



DANBY AREA NEWS

WEST DANBY SPRING CRAFT SHOW AND CHICKEN BBQ

Submitted by Marrell Cortright

Spring is so crafty, sneaking up on you like a stealthy chicken. Find it all in the West Danby Fire Hall on Saturday, April 21, 10am-2pm. The chicken will be ready around Noon.

You can eat, browse, and shop in time to live music, 11am-1pm, provided by the West Danby Henry Ford String Throttlers. They played for our fall craft show and were a great hit that everyone enjoyed!

Shop for Easter and Mothers Day from our many talented area crafters and local businesses. The Candle lady will be returning, Rita's Embroidery, Gigi Hill Bags and Accessories, Dottie Miller jewelry, your local Watkins products distributor, and Fly West Prims.

Seating and tables are provided if you would like to eat your chicken BBQ while listening to the band! ❄

[Several homes on the "Tour" are near the WD Fire Hall. Start with them, visit the Craft Show and Lunch, then continue on, up the hill!]

DCL BOOK SALE!

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Don't miss the DCL Annual Open House and Book Sale Saturday April 28, 10am-2pm. Then from 2-3pm, help us clean up with special pricing: \$1/bag.

We will also be selling VHS movies and books on tape this year. Ben Hogben will play various instruments (some handmade) from 10:30-11:30am. There will be delicious baked goods provided by our volunteers.

April 14-18 is National Library Week!

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DANBY GREEN HOMES TOUR HIGHLIGHTS RENEWABLE ENERGY

Danby's [Renewable] Energy Group has put together a "Tour" of Danby homes on April 21, 10am-4pm. Modeled after Cooperative Extension's highly popular autumn-time event, the Danby Green Homes Tour will highlight what your friends and neighbors are doing to reduce utility costs while improving their homes.

Unlike that County-wide event, you'll be able to visit a lot of homes with a minimum of travel: in Danby, for Danby-ites.

The terms "sustainable" and "reducing carbon footprint" have been so popular lately—overused, some might say—that we all need to see some concrete examples of how they can improve our lives.

Many of the homes on the tour are making use of renewable energy sources—solar and geothermal are popular—while others demonstrate the effectiveness of improved energy efficiency. Either way, using less energy means lower energy bills and less impact on the environment.

In addition to solar electric and hot water panels and geothermal heat transfer, you'll see installations like a masonry stove that heats a home all winter using only three cords of wood, wood boilers that heat multiple buildings or homes, root cellars for inexpensive food storage, and much more. Some of these homes have the features built in, while others have been retrofitted with super insulation and other improvements. Several Danby homes have made a point of using locally harvested wood and environmentally friendly materials.

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April 2012

Layout: Ted Crane

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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.

The Danby Area News (DAN) is a publication of the Danby Community 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 contributors. Please provide a SASE if you wish to have materials returned. The DAN and DCC are not responsible for typographic or other errors.

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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

We're all familiar with the parking spaces designated for those with disabilities that impair mobility. For those who have never needed a disability parking permit, it may come as a surprise that the Department of Motor Vehicles does not issue those permits.

Should you get lame, short of breath, or disabled in any way that makes it difficult to walk long distances, the Town Clerk's office is where you come for one of those tags that hang from your rear view mirror. All applications are processed locally by an

issuing agent in the city, town, or village where you live. In rural areas, this is usually the Town Clerk.

Permits are issued in the name of the person with the disability. This person does not have to be a licensed driver or even the owner of a vehicle. Children and persons who are legally blind are eligible for a permit. Medical certification is required, usually a letter or form

prepared and signed by a qualified practitioner.

Parking permits may be issued for either a temporary and permanent disability. Red hang tags—the temporary permits—are issued for up to six months, regardless of expected recovery date. They are issued to a person who is temporarily unable to walk without the aid of an assisting device (such as a brace, cane, crutches, wheelchair) or the assistance of another person.

Permanent hang tags are blue are issued for five years. These can be renewed as needed. Permanent permits are issued to persons who are not expected to recover from disabilities, such as arthritic conditions, lung disease, use of portable oxygen, or other impairments that impose unusual hardship in getting around.

