the New England Conservatory of Music, and Birr and Stout at the Eastman School of Music. They perform frequently in the Ithaca area. Stout has twice been featured in Danby concerts.

All concerts in the series are free, and receive grant support from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County.

FUN DAY AND PARADE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Submitted by Sue Beeners

Soon it will be July and time for the Danby Fun Day and Parade, scheduled this year for July 14. I am very pleased that there is a dedicated group of volunteers whose help around the time of the event really makes a difference. But more help is needed, especially during the event planning during spring and early summer.

Below are listed some of the various jobs and activities where help is needed. The list does not include the Danby Volunteer Fire Company's needs related to such items as its Chicken Barbecue or the Chinese Auction. None of it takes a tremendous amount of time if the work

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DANBY-ITES INVITED TO DISCUSS BROADBAND ACCESS

Submitted by Marcia Lynch, TC Legislature

Danby residents are invited to a meeting on Monday, March 5 to discuss the need for high-speed Internet access in Danby. The session, sponsored by the County Legislature's Special Committee on Broadband, begins at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road.

The Broadband Committee, through its Education, Awareness and Marketing Subcommittee, is conducting several sessions throughout the county to inform residents—particularly those in areas lacking adequate broadband coverage—about its work, and to discuss broadband access: why it is needed and the benefits it would provide.

Attendees will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about how they use, or would use, high-speed internet.

This information will both help guide the meeting discussion and enhance the Broadband Committee's work as it moves ahead. At the meeting, there will be ample opportunity for resident to comment and ask questions

In August 2010, the Tompkins County Legislature noted that certain county residents were unable to participate in the rapidly growing number of services available only to those with broadband access, either because they lived in rural areas where broadband was not available, or because they could not afford it. The Broadband Committee was

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March 2012

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Text submissions:

Send text in the body of an Email message (**not** as an attachment); 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 generally 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 publication. 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.

**TWO PUBLIC ACCESS
COMPUTERS IN TOWN HALL**

A second computer *for use by the public* has been installed in Town Hall. You can cruise the web with it and check your web-based Email. It has a DVD drive, so you can use it to view presentations and other DVD media.

If you're new to computers, one-on-one introduction/how-to is available. Contact me at 607.273.8678.

Thanks go to Scott Stratton for the eMac and to Dan Hevett for the iMac. Also to Larry Chace for the wireless network, available both inside and outside Town Hall.

DANBY WEB SITE

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

Meeting agendas, minutes, and relevant documents. Happenings in Danby. Everything in a nutshell. ☘

TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Recently, we got a call at the Town Clerk's office with the question, *Is the Town Board meeting open to the public?* Absolutely! A model policy issued by the NYS Committee on Open Government states, *The people's right to witness and observe the governmental decision-making process in action is basic to our society.* It continues, *Access to public portions of meetings of public bodies must be protected and maintained.* As a Town Clerk and a former journalist, I am in wholehearted agreement.



Often enough, a public body discusses an issue and refers to a document that the public has never seen. Even though the meeting is open to the public, those in attendance may have little understanding of the discussion. The recent legislation was designed to address that concern and should, in the long run, save time, effort, and money for both public bodies and taxpayers.

Two aspects of the Open Meetings Law have recently been strengthened: the right of citizens to record and broadcast public portions of meetings, and the right of the public to have access to documents under discussion, prior to meetings, so they may understand what's happening.

According to Robert Freeman, the Executive Director of the NYS Committee on Open Government, "Newly enacted section 103(e) of the Open Meetings Law is the most significant change in that law in the past 30 years." Freeman advised that, "When a record 'is scheduled to be the subject of discussion by a public body during an open meeting,' the legislation requires the public body, with reasonable limitations, to make the record available to the public prior to the meeting. Optimally, the record will be made available online; if that cannot be done, the record can be made available in paper form in response to a request."

The great majority of records presented at meetings are produced and stored electronically. When documents are posted on a web site, many people (yes, much of Danby has no broadband, that's another story) can review and obtain them online. The records will simply be there for the taking.

Here in Danby we have been moving in this direction for the past two years. All minutes of Town and

Planning Board meetings are posted online. We are working on getting the minutes of other Town committees online as well. Dates, times, and agendas for open meetings are posted on the Town web site, and we have attempted to have draft laws posted prior to public hearings.

This new section of the Open Meetings Law has simply increased our motivation to make additional documents (resolutions, reports, etc.) available ahead of meetings.

