



DANBY AREA NEWS

DCC CONCERT: JUST FRIENDS JAZZ

Submitted by Katharine Hunter and Terry Light

I have known Terry for over two years and enjoyed listening to him in various jams, and now I've the pleasure of inviting him and his musical buddies up to Danby's Town Hall for a concert on Sunday, February 7, at 3pm.

Terry and this jazz combo are so tuned in to each other—in their choices and arrangements of the music they play—that we listeners are easily engaged with them. It is wonderful to watch them ease in to tunes and even to hear a bit about the players or the composers as they go along in their gigs. This is music for all ages to just absorb and to keep the beat and to smile. Terry makes it a point to welcome young people to the world of jazz too.

Steve Brown is an eminent jazz guitarist, composer, arranger, and educator. Steve started the Jazz Studies program at Ithaca College and was its Director for 40 years until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 2008. Steve is an active performer, composer, and arranger and has played with renowned musicians including Jimmy Smith, Paquito D'Rivera, Chuck Mangione, Phil Woods, and Ray Charles.

Dino Losito, a pianist, composer, and educator, began formal lessons on piano at the age of 4 and was soon studying flute and percussion as well. By the time Dino was eighteen years old, he was already working professionally. Dino has performed at many notable venues throughout the country and abroad including Blue Note, Birdland, NBC Rainbow Room, and Dizzy's at Lincoln Center.

Terry Light just smiles when asked which music school he went to. "Actually I studied psychology at Syracuse University,

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POTLUCK AND A MEETING: DCC ANNUAL MEETING

Submitted by Ted Crane

Come on down to Danby's Town Hall for dinner, and stay for the Danby Community Council's Annual Meeting!

Dinner starts on Thursday, February 11, at 6:30pm and continues until the formalities begin, probably around 7pm. It's a potluck; the DCC Board Members will bring some goodies and you can supplement them with your own original production!

During the meeting, new board members will be elected. Any resident of Danby who is 18 or older is eligible to vote. You'll get to hear the President's Annual Report and the Treasurer's Financial Report, while your eyes feast on pictures from this year's DCC events. Been there? Done that? Maybe you'll see yourself!

If you'd like to get involved with DCC efforts, whether it's Youth Programming, Concerts, Lectures, or even a Civil War Reenactment, come on out to the Town Hall! We look forward to seeing you there! ✿

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PANCAKES CONTINUE!

Turn out to support your local Fire Companies...by eating breakfast. It can't get any better than that!

The WDFC, at 47 Sylvan Lane, is preparing its *Sweetheart's Breakfast* on Saturday, February 13, followed by its famous *St.Patty's Day Breakfast* in March. Both are tasty, nutritious, and filling.

The DVFC, at 1780 Danby Road, offers breakfast on Sunday, February 28, and again on March 20.

All events run 8-11am. Food is prepared by real firefighters over hot stoves. Proceeds benefit the Fire Companies. ✿

February 2016

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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 for photos, GIF for line graphics. PNG also works. 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: Before submitting an item for the Danby News, please have a look at the *Submission Guidelines*. You can request them by Email from the editor at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or find them in their temporary location at [danbyny.org/DanbyNews]. 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 CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

As I write this, we are halfway through January's annual property tax collection period. After an uncharacteristically slow start, we're now working our way through the piles of payments that are arriving in the mail, and enjoying lots of visits with Danby neighbors who pay in person. We can fully expect to be busy the rest of January, with a blizzard of checks coming our way in the last week. After February 1, there is no longer the option to pay by installment.



Town and County property taxes are collected at the Danby Town Hall through the end of March. During February and March, taxes must be paid in full, and will have a 1 percent per month penalty added. After April 1, property taxes must be paid at the Tompkins County Finance Office. If you pay in installments, the second installment is paid to Tompkins County Finance. And yes, payment is accepted by postmark date (as stamped by the USPS).

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 winter and tax collection better than it is, but I can promise that the candy bowl will be filled with chocolate kisses--including plenty of dark chocolate. Sue McLellan and I can renew or issue dog licenses, issue marriage licenses and parking permit tags, and answer questions about Town government...all at the same time.