“State” hang tags are valid in any designated space everywhere across the state, with two important exceptions.

- Cornell University issues its own permits. If you have a regular need to park there, you should contact Cornell's Department of Transportation for more information.
- New York City does not have on-street spaces reserved for persons with disabilities (the State permits are only valid in off-street parking lots). However, the New York City Department of Transportation issues a special City Permit for curbside parking.



The Danby Town Clerk's office recently filed a report with the NYS DOT, regarding the permits issued during 2011: we issued 37 permanent (blue) hang tags and 15 temporary (red) hang tags. Each year, though, is different; by mid-March of 2012, we had issued 3 blue tags and 6 red ones.

Speaking of access, consider taking advantage of a rare opportunity to visit homes in Danby that are making use of “green” sustainable energy or have other unique features. Many of your neighbors will open their doors to visitors and questions on Saturday, April 21. You can chat with them about solar electric and/or hot water, wind power, geothermal heat, passive solar construction, and other “non-traditional” heat and energy sources. There's even some examples of energy-efficient retrofits. More details can be found in other sections of the Danby Area News.

The end of March marked the close of the Town Clerk's involvement with the collection of this year's local taxes. Second installment payments of Town and County tax are collected in the Tompkins County Finance Office on Court Street in Ithaca. For everything else, 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.

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

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.



DANBY HISTORY

A Stroll Down Bald Hill, Circa 1880

Submitted by Pamela Goddard

One hundred years ago, the old Bald Hill Community was one of Danby's most close-knit neighborhoods. The Danby History Group invites you to enjoy an intimate visit with the families who lived on Bald Hill long ago.

Local history advocate Wayne Myers takes us on a, *Stroll Down Bald Hill in 1880* on Thursday, April 12. He will read another chapter from his book-in-progress on the Bald Hill community, and will display some of the photographs he has collected during his life-time. The program starts

at 7pm and is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served.

The area that is now the Bald Hill section of the Danby State Forest was once a thriving micro-community with a school, active farms, and supportive inter-relationships. Wayne Myers has dedicated himself to collecting and preserving the memory of the old Bald Hill community, through photographs, family histories, and other stories. The April 12 program will take up where an previous presentation on Bald Hill "genealogy" (the family inter-relationships on the Hill), and the impact of the Civil War on this community, left off. Myers will be available for questions after his reading.

Anyone interested in Danby history is encouraged to join the Danby History Group. This is an informal group of people interested in the history of people and places in Danby. The group is currently gathering information to be included

in history sections of the Danby web site, provides articles of historical interest for the Danby Area News, and organizes occasional public events. To get involved, call Mary Ann Barr at 607.272.3634 or Pamela Goddard at 607.273.8678. ❁



➤ Green Homes Tour, continued from front page

Installing renewable energy features is not the only way to save on heating, cooling, and energy bills. You can also conserve energy through repair and insulation projects. On the tour, you can learn more about free energy audits, on-bill financing (set up so that your NYSEG bill stays the same as it is today, but a portion of it is paying the improvement cost), subsidized improvements (how about a 50-50 split of the costs?), and for those who qualify, outright free insulation.

Many of the homeowners on the tour can tell you what an energy audit involved, who they used, and what they learned.

Yes, you can see many interesting green features, but the Danby Green Homes Tour is more than shop talk. This event gives you the opportunity to talk to your neighbors and learn about what has worked for them and what they might have done differently. You can get ideas for your own home just by "looking around" and by learning from your neighbor's experience. Learn who did the work, what the cost range of your own project might be, and how the improvements or additions have worked out for a variety of other homes.

Best of all, the Danby Green Homes Tour is a great way to meet your neighbors, build community, and be inspired by the many ways that residents of Danby are renovating old homes, building beautiful new ones, and, oh yes, sustainably reducing carbon emissions.

It's a wonderful way to celebrate Earth Day. ❁

[See the pull-out map and information flyer included in this month's Danby News!]

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

That time of year, that is supposed to be, isn't, and that has the to-do list all screwed up.