Documents are now available several ways. Along with the usual Agenda content, the online Agenda documents will contain links to other online documents. In other words, when looking at the Agenda, you can click on key words and open other online documents.

Have a look at the Agenda for February 20. [town.danby.ny.us], then click on "Town Board", scroll to the list of Agenda, and click on "February, 2012."

Because the information is available to both public and officials, it satisfies both the letter and the spirit of the "online" requirements of the new law. As to the "paper copy" part of the law, anyone can print a copy for themselves...or can ask the Clerk for a printed copy.

Danby's Town Hall meeting room has wireless access, so the public can follow the "paperwork" part of the proceedings online, either via a personal laptop or by using one of the public access computers in the meeting room. This will reduce the cost and overhead of providing paper copies.

The law approved by Governor Cuomo in January is designed to reflect reality; it does not require public bodies to do the impossible. There may still be last-minute items that cannot be prepared in advance, so these will be available at the meeting and afterwards.

With only a modest effort, we are making Danby a showplace example for public access. We want you to be informed and involved.

Yes, we are still collecting taxes but, after the end of March, all payments of Town and County tax will be collected at the Tompkins County Finance Office on Court Street in Ithaca.

The Danby Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 10am-Noon on Saturdays. And yes, it's still possible to dip into the bowl of chocolate kisses. In the April, "Town Clerk's Desk" column will have news on our records management program. Questions? Call 607.277.4788 or send Email to [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us]. ✨

How You Can Make Danby Safer

Submitted by Christel Trutmann

Since January, these articles have aimed to give you a glimpse into the world of emergency services in Danby. Danby and West Danby are two all-volunteer fire companies under the authority of the Danby Fire District. Volunteers respond at all hours of the day to medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, fires, and a host of other safety hazards. Our top priority is ensuring the safety of our members and Danby citizens, followed by stabilizing the emergency and conserving property.

Aside from volunteering with us, here are some ways you can make Danby—and your home—safer.

Take CPR and First Aid training. Emergency response in a rural place like Danby may take fifteen minutes or more, so how you treat a medical emergency while you wait could save someone's life.

Have smoke detectors in your house, at least on each floor, and especially in and near bedrooms. Change the batteries at the same time you change your clocks each year. Have at least one carbon monoxide detector in your house. Have at least one ABC fire extinguisher in your house. Use an online tutorial or visit the closest firehouse on a Monday night to make sure you know how to use a fire extinguisher. All of these items can be purchased at home supply stores like Agway and Home Depot.

Make a fire escape plan with the other people in your household and—especially if you have children—practice it. Make sure everyone knows two ways out of the house from their bedroom and decide on a meeting place away from the house—like your mailbox or your neighbor's front porch—where you can make sure everyone is accounted for. Never reenter a house that's on fire, even if the fire is still contained to a single room. While the heat may seem tolerable, it's the smoke and invisible toxic gases that kill people in fires far more often than burns.

Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road, even in the dark, so that there's no delay finding your house in an emergency. Reflective address signs are available through both Danby fire companies.

Questions or comments to [ctrutmann@gmail.com] or 607.342.1062. ❀

Did You Know?

Submitted by Marrell Cortright

Did you know that every West Danby department breakfast is an all you can eat breakfast? Did you know that we serve homefries, pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs made to order, juice and coffee?

Did you know that you can eat breakfast and visit with your neighbors and family? Yes, we encourage everyone to sit and stay awhile.

Did you know that it's all you can eat for \$6? Did you know that if you are a senior citizen (65 and up), it's all you can eat for \$5? Did you know that younger folks, ages 5-12 are discounted to \$4, and that the even younger ones can eat for free?

Did you know that the firefighters do all the cooking? Did you know that the firefighters cut up and make their own homefries?

Come out and support your local fire department on March 17, St. Patty's Day, from 8-11am and let us make you a great breakfast. West Danby Fire and Rescue, Sylvan Lane, off NYS Rt.34/96 in West Danby.

Hope to see you there, don't forget to enter in our door prize drawing, just \$1! All proceeds benefit the West Danby Fire and Rescue Dept. Craft Show Preview!

Saturday, April 21 is the West Danby Fire and Rescue's Annual Spring Chicken BBQ and Craft Show. Mark your calendars! Great chicken dinner and wonderful handmade crafts. 10-2pm with the chicken ready around noon.

