



DANBY AREA NEWS

PROTECTING DANBY'S FORESTS AND MEADOWS

Submitted by Kelly Makosch

The Finger Lakes Land Trust recently accepted the donation of a conservation easement from the Halton family, forever protecting 115 acres of forests and meadows bordering Danby Creek and State Route 96B. Conservation easements are permanent legal agreements that limit development while allowing land to remain in private ownership, on the tax rolls, and available for traditional uses such as forestry and agriculture.

The Halton's property is adjacent to Danby State Forest, near the Finger Lakes Trail, and includes portions of two county-designated Unique Natural Areas. This beautiful piece of land is located within the Emerald Necklace—a growing network of conserved lands that will ultimately link more than 50,000 acres of existing public open space extending in an arc around the southern end of Cayuga Lake.

For brothers Dan and Bill Halton, and Bill's wife Kathy, donating the easement made good sense. Dan remarked, "For us to continue owning the land and doing the things we've always done, while being able to protect it from development after we're gone—that sold me on the conservation easement."

"Having the Land Trust involved in the easement was also important," Bill Halton added. "We approached them because we knew they would share our values and land ethic."

With the completion of this project, the Land Trust now holds ten conservation easements in the Town of Danby and nearly 100 easements across the Finger Lakes region. In addition to holding easements on private property, the organization also

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DCC CONCERT: MID-EASTERN MUSIC

Submitted by Bob Strichartz

On Sunday, November 11, 3pm in the Danby Town Hall, the next concert in the Danby Community Council's concert series will feature traditional Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Greek and other music from the Middle East, performed by the Cornell Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Music Ensemble.



This exotic but truly delightful genre has singing and instrumental music with a mix of Western and traditional Middle Eastern instruments.

For example, the Oud is a fretless short neck lute; the Nay is an end-blown cane flute; the Qanun is a lap-zither. The music uses microtones in addition to the usual 12 tones of Western scales. The performers will demonstrate their instruments during the performance and during the intermission.

When was the last time you heard an Oud played at the Danby Town Hall? Don't miss the opportunity to hear it this month! This free concert receives grant support from the New York State Council on the Arts through a GAP grant from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County.

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TOWN HALL IMPROVEMENTS

Submitted by Matt Cooper, Code Officer

As those of us who live in old buildings know all too well, it takes an extra degree of vigilance and regular maintenance to keep them sound. Old homes are also usually not very energy efficient, so many of us have chosen to apply modern materials and building science to our antique

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November 2012

Layout: Ted Crane

Count-n-Label Crew:

Bob and Faith Chase, Jim Reagan, Mary Ann Barr, Pamela Goddard, among others.

Post Office Crew:

Julie Clougherty

To contribute:

Danby Area News

PO Box 6886

Ithaca, NY 14851-6886

Phone: 607.273.8678

Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

Text submissions:

Send text in the body of an Email message (**not** as an 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: Have a look at the "Danby News" section of the Town of Danby web site, [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*.

You'll learn 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!* You'll find hints about how to prepare a submission. Following these guidelines makes the editing and layout easier.

A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page.

TOWN HALL: COMPUTERS FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

Three computers *for use by the public* have been installed in Town Hall. You can cruise the web with them and check your web-based Email. There are DVD drives 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.

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

Budget...

The leaves are blowing off the trees, the flowers have retreated before the frost, and the owls are hooting at night. It's Scary Halloween time, with general elections just around the corner.

During October, the Town Clerk's office has been assisting with finalizing the Town budget for 2013 and making it available for residents to review. A breakdown of the Preliminary 2013 budget can be found at the top of the "Recent Notices" box on the Town of Danby web site home page. Take a look and give our office a call if you have any questions. The Town Board has called a Public Hearing (required prior to passing the budget) for 6:45pm on Monday, November 12.



I believe that Danby taxpayers can be pleased by this budget. Not only has the Board kept within the New York State-mandated 2% tax cap, but this budget shows a smaller overall increase than the previous year. A 2013 combined Town

and Fire District tax bill will have an increase of about \$6 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Danby has no debt and has been able to add to its fund balance (i.e., money in the bank for unusual events) each year, allowing us to maintain highway equipment and our Town Hall without taking out loans. Once again, we are doing our best to serve Danby residents and tax payers in an effective and efficient manner.

