September 2013 FREE TO RESIDENTS

DANBY AREA NEWS

DOTSON PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Michele Lenhart

"We love it here!"

"Great way to end a work day!"

"New to the area, excited to have a disc golf course nearby."

"Too beautiful to not be in the park!"

"Such a good day."

"I miss Danby—love the new trail."

"Wonderful place for a walk!"

"Lovely spot; cool course."

"Study or play? Play!"

These are just a few of the things people are saying about their visits to Dotson Park! This summer, there have been a lot of people playing disc golf, walking the trails, and even enjoying a picnic under the pavilion. The Danby Community Park Association hopes that you get a chance to enjoy some time in the park soon--and then you can leave your own note in the guest book in the mailbox near the big hill.

Next time you visit, be sure to check out the new donation box, located on that mailbox post. It is easier than ever to contribute to the upkeep of the park, whether you have one dollar or twenty! Check out the donation chart on the box or on our web site, [dotsonpark.org] to see how happy you will feel after you contribute!

The DCPA is starting an Adopt-A-Trail program, so we are looking for people who enjoy the park, have a pair of loppers or pruners, and would be willing to help care for a section of the trail. If anyone has a weed whacker that can be donated to the park, that would be a big help for this program! There are currently four sections of trail available to adopt; If you decide to adopt one, you get to name that section! We anticipate that this might require monthly upkeep, particularly during

YOUTH GRANTS AVAILABLE

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

The Danby Community Council still has money left in this year's budget for Danby youth grants. Let us help defray the cost of youth enrichment programs or lessons-up to \$100 per year per child.

Camps, music lessons, after-school programs, one-time or ongoing classes and more are eligible. Youth must be 21 or younger and reside in the Town of Danby at least half-time. Families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches are especially encouraged to apply.

Please Email [youthgrants@danbycc.org] for an application, or call Julie Clougherty at 607.272.7189.

Danby Community Library

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Can you believe that we have 2,855 items at the Danby Community Library? Can you believe that our volun-

teers will be moving these and the furniture between August 24 and August 27 so the Town Hall floors can be refinished? Can you believe that we will be putting everything back on September 3 and 4?

Needless to say, we will be closed during that time, but items can still be returned in our outdoor book return.

New books for Danby:

Sisterland by Curtis Sittenfeld The Cuckoos Calling by Robert Galbraith (a.k.a. J.K. Rowling)

The Cousins' War series by Philippa Gregory (Red Queen | White Queen | Lady of the Rivers)

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September 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 hardcopy 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 in-

clude 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.

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

Getting Information

Last month, I wrote about the importance of Town documents: what we're doing to manage records that only need to be kept for a while and to protect those records that need to kept forever.

Access to information about elected officials and the work they do is important to residents in many ways. Much of that information is available on the Town's

web site: [town.danby.ny.us]. This month, I'll explain how to navigate the Danby town web site to find the information you need.

The front page of the web site gives a snapshot of what's happening in the Town, including a calendar of upcoming events and notices with quick links to useful information such as public hearings, dog licensing, and the policy for using the Town Hall. The navigation bar along the left side of the page leads to other pages within the site. Those are

where the bulk of information can be found. Take a quick-clicking tour to see what is there.

If you want to find out what's going on at Town or Planning Board meetings, follow the link to those pages. You'll find information about when the Boards meet and a list of the Board members, their terms of office, and links to contact information. Scroll down the page to find meeting agendas and minutes. We expect to make these parts of the web site even easier to use, with the most current information singled out and older information in a most compact form.

Recently enacted Local Laws for the Town of Danby can be found by following the link for *Laws/Regs/Policies*. These are listed by number and date, with the most recent at the top of the page. To make it easier to find what you're looking for, we've been preparing short descriptions of each law to be added to the list. Some laws of interest include LL #1 of 2013 (the Veterans' Tax Exemption), LL #1 of 2011 (Dog Licensing Law), and LL #3 of 2009 (the Subdivision and Zoning law). We are also building a similar list of the 100+ resolutions that the Town Board passes each year.

