



# DANBY AREA NEWS

## TOWN SEEK BOARD APPLICANTS

The Danby Town Board is seeking applicants for several boards including a 7-year term on the Planning Board, 5-year terms on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the West Danby Board of Water Commissioners, 2-year terms on the Conservation Advisory Council and a 2-year term representing Danby on the County's Environmental Management Council. Two seats are also open for 1-year terms on the Board of Assessment Review. The Town Board will also review applications for persons interested in serving as Town Historian, a 1-year appointment.

Persons interested in serving in these capacities should fill out an application (available at the Town Clerk's office) or write a letter of intent listing professional, educational, or other experience that would assist the applicant in serving and answering the following questions:

- Why you are interested in this position?
- What you hope to accomplish in this position?

Include your mailing and Email address and telephone contact information. Applications are due by January 14, 2013 and interviews will be held by the Town Board during its January meetings.

More information about all these positions is available at the office of the Town Clerk at the Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca NY 14850 or by Email to [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us]. ❀

## SPEED LIMITS ON TOWN ROADS

Throughout the year, the Town Board receives requests to "do something" about speed limits on roads. Sometimes residents want

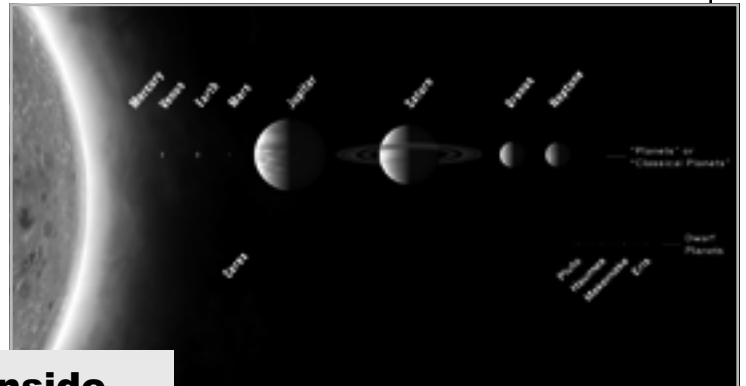
—continued on page 5 ➡

## DCC PRESENTS...SPACECRAFT TOUR OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Submitted by Christel Trutmann

After all the seasonal pleasure created by shiny little balls hanging from decorated trees is done, the Danby Community Council is presenting an amazing and educational extravaganza of gigantic spinning balls that don't hang from anything at all!

On Sunday, January 20, 2013, 3-5pm, in the Danby Town Hall, Cornell scientist Rick Kline will present a



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visual and informative look at the celestial bodies that make up our "neighborhood".

Over the past 25 years in Cornell's Department of Astronomy, Rick has served as the Data Manager of the Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility, one of NASA's Regional Planetary Image Facilities. During that time, he has collected his favorite images of the Sun, planets, asteroids, and comets that make up our solar system.

The event is suitable for almost all age groups: anyone with an interest in planetary exploration should enjoy the tour. Everyone with an eye for the magical beauty of the sky should be there! ❀

**January 2013**

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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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:** 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

Oh, cruel January! We barely get over the indulgences of holiday parties and staying up late for New Year's Eve when reality hits us. There is no escape from Cold, Dark, and Taxes. There are days when it seems that massive amounts of chocolate is the only thing that will get us through.

Tax bills are sent out at the very end of December and should be in your mailbox by the first week of January. If, for some reason, you do not receive your Town



and County property tax bill by that week, give us a call. Remember, if your taxes are paid by an escrow service, the original bill is sent to the bank or payment service. If there has been a change in your escrow status and the bill should come to you, let us know. We can print out a duplicate copy at get it to you right away.

The Town tax levy increased this year by 0.813 percent—less than one percent. For every \$100,000 of assessment, an average tax bill will increase \$6 in regards the combined Danby

General, Highway, and Fire District budget. The amount your tax bill will actually increase depends on whether your property value went up, down, or stayed the same following the most recent assessment. Fire protection, water services, and highway maintenance all cost money. Danby is doing the best it can with the least amount possible.

Several calculations contribute to your January Town and County tax bill. Remember that your tax bill includes both Town and County tax levies (along with the Fire District levy and, if you live in West Danby, the levy for the Water District). The Town Board and Fire Districts passed their budgets in November followed, soon after, by the County. Thanks to careful planning and belt-tightening, the Town of Danby was once again able to stay under the 2% tax cap. The County was not able to keep its budget within the tax cap, and this increase will “trickle down” to your local bill.

In order to be as accessible as possible, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 10am-1pm on Saturdays. We are closed on Sundays and Thursdays.

The first day of tax collection is Wednesday, January 2, as we are closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for the New Years holiday.