Here's a reminder about Dog Licenses: they must be renewed annually. It pays to renew your dog's license on time. New fee rates were adopted in 2014, and licenses that are more than two months overdue are charged a late fee of \$3 per month. We have found that dog owners are much more conscientious about renewing on time since this late fee was adopted. Renewing on time reduces Town expenditures related to mailing license renewal reminders. And it might save you from having a visit by the Animal Control officer.

The annual license fee remains \$12, as it has been for altered (spay/neutered) dogs. Unaltered dogs have a license fee of \$24 per year. So, should you choose to spay/neuter your animal the license fee is halved. Thank you to those of you who renew by mail and have thoughtfully included a self-addressed, stamped envelope for

the return of your license and rabies certificate documents. It's a small thing, but this does help save costs for the Town.

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-Noon on Saturdays. As always, we are closed on Sundays and Thursdays.

Questions? You can contact me at 607.277.4788 or [townclerk@townofdanby.ny.org]. ❧

WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

During the last month a Town resident has rightfully brought my attention to the fact that the West Danby Water District has not been in compliance with the NYS Open Meeting Law. The OML dictates how Town organizations are to conduct their affairs.

The biggest issues for us have been not notifying the public, either on the Town web site or in a public periodical, about meeting times or posting minutes from those meetings. With the assistance of staff at Town Hall, the Town Board, and the District's Commissioners and Operators we are working to correct our non-compliance.

We are now scheduling regular quarterly meetings of the District's Commissioners and Operators--with minutes taken--and both times and minutes will be posted on the Town web site.

Our meeting times will be announced in the Danby Area News as well.

That said, at our most recent meeting on January 16, we discussed plans for projects in the near future and longer term. We have a leaking roof on the pump house that needs to be addressed soon; longer term we need to begin thinking about replacing corroded plumbing in the pump house.

Our next quarterly meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, 7 pm, in the West Danby Fire Station. Between now and then, we will be having an interim meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 7pm, in the WD Fire Station, to discuss research accumulated about our roof leak and plumbing repair projects. ❧

SUE BEENERS MEMORIAL GATHERING

Submitted by Pamela Goddard

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Danby's long-time Code Officer and Planner, Sue Beeners, on Wednesday afternoon, January 6.

Sue's involvement with and impact on Danby can not be overstated. Danby's Town Hall has been a bit somber since we heard the news that Sue had transitioned. Although Sue had been in decline for the last year and had not been able to be as active in Town business as she had in the past, her presence was always with us.

A Community Memorial Celebration of Sue's life and her Danby legacy will be held in Town Hall on Saturday afternoon, February 20, 2-4pm. Members of her family will be here to be with residents and to receive condolences. This will be an informal gathering with light refreshments provided.

We will have photos of Sue on display and share stories of Sue Beeners through a *Memory Board*. Memories of Sue can be mailed (Town Clerk, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca NY 14850), Emailed to [pgoddard@townofdanbyny.org] or brought with you. We will also have pens and cards, if people find they want to write something in the moment.

Taking care of Danby, trying to help people realize their dreams for their property use while protecting the char-



acter of our town, was everything to Sue Beeners. Her dedication to the Town, the relationships she had with residents, and the town history that she carried in her mind are legendary. Sue put great effort into the first Danby Comprehensive Plan, several zoning updates, Stormwater Protection legislation, Danby's Road Use and Protection Law, and the 2011 Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Local Law to *Prohibit Gas and Petroleum Mining and Related Activities* (a.k.a. Danby's Fracking Ban).

Sue Beeners had a remarkably sharp mind and the extraordinary skill to recall details of local laws and the relationship between local ordinances and County and State regulations. And, all was done with a cheerful nature. Sue Beeners is deeply missed.

Sue Beeners is particularly remembered for her joyful involvement with Danby Fun Day. Supporting Danby Fun Day would be a wonderful way to remember Sue. This

could be in the form of a financial donation, or by volunteering to help with the parade, silent auction, food preparation, book sale, or in any other way. Sue always saw Danby Fun Day as an important community-building event. Fun Day is a way to celebrate our little town, bring people together, and support the Fire and Rescue Squads.

At Fun Day, in the warmth of July, we can remember Sue yet again. ❀

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, County Legislator

This month I'm going to touch on two topics that the Tompkins County Legislature has recently been involved with.