Information about zoning regulations, building permits, and zoning appeals can all be found on the *Code Enforcement* page. You can download PDFs of current building permit applications and fees as well as forms needed for a zoning appeal. Links to the Local Laws related to zon-

ing and code enforcement are also found on this page.

Much more information, including office hours and phone numbers for the various Town departments, online copies of the Danby Area News, information about the Danby Community Library, and much more can be found on the Town's web site. Give yourself a tour. It's the easiest way to get to know what's going on in Danby.

Hunting Licenses

The sale of DEC sporting licenses contributes to a busy part of our work routine in September. *Doe Management Permit* sales began on August 12 and continue through the end of the work day on Tuesday, October 1. Even Lifetime License holders still need to visit a sales agent for DMP tags and other add-ons. Licenses are on sale all year 'round. If you bring your previous sporting license or your driver's license, it will make it easier for us to find you in the DEC License Sales system. We should have you in and out in just a few minutes. Hunting and fishing guides are also available through the Town Clerk's office.

Once again, we encourage Danby hunters to make donations to the New York State Venison Donation Coalition. The non-profit Coalition coordinates efforts of hunters, deer processors, food banks, and other individuals to add locally sourced food to New York State food banks. Ground venison is distributed through food pantries, soup kitchens, and senior living centers. One deer can provide up to 160 servings of highly nutritious ground venison to those in need. It's easy to support this effort, even if you butcher your own venison. Simply ask the Clerk to click on the donation box and the small \$1 fee will be added to your license fee. Donations are also be accepted through the Coalition's secure web site [venisondonation.org] orvia a check payable to Venison Donation Coalition, Inc., 415 West Morris Street, Bath, NY 14810. For more information, see the web site or call 866.862.DEER.

You may have heard that changes in pricing, license bundling (e.g. SuperSportsman licenses), and equipment will be coming...but not until February 2014. In September, the Clerk's office staff, Susan McLellan and myself, will be attending a seminar to learn more about these changes. For now, license sales are the same as they were last year.

In September, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 10am-Noon on Saturdays. As always, the Clerk's is closed on Sundays and Thursdays. And yes, there's still chocolate in the bowl by the Clerk's window. Questions? Call 607.277.4788 or send Email to [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us].

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Frank Proto, County Legislator

At this point in the County's budget process the Departments and agencies have submitted their 2014 requests to the County Administrator. Next will be the internal reviews in order for a total recommendation to come to the Legislature with an idea of what levy estimate those numbers reflect. Medicaid and the State pension costs will certainly have an impact. Recently the Governor proposed reducing the imposed tax cap in order to better reflect inflation. It will be a real challenge to service delivery considering this potential restraint. Our discussions with Towns regarding Youth Services are continuing and an initial budget increase has been included, but is not guaranteed. Suggestions are welcomed.

One positive note has been the Governor's okay regarding the Mortgage Recording Tax. While we did not build that into Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit's (TCAT) preliminary 2014 budget, as it will not have a full twelve month impact, it was welcomed news. This new funding source will allow TCAT to avoid further reliance on the property tax in order to help defray bus replacement cost and some operational expense. All three funding entities participated in the budget review. The public should be commended for its support of this vital service.

Please stay alert regarding the health exchange associated with the Affordable Health Care Act. By this time next year the requirement regarding health insurance

West Danby Water District Update

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Commissioner

During our August 7 meeting, the Commissioners decided to recommend to the Town Board that we accept the bid proposal from Blair Supply, to provide the materials to replace our system's water meters with new, remote reading ones.

The Town Board approved our recommendation during its August 11 meeting. We can now proceed with our order and continue planning for changing the meters. Carl has also coordinated some improvement of the road to our tank that will be required for heavy equipment access to the tank site when that work begins.

will be in full swing. At this time the Human Services Coalition, Chamber of Commerce, and Department of Social Services are preparing to act as "navigators".

While budgets seem to be a constant topic, the County is examining its capital needs as well. A look at the Day Treatment Program in Probation, the adjustments to jail space, and space needs for the Legislature have all been topics of discussion. The Legislature space is now complete and anyone may stop by to view it.