Remember, Town Clerks are only tax collectors. We don't set your assessment or your tax rate. I know that there's little I can do to make January better than it is, but I can promise that the candy bowl will be filled with chocolate kisses including plenty of dark chocolate. I look forward to seeing many of you during the cold days of January and February. I can renew or issue dog licenses and answer questions about town government at the same time.

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

## FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Deanna Bowles, DFD Secretary/Treasurer

Congratulations to Bill Halton on his recent election to the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Town of Danby. The Fire Commissioners welcome Bill and look forward to working with him.



Bill replaces Pat Cave-ney, who is retiring after 15 years of service.

## 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.

## DECEMBER 2012 PERIODIC REPORT

Submitted by Frank P. Proto, Tompkins County Legislator

As we wind down the current year it's important to recognize that certain County challenges were met well, while others, and new ones, loom for 2013.

Though we kept the property tax very manageable for the present, the two items still giving us much consternation are State pension costs and Medicaid. We're looking forward to one more year of increased pension costs, then a leveling out. Medicaid however is anyone's guess right now.

How these effect local programming will be apparent in planning for Youth Services, infrastructure, and mental health, to name a few. While we were able to restore some support for youth development, meetings are planned with all three towns to initiate a direction for our youth that can be sustained.

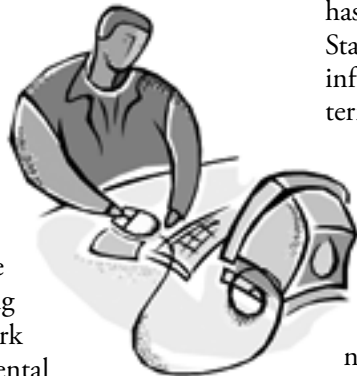
Health care for those needing support in their homes hit a bump with the County's Home Health Care unit closing. However, our local agencies stepped in, and together with the hospital are holding their own in filling this critical need. The care transitions program is off to a great start!

A continuing challenge will be the newest review of the fracking regulations posed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. We've proposed an extension, but started the review to keep our State folks aware of our concerns.

And, a new effort to support our successful TCAT Transportation Program involves creating a more reliable funding stream from the Mortgage Recording Tax. This will enable us to replace aging busses with more efficient ones while not causing an increase in property tax.

As usual, there's always more to report than space will permit. But contact me should there be a question or concern you'd like to discuss. Cannonbrook Farms, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881; 607.277.4875; [fproto@tompkins-co.org].

Please have a safe and joyful holiday...  
...hug your kids!



## DANBY LAND BANK / BIOMASS ENERGY

Submitted by Betsy Keokosky

The Danby Land Bank Cooperative and Community Biomass Energy are hosting a meeting at 10:30am on Saturday, January 26, 2013, in the Danby Town Hall.

They are putting together a business plan for the use of agricultural pellets with small scale combined heat and power. Members and anyone else in the Ithaca area interested in agricultural biomass and/or CHP who wants to help see this happen are invited.

For further information and progress reports go to [www.danbylandbank.com] or call 607.342.5430.

## BROADBAND UPDATE

Submitted by Ted Crane

No news continues to be good news, I hope.

As described in previous issues of the Danby News, one of our local Internet service providers, Clarity Connect, has submitted an application for a grant from New York State. If awarded, the grant would fund a buildout of infrastructure to provide Broadband (high-speed) Internet service to many unserved residents of the Town of Danby.

The grant was submitted in October, and the nominal deadline for the announcement of awards is the end of November. Unfortunately, several key people in the grant process were put offline by damage to homes on Long Island. The awards announcement is expected in January.

If you're interested in the grant results, or would like other followup information, drop me a note at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or call 607.273.8678. I'll keep you up-to-date.

## COMING SOON: LOCAL HISTORY EXPO

West Danby is planning a "Local History Expo" for the near future. Details still in the works, but there will be photographs and artifacts galore, focusing on Danby and West Danby and adjacent locales. Wayne Myers will share some of his photos and give a short presentation on the Fire of 1934 (or, why there are few old trees below Thatcher's Pinnacles).

Other short presentations or displays are solicited—do you have a story or piece of local history that you think would interest others? Email me at [pf13@cornell.edu] or phone 607.564.0030 (evenings).

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

At this time of year, traditionally, we tend to look back over our shoulder and reflect how we have fared with the world, family, work, parents, spouses, children, and life.

The Town of Danby, in our daytime roles of Highway, Clerk, Bookkeeper, Board Members, Supervisor, Code Enforcement, Judges, and support staff has all the above going on as it works to provide its residents with services that maintain our infrastructure.

This behind-the-scenes work force is dedicated to providing core services, but also to planning for future needs and demands. This work force is a collection of paid staff, elected individuals, and volunteers. All of them have dedicated a significant part of their lives to keeping the town on track...today, and into the future.

