



# DANBY AREA NEWS



## COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONCERT: SHAPIRO AND SHORE

Submitted by Ted Crane, Community Council

The American Folk Tradition arrives in Danby's Town Hall on Sunday, April 10 at 3pm. Phil Shapiro and Carrie Short present fascinating, energetic songs from the last couple of hundred years of American folk song, and they add newer songs that'll be traditional in a couple of hundred years.

You might say that this is the music we'd all be hearing and playing if it were not for our fabled Music Industry.

Phil is a fine, finger-style guitarist, creative and lively, good at getting his guitar to "talk" and to be part of the song and the story. You'll recognize his deep,

inviting, "Uncle Phil" voice from the Bound For Glory radio show!

Carrie is an excellent, classically-trained violinist who is having a great deal of fun playing traditional tunes and adding her own bluesy and slinky improvisations.

Danby's Town Hall—and the audiences that fill it—complement the performers who visit it. The meeting room offers good acoustics and a warm ambiance that makes a concert a very personal experience. That's particularly helpful for the American Folk Tradition, because Phil and Carrie share their music, and aren't surprised when it hums right back at them...or when the room sings along.

The chairs are set up, "in the round." Kids are welcome to sit in front and

—continued on page 6 ➔

## GET ON THE BUS! THE PHYSICS BUS!

Submitted by Alison Christie, Community Council

On Saturday, April 16, the physics fun rolls into town. Enjoy hands-on activities on Ithaca's Physics Bus at the West Danby Fire Station, 10am-Noon, and see amazing science wizardry again at Danby's Town Hall, 1-3pm.

The Physics Bus is about doing science for fun. We'll probably learn something while we're at it, too. With self-guided exploration of two dozen exhibits on board the Bus and additional physics demos outside, attendees can expect to spend 45 minutes to an hour engaged in discovery. This is family-friendly fun for all ages.

You can learn more about this nifty bus at [[physicsbus.org](http://physicsbus.org)]. This event is free and sponsored by the Danby Community Council with support from United Way of Tompkins County. ❁

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**April 2016**

**Layout:** Ted Crane

**Count-n-Label Crew:**

Julie and her family; Ted and Pamela; Katharine and Scott, and others.

**Post Office Crew:**

Julie Clougherty,  
Katharine Hunter

To contribute:

Danby Area News

PO Box 6886

Ithaca, NY 14851-6886

Phone: 607.273.8678

Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

Text submissions:

Send text in the body of an Email message (**not** as an attachment); or mail typewritten copy, double-spaced on white paper. Short handwritten submissions accepted; please write legibly.

Graphics: JPEG preferred for photos, GIF for line graphics. PNG also works. 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.

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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 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* at the same web location.

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

### Legal Matters

April 1—For a few years, I played a trick on callers to the Town Clerk's office on April 1. I greeted them with, "Danby Clown Turk's office, how can I help you?" But the joke was on me. Only one or two people paused long enough to say, "What?!" Most rushed on to whatever their question or need was, not hearing what I had actually said. They had important matters on their minds.



It's true, the actions of local government are very important to residents. Decisions impact the roads you drive on, the amount and type of development in your neighborhood, the ways your tax dollars are spent, and the way the land around you is used and protected.

The next few months will bring a full measure of legal matters, and these matters require a Public Hearing prior to consideration by the Town Board.

Boards, both elected and appointed, have a role in setting public hearings, listening to public input and making decisions. The Town Clerk's role is to provide legal public notice, keep accurate and complete records, and do all of the required filing.

Prior to any public hearing, notices must be published in the Town's paper of record. For Danby—and most towns and villages in Tompkins County—this is the Ithaca Journal. The format and often the wording of such notices is outlined in NYS's Town Law. The notice must be published between 5 and 14 days prior to the hearing or event, depending on the type of action being considered. In some cases, particularly hearings before the Planning Board and Zoning Appeals, neighbor letters (NYS law requires notification of neighbors within 500 feet) are mailed. Posting is also provided on the *official bulletin board* in Town Hall and on the Town web site.

When the public hearing is held, citizens have an important role. This is the time for you to voice your opinions and concerns. The express purpose of the hearing is for elected or appointed officials to hear you. You can ask questions but the law does not require that you get an answer. In fact, it is unusual for the officials at a hearing to engage in discussion with the public.

You should understand that the public is not deciding the issue, it is only providing input. The officials may not reach a decision right away, and they may not follow your opinion...no matter how well stated it may be.