Recent weather events have heightened the need to enhance emergency services locally. The Central New York Medical Reserve Corps is charged with pre-credentialing medical staff in order to be ready to step in and act immediately should such an emergency occur. They are currently working with our County Health Department and Emergency Services and would welcome the opportunity to assist any local department charged with this responsibility, too. They can be reached at [cnymrc@ongov.net], [ongov.net/health/mrc/], or 315.435.5262.

Status of the compensatory time review, more on agriculture, and the County budget are items for the next newsletter.

If you'd like to discuss any item or have a question please don't hesitate to contact me at 607.277.4875 or Email [fproto@tompkins-co.org].

Chili judging at the 4-H Fair was a delightful success. Enjoy some sunshine.

Gas Drilling Task Force Informal MTg in September

Submitted by Kathy Halton

The Gas Drilling Task Force members have taken a needed summer break, but we'd like to have an informal meeting in September, probably Wednesday evening, September 18. We'll confirm the date and time via email in early September. We would like to have a dish-to-pass at Kathy Halton's house, 2505 Danby Road, with just easy-to-eat snacks--nothing fancy.

We can talk about what's been happening and bring each other up-to-date on the latest events and projects. And we can talk about what may be coming up in the future. If you'd like more information, contact Kathy Halton, [khalton@twcny.rr.com] or 607.273.0533. \$

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

I wish I could put the winter in the same context as the summer by asking, "Where did it go?"

Some of this summer was spent bringing final touches to a proposed intermunicipal franchise agreement with Time Warner, almost two years in the making. Where we are now is that all the details have been worked out for the principals, that is, the municipalities with the greatest population. Now it is our turn to fine tune the document to make sure the concerns of the Town of Danby—and its residents—are included.

Before we get too excited, in reality there is not a lot we can negotiate for. Within that limit, though, this is one of the times when residents can meet and air concerns about their present franchise agreement. I think things like grievance procedures, quality of service (and *lapse* of service), and line extensions are the kinds of things we can realistically negociate for. Copies of the proposed agreement—preferably by Email, but also on paper—are available from the Town Clerk, [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us].

Over many years, I have heard many residents who pay for cable telling me about some type of problem with Time-Warner service. I do not believe I have ever had someone say they are happy with their present service but, maybe, I have not been listening. I would like to take some time during our Town Board meeting on September 9 to hear from residents about their present satisfaction with Time-Warner.

If there is sufficient interest from the public, a separate meeting will also be held, so residents can more adequately address issues.

Youth Services—specifically, the County's vision and funding--is still an ongoing question. The Danby Community Council is discussing the current proposal from County Youth Services. Like other programs—the Recreation Partnership, Dog Control, Time-Warner, and even the Health Insurance Consortium--Youth Services is a collaborative programs involving several municipalities.

We participate in these collaborations in order to keep costs as constant as possible. The NY State property tax cap on municipalities has encouraged these partnerships, as they tend to avoid spikes in costs from year to year, but they do become more complicated as time passes. August and September will see more discussion on this and other issues, hopefully in time for the "budget season" this fall.

Repairs to the Town Hall bathrooms are complete and the meeting room floor was refinished at the end of August. Come take a look!

Ordinarily, in Danby, the Town Hall meeting room is not used for political events; this is not written into policy, but is generally respected by political organizers. I know I am not supposed to put election stuff in the Danby News, but a question was put to me about the use of our Town Hall for meetings and forums, similar to what happens in Caroline. Please let me know your thoughts on the matter.

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

WEST DANBY CRAFT SHOW

Submitted by Marrell Cortright

The West Danby Fire Company will hold its annual Fall Craft Show and Chicken BBQ on Saturday, October 26, 10am-2pm, with the chicken ready around Noon. The West Danby Henry Ford String Throttlers will play, 11am-1pm.

Many local crafters! If you've never participated before, there are still spots remaining; only \$10 for a space, including a table and two chairs. Please, no flea market or resale items; handmade items only.

The proceeds benefit the West Danby Fire Company.

If you have any questions—or want a crafter's application—please contact me, [marrell1@aol.com] or [607.564.0020].