By cutting costs in other areas, we will now be able to contract for improved computer services and IT support. Many of our computers are old and we are vulnerable to equipment failures. The Clerk's office telephone system is antiquated and works poorly. Neighboring Towns have been subject to "Information Technology Audits" by NY State, and these have highly recommended such things as hosted Email, up-to-date web sites, and secure servers for file sharing and secure backups. Danby will undoubtedly be audited on its technology at some time in the not-too-distant future. It will be a joy to bring Town Hall operations into the 21st century.

Elections - A Reminder

Remember to Vote on Tuesday November 6...and remember that Central Danby's voting location is now the Danby Fire Hall. Old habits are hard to change; we'll be happy to see our friends and neighbors at Town

Hall on Election Day, but will need to send you down the road to the Fire Hall to cast your vote. Your vote is your voice in democracy.

Dog Licenses - A Reminder

By New York State law, every dog over the age of six months must be licensed annually. Renewal notices are sent out on the anniversary of the original license. Dog owners can help by making renewal payments promptly. Help us save paper and postage but not having to send renewal late notices. If you renew by mail, send the entire page. We will initial the bottom, sign and date the top, and return it to you by return mail.

And, finally...

Autumn office hours for the Danby Town Clerk are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10am-5pm, with the addition of Saturday mornings, 10am-Noon. We will be closed on November 12 for Veteran's Day and November 22 and 23 for Thanksgiving. As always, we are closed on Sundays and Thursdays. And yes, the chocolate kiss bowl remains well supplied.

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

WDFC FALL PANCAKE BKFST

The West Danby Fire Company's Annual Fall Pancake Breakfast will take place on Saturday, November 10, from 8-11am.

The bill of fare includes pancakes, homefries, sausage, bacon, and eggs made to order...and not just some of them, but all at once!

Adults, \$6; Seniors, \$5; Kids 5 to 12, \$4; Kids under 5 are free. Come and let us make breakfast for you! ❁

Town Hours

Town Clerk

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm (*Sat, 10am-Noon*)

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.

WAITING FOR BROADBAND

Submitted by Ted Crane

When I moved to Danby the Internet didn't exist. Ten years later, in the mid-1980s, I was using the fledgling Internet at work but didn't see any reason to want it at home. After another ten years, in the mid-1990s, I was using a modem at home to do Email and file transfers. Then, only a few years later, my business activities required a high-speed connection to the Internet.

It was a moment of truth and discovery: there was no high-speed Internet in Danby. No amount of love (that is, phone calls, letters, and appeals) was going to get it for me, but money worked wonders. Lots and lots of money to purchase a reliable, well-supported, and fast entrance ramp to what was rapidly becoming the Information Highway.

Today, another fifteen years gone by, and much of Danby still does not have access to a high-speed connection. Things have changed slightly, though: we now call it "Broadband", we now have a "Gap Map" that shows all the unserved areas, and many politicians are aware of the problem...but most aren't doing much about it.

For very selfish reasons (the Internet is an important part of my household's business and personal life), I'd go a long way to get myself a good connection. If the only way for me to get Broadband is to work toward or help pay for Broadband for my Danby neighbors, well, it's worth it.

The major Internet service providers —Time-Warner, Verizon, AT&T, etc.—claim good coverage but a boots-on-the-ground survey has shown that their service maps are optimistic or even, perhaps, fanciful. Neighbors tell us anecdotes—you've heard them, for sure—about being asked to pay thousands, even tens of thousands, of dollars to have cable-TV extended just one more house down the road. You've also heard the stories about hit-or-miss-but-seldom-fast service provided by satellite companies, and the wildly varying quality of service available via cell phone networks.

There have been points of light in this wilderness. Smaller, local companies have been providing radio-based service to limited areas...typically to the more tech-savvy users among us. One company, Clarity Connect, has submitted several applications for grant funding to create an Internet distribution infrastructure in Danby and other areas. In an ironic moment, Clarity

actually received a grant to create such a buildout in Dryden—based on fixed wireless radios—while an identical application for Danby was turned down.

Driven by our local conditions but with a less selfish motivation than mine, Danby Town Supervisor Ric Dietrich has become something of a crusader for universal Broadband in Tompkins County. I've heard many people say that the Tompkins County Broadband Committee came about through his urgings. Over the last few years, I attended almost all of its meetings.