I normally amass merit points over the winter by doing simple things like bringing in the wood, shoveling snow from the driveway, taking out the ashes (getting the wood is another story), shoveling the wood path, scraping ice, and warming up the car. You know, the normal stuff included in the small print of the winter to-do list...and also the best answer to the question, "What'cha doing, honey?"

I recently had the privilege of reading the fine print, something I'd previously thought was merely a dot stuffed into a whole bunch of disclaimers. According to the really fine print, I only get to do, not to suggest things to do. Spending my creative time to come up with exciting ideas isn't on the list. I think this omission is a serious concern, and it brings me to the crux of the matter.

Certain parties feel that someone has gotten off too easily and instead of the due diligence they have come to expect, they are seeing time being wasted and feel something needs to be done.

I do my best to inject the thought that, perhaps, we are being too hasty. There are a few "new things" that someone wishes to substitute or add to the list—painting the house, putting that new roof on—things that someone feels are legitimate items capable of decorating a new and improved to-do list.

After all, I will have to start cutting the lawn in April. The remaining winter time is precious. Certain exceptions to the law of the to-do list should be considered, winter could be hiding just out of sight, and this seemingly inert form is just gathering strength for the first summertime snowstorm.

The lost winter is conspiring to challenge any attempt at keeping things in perspective, weird is becoming the new normal, and I have tried to adapt with spontaneous acts of exuberance. Fresh ice for my lemonade, a little more sunscreen on the nose.

Apparently, these are not legitimate substitutions.

Just the other day my wife caught me as I passed by, bent on some manly task, and directed my attention to a little spider web. To my surprise, it was actually a nest. Then, as if by magic, they suddenly started appearing everywhere. The dust of the wood stove, by clinging

to these webs, turned them into an epidemic of webs which, normally, no one would have even guessed would just turn up like that.

Normally, they would have been able to hide out but we have this other abnormality, sunlight!

You see how this is messing things up?

"And what are *we*, going to do about that?" would not even be an issue, if only the weather was its normal overcast, gray, moisture-laden snow day.

This is all wrong. I should be bathing in negative complaints about the latest snow storm and gathering brownie points for my manly tasks. Yet here I am, sitting in my deck chair covered with sun, listening to nesting rights of robins and having to face projects that any normal person would not even think about until August.

Weird is the new normal.

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

Another image of Spring, "Got Wren?" ↪ page 6

FUN DAY AND PARADE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Submitted by Sue Beeners

Fun Day needs more than Fun-seekers, it needs fun-providers, it needs volunteers. You'bet'cha, volunteering can be fun, too. Here's descriptions of what's needed. For info, contact me, 607.277.0697 or [sbeeners@aol.com].

Event Coordinator

Make sure everything below is getting done. Coordinate work with Fire Company. Coordinate and track purchases made from the event grant account. Make sure helium tank for balloons is rented, picked up, and returned.

Vendors & Exhibits

Send registration forms to vendors and other exhibitors by snail mail or email. Compile list of registered vendors/exhibitors. Prior year lists are available.

Kids Game Coordinator

Work with the Danby Youth Program Manager to set up and run the kids activity tent.

—continued on page 7 ↪

GOT WREN?

Submitted by Jim Reagan

There he goes again! It's a lovely little song, but he sings it all day. Just. Like. Clock-work. Hearing it every five seconds makes it a lot less lovely. Sure, he's little, he's jaunty, he's damn cute and audacious...and he knows it.

Why didn't I take down that little wren-infested bird-house in the peach tree, back in March when I cleaned it out? There was no doubt about who had raised a family there, with all of those twigs jammed in up to the top. Nobody else builds a nest like that except a certain little tyrannical bird I know. How could I have forgotten and nature of his ten the ubiquitous and song?



Snow or no snow, over the long winter months here in Danby we tend to forget that as summer even exists. We're not always completely sure that we didn't dream it up in some sort of surreal fantasy. By January, we lust for green and long for the sound of birds singing, but the irony is that, once we have it, we chop, pull, and cut at the greenery, and now I'm sitting here complaining about a bird's song. I seem difficult to please.