Interested in a table at the craft show? Contact Marrell Cortright 564-0020 or [marrell11@aol.com]. ❀



Sarah Wyatt serving Betsy Appleton during a January Pancake Breakfast. Up on the hill, the next breakfast is on March 25 in the DVFC station on NYS Rt.96B.

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, March 1, Noon, at the Danby Church. All seniors 55 and over are welcome to attend our dish to share luncheon.

Thank you to Bill & Judy Cuyle for hosting our February meeting! ❀

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

Half a dozen local contractors and home energy improvement specialists gave a splendid presentation during, *Tighten Up Danby*, on February 9. The presentation, sponsored, among others, by the newly formed Danby Energy Group and the Gas Drilling Task Force, walked us through the process of homeowners asking themselves what they can do to reduce their energy consumption. It covered everything from blower doors, to thermal imaging, to financing the costs of the project. The questions and answer periods after each contractor spoke added useful information to the mix.

The part about how thermal imaging works to show you—visually—where you are losing energy was impressive. The Town Hall signed itself up for an energy audit! To be able to see where Town Hall is leaking, and to specifically address the worst-offending problems, will have an immediate payback. You (and Town Hall!) will end up with a tighter home, before and after pictures to prove it, and the desired result of a reduced energy bill every month. It's exciting.

The innovative financing options are a part of this amazing program. It could be free, or subsidized loans could be arranged...and then paid off through your energy bill...with the cost of saved energy balancing the loan payment, so your bill doesn't go up! Every home should explore the program; contact the Town Clerk for more information.

This was the first of many proposed workshops. Stay tuned for the next one.

So, what's this talk about a, "Mutual Defense Fund?" There are other Towns, beside Danby, that already have or are working on laws to ban industrial activity. A challenge to one Town is a challenge to all of them, since any one court decision may affect subsequent cases. Danby has been meeting with representatives of other Towns to find common ground for a mutual defense fund; a report will be presented to the Council of Governments at its next meeting.

Raising funds for this purpose is also important. We hope that all the Danby residents who supported our action will give generously, and will find ways to further support this vital task. Fundraisers, anyone?

What is at stake here, is our legal right to decide for ourselves what is best for us. The idea that a corporation has more rights than a municipality, that a corpo-

ration may make decisions that affect a Town's ability to govern, to control the use of its land, and to protect the health and welfare of its citizens...isn't logical. Home Rule is at the core of this fight. Millions of dollars are being spent—and untold hours of lobbyist's time are engaged—in an attempt to sidestep this issue by diverting the question away from its core.

We would like you to join the cause and we will be needing your help.

As always, if there is an issue the Town should address, please contact me, [supervisor@town.danby.ny.us]. ☘

ROAMIN' DOG UPDATE

Submitted by Sabine Lessmeister

My cairn terrier, Paulie, and I love walking the streets of our Danby neighborhood every day, yet we are always fearful of encountering big dogs on the loose. We don't know what they might do to us.

Neither my Paulie nor I want anybody to get hurt. Please be kind and keep your dogs leashed, even when they are on "unsupervised play" in your yard. After all, that's the law in Danby.

Jacquelyn Perry, another resident of northwestern Danby, echoes the the importance of keeping dogs on their leashes and on their own property. There have been some issues lately, on West King Road. Like Sabine, she is just trying to keep everyone concerned safe. ☘

[Editor's note: Years ago, while walking on Snyder Hill Road, I was rushed by a large, noisy, and unrestrained dog. It dashed across its yard toward me...and directly into the path of a moving car. If you love your dogs, don't let that happen to them.]

Town Hours

Town Clerk

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm; Sat, 10am-1pm.

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.

GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE UPDATE

Submitted by Jennifer Tiffany

Priorities for 2012

At its January 18 meeting, the GDTF worked to outline priorities for our work during the coming year. We identified four major areas where we have been active and where there is more work to be done: Education, Advocacy, Town of Danby Laws, and Town of Danby Planning/Visioning. The results of a weighted voting exercise made a clear statement that the twin missions of the task force are education (58 votes) and advocacy (50 votes), with working on town specific laws getting 30 votes and more general support to town planning and visioning weighing in somewhere in the teens. (We recognized that all four areas of action are clearly important and aligned with the work of the task force... all good things, but we needed to have a clear sense of where to focus the most energy in the months that come.) The first educational event of the year, co-sponsored with the Danby Energy Group and the Danby Land Bank, focused on energy conservation. We expect to hold four to six forums during 2012—Let us know the issues, topics and speakers that interest you! Advocacy work includes mobilizing around state and federal policies and laws that impact Danby and gas extraction activities—and will very likely include a number of “Comment with your Community” events. Danby Town Laws under development include the Aquifer Protection Ordinance. GDTF members will continue to work (as individuals and collectively) to provide support to efforts to update and strengthen Danby’s comprehensive plan and to boost town efforts around sustainability, energy conservation, and climate change.