The TCBB Committee laid groundwork, albeit slowly, to justify bringing Broadband to the whole county. They developed the initial Gap Map, they painstakingly examined all the ways of providing service (fiber,

cable-TV, power lines, and wireless, among others; if someone made a case for a string between two cans that would provide decent communication speed, they would have examined it also), they held public meetings, they listened to invited speakers from private companies and the

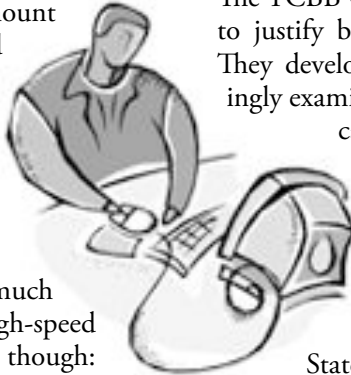
State and Federal Government, they conducted surveys, and then...they recommended a County-wide solution based on fixed wireless technology.

At about the same time, Clarity's buildout in Dryden went "live" to rave reviews. Bottom line, it works. Clarity still had its carefully-developed plans for a similar system in Danby and was working on a solution that would cover the entire County. The solution was intended to provide service to unserved regions, not to compete with—or usurp customers from—existing providers.

And then, at the end of this summer, serendipity struck. New York State announced that it was accepting applications for grant funding...for exactly the kind of system that Danby needs. A "last mile" system, one that delivers service to households, to real people not just to big businesses.

So, that's where we are today. Clarity has applied for that grant funding; its proposal covers the entire County—Danby included—and Southern Cayuga County. I've read all 30 pages of the application and, if there's any justice in this world, it'll be funded. Clarity is targeting a completion date six (that's 6) months after funding.

What would that mean to the average Internet user in Danby? It means service for us would meet or exceed the New York State definition of Broadband: 6Mbps down and 1.5Mbps up. In real terms, that's one Danby News issue from web site to your computer in under



—continued on page 6 ➔

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

The view out my window sees a multitude of topics: Broadband, the Aquifer Study, Town Hall Repairs, Solar Panels, a Wood Gasification Boiler, and Time-Warner negotiations, among others.

And, oh yes, the 2013 Town Budget. During the month of October, the Town Board reviewed our preliminary budget, reached a consensus, and scheduled a Public Hearing (November 12, 6:45pm, in Town Hall) to present a Proposed Budget for public review. We expect to vote on the final document later that evening.

The proposed tax rate for 2013 is \$7.436 per \$1000 of assessed value. This is a less than 1% increase over the 2012 rate. Our effort to keep the increase as low as possible was helped by the roughly \$4 million growth of the total assessed value of properties in the Town. The direct result of the change in tax rate will be that, for every \$100,000 of assessed value, a tax bill will go up about \$6.

Broadband

We had a great turnout for the *Broadband in Danby: Information Meeting* on October 10. Thanks to all of you who took the time to attend, listen, and ask questions.

Questions continue to come my way, and here's the current view out my window. If New York State grant funding is awarded, we will then turn to details like coverage maps: who is and is not covered, and how do we connect as many households as is possible.

If the grant does not get funded, we need to explore how to fund the infrastructure for Broadband by ourselves. Our Town government has invested in Home Rule issues and health care, both based on a long-term view of financial stability and quality of life in Danby. Perhaps this is an appropriate path to take with Broadband.

A technical solution has been proposed and now we need to decide what our next steps are to be. We will keep Danby residents informed about what is happening, and perhaps a group of residents could be formed to advise the Town. Several of you indicated interest in this during the October meeting.

I hope to have another meeting to make decisions about the form we would like this group to take.

Solar Panels, Wood Boiler

The solar array at Town Hall, provided by Solar Liberty, will not go online this calendar year, but our boiler project, part of our ongoing work to reduce our energy overhead, is progressing.

We are hoping to put our new boiler online, probably by November, and then we need to work out the inevitable kinks. By Christmas we should be in a good position to tell residents...all about it.

Aquifer Study

The information we had been awaiting on our aquifer study is back from the the US Geological Survey, and we are reviewing the material in anticipation of passing laws intended to protect the Town's water supply.

Once material is reviewed, any proposed zoning changes will be aired in an informational meeting to discuss the implications of this plan.

Town Hall Repairs

Work on the Town Hall is progressing and all outdoor work will be complete by the time you read this. See Matt Cooper's article in this issue of the Danby News.