Minimum wage

Tompkins County passed a resolution in support of Governor Cuomo's initiative to make \$15/hour the statewide minimum wage, to be phased in over five years. There are several ways to think about this issue. I want to focus on a practical aspect of it for a moment.

There is no doubt that some people will benefit and some people will suffer from an increased minimum wage. NY State already has established a phased-in

minimum wage for fast-food workers, NYS government workers, and for SUNY employees. Having a patchwork of different minimum wages based on who is your employer is not a good system in my opinion. Leveling the playing field is the best thing we can do to minimize the negative impacts, which is why a statewide minimum wage is the fairest, most practical solution to address some of the poverty issues we face.

Tompkins was the first county in the state to pass such a resolution.

Body Cameras

The Tompkins County Legislature recently allocated money for body cameras for the Sheriff's Department.

—continued on page 5 ➔

➤ **Legislature, continued from page 4**

Body cameras will soon be worn by all Sheriff's personnel while engaged in law enforcement operations.

The County Legislature and the Sheriff's Department have an interesting structural relationship. The Legislature sets the budget for the Sheriff's Department but has no say in the Sheriff's policies. The Sheriff is an independently elected official. This could be a recipe for gridlock, but I would say that the Legislature and the Sheriff's Department have a pretty good working relationship.

In the case of body cameras, the Sheriff's Department is establishing all the policies regarding when, where, and how cameras will be used and the how the video will be stored and be made accessible. The legislature allocated \$46,500 for the purchase of the cameras and related equipment.

I think it's fair to say that most law enforcement supporters and most offender-rights advocates agree that body cameras are a positive development. They provide an objective record of what happens during a law enforcement operation and can verify or disprove accusations on both sides.

If anyone would like to see the procedures that the Sheriff's Department has developed for body cameras, let me know. Contact me at [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582. ❧

Town Office Info

Town Clerk • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

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

Highway Department • [highway@townofdanbyny.org]

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

Code Enforcement Office • [code@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Wed, 9am-5pm; Thu, 12:30-5:30pm

Town Court • [courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031 • Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

Sue Beeners has passed and, along with her, a historical legacy.

I first met Sue when Danby was working with the Town of Ithaca to build the South Hill Recreational Way. I was so impressed that later, when the State changed the rules defining zoning enforcement responsibilities, Danby hired Sue to sort out our new roles and responsibilities. Finding knowledgeable people to help us get a grip on where the Town needed to go fell to Sue.

Over the years she established herself as the compass for Danby planning and development. The five housing developments we worked with, the rewriting of the Comprehensive Plan, the West Danby Water District, Broadband Legislation, Solar regulation and the installation of our solar arrays at Town Hall, the grants we have written, the Aquifer Study, the building of the present-day Town Barns, the subsequent building of our Salt Barn, our new Road Use laws and Fracking Bans, working with FEMA for disaster relief from tornados, floods, and fires, and *good* stuff like Danby Fun Day...were all efforts that Sue was involved with.

Never one to shy away from contentious issues, Sue certainly had her hands full. I knew Sue for many many years, through good times and bad, and I always saw her as our guiding star, our go-to person, and our reservoir of information.

Sue was also old school. She belived in her community above all else, she was committed to its health and well being and she fought her whole life trying to nurture it. Her job was her life and its loss is our loss.

In our crazy world we do not often see people dedicated their lives to their community. Our community a better place because whenever it drifted toward contention, conflict, and challenges, Sue kept us centered.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org]. ❧

➤ **Just Friends Jazz, continued from front page**

can't you tell? I retired to Ithaca after working abroad for many years and decided to devote myself to music and coaching. I am very grateful for the opportunity to study and play with some really great musicians in this community. Steve and Dino are two of them. It has given me a lot of joy. *Just Friends* was created as a vehicle to share that joy. We are looking forward to a wonderful afternoon in Danby." ❧

DANBY FIRE DISTRICT PRIMER

Submitted by Edward C. Kokkelenberg, Fire Commissioner

The Danby Fire District is a creature of NY State Law and is responsible for providing 24/7 fire and rescue services on an on-call basis as well as basic life support Emergency Medical Service (EMS) throughout the Town of Danby.