Information by Email

There are three Danby-based email lists that provide information that may be of interest. The GDTF list provides information on our meetings and minute and more (but we try to keep the traffic light and do not send attachments). To have your Email address added to the GDTF list, contact Ted Crane, [danby_gdtf@mail.tedcrane.com]. DanbyAction and its list are described below. GasBubbles focuses on economic and policy issues—contact me, [jst5@cornell.edu] and I’ll get your address to Ed.

Danby Action

Steve Selin, Anne Klingensmith, Eric Banford & Gay Garrison

As we await further developments from the DEC and the NY legislature, we’d like to invite you to join with us in keeping up to date on further actions we can take

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marvin Eastman and Beth DeCaro

Not much to write about at this time. The dinners and BBQ’s have been well attended and we thank all of our supporters for the patience and understanding. As a volunteer organization we try to get orders out as fast as possible, but delays do occur. Again thank you.

During March we will be having our normal dinners plus a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and we will be host to a benefit dinner for Cystic Fibrosis.

We start off with our Steak Dinner on March 3, 5:30-7pm with our usual menu: steak to order, choice of baked potato, french fries, or onion rings, salad bar, dessert, dinner roll, coffee or tea. It’s still only \$10.

On the 11th, the SAL will be doing its mouth-watering Chicken BBQ from Noon until sold out. The menu: 1/2 Chicken, choice of salt potatoes, baked beans, or macaroni salad, and dinner roll for \$8. Half chickens are available for just \$5.

March 16 is our Fish Dinner, 5:30-7pm for only \$10: baked or broiled fish, choice of baked potato, onion rings, or french fries, dinner roll, and the salad bar, dessert, coffee or tea.

On St.Patrick’s Day, March 17, we will have a traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner, 5:30-7pm for \$8.

Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser

The ALP will host a fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis on March 24. It includes a spaghetti dinner, 5-7pm. \$9 a plate include a non-alcoholic beverage and, for every adult, a child under 7 can eat for free!

Afterward, 7-11pm, there will be a DJ, two 50/50 raffles, and a Chinese Auction. Tickets for the first raffle are already on sale; \$20 for the chance to win \$1000. Tickets for the other 50/50 will be sold during the evening. If you need more info or would like to donate, contact Beth DeCaro, 607.592.8690. ❄

to protect NYS from fracking. A year ago we came together as “Concerned Citizens of Danby” (CCD), to organize a door to door petition, to show our town board members how many supported a local ban on gas drilling.

We, CCD, have joined a statewide umbrella group—organized by GASLAND’s Josh Fox—called NYSAFE. Its mission is to draw together the hundreds of smaller

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➤ **Broadband Internet, cont'd from front page—**

formed to address issues surrounding broadband access. It advises the Tompkins County Legislature on how to best promote broadband technology countywide, and how to address the needs of unserved and underserved residents.

The committee began its work late in 2010 and submitted its Recommendation Document to the Legislature last month. Copies of the committee's Recommendations will be available at the meeting; they may also be reviewed at the Town Clerk's office or online at [www.tompkins-co.org/].

For more information about the March 5 meeting, contact Supervisor Ric Dietrich, 607.227.2434. ❁

[Editor's note: the Committee Recommendations include a map of unserved areas in Tompkins County. It shows that, geographically, about half of Danby is unserved; anecdotal information indicates that reality is worse than that.]

➤ **Danby Action, cont'd from page 6—**

local groups into a coordinated force to address future activism in NY. It has two basic criteria:

1. A belief that fracking should not be done anywhere in NY.
2. A belief that we should promote a sustainable farming, energy, and economic future in NY.

If you want to be informed about this movement and receive updates from NYSAFE, please join our email list. You can send an Email to [danbyaction@gmail.com] with 'NYSAFE' in the subject line. Thanks for your interest! ❁

LIFE IN DANBY

This month's observations from Danbyites

Submitted by Julie Nichols Kulik

Please email your stories to me, I love to hear them and pass them on to everyone through the Danby Area News. Contact [jnk54@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.x222.