Time-Warner Negotiations

A committee including Danby and many of the municipalities in Tompkins County has been working on an improved Cable-TV franchise agreement with Time-Warner. A public hearing—for County resident to relate their experience with Time-Warner—will happen on Thursday, November 1, at 7pm in Ithaca's Town Hall.

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

FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION SUPPER

Submitted by Peter Fraissinet, West Danby Community Association

Danby and West Danby are much, much richer for having such dedicated volunteers in our Fire Departments serving our communities (and outlying ones!).

The volunteers are your neighbors as well. They are there when we need them, and now is a good chance for us to say, "Thank You!" Please come out and show your support for our hometown heroes!

This Appreciation Supper will be a served ham supper with savory sides (and a vegetarian option, too), and desserts provided by your friends and neighbors.

The particulars: Saturday November 3, 5-7pm, West Danby Fire Hall, Sylvan Lane, off NYS Rt.34/96. Suggested donation is \$7 (but no one will be turned away); under 12 free. Hope to see you there!

PS: Anyone interested in helping in the kitchen during the afternoon of Nov.3, your talents will be most welcome. Contact me [pf13@cornell.edu] or 607.564.0030, evenings. ☘

Broadband Plan, continued from page 4 ➔

one second. That's whole books in several seconds, and (for the bold) telephone over the Internet without even breaking a sweat.

Now, I'm not selling Clarity's services—far from it, I'm still paying lots and lots for service—but I'm familiar with the proposed plan in the grant. The basic 6 down/1 up service described above is about \$35/month if you pay annually. Where faster service is available (and that covers a lot of Danby), you could pay more and get more. You can also pay more for a small office or for full business service, or for fixed IP addresses, or for a whole bunch of optional services...but garden-variety Internet is \$35/month and there are currently no bandwidth caps, nor are any anticipated. Verizon and AT&T, by contrast, charge something like \$10/gigabyte of data when you exceed your plan allowance; some folks never exceed it, while others start paying extra after only a few days.

Clarity is offering very substantial discounts for families with children on the free-and-reduced-cost school lunch plan, and for unemployed workers looking for jobs (these days, many businesses ask you to fill out applications on the Internet). Libraries, Town Halls, Fire Stations, and other community centers are offered free service *and* hotspots for public use.

A previous article in this series described how fixed wireless communications works. Interestingly, Clarity's grant application includes funds to install height extenders—telephone poles, mostly—for residents who could get service if they could mount an antenna just a little bit higher up!

Sounds too good to be true? Well, there is a big "gotcha". If New York does not provide grant funding, it's back to the drawing board...or onward to Plan B.

What's Plan B? Finding another way to pay for the infrastructure. Potential subscribers could get together and pay for it, or the Town could create the infrastructure as a public service, or it could be some combination of those sources.

It's an interesting question: if a household is paying \$70/month for, say, satellite or radio service and is not satisfied with the service quality or speed, would it be worthwhile to give two years of savings toward the effort to create an infrastructure? Compared to the \$35/month plan, the savings would exceed \$800; if 200 such households in Danby all got together, the project could begin. If the Town was forward-looking, a one-time investment of about \$100 per household (about

GIVING BACK TO YOUR TOWN

We're in the "home stretch" of the year. Holiday season, the time of family and giving, is quickly approaching.

In a small town like Danby, giving to the family extends beyond relatives...to the Town itself. By giving of your time and effort, you can improve the quality of life for everyone: yourself, your household, your neighbors, and everyone in the town.

Lots of organizations are looking for volunteers, including: **Danby Community Council**

To make the DCC responsive to community needs, about one-half of its Board of Directors is selected every year. Some Directors may stand for re-election, and there are bound to be open seats. Contact [ctrutmann@gmail.com].

Town of Danby

Various Boards have members whose term is ending; some have open seats: Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, Conservation Advisory Council. Contact [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us].

And, oh yes, don't forget to vote on November 6! ❁

➔ **Fields & Meadows, continued from front page**

manages a network of 30 nature preserves that are free and open to the public. Residents are encouraged to visit the 500+ acre Lindsay Parsons Preserve in West Danby, the 50-acre Kingsbury Preserve on Jersey Hill Road, and the Sweedler and Thayer Preserves along Lick Brook near the northwest corner of Danby.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust is a membership supported, non-profit that partners with landowners and local communities to conserve the region's most significant open spaces. The Land Trust has protected more than 14,000 acres of wetlands, forests, farmland, grassland, and gorges. To learn more about our work, please visit [fl1t.org]. ❁

the cost of a short segment of driveway or a very short segment of roadway) would also kick-start the process.