Nature seems to be a little over the top for us, and Mr. Wren is one of its worst offenders. In fact, he will take over several bird houses and jam them full of twigs just so that other less aggressive birds cannot use them. What a naughty, thoughtless little guy!

Still, I have to laugh at the fact that he believes that he is welcome everywhere and anywhere. He is willing to take up residence in an old shoe if it strikes his fancy. Enchanted with his own song and believing that we are too, he goes on and on all day long, oblivious to being an annoyance to some. I have to admire him for that.

Now that Mr. Wren has staked out his territory and has built his nest, I don't have the heart to turn him out, although tree swallows would make quieter tenants. I could learn a few things from Mr. Wren, like tenacity, industry, self-confidence, and—what the heck—hello world here I am, don't you love me? Of course you do! ❀

COMMUNITY PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

Warm weather is here, so that means it's time to start this season's work in Dotson Park! This year's work days will be the last Saturday of every month, starting at 10am and going at least until 2pm. Look here or on our Facebook page for updates and more specific information about each month's projects.

The first work day is April 28, and we'll be clearing a new trail! If you'd like to help, give me a call at 607.272.7189 or just come to the park—we meet at the end of the road near the disc golf course. Besides help with trail work this month, we are looking for people with sign-making skills.

The Annual Meeting is coming up in June, and this time we're going to have it in the park! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 23, 4pm, and get ready for more than just a meeting. We'll do the usual yearly review and elections, then bust out the gear for some old-fashioned games and a picnic. Details to come in next month's Danby Area News. We need new board members, so if you're interested in serving please call me or Email for more information, [dotsonpark@gmail.com].

Why not get some extra mileage out of your spring cleaning and make a painless donation to the park via Mimi's Attic? We have an account there, and you can request to have the proceeds from the sale of your items put into it. Thanks! ❀

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCAMS

Submitted by Carole Fisher

Issues regarding Home Improvements will be the topic of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Monthly Consumer Issues Program on Thursday, April 12, 11am in the CCE Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca.

Mike Danaher of the New York State Attorney General's Office will present information on what typical home improvement scams look like, how to avoid them, and what to do if they happen to you.

The public is invited. Advance registration for this free program is not necessary.

Following the presentation, members of the public have the opportunity to consult individually with Attorney Danaher regarding specific issues they have been unsuccessful resolving locally. Individuals should arrive by 12:30pm for a consultation. For more information call the Consumer HelpLine, 607.272.2292. ❀

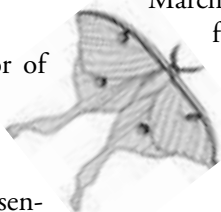
MOTH-ING ON MOTHER'S DAY

Submitted by Bill Evans

Ever see a cool looking moth? A long-awaited, new Field Guide is about to be released, and it will help us identify and learn more about moths.

Seabrooke Leckie, co-author of the forthcoming Peterson's *Field Guide to the Moths of Northeastern North America* will give a half-hour presentation about her new book and the extraordinary beauty and wonder of moths.

The new field guide has over 2000 color plates covering about 1500 species, over 1000 of which can be found in Danby. After her presentation, Seabrooke will have signed copies of her new field guide for sale. At about 9pm, weather permitting, she will lead a moth walk to a number of black light stations set up around Town Hall and the Danby Community Park. This event is enthusiastically sponsored by the Danby Conservation Advisory Council. ❀



LIFE IN DANBY

This month's observations from Danbyites

Submitted by Julie Nichols Kulik

Hello All! Lots of changes going on out there; I am watching a pair of courting cardinals by day and listening to the peepers by night (on March 15!). This is what I heard from folks this month. If you have any sightings yourself—anything tree/plant/animal/bird related—I would love to hear about them. Please send them along to me at 607.272.2292x222 or [jnk54@cornell.edu].

Here are this month's submissions:

Amphibians/Reptiles: Bull Frog migration, Spotted Salamander migration, Wood Frogs, Peepers.

Weather: "I actually saw some snow, a few miles south of Danby, on one of my trips between NYC and home. It appeared to be pretty ordinary snow, you know, white and fluffy. At 60mph, it looked like insubstantial baseballs hitting the windshield. Not much, maybe none, of it was sticking to the ground (a good

thing, considering that my sighting was from the Interstate, where traction is important)."