These tasks are accomplished two fire companies—more than 40 volunteers—operating nine fire and rescue vehicles based in two stations. One is located at 1780 Danby Road (NYS Rt.96B) and the second is located at 47 Sylvan Lane (off NYS Rt.34/96).

The Emergency Services, Fire and EMS, in Danby confront unique topographical challenges. Danby's topography was carved by glaciers and the Town contains two ridges running North-Northwest by South-Southeast; the ridges divide Danby into three valleys.

NYS Rt.96B runs through the central, most populous valley, NYS Rt.34/96 is the highway in the western valley, and Coddington Road lies in the eastern valley.

Danby's two population centers, the Hamlet of Danby (on NYS Rt.96B) and the Hamlet of West Danby (NYS Rt.34/96), are separated by a 5.25 mile, partially unpaved road crossing an 1800-foot high ridge. Thus, we have two fire stations and two fire companies.

In 2015, the District's Companies responded to more than 255 calls, including fires, hazards, and about 150 medical emergencies. We also answer calls for aid to neighboring departments.

The District operates several fire trucks and apparatus:

2 Engines: both built in 2013, carry the hoses, ladders, tools, and 1000 gallons of water each; these are our primary units.

2 Tankers: one built in 1975 and the other in 1999, each carrying water and a portable water pond. There are a few hydrants in West Danby, but none in Danby.

2 Quick Attack/Brush Trucks: one built in 1985 and the other in 1991. These are supplemental vehicles but have the capacity and tools for brush and wildland fires.

2 Emergency Medical Vehicles: One built in 1995 and the other in 2005. These serve as first responding medical units.

1 Utility Truck, built in 1989.

The Danby Fire District, as required by NYS law, has five elected Fire Commissioners. Their job is to create and vote on budgets, develop long range plans, guide the Fire Chiefs, provide for the stations, the apparatus,

and upkeep, conduct official business, apply for grants, maintain books to State Standards, and oversee the policies and finances for the Fire District. They are supported in their work by a Secretary and a Treasurer.

The Commissioners are: Wayne Westmiller, Chairman; Katherine Anderson, Kevin Faehndrich, Joe Freedman, and Edward Kokkelenberg. The Secretary is Sharon Gaden and the Treasurer is Deanna Bowles. The Secretary and the Treasurer are the only paid part time employees of the District (as allowed by NYS law). Both of have also contributed many years of volunteer work to the Fire District.

The Fire District Taxes are calculated by the County, based on the Fire District's approved budget and the County's property valuation. The Town of Danby then sends out the tax bills, collects the tax payments, and transfers funds to the Fire District. In 2016, this will be about \$499,000.



Scott Wendt & John Gaden

As mentioned above, the District has two separate Fire Companies. Each has a Chief (who reports to the Commissioners) and Assistant Chiefs, all of them volunteers. The 2016 officers are:

Position	Danby	West Danby
Chief	John Gaden	Scott Wendt
1 st Asst. Chief	Roger Grant	Mel Westmiller
2 nd Asst. Chief	Peter Goodman	Ken VanEtten
3 rd Asst. Chief	Tyler Dorn	Tod Sukontarak
Lieutenant	Daniel Saracino	

Each company's has volunteers who serve as firefighters, as EMS personnel, as Fire Police, and as support personnel; Danby has 26 and West Danby has 17.

Finally, each Fire Company has its own organization that both represents, and serves as a benevolent association for, the Company. These officers are elected by the individual Fire Companies.

The 2016 officers of these Fire Companies are:

Position	Danby	West Danby
President	Peter Goodman	Steve Cortright
Vice Pres	Deanna Bowles	Lori Robbins
Secretary	Sharon Gaden	Marrell Cortright
Treasurer	Elizabeth Saracino	Anne Becker
Dir. At Lg	Dan Saracino	
Trustee		Skip Fairchild

If you see any of these Community minded volunteers, please thank them!