The Broadband Grant awards should be announced by the beginning of December. Clarity's application has a lot of merit, and maybe the State will choose based on merit rather than politics. If yes, our waiting will soon be over; if no, then we have to consider Plan B. If you're interested in followup information, please contact me at 607.273.8678 or [danbynews@tedcrane.com]. ❁

Town Hall, continued from front page ➞

homes in order that we might spend less on fuel each winter and also to try to cut down on our own personal contribution to climate change.

The Danby Town Hall, built in the 1830s, is one such old building; this year we've been making several needed repairs and improvements, both in an effort to forestall the effects of age and also to increase our energy efficiency.

Seth Brewster, a Danby resident, was contracted to inspect and repair the "sill beams" (the large timbers that rest on top of the stone foundation walls and support the exterior walls). Sometime in the past, stones in the wall had been replaced in such a way as to direct water against the underside of the wood frame. Inevitably, the wood began to rot.

In general, the sill was fine, and in better shape than originally feared. Seth was able to do a combination of treatment and replacement that should last for many decades to come.

In addition, sometime in the past two hundred years, the north and south walls of the building sagged significantly, taking the clapboard siding along with them and turning what were originally nice, parallel horizontal lines into a wavy pattern. While it is physically possible to jack up the sagged parts of the walls and fix them straight, it would cost tens of thousands of dollars and require gutting the interior of the wall, removing and then reinstalling the windows, replacing the dry-wall, removing and reinstalling the siding...you get the idea. Instead, we had Seth remove several courses of the clapboard siding on the north side of the building and then put them back, closer to straight. You can still see the signs of the old shift of the wall, but it is much improved and for a considerably lower cost.

The regrading at the front of the building will be done by the Highway Department during the course of their regular work so there will be no cost to the Town.

Once the sill was repaired we could begin the next phase of improvements: energy efficiency. We had a comprehensive audit of the envelope of the building done earlier this year and it showed what was to be expected: that this old hall was leaky.



The existing fiberglass insulation in the attic and basement and the blown-in cellulose in the walls were of little value against the dreaded "stack effect", when heated air is allowed to rise upwards and out of the building. The building becomes like a chimney, creating a draft by warming air that rises through the ceiling and then the roof while simultaneously pulling cold air in from outdoors via the crawlspace and the floor.

Fiberglass does almost nothing to stop air flow, so it was necessary to re-insulate the attic (to R-60) and incorporate air sealing into the scheme. Likewise, the stone exterior walls in the crawlspace were sealed with a thick layer of spray foam and the dirt floor was covered with a vapor barrier.

Energy Tec was the company hired to do the work. In addition to the original audit, they conducted a blower door test both before and after the air sealing. The results were impressive: a 44 percent reduction in air infiltration. This should translate into a significant reduction in heating costs for the building.

The south side of the building was in need of repainting so, after soliciting bids from several contractors, we selected Blue Spruce Painting to do the work. They're also doing some touch-up work on the north side, primarily where the siding was re-installed. Their work is underway, and is expected to be done this week.

Future work under consideration includes: refinishing the floors in the main meeting room (the current finish is just starting to wear through to the wood so the time is now to get that done); insulating the vault to minimize the temperature and humidity fluctuations that can be so damaging to paper records; and minor repairs and improvements to the bathrooms.

As was mentioned in this newsletter in the past, the Town has engaged with Solar Liberty to lease an array of ground-mounted solar panels. There is no cost to the Town for this, and Solar Liberty guarantees that our monthly electrical bills will be reduced significantly. The installation date isn't set yet, but it should be sometime in the next few months.

The Danby Town Hall is an old building with a lot of history. With care on our part it should continue to be part of our town life for years to come. ❁

VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

In 1984, New York State passed its *Alternative Veteran's Exemption on Property Tax* Law. The Alternative Exemption provides a property tax exemption of 15% of assessed value to veterans who served during wartime and an additional 10% to those who serviced in a combat zone. The law also provides an additional exemption to disabled veterans equal to one-half of their service-connected disability ratings.

Tompkins County—and most of its municipalities—adopted local laws extending the Veteran's Exemption to its residents. Currently, Danby is the only Town within Tompkins County that has not granted this exemption.