Birds: (Early March sightings: Killdeer, Woodcocks, Robins, Redwing blackbirds, Phoebe, Tundra Swan) "On 5 February I was hiking, 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." ❀

➤ **Fun Day Volunteers Needed, cont'd from page 5—**

Site Manager

Develop site layout based on existing site plan and participant lists.

Lay out site the day before event. Post copies of final site plan in Fire Station and on pavilion to orient arriving vendors/exhibitors. Be on site at least part of the "afternoon before" and on the "day of" to interact with people bringing tents, etc.

Confer with Fire Company on availability of tables and chairs for community exhibitors, make arrangements and verify volunteers to get

additional from Danby Church or Town Hall if necessary.

Organize site volunteers, create list.

Site Volunteers

Day before event: around 3 people needed to help set up a few tents and install handicapped parking signs. Day of event: around 5 people needed to move tables and chairs to some community exhibit sites, hang signs, and orient arriving vendors. Around 2 adults and a few kids needed to blow up helium balloons and distribute on site. Around 5 people needed each for an hour or so during the event to help run games. Around 5 people needed at end of

event for site cleanup, moving tables and chairs back, dismantling a few tents, removing parking signs.

Sign, Flag, and Pole Manager

Get banner updated at Kinko's, arrange for its installation at former Danby Market. Update message board banner, arrange for its installation above message board. Arrange installation of 20 flag or pennant poles near fire station, one or two weeks before event.

Arrange removal of the poles and banners after event, and their return to storage.

—continued on page 9 ➤

MEDICATION DISPOSAL DAY

Mark your calendar: The Coalition for Safe Medication Disposal has set the date for its next Safe Medication Disposal Day. This event, which gives residents the chance to safely dispose of expired or no longer needed household medications, will be held Saturday, April 28, as part of a nationwide collection effort organized by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

Collection will occur, 10am-2pm, at three locations: the TCAT garage (just off Route 13 on Willow Avenue in Ithaca); the Groton Police Department (108 Cortland Street); and the Slaterville Fire Station, 2681 Slaterville Road. For info, call 211 or [egottlieb@cityofithaca.org]. ❁

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marvin Eastman

Well, here it is. Spring has finally arrived and maybe the nice weather that we have been experiencing the past few weeks will stay and Mother Nature will keep the white stuff any for the rest of the spring. As Spring arrives, so do other things, like the end of our dinner season.

During April, we will be having the last Fish and Steak dinners of the season. There are also two benefits during April: a Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the American Legion Post 221 Baseball team, and a Raffle and Chicken BBQ to Benefit the Christopher Bodoni Family.

We start April off with a Steak Dinner on the 7th, 5:30-7pm (or 'til sold out. Menu is: Mouth watering steak cooked to order; dinner roll; salad bar; choice of baked potato, onion rings, or french fries; dessert; coffee or tea...and still only \$10.

April 14, 5:30-7pm will be a benefit for the Legion Baseball team, including spaghetti w/pasta sauce, meatballs; french bread; salad; coffee or tea. The cost is only \$8.

On April 20, 5:30-7pm we will be having the last Fish Dinner of the season (or 'til sold out). Menu: fried or baked fish; dinner roll; salad bar; choice of baked potato, french fries, or onion rings; dessert; coffee or tea, and still only \$10.

On April 21, Noon-'til, we will be hosting a benefit for the family of Marine Corporal Christopher Bordoni. There will be a Chicken BBQ and several raffles. Local merchants have donated more than \$10,000 in prizes to be raffled. Don't miss out! The BBQ is \$8, and raffle tickets are available for \$10 at our Post, 1231 Danby Road.

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, April 5, at Noon in the Danby Church, for a dish to share luncheon. Linda Howe will be cooking the "Easter" ham again this year. Diane Dawson from Lifelong will speak of its offerings.

Thank you to Jim & Marge Hovanec for hosting our March meeting!