NOTICE OF ELECTION OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE DANBY FIRE DISTRICT TOWN OF DANBY, TOMPKINS COUNTY, NEW YORK

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF DANBY FIRE DISTRICT, Town of Danby, Tompkins County, New York:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Danby Fire District, Town of Danby, Tompkins County has scheduled a meeting of the qualified voters of said District to be held at the Danby Fire District at 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, on the 2nd day of February, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. on that day, with polls to be open between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting upon the following proposition:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the Resolution entitled:

BOND RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DANBY FIRE DISTRICT, TOWN OF DANBY, TOMPKINS COUNTY, NEW YORK (THE "DISTRICT"), AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND EQUIPPING OF ONE TANKER PUMPER FIRE APPARATUS WITH ATTENDANT EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES AND SERVICES RELATED THERETO; ESTIMATING THE APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST THEREOF AT \$353,344; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$350,000 IN SERIAL AND/OR STATUTORY INSTALLMENT BONDS OF THE DISTRICT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

duly adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of said Fire District on December 31, 2015 be approved?

December 31, 2015, By Order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Danby Fire District

FIRE DISTRICT VOTING

February 2: New \$350,000 Bond Referendum

The Fire District has issued a legal notice (included on this page) describing a Bond Referendum to be held February 2, 2016, 6-9pm. West Danby voters take note: Voting will take place only at the "uphill" fire station, 1780 Danby Road.

The Bond Resolution (that must be approved by voters) allows for the purchase of a new tanker truck, along with accessories and services, for a total of \$353,344. Of this amount, \$350,000 will be financed by the issuance of serial and/or statutory installment bonds. The remaining \$3,344 will, presumably, come from existing fund reserves. The fund reserves have been augmented by the recent, roughly 23% increase in the Fire District levy, that you saw on your tax bill in January.

The new bond will be added to the existing debt service—currently paying down bonds issued for two previous engine/pumpers and the stations—of more than \$110,000 per year, one quarter of the Fire District's budget. If the increased tax levy remains in place, the extra funds can be used to pay off the District's bonding—borrowing—more rapidly.

The need for this tanker was described in Commissioner Kokkelenberg's article in the October, 2015 issue of the *Danby News*. Future replacement of the brush trucks was described in the January, 2016 issue.

\$350,000 is a substantial purchase and a substantial debt load—about 70 percent of the District's 2016 budget—and deserves more public interest than the two-dozen-odd voters who participated in the District's election last December. Danby residents are encouraged to learn about the District's function and needs (see article on opposite page). Armed with as much information as you can get, get out and vote on February 2, 2016, 6-9pm, 1780 Danby Road! ❁



AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

Well, here we are, midway thru our dinner season... and the start of the Chicken BBQs. Our dinners have been well attended but there is always room for more so, if you haven't been to one of our dinners, make it your New Years Resolution to attend one. Remember, the steak is always from a Prime Rib loin and the fish is a ten to twelve ounce Haddock.

On February 6, we will have a Steak Dinner, 5-7pm, serving your steak to order, one of the best Salad Bars around (if I do say so), choice of baked potato, french fries, or onion rings, dessert and a warm dinner roll. Don't forget that you can top your steak with either sauteed mushrooms or sauteed onions or both. All for just \$12.

On February 14, we will be having a Chicken BBQ at the Post. Half a chicken, dinner roll, and a choice of two from mac salad, BBQ beans, and salt potatoes. Still only \$9. Starting at Noon and going 'til sold out.

On February 19, we will be doing another fabulous Fish Dinner, 5-7pm. Dinner will include a piece of haddock, fried or broiled, the salad bar, choice of baked potato, french Fries, onion rings, a piping hot dinner roll and desserts.

Still looking for that place to have a special event or gathering, go no further than your local American Legion. We have room for the large party (up to 100 people or so), a medium one (40 to 50 people), or just a small gathering or shower (15 to 20 people). Stop by 1231 Danby Road and speak to the manager, or call 607.272.1129. We can ease your mind when doing that party. Remember that we also have a Pavilion (20 x 40) for those outdoor events/parties you might want when the weather gets warm.

We can help with the food not just the building! ❀

DANBY BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Janice Beal

The next meeting of the Danby Book Club will be held at 4pm on Sunday, February 21, at 1011 Fisher Settlement Road. We'll be discussing the novel *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. I'll serve banana bread and cider, and I have tea.