In the intervening years, several exemption options have developed. The Danby Town Board has been reviewing these and considering which option would be best for Danby. The Tompkins County Assessment Office has been helpful in providing information about the potential number of eligible veterans in Danby and the impact that this would have on other taxpayers. At most, if all veterans claimed all the potential exemptions, taxes on the average property in Danby would increase between \$5.27 and \$6.23.

GIVING BACK WITH HELPING HANDS

Submitted by Gay Huddle and Barb Robinson

John and Sharon Gaden, along with Dick and Judy Oltz, give a great deal to this community of ours, and they have been doing so for a very long time. Now it's time to return the favor.

John continues his long recovery from the motorcycle accident he was involved in this past June while Sharon continues to work full-time in Ithaca, and Judy is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on October 29 after being laid up for a while now with Dick taking care of her. We need to start a calendar of meals delivered to these folks over the next few weeks, (most likely through November) and we would like to ask those interested in helping out to contact Gay at either 607.273.6530 or [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] to be put on the schedule.

"Many hands make light work" as we all know, and Danby is a community that can easily pull off this kind of "friends in need" project! Thank you. ❀

The Town must pass a local law in order for an Alternative Veteran's Property Tax Exemption to take effect. Such a law would need to be passed by March 1 in order to take effect the following year.

The Town Board wants to know what you think about this. A Public Information Meeting will be scheduled for some time in December. Until then, residents are encouraged to contact the Town Supervisor or Town Clerk to share their thoughts or concerns and to have questions answered. Preliminary information and a record of Board discussions can be found in the Town Board minutes (8/13, 9/10, 10/8, and 10/15), available in the Town Hall library and online at the Town of Danby web site, [town.danby.ny.us/TownBoard].

More information about Veteran's Tax Exemptions is available at the office of the Town Clerk at the Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca NY 14850 or Email [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us]. ❀

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

There are a lot of Veteran-related things going on during the month of November. You have the Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Ithaca, 2pm on November 4. It looks like the parade route is shorter than normal, starting on the west end of the Commons and going to Plain Street.

On the November 11, Veterans Day, there will be a ceremony in Ithaca's Dewitt Park. Hope to see you at these great events.

The Marines is celebrating its Birthday at the VFW on November 10. We are looking forward to a good turnout and remember...you don't have to be a Marine to attend. All veterans are encouraged to help celebrate with the Marines.

We have had a good start to our fall dinners and would like to thank those who have attended. We also welcome those who have never been to our dinners or those who have not been to them in a while!

November 3, 5:30-7pm, Steak Dinner. Steak cooked to order; Salad Bar; Choice of Baked Potato, Onion Rings, or French Fries; Bread; Coffee, tea, and dessert... all for the low price of \$12.

November 16, 5:30-7pm, Fish Dinner (Baked or Fried). The fish; Choice of French Fries, Baked Potato, or Onion Rings; Salad Bar; Bread; Coffee, Tea, Dessert...just \$12. ❀

AT THE DFC...

Election Night Dinner, Tuesday, November 6, 5-8pm
Pork Dinner with mashed potatoes, squash, green beans and dessert. \$9 adult, \$5 for children under 12.

Holiday Craft Fair

We are happy to announce that this year's Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2012, 10am-3pm. This Fair is a fundraiser for our Women's Fellowship, which uses the funds for missions and programs.

Set up time starts at 8am that morning. Cost per table is \$15. This will include a 6 foot table and two chairs (or more if you need them). You can reserve one or more tables by completing an entry. Contact the church at 607.272.1687 to obtain an entry form or Email [brathbun3@gmail.com]. For questions contact Bonnie at the same address.

Operation Christmas Child 2012

The Danby Federated Church is participating in Operation Christmas Child, a program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has distributed more than 94 million gift-filled shoe boxes to boys and girls in over 130 countries.

The national collection week for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes is November 12-19, 2012. Brochures describing how to pack and label shoe boxes will be available in the Danby Federated Church fellowship hall after mid-October.

If you would like to have the Danby Church deliver your box to the regional collection point, be sure to bring your filled and labeled shoe boxes to the church by the end of the service on Sunday, November 18.

Contact Sheila Enstine, 607.220.9664 for more information. You can also find out more about Operation Christmas Child online at [smaritanspurse.org].

After Thanksgiving-Thanksgiving Dinner

Just when you think the big bird has escaped, it's time for deep-fried turkey and all the fixin's. Saturday, November 24, 2012, Noon-2pm and free to all! If you missed out on Thanksgiving, come home to our family!