On average, in any given month, over fifty people—all committed to making Danby a vital force, locally and in the surrounding communities—must coordinate with themselves and with County boards and services that involve about the same number of people. So I am saying that, to keep Danby operating and to network on projects, means we have to stay on top of a hundred or so people who are working on some aspect of Town business.

I want to thank all of you, who have lives and responsibilities, for seeing how significant this work force is and for your dedication to making Danby the best it can be.

Early next year our aquifer study will be presented to the Town of Danby, for review and comment. This almost four-year study, mapping Danby's aquifer, brought together State legislators, County representatives, hired consultants, engineering studies, community input, significant numbers of people and enough money to make it happen. It could not be done alone. We needed staff, we needed State support, County and local leaders, and we needed community involvement.

The recent grant funding for the West Danby Water District involved a similar networking effort. The \$400,000+ of this award came about through a group effort. It is an excellent example of a community all coming together to accomplish a necessary task.

Literally everyone in the water district needed to come together and commit to the effort. They send a contin-

gent to Albany; via our local County Representative, meetings were set up State staffers and engineers to scope out the project and write the grant.

It is so impressive when a community can come together, work so professionally together and achieve their goals. Congratulations one and all.

These two examples, along with our biomass boiler, now online using local renewable resources for fuel, and our solar electric installations show us what can be accomplished. There are more challenges before us but, looking over my shoulder, seeing the dedication and commitment of our residents, it gives me renewed confidence that we are all in good hands.

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



### ➤ **Speed Limits, continued from front page**

the speed limit raised, but most often the interest is in having it reduced on specific roads.

The Town cannot adjust speed limits on County or State roads, but it can request that changes be made. Most recently, the Town Board asked to have Nelson Road speed limit reduced between 96B and Ridgecrest, in anticipation of the Waldorf School opening. The County reduced the speed limit to 40 mph and decided to reduce it all the way back to Troy Road due to residential density.

There has been interest in having a speed limit reduction on Comfort Road, from Miller Road north to NYS Rt.96B. Some of the residents who live on Comfort Road are concerned about the planned expansion of Stork H&E Turbo Blading and what implications that may have on traffic that is already a concern for them.

The Town Board welcomes feedback from residents who travel on Comfort Road. We will be discussing the request for reduced speed in early February. Please let us know your opinion. You can contact anyone on the Town Board or let the Town Clerk know. You can also voice your opinion at a Town Board meeting. Those meetings are held at 7pm in the Town Hall, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. ☘

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

What will be new for you in the New Year?

Danby Community Library is proud to announce that we have purchased an outdoor book return and hope to have it up and running in the new year!

We will also have a new selection of graphic novels from Tompkins County Public Library to circulate as well as a couple of Danby-owned graphic novels-Check them out!

We will continue to provide books, movies and audio books to borrow throughout the year.

We are proud of our volunteers who work to keep the library going.

We look forward to our Annual Open House and Book Sale in April.

Happy 2013 to you! ❀

## DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, January 3, at Noon in the Danby Federated Church. It's a dish to share luncheon. All seniors, 55 and older, are welcomed to attend and join the fellowship!

Our February meeting will be on the 7th at Noon.

In December, about 73 of us enjoyed a lovely holiday luncheon at the Oasis. Thanks to Pam and Doug for doing a great job as always! ❀

## DANBY TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle

Stories needed! Besides writing my weekly Danby Town Talk column, each Thursday in the Ithaca Journal, I have also been writing some freelance articles for the Tompkins Weekly newspaper. Please send me your stories: graduations, births, weddings, anniversaries, awards, history, recipes, family fun, just to name a few ideas. Pictures are welcome, also. I am recruiting you all to be "scouts" for me and root all those great stories out there just waiting to be shared with readers. Please contact me at [gayhuddle@hotmail.com]. ❀

## AT THE DFC...

### Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Friday, January 11, 2013 5-7pm. Chicken and Biscuit, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce, Pies and Assorted Desserts, Beverage. Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Challenge

Friday, January 18, 2013 6:30-8:30pm. Musical Entertainment at 8pm, Judging at 8pm.

For chili challengers and the chili challenged! Do you think you have the best chili in the northeast? Bring your best pot of chili to this challenge. Do you like to eat chili? You be the judge! Whose is the best.

More info to come at [danbyfederatedchurch.org] or call 607.272.1687.

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, January 25, 2013, 1:30-6pm. Walk-ins welcome.

All events at the Church, 1859 Danby Road. ❀

## AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

Well, the winter season is now upon us and its time to embrace the New Year. Be thankful for the past and look forward to a prosperous and joyful 2013.

Here at the Ithaca American Legion Post 221, we have seen many changes to our building and grounds during 2012. We have added the pavilion, put on a new roof and gutters, and our latest addition is new fryers and hood system. The fryers will help keep the consistency of the fish at a high quality, for an even better fish dinner.