I'd love to see some new faces. Please join us! Call me with any questions, 607.589.6924. ❀

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be at Noon on Thursday, February 4 in the Danby Federated Church. All seniors 55 and over are welcomed to join us for a dish to share luncheon.

Seniors is not affiliated with the church but a community group using the facility and we do give a donation to the church each year.

Ted & Connie Merritt turned over the reins of President/VP to Judy & Bill Cuyle. Big thanks to the Merritts for doing a great job for many years! And thanks to Judy & Bill for hosting in January along with help from Pat Addy and Sunny Ameigh. ❀

SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal columnist

Please remember to send your stories to me for the *Southern Tompkins Town Talk* column that appears weekly in the *Ithaca Journal*.

Perhaps you would like to share some good news about graduations, marriages, new babies, or special events happening in Danby and West Danby neighborhoods, as well as Newfield, Brooktondale, and upper South Hill. Pictures (in JPEG format) are always welcome.

Please contact me at [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or 607.273.6530. ❀

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Mobile Food Truck is sponsored by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

All persons needing food are welcomed to come and should bring their own bags and boxes. There is usually a variety of items including produce, sometimes bread/bakery, canned goods, juices, etc.

The next "Truck" (it's always the 4th Monday of the month) will be Monday, February 22 at Noon. It will be held at the Danby Fire Station for the months of February, and March. We will resume meeting at the Danby Church in April. ❀

GETTING A PHONE IN DANBY

Submitted by Ted Crane

It's such a simple thing to make a phone call, once you have a phone and a connection to a phone company. Why then, did it take me more than a month, a dozen or more phone calls, and the assistance of the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) to hear a dial tone via my wired landline?

And, why am I now hearing similar stories about other prospective telephone customers in Danby? Take a comfortable chair and listen to my tale.

Two years ago, Verizon kindly provided me with about 1500 feet of cable. I promised to bury it between the Verizon service access at the road and my house under construction. Bear this in

mind: they gave me the cable because they knew it could be hooked up. No?

One year ago, I contacted Verizon sales and verified that it would be a simple thing to move my old telephone number to my new house. It might take a few days but would cost nothing. Service access was confirmed.

Last November, I made *the phone call*. I asked Verizon to connect me up and to move

my number. Uh oh. "Our system doesn't show that we provide service at your new address. I'll have to make an inquiry."

Four weeks and six calls later, Verizon engineering confirms that *there is no cable* near my service access point.

I asked the friendly, but ill-informed sales rep, carefully, whether she was *sure* there was no service. I pointed out that my next call would be to the PSC, and that following up on a complaint would be time-consuming and expensive for Verizon. "No, sir, I'm sorry, but we do not have service anywhere near you."

I walked out to the road and confirmed that the Green Box right next to my wire said, "Verizon." That, in fact, the Green Boxes marching down the road all connected to my Green Box and nowhere else. That several of my neighbors have or had Verizon service. In other words, magic aside, if they had service, I could get it.

Some might say that the left hand and the right hand at Verizon are not connected. On the other hand, more than one Internet article suggests that several phone

EVENTS 'ROUND TOWN

This column appears 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!

Some of the DCC Concerts and Events in 2016

Usually on Sundays, 3pm, in Danby's Town Hall:

February 7: *Just Friends*: Jazz

February 21: *Chibuly Gardens* slide show and talk

March 13: *Grady Girls*: Irish

April or May: Bee Talk with David Hopkins

July: Aquatic Insects with Alex Flecker

At the DFC

Danby Federated Church, 1858 Danby Road

Chicken And Biscuit Dinners: Friday, February 12, 5-7pm. Chicken and Biscuits, mashed potatoes, squash, apple sauce, corn, green beans, harvard beets, beverage and desserts. Also on 3/11, 4/8.

Free Lunch: Soup, Friends, and Games, January 18 at Noon. Continues on 3rd Mondays, thru April. Join us for a good time and good company in the heart of winter.

At the Danby Volunteer Fire Company

Breakfasts. Sunday, February 28, 8-11am. Pancakes, eggs, french toast, sausage, home fries, beverages. Also on 3/20.

At the West Danby Fire Department

Breakfasts: *Sweetheart's Breakfast*, Saturday, February 13, 8-11am. All the yummy breakfast you can eat. Also on *St. Patty's Day* ❧

companies are doing their best to discourage new customers from installing landlines.