You may also express your opinions and concerns in writing. All comments are shared with the officials and entered into the minutes. Comments in writing may be sent via Email, traditional mail, or may be dropped off at the Town Clerk's office prior to the hearing.

After a hearing has taken place and the decision has been finalized, the Town Clerk's work really begins. Accurate minutes must be made with the full text of the legal wording adopting the decision and/or action. In some cases, certified copies or a *Notice of Decision* of the enacting resolution must be prepared for legal offices, other Town departments, and the petitioner. All of these documents must be filed for public access in perpetuity. It's my job to make sure that you know what has been decided and how those decisions impact the quality of life in Danby.

The Town Board has several public hearings in its pipeline. An "unsafe structure" hearing was held in March and there are several others under consideration. A hearing is anticipated in mid-May regarding a proposed commercial operation on Gunderman Road. There may also be public hearings regarding a Groundwater Protection Law, changes to Subdivision Regulations, and other Zoning changes. Several other projects will also need public hearings later in the year—not to mention the annual public hearing required before the Town Budget is passed. There are many opportunities for you to have input.

In April, 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 plenty of chocolate in the bowl at the Clerk's office window.

Questions? You can contact me at 607.277.4788 or [[townclerk@townofdanbynny.org](mailto:townclerk@townofdanbynny.org)]. ❁

## GUNDERMAN RD, PDZ #10

Submitted by CJ Randall, Danby Planner

JLF Holdings, LLC (David Hall, Applicant) has proposed rezoning Planned Development Zone (PDZ) 10, formerly known as Angelheart Design, located at 279-303 Gunderman Road, from its currently permitted commercial use (clothing manufacturing) to a mixed-use business incubator, including an 8,000 sq. ft. future addition.

Copies of the Applicant's rezoning and development proposal are available—along with supporting materials—on the Danby web site [[townofdanbyny.org](http://townofdanbyny.org)]. (Click on "Departments", then "Code Enforcement", then "Documents", and then scroll down).

The Town is currently conducting environmental quality review (SEQR) of the project, a process where the Town Board assesses the environmental significance of this proposal, an action over which it has discretion to approve. Those forms are also available along with supporting documentation from the Applicant (online, see above).

More information on the SEQR process is available from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at [[on.ny.gov/lpJJdTc](http://on.ny.gov/lpJJdTc)].

Questions and comments should be directed to: me at [[cjrandall@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:cjrandall@townofdanbyny.org)] or 607.277.0799 or 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. ❧

## BURN BAN IN EFFECT

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds New Yorkers that, with warming temperatures and dry conditions, residential brush burning

in towns with less than 20,000 residents is prohibited from March 16 through May 14. With the lack of snow cover over much of the state and unseasonably warm temperatures forecasted, experts believe conditions for wild fires will be heightened in the coming weeks. ❧



Danby Youth Learn To Be Iron Chefs

## WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

As a result of the recent national and local news concerning lead levels in drinking water and its harmful health effects, I thought it would be timely to provide some lead information as it relates to West Danby's Water District.

As part of Health Department protocols for ensuring safe drinking water for public water systems, our water is tested for lead every three years, at five sites located in different parts of our distribution system where water has been in contact with household plumbing.

We have always passed these tests. I contacted the Tompkins County Health Department to get information about lead in drinking water and was directed to [[tompkinscountyny.gov/health/lead/](http://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/lead/)]. There is more information at this site than I can print here.

Lead is associated with corrosion in plumbing that contains lead either in the pipe, pipe fittings, or solder. Corrosion is most likely to occur when water is soft—low pH—and thus is more acidic. Our water is hard and is less likely to corrode plumbing that may contain lead or lead components. There are other factors that can contribute to corrosion, though, and I encourage you to read the information on the web site if you have questions. ❧

## HOMEOWNERS: FREQUENT FLOOD DAMAGE?

Submitted by CJ Randall, Danby Planner

Have you filed two or more claims of more than \$1,000 to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any ten-year rolling period since 1978?

Funding may be available to acquire or demolish these properties. Please contact me at 607.277.0799 or [[cjrandall@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:cjrandall@townofdanbyny.org)] for more information. ❧

## STAY IN THE LOOP

Receive timely event notices, reminders, and volunteer opportunities by Email.

If you'd like to hear about things like concerts, elections and votes, and other public events, drop a request to [[danbynews@tedcrane.com](mailto:danbynews@tedcrane.com)].