Town Hours

Town Clerk

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-Noon

Highway Department

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

Code Enforcement Office

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Wed, 9am-4pm; Thu-Fri, by appointment

Town Court

Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031

Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

Things have been a little slow for August, but they should pick up in the following months. We will be having a couple of benefits in September and then we will be starting our regular Fall dinners in October.

On September 14, we will be having a benefit to help the Tompkins County Veteran's Day Parade Committee. We will have raffles, a DJ, and, starting at Noon, we will have a Chicken BBQ. The BBQ includes half a chicken, baked beans, salt potatoes, and a dinner roll for just \$9.

On September 20, we have our Fall Bash with snack food and a DJ, starting at 5:30pm.

The benefit on September 28 is to help send some of our local veterans to Washington D.C., to join a rally to help the Wounded Warriors Program. We will be having a Chicken BBQ (same as above), raffles, and more.

Don't forget that our Fall Dinners kick off with a Steak Dinner on October 5, 5:307pm—a mouthwatering steak cooked to order, salad bar, choice of baked potato, onion rings, or french fries, coffee, tea, or water, bread, and a dessert, all for \$12.

Hope to see you at one or all of the events!

Don't forget that if you need a place for that special function, give us a call (607.272.1129) or stop by and check out the Ithaca American Legion.

RE-REGISTER FOR NYS STAR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Excerpt of a letter from Jay Franklin, County Tax Assessor

The state of NY is making all 2.7 million Basic STAR recipients re-register by November 30 of of this year. In Tompkins County, about 19,500 recipients are affected.

Seniors receiving "Enhanced STAR" exemptions aren't affected by this change, but must continue to apply annually.

The Tompkins County Assessment office will have very limited ability to answer questions or register people outside of the online application. The phone number at the State to call is 518.457.2036.

The deadline for applications is November 30, 2013. \$

EVENTS 'ROUND TOWN

This new column will appear monthly, featuring brief descriptions of events—current and upcoming months—around Danby. If you have a non-profit event that the general public is invited to...send a notice to the Danby News!

At the DFC

Coming on Saturday, September 14, with two seatings at 5pm and 6pm, the Steak Dinner! For \$12, you get a Charcoal Grilled NY Strip Steak, Salad, Green Beans, Baked Potato, Beverage, and Dessert.

Danby Fiber Group

The Danby Fiber Group will meet again on Sunday afternoon, September 15, 2-5pm, at the home of Kathy Halton, 2505 Danby Road.

We can see what people have been working on and decide what we all want to do this year. Handspinners, knitters, and weavers, or anyone working with fibers of any kind are welcome. Contact Kathy Halton, [khalton@twcny.rr.com] or 607.273.0533 for more information.

DANBY TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Correspondent

How was your summer? Got a story you'd like to share in the Danby Town Talk column, appearing in the Ithaca Journal each Thursday? Pictures are also welcome for the column.

Send information to [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or please give me a call at 607.273.6530.

Danby Seniors Update

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby seniors will be on Thursday, September 5 at 6 pm. In October (on the 3rd), we'll switch to the Noon meeting time for the winter months.

Big thanks go out to Ted and Connie Merritt for hosting 70 people at our annual chicken BBQ in August. The weather cooperated and the band played after our picnic—*Immortal Jellyfish*—great entertainment.

All seniors, 55 and over, are invited to join us for a dish to share meal and fellowship!

Community Council Danby Families, hope you have eni-Hi Danby Families,

I hope you have enjoyed your summers.

Mine seems to have flown by faster than I expected. Our summer youth programs were a fabulous success and we all had lots of fun playing in the woods, cruising on the Floating Classroom, painting by Jennings Pond, visiting some amazing homesteads and much more!

I am excited to be starting up a new school year with your families and offer more programs for our young people. As I write this, I am working on creating more diversity in my program schedules, so that I can better meet the needs of both Elementary and Middle School students and their schedules, as well as those of the West Danby community.

The fall schedule was not ready in time to be printed in this newsletter but will be available on our web site [ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby]. As always, I would love to hear your ideas, feedback and thoughts about programs and am available to answer questions at [scl223@cornell.edu].