A trip to see *The Diamonds* (remember the sound track of Happy Days?) is set for Wednesday, June 6. We'll be leaving Danby Church about 8:30-9am and returning about 5:30-6pm. We'll arrive at Penn's Peak, PA for a family style luncheon (to include Penn's Peak Pot Roast) at Noon and then see the show at 1pm. Penn's Peak offers a picturesque view of northeastern Pennsylvania's Appalachian mountains.

Seniors can sign up at the April and May meetings. Contact Margie, 607.273.8046 or [margievan@live.com], or Priscilla, 607.273.6959, for more information.

In May we return to the 6pm time and will be entertained again by Rich Wilson (he was so funny at our holiday party). ❁

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

It's the last C&B feast until the fall: Friday, April 13, 2012, 5-7pm. Chicken and Biscuit, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce, Pies and Assorted Desserts, Beverage. Adult: \$8; Children: \$4. ❁

Just in case you were not aware, Marine Corporal Christopher Bodoni, a 21-year old Ithaca native and graduate of Ithaca High School, was critically injured while serving his country in Afghanistan. Chris was on patrol in the Kajaki district when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up. Chris was transported to a hospital in Germany and then transferred to the San Antonio Military Medical Center, where he is currently undergoing treatment. His recovery could take several years and thus it is putting a hardship on the Bordoni family.

If you need information or would like to donate, please contact us at 607.272.1129. ❁

CAC OPTS FOR PLAIN VANILLA

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

Low cost. Basic. Generally applicable. Just a few of the ways that “plain vanilla” can be thought of. That’s what the Danby Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) hopes to accomplish with a conservation easement project just getting underway.

We want a program that is accessible to most landowners, is inexpensive, and is simple. “Plain vanilla” seems to capture the idea that the easement terms are meant to be kept to a minimum. Our hope is to protect the land base in Danby from being developed as housing lots while, at the same time, preserving the landowners’ options for using the land sustainably.

When a conservation easement is granted *by* a property owner *to* a qualified conservation organization (to the Town of Danby, in our case), the right to develop the property is ceded to the “grantee”. This transfer is entirely voluntary. The receiver of the development rights can in no way use them. They effectively cease to exist.

Only if the conservation purpose disappears (for example, a preserve set up to protect a rare plant loses its purpose if the plant goes extinct) might a court be persuaded to extinguish a conservation easement. Since the primary purpose of Danby’s program is to preserve open space, that avenue for extinguishing an easement is precluded. The only other ways a conservation easement can be undone are by an act of the NY State Legislature or by eminent domain. It is as close to permanent as anything can reasonably be.

One of the biggest impediments to donating a conservation easement is that the cost to the donor can be substantial. The cost to the conservation organization can also be substantial, since guarding the features that are covered by the easement becomes a perpetual ob-

ligation. By keeping those features and restrictions to a minimum, the costs to both the landowner and the Town can be minimized.

Because the Town’s Comprehensive Plan includes a goal of protecting open space, restricting development on land in the rural parts of Danby can be undertaken pursuant to that goal and need not be justified on the basis of the special features of any particular property.

Doing plain vanilla easements won’t necessarily be easy. Why? We all believe our properties are special! Adding provisions to specifically protect something about our property that we value and would like to see retained for future generations to enjoy is a great temptation. We aren’t saying that it can’t be done--if you have a really special property and want a more complicated easement to protect it, the Finger Lakes Land Trust might be a better choice for a conservation organization.

If you just want to make sure that your land will be there for future generations to use and enjoy as you and your predecessors have, then the Town’s program is tailored to your needs. The Town gets the development rights (but can’t use them); you get to keep and use the land.

The CAC is just getting started with easements. Our first easement is in process as of this writing. Guy Krogh, the Town of Danby Attorney, has graciously volunteered his time and expertise (which is substantial--he has worked with the Finger Lakes Land Trust and other conservation organizations) to help us develop this initiative. We all stand to benefit from its success!

To be included, the first step is to contact one of the CAC members. All of their names and contact info are available through the Town’s web site, [town.danby.ny.us/CAC]. ❁

➤ **Fun Day Volunteers Needed,** **cont’d from page 7—**

Music Manager

Arrange for and schedule musicians, greet on site, arrange payment from event account.