It's a low-volume offering; generally not more than one message a week and most often less than that. ❧

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

Here we are, well into March and my comments on weird weather continued through February...which was the warmest on record.

The ice on my pond is out, my fish are happy and the blackbirds are back, as are the robins. It's so neat to go out in the morning to the music of all the bird songs. I am rooting for the groundhog!

I have mentioned some of the following topics in the past and updates are as follows.

The existing house at 1840 Danby Road, next to our Town Hall is in poor shape; a demolish or repair order has been issued. Our hope is to purchase the property and the process is moving forward, piece by piece. A purchase offer is in the works. Paul Hanson, our code enforcement officer, is our point person on this and he is engaged with the owner on some issues that are still not resolved.

On a parallel track, a separate proposal, a land swap involving the old Auto Salvage property next to the Highway Department, is moving forward. This swap is related to the "solar farm" proposal and it is all hoped to come together by this summer.

For reasons of clarity and fairness, we have decided to reissue the request for proposals related to the electrical part our "solar farm" project. There was some confusion about the way the process went down, so we started over. This will put us back two months or so but still leave us, hopefully, within the current building season.

The Town is again exploring the idea of converting the Highway Superintendent's position from elected to appointed. Discussions leading up to a public hearing and voting by the public will be on an upcoming agenda.

Speaking of public hearings for the Town, there will be several in the coming months:

- The commercial development in PDZ #10 on Gunderman Road will be first up for a public hearing, probably by late spring or early summer. This has a long history attached to it. The Town Board is now dealing with the SEQR process.
- Our aquifer protection laws, after years of work, will be coming up, probably by this summer.
- A revision to our zoning law, to bring it into line with present realities, is also coming up in the summer-time. CJ Randall, our Town Planner, will be talking about this in an upcoming Danby News article.

We have received numerous calls from residents about how the Broadband Internet project is progressing, and we will pass on any information we can gather. We do know that money from NY State has been very slow in arriving, and this has hampered the buildout.

I wish I could give you a progress report on the boiler project at the Highway Department but, apparently, we still have some procedural hoops to jump through first.

In other news the Town Board has been interviewing and making appointments to our various boards and their chairs this month.

I do wish us all a rewarding and sun-filled spring. Presently I am changing the oil in my tractor in anticipation of early grass cutting. But I hear snow is predicted for tomorrow.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at [[supervisor@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:supervisor@townofdanbyny.org)]. ❁

## FROM THE DANBY MENAGERIE

Email on Friday: Something that appears to be a 3-foot ball python has appeared in our backyard on Bald Hill Road. We have taken it inside to keep it warm. If anyone is missing this creature please contact us. If no one claims it, we will take it to the SPCA.

Email on Saturday: It's a milk snake. We let it go. ❁

## Town Office Info

**Town Clerk** • [[townclerk@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:townclerk@townofdanbyny.org)]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

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

**Highway Department** • [[highway@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:highway@townofdanbyny.org)]

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

**Code Enforcement Office** • [[code@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:code@townofdanbyny.org)]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

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

**Town Court** • [[courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org)]

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

## POWER FROM ELECTRON RANCH SOLAR FARM

Submitted by Ted Crane

You can't beat the St.Patty's Day Breakfast, down in the West Danby Fire Station, for all the good food you want to eat. While I chowed down on seconds of the Green Pancakes, I heard talk about a newly completed Solar Farm, nearby. Out comes the camera!

The Electron Ranch Farm on Valley View Road, owned by Phil Wilde and Ann Michel (a.k.a. The Old Todd Farm) is an oddly-named, yet picturesque collection of agricultural buildings and, well, dirt. Until recently, the electrons were only in the owner's vocations (TV and film) and avocation (horses). Today, though, there's a high-tech collection of 426 solar panels gathered in about a dozen arrays, and all of them are pushing electrons, big time.

The Electron Ranch Solar Farm is expected to produce about 146,000kWh of electricity per year, more than enough to power 14 typical U.S. residences. The land is leased, long-term, to Ithaca's Greenstar Coop, and the electricity will help power the Coop's warehouse/kitchen/space building on Fulton Street.

The solar farm occupies about an acre of challenging real estate: steeply undulating hills of grass that only a mountain goat could love. The installers, Renovus Energy, rose to the challenge and created an artistic crazy quilt of supports, frames, and panels. It's an excellent



use of difficult-to-farm open space, something that Danby has in great supply.