January 5: Steak Dinner 5:30-7pm. Steak to order; choice of French Fries, Onion Rings, or Baked Potato; Salad Bar; bread, and dessert, coffee, or Tea. Only \$12.

January 18: Fish Dinner 5:30-7pm. Fish (Fried or Baked); choice of baked potato, onion rings, or French Fries; Salad Bar; Bread; Coffee, Tea; Dessert. All for just \$12.

If you haven't been to one of our Fish or Steak Dinners you should make it part of your New Year resolutions. The reviews are in and I've been told that we have one of the best salad bars around.

We at the American Legion wish all of you a Happy and Joyful New Year. ❀

## FAREWELL

Submitted by Julie Kulik

I will be leaving my position as the Danby Youth Program Manager at the end of 2012 calendar year. It has been an honor and a joy to spend time with the children of Danby during these last two years.

I will carry with me many happy memories including: various fun van trips to Cayuga Lake, Meyer's Gardens, playground tours, fun in the woods at June Pollack's land with the Primitive Pursuits programs, programs at the Youth Farm, the mural and garden projects at South Hill Elementary School and Magic games at Boynton Middle School.

I will still be in the neighborhood and busy as the director of Earth Arts, where my staff and I run out door education courses for children, teens and adults in and around Ithaca.

Stay tuned for information about a new Danby Youth Program Manager, and the Winter schedule of programs. Watch [[ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby](http://ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby)] for updates about new programs.

Thanks so much for sharing your children with me and see you in the woods! ❄️



## DANBY NEEDS YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER

Submitted by Linda Schoffel

The Danby Community Council is moving ahead with its Youth programs by hiring a new Youth Program Manager.

This will be a 20 hour-per-week, year-round position. The Manager will plan and deliver youth programs in Danby, with guidance from the Danby Community Council. Programs are designed to help youth develop life skills and find a place to belong.

Please find the complete job description and application information at [[ccetompkins.org/jobs](http://ccetompkins.org/jobs)]. Danby residents encouraged to apply. ❄️

## GAS DRILLING UPDATE

Submitted by Kelly Morris

### Comment on DEC's Proposed Fracking Regulations

On Friday, January 4, 2013, 5-8pm, stop by the Danby Town Hall to efficiently submit a comment to the NYS DEC about the recently released proposed regulations for fracking.

The public only has until January 11, 2013 to comment on this vitally important matter. We will make it as easy as possible by providing sample letters, copies of regulations, relevant information, addresses, and letter-writing supplies. Community members familiar with how to submit a comment to the DEC on this issue will be available to help you.

Refreshments and beverages will be provided to keep us all going. Have questions? Email [[kellymorrismail@gmail.com](mailto:kellymorrismail@gmail.com)] or [[anneklingensmith@gmail.com](mailto:anneklingensmith@gmail.com)].

### Rally for a Statewide Ban on Fracking

On January 9, 2013 buses will head to Albany for Governor Cuomo's State of the State address. The Town of Danby already has a ban on fracking, but *Frack Action* and *New Yorkers Against Fracking* are organizing for a statewide ban and rallying at the State of the State. Some members of the Danby community are going. Please get on the bus with us! A very large presence is needed.

RSVP and sign up, along with bus and carpool info at [[bit.ly/VmdiS7](http://bit.ly/VmdiS7)].

### Save the date the the Aquifer Talk!

On Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7pm in the Danby Town Hall, Todd Miller from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) will update our community on the results of the USGS' Danby Aquifer Study, which has been in progress for several years. Should be an interesting and informative evening on one of our most valuable resources. ❄️

Postal Patron

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Jan 2 • Wed  
6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Jan 3 • Thu  
Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors Meeting**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Meeting**
- Jan 4 • Fri  
5-8pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Gas Drilling Letter Writing**
- Jan 5 • Sat  
5:30pm 🏠 American Legion • **Steak Dinner**
- Jan 8 • Tue  
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- Jan 11 • Fri  
5-8pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church  
**Chicken and Biscuit Dinner**
- Jan 14 • Mon  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Department Meeting**
- Jan 15 • Tue  
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- Jan 17 • Thu  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Park Association Meeting**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Community Council Annual Meeting**
- Jan 18 • Fri  
5:30pm 🏠 American Legion • **Fish Dinner**  
6-8:30pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church  
**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Challenge**
- Jan 20 • Sun  
3pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Spacecraft Tour of the Solar System**
- Jan 21 • Mon  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
- Jan 24 • Thu  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**
- Jan 25 • Fri  
1:30-6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**

- Jan 26 • Sat  
10:30am 🏠 Town Hall • **Land Bank Coop Meeting**
- Jan 28 • Mon  
1-2pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Mobile Food Truck**  
7:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Adv Council Mtg**
- Feb 6 • Wed  
6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Feb 7 • Thu  
Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors Meeting**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7pm.
- Danby Fire Commissioners 🏠 Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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