Festival of Wreaths, November 28,29,30, December 1

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner, December 14

Christmas Sing-a-long, December 19

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 7pm ❀

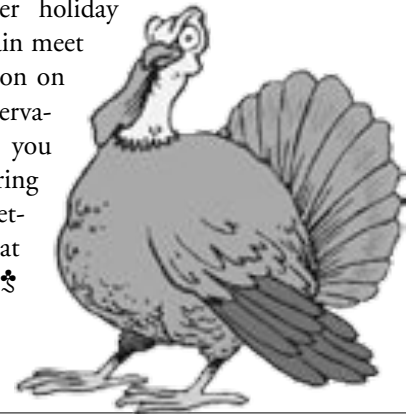
DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, November 1, at Noon in the Danby Church. Linda Howe will again prepare our "Thanksgiving" turkey and gravy, and potatoes will be cooked up by the Merritts. Please bring complimentary dishes to share.

Thank you to Barb and Carl Mosher for hosting last month's meeting! (Also assisted by the senior exercise group.)

For our December holiday luncheon, we'll again meet at the Oasis at Noon on December 6. Reservations are required; you can do this during the November meeting or call Margie at 607.273.8046. ❀



GAS DRILLING TASK FORCE UPDATE

Submitted by Jennifer Tiffany

Ninety one percent of respondents to a recent GDTF survey want the Danby Gas Drilling Task Force to, "Continue to meet on a regular basis so that we will be prepared for the future."

During its October meeting, the task force decided to restructure slightly. We will continue to have monthly meetings (the next one is on November 14, 7-9pm in the Danby Town Hall). The first part of the meeting will focus on information sharing: reports from members on "big picture" happenings, like economic factors influencing shale gas development.

The second part of the meeting will focus on priority work projects like bringing speakers to Danby and helping to work on Town policies and laws.

Smaller working groups will have additional meetings to keep these projects moving forward. This will give people multiple ways of staying connected to and contributing to the work of the task force by reporting on their areas of expertise, by working intensively on specific projects, and by attending the group's monthly meetings and helping to guide its activities. ❀

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Many thanks to "Mrs. Mysterious" who was instrumental in helping us get a collection of graphic novels to circulate at the Danby Community Library starting in January! I hope you read her article in last month's news and we look forward to more to come.



New Books coming:

Little Night

by Luanne Rice

Time Keeper

by Mitch Albom

The Casual Vacancy

by J.K. Rowling

Gone Girl

by Gillian Flynn

New collections coming from Tompkins County Public Library:

Large Type-October

Juvenile Fiction-November

Juvenile NonFiction-November

On our TCPL collections, we try to put the date we need to return the books downtown on the shelf as information for you. If the return date is near, don't hesitate to borrow a book. Just return it to us as soon as you can so we can get the collection back to the library. We are continuing to work on getting that outdoor book return to help you return books anytime! ❀



LIFE IN DANBY

Submitted by Julie Kulik

What a beautiful Autumn. The geese are starting to congregate on Jennings pond and are conducting short test flights together...love that sound! It is nice to be back in touch with folks and hearing about what they have been seeing in the Danby area. I LOVE to hear about what you or your children have seen out there! Please contact me at 607.272.2272x222 or [jnk54@cornell.edu]. Please Email [jnk54@cornell.edu] or call 607.272.2272.x222.

As always, to protect the innocent, I will not publish the location of your sightings, but will keep a record of where/when they took place. Here is what was sent to me recently:

Birds: "I believe this is a juvenile red-tail. A friend suggests it was refueling on migration. It hung around for hours catching mice, and let me get within 10 feet"; piliated woodpecker in the woods; Owl calls heard: screech owl, great horned, Bard.

Insects: "Wasps. 20-45 feet in the air, attracted to cement and fresh lumber."

Mammals: Grey Fox; "For the past month, far more bucks around here than I've ever seen in a single year."; "I've been seeing a substantial amount of bear poop"; "We had a black bear at our birdfeeders last Wednesday evening. It must have taken the suet feeder while we were eating dinner"; Otter signs (tracks and scat); torn apart ant hills with big scratch marks; bobcats.