Two very exciting **mammal sightings** to share this month. "Today, after a call from my neighbor, I headed out the door (in slippers) to the barn. My "watch horse" was staring hard at the bushes near the barn. He snorted and stamped—as a frightened deer would do. The three crows that hang out around my house were at the top of a pine tree screaming. No trouble knowing where the animal was. Then I saw him, a bobcat! Close enough to see his ear tufts! He was large, larger than I expected a bobcat to be. He was marching purposefully east and crossed my driveway, not running, but moving quickly. He seemed totally unconcerned that he was in an area of houses and yards.

"My neighbor northeast of me told me he saw some strange tracks in his yard, and his geese were screaming. He has chickens, but they were not bothered. I thought that the cat was on his way to find a female which he scented. I have read that some animals can scent a female in heat from more than a mile away. Hey! Soon we may have bobcat babies in Danby! Now I know that when folks say they have seen a bobcat that they are not confusing the bobcat with a feral cat. What a great sight to see!"

"There was no recent otter sign at a previously seen location, but in a North Spencer location there had been quite a bit of activity. We found scat in two different locations. Under the large hemlock where we most often have found sign, there was lots of

scat, a nice mound of leaves and needles topped with anal secretion, and rolls. It seemed like there must have been several otters in the area to create the amount of sign we found. It was very exciting."

Birds: "I am looking out my front window at no less than five woodpeckers, each on its own tree. Amazing."

"In early January, my husband and I were walking in the meadow below our house in Danby and spied a flash of blue. I thought, "It can't be a blue bird!", but yes, there was a pair at the edge of the woods in clear view. It seemed unusually early to me, but maybe I don't know enough about blue bird migration. Plus who knows what that crazy warmer weather did to animal behavior."

"On 5 February I was hiking along the ridge near Comfort Road, minding my own business. At exactly 4:50pm, I became aware of a slow but steady crescendo of heterophonic goose-honking. It sounded like a lot of geese, but it also sounded far away. Looking up, I saw the largest flock of geese I've ever seen, covering about 3/4 of the sky on the North-South axis, and 1/2 of it on the East-West. They were flying due South at an amazingly high altitude, and it was neither a single V nor multiple ones, but this large branching formation that looked as though some skywriter were attempting to diagram an impossibly complex sentence. It seemed to take forever for them to pass overhead. As far as I could tell, not having had binocs, they appeared all to be Canada geese. I'm familiar with the relatively soft honking of a snow goose, and if there were any of those, they were certainly drowned out." ❁

CONSERVATION FARMER OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Josh Hornesky, Soil Conservationist

Ray Van De Bogart of the Town of Danby, with the help of his brother Alan, operates Snowtop Farm, a 150 cow dairy. Along with milking cows, Ray farms nearly 275 acres of cropland and over 40 acres of pastureland. All of this is located in the Susquehanna Watershed, just west of NYS Rt.96B.

Throughout the years, the farm has done a substantial amount of conservation work. What is most interesting about this farm, is that most of this has been completed by Ray on his own without the assistance of any government funds. The conservation work on this farm started over twenty years ago and has been ongoing, in various forms, since then.

The area Ray farms certainly does not contain the best soils found in Tompkins County. In fact, because a good portion of the soils that Ray farms are marginal and lie on steeply sloped fields, agricultural crop production is limited.

Despite the site limitations, Ray has been making the most of what he has available to him. He recognized the extreme importance his topsoil plays in the overall crop production scheme as well as the conservation benefits achieved. In recognizing the high potential for soil erosion and wanting to reduce his inputs, Ray changed his farm from conventional tillage to an all no-till operation.

The soil savings achieved by no-till farming can be calculated using very rough and extremely conservative numbers: over one ton per acre, per year. Across the farm, that's at least 260 tons of top soil saved, per year. That's enough soil to fill up over twenty standard size dump trucks. After 20 years, the soil savings works out to be about 5,200 tons or over 500 truck loads!

Huge plant nutrient and water quality benefits come along with soil savings. With a reduced soil erosion rate, the soil-bound phosphorous entering waterways goes down, reducing the growth of undesirable algae and aquatic weeds. This resource concern is exactly what groups like the Upper Susquehanna Coalition are trying to educate farmers about. This farm is light years ahead of many other farms, doing its part to keep the Chesapeake Bay Watershed clean!