I spoke with a helpful voice at the PSC. I explained (with more detail) what I've already told you. I was promised that Verizon's Executive Offices would call me.

Within a day or two, an Executive called me. After a another week, I received an apology and confirmation that yes, indeed, there is service for me. Even the local head of Engineering called me. Verizon rushed a technician out to make the hookup. For free. Free to me, anyway.

Bottom line: if you hear of someone who has been told that landline service isn't available, suggest three things: (1) remain calm, (2) do a common-sense exploration of your neighborhood, looking for other telephone customers, and (3) call the NYS Public Service Commission. Without the PSC, you're running into a brick wall. ❧

Landlines vs cell phones

There are alternatives to a wired landline, but they do not always work with answering machines, faxes, alarm systems...and stop working when the power goes out. Internet telephony is particularly susceptible to outages.

There are other tradeoffs between cellphones and landlines. Your individual situation will dictate which one is best for you.

CHIHULY GLASS AND GARDENS COAST TO COAST

Submitted by Pat Curran

Join Pat Curran on Sunday, February 21, 7pm, in Danby's Town Hall for a slide show featuring glass artist Dale Chihuly's displays in botanical gardens.

From the NY Botanical Garden to Seattle's Chihuly Museum, Dale Chihuly blends glass art with gardens and plantings both outdoors and in conservatories. A colorful tonic to Ithaca's gray or white winter! ❁

DANBY ART CAMP

Submitted by Camille Doucet

The Danby Art Camp, in conjunction with EarthArts, will offer a week of nature and art explorations during the school spring break, April 25 to 29, 9am-3:30pm. More nature and art camp weeks will be offered this coming summer, call for more information.

Contact me at [doucetcamille@gmail.com] or 607.272.8781, or Julie Kulik, 607.279.4144, or Earth Arts, [earthartsithaca.org]. ❁

GET YOUR ITHACA PHONEBOOK

Submitted by Ted Crane

A few months ago, I wrote about the unending, but useless supply of foreign Phonebooks I've been receiving: Elmira rather than Ithaca. It happens to Danby residents who are in the 14883 ZIPcode.

I had good luck getting a free Ithaca book from Yellowbook, but others have reported that they were asked to pay a fee. Keep trying!

Another Phonebook provider—Verizon—just delivered a thin volume to me. It's Ithaca but contains only Business listings and advertising. Luckily, right up front it asks, "Looking For Residential Listings Information?"

If you're a Verizon customer and you want an Ithaca residential "White Pages" book from Verizon call 877.2GETDEX. Not only is it free, they'll ask you how many you want! Customers of other companies...let me know what happens to you. ❁



DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Babies welcome at the Danby Community Library! We have indestructible books for teethers and board books for babies and toddlers. You can pick up an application for baby's first library card, good at any public library in Tompkins County.

Did you see the list of the most-checked-out items from Tompkins County Public Library? We have many of these, including the books *Slaughterhouse Five*, *Gone Girl*, *The Signature of all Things*, *The Goldfinch*, *Leaving Time*, *Go Set a Watchman*, *A Spool of Blue Thread*, *The Nightingale*, *The Invention of Wings* and DVDs like *Boyhood*, *Gravity*, *Harry Potter*, and *Life of Pi*.

Thank you to the Family Reading Partnership for our 2016 *Read To Me Calendar!* ❁

20-20 VISION: 225 YEARS OF DANBY

Submitted by Ted Crane

Danby's Community Council is thinking a few years ahead, to 2020, when Danby will celebrate its 225th anniversary.

Are you interested in talking part in, or helping to organize, an anniversary event? Is there something you'd like to see in place in Danby by 2020?

Join the 20-20 Vision Crowd! Come to a DCC meeting. The DCC usually meets on the first Thursday of the month, but check the Danby News Calendar for exact information.

Or come to the DCC Annual Meeting on February 11. Sharpen your specs and see with 20-20 Vision! ❁

Community Council Winter 2016 Youth Programs

Hi Danby, Travis Judd here, with information on what we have been up to with the Danby Youth Programs.