Photo by Ben Altman

Compiled by Julie Nichols Kulik, who can often be found in the woods with Danby children or the children of Earth Arts. To learn more about these programs, visit the Rural Youth Servics page of [ccetompkins.org] or [earthartsithaca.org]. ❀

Community Council Youth Programs Fall 2012

These programs are sponsored by the Danby Community Council and are free to Danby Residents. Registration is required. Please send child with lunch and water bottle each day. Contact Julie Nichols Kulik, Danby Youth Program manager, at [jnk54@cornell.edu], 607-272-2292 x 222, or pick a registration form up at the Danby Town Hall, or on line at:

[ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby]

The following Fall programs have space available in them:

Boynton Lunch Bunch (grades 6-8)

Wednesdays, September 19-December 19.

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.



South Hill Lunch Bunch (grades 4-5)

Fridays, September 21-December 14.

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.

Danby Youth Flyer

Crafts and Games (grades 6-8)

Boynton Middle School

Wednesdays, November 28-December 19, 3:10-5pm

Come create holiday crafts and play games after school. This is a joint program with Town of Ithaca youth. Just in time to make holiday gifts!

Family Bowl Workshop

Danby Town Hall

Friday, November 30, 5:30-8pm

Come join us for a pizza dinner, then create a family bowl that represents what your family values and loves to do together! The bowl will be fired in a kiln and then returned to you at a later date. Limited to 8 families, please register early! (This is not a drop off program, children of all ages need to be accompanied by an adult to work on this collaborative project together.) ❄

DOTSON PARK NEWS

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

Our Danby community park has been filled with disc golfers, walkers, and nature lovers this fall!

On Saturday, November 3, DiscIthaca will host a *Spook-er* in Dotson Park! This tournament will be 20 holes by day and 20 by night. Want to play? The fee is \$25 for amateur disc golfers and \$40 for pros (includes tournament entry as well as food and drinks). Players can register in the park at 2:30pm on Saturday, or Email [bf52@cornell.edu]. Tee off is at 3pm.

Want to watch and learn more about the sport? Stop by anytime during the Spooker to be a spectator and hang out! At 4:30pm there will be a disc golf clinic for anyone interested in learning the general rules of disc golf, how to throw, putt, etc. It will be fun for your whole fam-

ily! There will also be a 50/50 raffle open to everyone who attends. Some proceeds from the Spooker will be cash prizes for tournament winners, and some will go to course maintenance, so come on out and show your support.

Kudos to Julie, Tom, Betsy, and Gopi for volunteering to work on the trails on September 29. On October 13, five students from Ithaca College volunteered to clear trails at Dotson Park, too. We appreciate their hard work! There are now more than a mile's worth of trails throughout the park—it is fairly flat terrain so hikers of various abilities can enjoy a walk.

Do you have an idea for a fun event in Dotson Park? Join our Dotson Park Facebook group and/or Email [dotsonpark@gmail.com] to share your ideas and to stay in the loop about park happenings! ❄

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Oct 28 • Sun
2-5pm 🏠 Town Hall
Community Council Halloween Party
- Oct 31 • Wed
6-8pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Trunk or Treat Party
- Nov 1 • Thu
Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors Meeting**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Meeting**
- Nov 3 • Sat
2:30pm 🏠 Dotson Park • **Spooker - Disc Golf**
5-7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
Firefighter Appreciation Supper
5:30pm 🏠 American Legion • **Steak Dinner**
- Nov 6 • Tue
6am-9pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall and West Danby Fire Hall
General Election—Your Vote Counts
5-8pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Election Night Dinner**
- Nov 7 • Wed
6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Nov 10 • Tue
8-11am 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**
10am-3pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Holiday Craft Fair
- Nov 11 • Sun
3-5pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Concert: Middle Eastern Music**
- Nov 12 • Mon
6:45pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Public Hearing 2013 Budget**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Department Meeting**
- Nov 13 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- Nov 14 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Task Force**
- Nov 15 • Thu
3-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Park Association Meeting**
- Nov 16 • Fri
1-6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Blood Drive**
5:30pm 🏠 American Legion • **Fish Dinner**

- Nov 19 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
- Nov 20 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- Nov 24 • Sat
Noon-2pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
After-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 26 • Mon
1-2pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Mobile Food Truck**
7:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Adv Council Mtg**
- Nov 28 • Wed
🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Festival of Wreaths**
- Nov 29 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**
- Jul 13, 2013 • 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.
- Danby Fire Commissioners** 🏠 Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall
3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm.
- Seniors Strength Training Group** 🏠 Federated Church
Mondays and Thursdays, 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