No-till farming also leads to decreased fossil fuel inputs by the farm. Again, using rough numbers (and the NRCS energy calculator), Ray's fuel savings was about

\$2,344 per year—about 70% less than conventional farming methods. And that's just the fuel! Reduced consumption leads to a smaller carbon footprint and an increase in overall air quality.

Another big achievement leading to Ray's award is his work maintaining a high level of crop production with as little input as possible. For the past 25 five years, Ray worked closely with crop consultant Mark Ochs. They've taken soil samples, worked on crop rotations, and developed mass nutrient balances. These have led to the use of only the fertilizer the crops need, resulting in drastically reduced levels of agricultural nonpoint source pollution on surface and ground water resources. Combining no-till with managing the placement, amount, source, and timing of nutrients, has added organic matter to the soil, made the farm more productive.

While managing his farm, Ray was involved with providing public service to his community. In the spring of 2004 Ray became involved with Town planning issues. He began attending public hearings and represented a farming landowner's perspective. He formed an Agricultural Land Association with neighboring farmers to speak as a voice for the agricultural community. He was subsequently appointed to the Town's Planning Board.

This farm, and Ray, are very deserving of the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District's "Farmer of the Year" award.

This farm has been in the Van De Bogart family since 1865, it's a staple in the Town of Danby, and should be a staple and model for the great conservation work that farms can complete. ❁

AT THE DFC...

All of these events are happening at the Danby Federated Church, 1859 Danby Road. For more info, 607.272.1687 or [office@danbyfederatedchurch.org].

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Friday, March 9, 2012, 5-7pm. Chicken and Biscuit, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce, Pies and Assorted Desserts, Beverage. Adult: \$8; Children: \$4.

Inviting all Seniors and non-seniors!

Monday, March 19, Noon, come for lunch and stay for board games, fellowship and fun with friends. Soup, bread, dessert and beverage are provided. ❁

BIOMASS DEMO DAY

Submitted by Betsy Keokosky

The Danby Land Bank is scheduling planning sessions for a Biomass Demonstration Day in Spring or early Summer. The purpose will be to demonstrate, educate, and publicize the use of biomass for local heating and other purposes. It is also to inform the Danby Land Bank on market interests, as it prepares a business plan for the purchase of a portable pelletizer or briquetter.

These sessions are open to anyone interested in helping out. If you are interested in attending or want further information, contact me at [evk1@cornell.edu] or 607.342.5430. ❄

BENETERRA INFO SESSION

Submitted by Betsy Keokosky

On Thursday, March 8, 7pm in Town Hall, Hilary Mayton will speak on a plan offered by her company, Beneterra, to cultivate and develop marginal lands on a 50/50 land owner net profit sharing basis. The plan requires no capital input from the land owner. Hilary is a switch grass specialist and plant breeding scientist at Cornell. She has joined Beneterra, located in Manlius, NY, a company that is interested in developing marginal land for switchgrass or other crops depending on their appropriateness for the location. They would do initial brush-hogging and plant without pesticide use if the owner wishes. The owner could also cancel the lease—usually for 7 to 10 years—with no penalty if they are dissatisfied after Beneterra’s initial investment has been recouped.

The Danby Land Bank Cooperative is sponsoring an information session open to the community because of the opportunity for interested land owners and because a local, sustainable, biomass industry needs many complimentary options. The Danby Land Bank is currently working with agricultural residue from cleared weedy fields. For more info, contact me at [evk1@cornell.edu] or 607.342.5430. ❄

➤ **Fun Day, cont'd from front page—**

is divided up. If you can volunteer to do any of these activities, please let me know, no later than April 1. Feel free to volunteer to wear more than one hat. Decisions are needed as to whether the event has enough helpers to sustain it for future years, or whether changes should be made. For info, contact me, 607.277.0697 or [sbeeners@aol.com].

Full job descriptions are at [town.danby.ny.us]. ❄

DANBY ENERGY GROUP

Submitted by Eric Banford

February was a busy month for this newly formed group. We co-sponsored a really successful evening hosting energy efficiency contractors and Cooperative Extension for an educational workshop. There were nine speakers and their helpers. All of the 22 attendees learned a lot!

You’d be amazed what a heat sensing device can tell you about your home. It can even find water damage you had no idea was there. We learned that on-bill financing can make payments for work you have done part of your monthly energy bill, so that the money you save in energy pays for the work.

On Tuesday, March 20, 6:30pm in Town Hall we will be showing the locally produced movie “Empowered”, which tells the tale of Tompkins County’s role in the energy independence revolution. The documentary shows how Ithaca Biodiesel, the Enfield Wind Farm, local wind and solar installers, local residents, and others more are making local renewable energy a reality. It’s inspiring stuff! Free showing, donations to the filmmakers welcome.