Thanks, Simone Lackey

WEST DANBY PICNIC RECAP

The West Danby Community Association Picnic on August 24 was a resounding success, with great weather, and great potluck food. All present joined in honoring Gay Huddle for her long-time work with the Ithaca Journal and other publicity outlets.

Live music from the local Red Barn musical group was partially supported by a decentralization grant admisistered by the Community Arts Partnership.

Dotson Park, continued from front page

the warmer months. Email [dotsonpark@gmail.com] for more info.

Our new DCPA Board President, Kenny Makosch, calls Dotson Park, "Danby's backyard," which is a great way to think of it! Every Danby resident has 92 acres close to home where you can play, wander, and enjoy the wildlife. We hope to see you in the park soon!

COOL SWIMMING IN JENNINGS POND

Submitted by Mary Ann Kozak

The weather outlook for the Labor Day weekend might be hot, hot, and humid, and it's won't be too late to catch some cool waters at Jennings Pond.

Jennings Pond, located off Bald Hill Road, at the headwaters of Buttermilk Falls and part of the State Park, is surrounded by picturesque woods and is habitat for Canada Geese and Great Blue Heron.

It offers fishing, picnicking with grills, boating (bring your own) and free swimming with lifeguards until Labor Day. It is open seven days a week. Swimming hours are Noon-7pm on weekdays and Noon-8pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Great for the whole family! Come and enjoy a swim! \$

Broadband in Danby Update

Submitted by Ted Crane

3

I've heard a lot of questions about the ongoing broadband Internet project in Danby. Actually, only two questions: Is it happening? When is it happening?

Over the summer, I'd heard that installs might begin during August but, obviously, they didn't. Issues are being dealt with, one by one. One relay pole was targeted to Tallow Hill Road...but the road on the map doesn't exist where the pole was to be located. See for yourself on Google Maps!

And then there were a few unexpectedly tall trees. While the distribution-to-your-house signals can penetrate some amount of trees, the communications between poles are more finicky. Adjusting the relay path means more time designing the system.

On the positive side, I've heard that the telephone poles—all of them—for the system have arrived, that installation in Lansing may begin soon, and that based on the number of interested residents—Danby is second in line for installs. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Postal Patron

Danby Area News: Event Calendar

Sep 4 • Wed 6:30pm & Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Sep 5 • Thu

6pm Danby Federated Church • Seniors Meeting 7pm Town Hall • Community Council Meeting

Sep 9 • Mon

7pm Town Hall • Town Board Meeting
Of interest: Comment on Time-Warner Cable Service
7pm Danby Fire Hall • Fire Dep't Meeting
7pm West Danby Fire Hall • WD Fire Dep't Meeting

Sep 10 • Tue

7pm 🕰 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

Sep 14 • Sat

5pm and 6pm 🕰 Danby Federated Church Steak Dinner!

Sep 15 • Sun

2pm 2505 Danby Road • Danby Fiber Group Mtg

Sep 16 • Mon

7pm Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

Sep 17 • Tue

7pm West Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

Sep 19 • Thu

3-6pm Danby Federated Church • Food Pantry
7pm Dotson Park • Park Association Meeting

Sep 23 • Mon

1-2pm 🕰 Danby Federated Church • Mobile Food Truck 7pm 🕰 Town Hall • Conservation Adv Council Mtg

Sep 26 • Thu

7pm Town Hall • Planning Board Meeting

Oct 2 • Wed

6:30pm @ Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Oct 3 • Thu

6pm A Danby Federated Church • Seniors Meeting 7pm Town Hall • Community Council Meeting Oct 8 • Tue

7pm Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

Oct 14 • Mon

7pm 🙀 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

7pm Danby Fire Hall • Fire Dep't Meeting

7pm West Danby Fire Hall • WD Fire Dep't Meeting

Oct 15 • Tue

7pm West Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting Of interest: Public Hearing on 2014 Budget

Oct 17 • Thu

3-6pm Danby Federated Church • Food Pantry
7pm Dotson Park • Park Association Meeting

Oct 21 • Mon

7pm Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

Jul 12, 2014 • 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!

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

The Town of Danby has a web site with lots more info. Check it out: [http://town.danby.ny.us]

Find the Danby News on the web! [http://town.danby.ny.us/DAN]