All of our programs are up and running strong and with some snow finally sticking around we have been able to enjoy sledding daily at Dotson Park. It is very exciting to see some new faces in all of our programs, so if you haven't participated yet, come out and meet a great group of Danby dwellers.

If you have any questions about the programs or would like additional information,, please do not hesitate to contact me at [ttj22@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.222.

Additional program announcements will be in this newsletter, in Danby's Town Hall, on our web site [ccetompkins.org/4-h-youth/rural-youth-services], and in flyers given out in schools.

These programs are free of charge for Danby Youth ages 8-14.

Biology Tuesdays-Grade 5 and up

Tuesdays, January 5-March 1, 3:30-6pm

Danby Federated Church

Come see the beautiful parks and ecosystems that are right under our noses. With some spaces still available, we are visiting local natural areas to observe the wildlife, look at the flora of the area and take advantage of the natural resources we can walk to. The water sources in Dotson Park and at Jennings Pond have been excellent testing sources for our water quality assessments and our local wildlife guides are coming along beautifully!

Lunch Bunch-Grade 6- 8

Tuesdays, January 5-March 1, lunchtime

Boynton Middle School Cafeteria

We play games like Concept, Bananagrams, Spot It, Quiddler, do some crafts, hang out and have fun during lunch time. Come meet some new faces, build a new crew of friends and eat healthy snacks with us!

Rocketry-Grade 5 and up

Thursdays, January 7-March 3, 3:30-6pm

Danby Federated Church

Yup, that's right. Rockets. We have been learning how rockets work and exploring various types of fuel. We are testing compressed air rockets both pre-made and home-made with our student built rocket launcher. Fun? Yes. Awesome? Yes. 3...2...1.



Iron Chef-Grade 5 and up

Fridays, January 8-March 4, 3:30-6pm

Danby Federated Church

Bring your cooking expertise, an open mind and be ready to eat some great food. Each week we have seen a new cooking challenge from no-bake cookies to quiches to pizza. By the end of the program, no meal time will be out of reach for our youth! Food preparation, taste, ingenuity, teamwork, and leadership will be the areas of closest examination for each competition with a special mystery category to shake things up. ❁

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: CALL FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Submitted by Shelly Jo Lester

The Danby Youth Employment Program, offered by the Danby Community Council and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, provides opportunities for first time paid job experience for Danby youth, ages 14 and up.

Youth participate in basic job training and are then placed for up to 100 hours in job sites in Danby or the Ithaca area. A wide variety of job placements are possible; worksites include summer camps, local farms and stores, college labs, special job training programs and more.

For more information or an interest form, youth should contact Beth Bannister at CCETC, 607.272.2292. x229 or [bab47@cornell.edu]. There are also interest forms available at the Danby Town Hall.

Space is limited, so please contact Beth soon for this opportunity! ❁

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Feb 2 • Tue

6-9pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall
Fire District Bond Referendum

Feb 4 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Feb 6 • Sat

9am 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
5pm 🏠 American Legion • **Steak Dinner**

Feb 7 • Sun

3pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Concert**
Just Friends Jazz - Light, Brown, and Losito

Feb 8 • 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**

Feb 9 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Feb 11 • Thu

6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall
Danby Community Council: Potluck & Annual Meeting

Feb 12 • Fri

5-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Chicken & Biscuits**

Feb 13 • Sat

8-11am 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Sweetheart's Breakfast**

Feb 14 • Sun

Noon 🏠 American Legion • **Chicken BBQ**

Feb 15 • Mon

Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Lunch, Games, Fun**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**

Feb 16 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Feb 17 • Wed

7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Water District Meeting**

Feb 18 • Thu

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**

Feb 19 • Fri

5pm 🏠 American Legion • **Fish Dinner**

Feb 21 • Sun

4pm 🏠 1011 Fisher Settlement Road • **Danby Book Club**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
DCC Slide Show: Chihuly Glass and Garden

Feb 22 • Mon

1-2pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Mobile Food Truck**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Feb 28 • Sun

8-11am 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**
4pm 🏠 1011 Fisher Settlement Road • **Danby Book Club**

Mar 3 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Mar 5 • Sat

9am 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

Jul 9, 2016 • 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 ☎ 607.273.2950
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