Parade Manager

Send entry forms to potential participants by snail mail or Email. Compile list of registered entries, (prior year lists are available) put list in order for parade lineup, including descriptions of each entry. Verify Parade Master, Lineup Crew, and Parade Announcer, give them

all parade info. Optionally, Email parade lineup list to participants shortly before the event. Arrange purchase of water for participants, and delivery to site.

Parade Master

Before Parade, layout lineup on site with survey flags and numbered plates. With Lineup Crew, greet parade participants and orient them to their locations. Coordinate start of Parade with Fire Chief.

Parade Lineup Crew

Around 3 to 4 volunteers assist Parade Master. ❁

MENTOR-STUDENT PROGRAM

Submitted by Susie Kossack

The Mentor-Student Program is an opportunity to make a positive impact in a young person's life. An adult Mentor meeting regularly with a middle school Student is an enriching experience for both.

Mentors and Students get to know one another by reading, doing homework, playing board games, interacting in an environment that fosters trust. Be that person. Be a 1-on-1 mentor with a student whose needs are not being met.

In-depth training and on-going support are provided. Mentorship requires 3 hours per week. Higher education is not required. We create change.....for the student and the mentor.

Not able to mentor? Please consider serving on our Advisory Board: meet once a month, with Email and phone work between meetings. Experience working with youth who fall between the cracks is helpful.

The Mentor-Student Program recruits, screens, trains, supervises, and coordinates volunteer adult Mentors. The Program provides on-going support to both Mentor and Student as they develop a mutually-rewarding relationship resulting in greater success in school for the Student.

Mentors commit to 3 hours per week for this school year, with the option to continue next year. The Mentor and Student meet twice a week at Boynton Middle School, 3:25-4:25pm. Mentors meet together for an hour each week, also at Boynton, for the Mentor Support Group.

Call me—soon, because training begins in early April—at 607.277.1236 or 607.275.6250 with any questions or to begin the application process. ❁

EGG HUNTING SEASON!

The young at heart—and the truly young—have two chances coming up to collect colored eggs. Don't forget: the required level of skill and luck involved goes up as the clock turns...if you arrive after starting time, all the easy eggs will be gone. So, don't be late, or you'll be collecting goose eggs.

In Uphill Danby:

The search starts at 11am on Saturday, March 31! Hunt-

Library, continued from front page ➡

We have

- *Charlotte's Web* in paperback, thanks to the Family Reading Partnership. The twelve first lucky patrons will get a free copy!
- *Empowered* on DVD. This is the locally-produced movie telling the tale of Tompkins County's role in the energy independence revolution. It was shown at Town Hall on March 20.
- *Gasland* on DVD with educational materials on hydrofracking available.
- *Lone Wolf* by Jodi Picoult, and many books that were turned into Oscar-winning movies. We will have the DVDs as they become available.

Thank you to Matthew Cooper who hung Sarah Randall's state bird quilt, the Danby Community Quilters who worked on the backing and binding and to Mary Oltz who coordinated the project.

Thank you to the Service League for awarding us a grant toward putting in an outdoor book return.

We can be contacted at [library@town.danby.ny.us] or 607.277.4200 (we have an answering machine!). Use these to contact us regarding updating patron cards, renewing materials, or to be put on a waiting list for materials.

We are looking to update our classic book collection. If you have a book you would like to donate, please bring it in during library hours: Saturdays, 10am-Noon, and Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm. ❁

HELP SENIORS WITH YARD WORK

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging maintains a list of individuals who would be willing to do yard work for senior citizens in the spring and summer months. The office is currently updating its list and is in need of more workers. If you might be interested in assisting seniors with yard work on either a volunteer or paid basis, please contact the Office for the Aging at 607.274.5482. ❁

ers, ages 3 to 10 (or in 5th grade), converge on the Danby Federated Church for its annual Easter Egg hunt.