Lots more ideas are buzzing around, we could use your help to harness this local energy source. Our next meeting is Tuesday March 27, 6:30-8pm at Town Hall. Come and plug in! ❄

DANBY GREEN HOMES TOUR

In April, the Danby Energy Group is planning a Danby Green Homes tour to highlight what your friends and neighbors are doing to reduce their carbon footprint... while heating their homes and powering their lives. We’ll show off a masonry stove that heats a home with only three cords of wood each winter, passive and active solar projects, a root cellar, geothermal heat pumps and much more.

If you would like to include your home in the tour, please contact Eric Banford, 607.277.0183 or [brew_bird@yahoo.com]. More info coming in the April Danby Area News. ❄

Fun Day Volunteer Jobs

Event Coordinator	Sign, Flag & Pennant Mgr
Vendors & Exhibits Mgr	Music Mgr
Kids Game Mgr	Parade Mgr
Site Manager	Parade Master
Site Volunteers	Parade Lineup Crew

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

The DCL Annual Open House and Book Sale is coming! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 28, 10am-2pm. Entertainment and Baked goods provided.

Now is a good time for sharing: our Email address is [library@town.danby.ny.us]. What's yours? You can contact us to renew materials or to be put on a waiting list for new materials.

New book: **Homefront** by Kristin Hannah
New DVD: **101 Ways to Retire** (locally made)

We are grateful for a grant from the Service League to help us purchase an outdoor book drop and are looking into more sources of funding for this project. ❁

WALDORF SCHOOL UPDATE

Submitted by Mary Lauppe

As Danby Residents will have noticed, the Ithaca Waldorf School sign is up on Route 96B. If you drive up Nelson Road, you will see that construction is rapidly progressing! The foundation was dug in December; our builders are busily putting up the framing and walls and intend to be done by the end of April.

We will be opening the school in our lovely new building in Fall 2012. The school is actively seeking to enroll local children. Several open houses are planned, on March 10 and 31, and on April 21. For more info, visit our web site: [ithacawaldorf.org], where you'll find all our upcoming events as well as construction progress updates.

We are currently enrolling for Kindergarten through 6th grade. Our 6th Grade teacher, Beth Yankee, moved to Danby from Kalamazoo, Michigan, specifically to join our faculty. She has 20 years of teaching experience and was formerly the Principal of a magnet school. She is very loved by the children in her class, and we are very happy to have her here.

The Waldorf School features a very creative curriculum and nurtures the brain through art and movement. After transitioning from this kind of curriculum, our graduates have done very well in Middle and High

COMMUNITY PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

Greetings from the Danby Community Park Association! We've been rather quiet since the beginning of winter, but are here with heartfelt, belated thanks to everyone who helped make our October barbecue and music fundraiser a success! We raised over \$600 for the park, and got to enjoy some fantastic music and great food.

We're glad to hear that people have been enjoying the disc golf course and the walking trail even through the winter months. If you don't know about it, the mile-long trail was one of our modest, but important, accomplishments of last year, and the disc golf course is becoming quite popular. A variety of loaner discs are now available free of charge at the Danby Community Library. Our lovely stone picnic table and locust benches have garnered many compliments too, so be sure to check them out some fine day this spring. You'll find them under the pavilion.

Planning for this year's work is underway. We've talked about extending the trail system, maintaining and possibly expanding the disc golf course, and building a pavilion, a BBQ pit, and more. There is talk of doing some geocaching in the park, and hopefully having some live music there this summer. The possibilities are exciting and we're looking forward to making the park even better this year!

We invite everyone, especially those interested in taking on a active role in our organization, to our monthly board meetings, held the third Thursday of each month, 7pm in Town Hall. You can always find park information and updates on Facebook (Danby Community Park Association). We can also be reached via Email at [dotsonpark@gmail.com]. ❁

school. We will be enhancing our programming by actively participating in the Three Swallows Farm belonging to Danby resident Ann Piombino and also the Youth Farming Project.

For inquiries, call Erin Fitzgerald 607.273.5184. ❁



Community Council Youth Programs March 2012

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

For more info, contact: Julie Kulik, 607.272.2292.x222 or [jnk54@cornell.edu]. Download registration forms from [ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby]

South Hill Lunch Bunch

(grades 4-5)
Fridays, Jan 20-Mar 30
South Hill School

In-school program at South Hill during lunch. Come have lunch with other youth from Danby in your grade, play games, do crafts, and go outside on nice days. We will also help with the South Hill Valentine's Day food drive.