In West Danby:

The Hatches have been generous in letting us use their pavilion and grounds again for this year's hunt, to be held at 11am sharp on Saturday, April 7. The Easter Bunny will be on hand. ❁

Community Council Youth Programs Spring 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]

Boynton Lunch Bunch (grades 6-8) Wednesdays, March 7 - June 20

An in-school program, during lunch time. Take a break from the cafeteria! Eat exciting snacks, play games and get to know people you usually don't sit near in the noisy lunch room.

Primitive Pursuits (grades 3-8) (PROGRAM FULL) Wednesdays, 2:30-5:30pm

March 7-June 13 (Not on April 11, May 16)

June Pollack's (43 Hornbrook Rd)

Bus is available from South Hill Elementary School

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

South Hill Lunch Bunch (grades 4-5) Fridays, March 9-June 15

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.



Fridays at the Farm! (Ages 8 and up) Fridays, 2:30-5:30pm

April 20 - June 15 (no program May 25)

Three Swallows Farm, Nelson Road.

Buses available from South Hill Elementary, Boynton and High School.

Come join us at the farm, where we will have the fields, and the barn at our disposal for games, stories, and farm work, including preparing fields and green houses for summer crops. These foods will be used by area schools for lunches! We will also take time to explore the woods and fields around the farm where we can use natural materials to create crafts and collaborative "earth art" sculptures, make a cozy campfire, and cook over it! For more information about the Youth Farm program that we will be helping see [youthfarmproject.weebly.com/about.html]. ❁

KRITTER KAMP IN MAY

The Tompkins County 4-H program is offering a unique opportunity for youth aged 9-13 who have an interest in—but little or no experience with—animals.

"Kritter Kamp" will be held at 4-H Acres on May 18 and 19, with overnight camping. Participants will learn about animal behavior, grooming tips, anatomy, health, nutrition and diet needs, proper handling, and presentation of an animal for show. They will work with an experienced

4-H member to learn these new skills, and practice on the animals provided (sheep, dairy, goat, or rabbit). The overnight program will end with a show and pizza party on Saturday evening.

Contact Brenda Carpenter, 607.272.2292 or [btc6@cornell.edu] for a registration application.

A \$50 registration fee must accompany the registration form. The registration deadline is April 27. Partial scholarships are available upon request. The fee includes handouts and

resource material, a "Kritter Kamp" T-shirt and water bottle, a binder full of resources and supportive activities, meals and snacks, and access to all the necessary grooming tools, halters, equipment, and animals.

This program has limited space; animals will be assigned as registrations are received. A list of necessary personal items and a schedule of activities will be provided to all who have registered. Parents are encouraged to attend, and friends and family will want to come on Saturday evening to watch the show. ❁

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Apr 1 • Sun
All Day 🏠 Town Hall • **Ἰσὴ οὐ ἔφει ἔσοι**

Apr 4 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

Apr 5 • Thu
Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors Luncheon**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Meeting**

Apr 7 • Sat
11am 🏠 West Danby Hatch Pavilion • **Easter Egg Hunt**
5:30-7pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Steak Dinner**

Apr 9 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
7:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Department Meeting**

Apr 10 • Tue
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Apr 11 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**

Apr 12 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **A Stroll Down Bald Hill, ca. 1880**

Apr 13 • Fri
5-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Chicken & Biscuit**

Apr 14 • Sat
5:30-7pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Spaghetti**

Apr 16 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**

Apr 17 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Energy Group Meeting**
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Apr 19 • Thu
3-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Park Meeting**

Apr 20 • Fri
5:30-7pm 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Fish Dinner**

Apr 21 • Sat
10am-2pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Spring Craft Fair and Chicken BBQ
10am-4pm 🏠 All 'Round Danby
Danby Green Homes Tour
Noon 🏠 American Legion Post 221 • **Chicken BBQ**

Apr 23 • Mon
1-2pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Mobile Food Truck**
7:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Adv Council Mtg**

Apr 25 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting**

Apr 26 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**

Apr 28 • Sat
10am-2pm 🏠 Danby Town Hall
Danby Community Library Book Sale
10am-2pm 🏠 Danby Community Park • **Work Day**

May 2 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

May 3 • Thu
6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors Luncheon**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council 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