CATCH THE BREEZE TURBINE CONTEST

Submitted by Erin Martea

Step up to this community-wide challenge to design a wind turbine using inexpensive materials, and learn how wind energy can be converted into electrical energy. Your design could produce enough electricity to power a light bulb or even a small radio! Participation is 100% free, 100% fun, and 100% renewable.

On March 10, 1-3pm, come to Cornell's exploration station at the Wilson Synchrotron Lab (Dryden & Pine Tree Roads, free parking). Meet wind turbine designers and pick up free materials, design criteria and guidelines. Then work independently or with your family to design your own unique turbine!

On Earth Day, April 22, 1pm, bring your finished turbine to the Ithaca Children's Garden for competition and judging. On May 12, 1pm, the turbines will be displayed & winners announced at the Ithaca Children's Garden Spring Open House. All events held rain or shine.

For more info, contact Ithaca Children's Garden [ithacachildrengarden@cornell.edu] or Lora Hines, [lk24@cornell.edu]. ☘



Fun Fridays

(grades 3-8)
Fridays, Jan 20-Mar 30, 2:30-5pm
Danby Town Hall
Bus available from South Hill Elementary and Boynton Middle schools.

Come join us at the Town Hall for Crafts, Stories/Plays, Games and guests from the community to share all of these things with us! We will go on a few field trips on snow shoes and in the Cooperative Extension van, locations to be selected by the participants (possibilities are SPCA, GeoCache hunting, Science Center).

Coming Attractions in April: Primitive Pursuits on Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Youth Farm on Nelson Road.

Look for new registration forms in mid-March, in Town Hall and online. ☘

DCC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by June Pollack

The Danby Community Council Scholarship Committee has a new leader. Julie Clougherty was elected to the DCC Board and has agreed to take over the work of the scholarship committee. She will do a great job and is pleased to be able to continue this important work of the DCC.

I am no longer on the Board, having served for six years (the term limit for members). Scholarship applications appear in the Danby News and are also available in Town Hall. You may contact Julie at 607.272.7189 or [janderty@yahoo.com].

I have enjoyed working with the families who have benefitted from our scholarships, and look forward to hearing from Julie about the programs and youth who will apply for this year. I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to do this work for our community. ☘

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Mar 1 • Thu
Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Seniors Luncheon**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Community Council Meeting**
- Mar 3 • Sat
5:30-7pm 🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • **Steak Dinner**
- Mar 5 • Mon
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **County Broadband Committee**
- Mar 7 • Wed
6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Mar 8 • Thu
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Beneterra Presentation**
- Mar 9 • Fri
5-7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Chicken & Biscuit**
- Mar 11 • Sun
Noon 🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • **Chicken BBQ**
3pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Concert: Patrice Pastore**
- Mar 12 • Mon
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
7:30pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Department Meeting**
- Mar 14 • Wed
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- Mar 15 • Thu
3-7pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Community Park Meeting**
- Mar 16 • Fri
5:30-7pm 🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • **Fish Dinner**
- Mar 17 • Sat
8-11am 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall
St. Patty's Day Breakfast
5:30-7pm 🏛️ American Legion Post 221
Corned Beef Dinner
- Mar 19 • Mon
Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church
Lunch and Board Games
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
- Mar 20 • Tue
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Energy Group Movie: Empowered**
7pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- Mar 22 • Thu
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**

- Mar 25 • Sun
8-11am 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**
- Mar 26 • Mon
1-2pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • **Mobile Food Truck**
7:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Conservation Adv Council Mtg**
- Mar 27 • Tue
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Energy Group Meeting**
- Mar 28 • Wed
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**
- Apr 1 • Mon
All Day 🏛️ Town Hall • **ΔΨΛ οὔ τρεῖς ἔσοι**
- Apr 4 • Wed
6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Jul 14, 2012 • Sat • **Danby Fun Day and Parade**

ONGOING EVENTS

- Danby Community Library Open** 🏛️ Town Hall
Saturdays, 10am–Noon, Wednesdays, 1:30–3:30pm,
and when the **Open** sign is out!
- 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.
- 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
🏛️ **Danby Federated Church** • 1859 Danby Road
🏛️ **American Legion Post 221** • 1231 Danby Road