It's a sight. You have to go see it, but NYS Rt.34/96 is busy and the cars are fast so pull off onto Valley View Road to do your sightseeing.

Another, slightly larger solar farm is being considered by the Town of Danby, to be located at the Highway Department on Hornbrook Road. Unlike Greenstar, which chose to finance the project directly, the Town is looking into a long-term Power Purchase Agreement, where a third party owns the electron raceways (no up front cost to the Town) and sells the power to the Town at a predictable cost, below commercial rates. The cost for electricity used by the Highway Department, the Fire District buildings, and others would be expected to drop by about 10 percent under this plan. ❁

### ➔ Shapiro and Shore, continued from front page

every chair is up close to the music. No loud electric assistance, just the real thing in front of you.

Like all Community Council Events, this concert is free and open to the public. Come early! Refreshments will be served. The Danby Concert Series is supported by the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County and by the Town of Danby. ❁

### CRAFT SHOW & CHICKEN BBQ

Submitted by Marrell Cortright, West Danby Fire Department

The West Danby Fire Department has only one special event during April—but it's a big one!

The Annual Chicken BBQ and Spring Craft Show will take place on Saturday, April 9, 10am-2pm, in the West Danby Fire Station. We are booked full with many local crafters.

The BBQ will be ready around Noon. A full dinner of chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans, a roll, and a drink of choice is only \$9. You can also purchase a chicken half only for \$5. ❁

## FIRE DISTRICT GETS ENGINEERING STUDY GRANT

Submitted by Edward Kokkelenberg, Fire Commissioner

The Danby Fire District has received a grant from the Triad Foundation to cover a major portion of the costs of a study of our equipment and apparatus. This allows us to hire an outside consultant with no new cost to taxpayers.

The Commissioners had developed a draft apparatus replacement schedule in consultation with the chiefs about three years ago. As we gathered more information, it became evident that we were assuming the inherited mix and number of vehicles was the optimal one. We also needed to update our written equipment inventory and evaluate its condition and optimality. What we needed was an opinion from a professional, certified emergency apparatus and equipment consulting firm.

The Danby Fire District has nine separate emergency vehicles of widely differing age, condition, and function. Three years ago we took delivery of two new engines and we have just ordered a new tanker. The remainder of our fleet varies in age from 11 to 31 years.

Unlike the tanker that is currently being replaced, which has a rusting frame, is underpowered for our hills, and is difficult to drive, we're looking at the best way to replace other vehicles—with less immediate problems—over the long term.

While some vehicles had a specific function when first placed in service, sometimes that function has been

transferred to other vehicles...leaving the original vehicle with, at best, a diminished purpose. Each vehicle has some dedicated equipment and sometimes shares some equipment with other vehicles. This fleet is based at two different stations and we will need to continue this arrangement because of the hill separating the hamlets of Danby and West Danby and their stations.

For the purposes of long range planning and budgeting, this leads to several questions:

- Does this current fleet in terms of number, location, equipment, and functional capabilities meet the needs of today?
- Will this fleet meet the needs of five, ten and twenty years from now?
- What is the condition of each vehicle in the fleet?
- What is the inventory and condition of the equipment?
- What would be an optimal fleet (number, capabilities, and position) look like?
- What would a prudent list of fleet and equipment maintenance projects be?
- What would a prudent replacement schedule be?
- What are the financial implications of such maintenance and replacement?

Such a study would be very useful in long range planning, help in developing recruiting and training programs, and help in balancing revenues and expenditures. The Triad Foundation grant will help pay the costs for such a study; thank you Triad! ❁

## FOUND IN DANBY STATE FOREST



JVC 36" TV, Model #AV-36D503, circa 2002. Hoping to return to rightful owner. Please contact Tompkins County Sheriff's Dep't.

## MOWING PROPOSALS SOUGHT

Submitted by Sharon Gaden, Fire District Secretary

The Danby Fire District is soliciting proposals for lawn mowing at the Danby and West Danby Fire Stations for the 2016 season. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal should contact the Danby Fire District, 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 or call 607.319.4721 for a list of requirements.

Proposals will be considered during the Danby Fire District meeting on April 12, 7pm, in the Danby Fire Station. ❁

## CAC ANNUAL REPORT, 2015

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, Conservation Advisory Council

### Building Capacity

Reflecting on the past year, one broad theme that jumps out is the amount of time and effort that went into developing the skills of our membership and tools with which to make good use of them. The loss of Jake Brenner was serious, but we were fortunate to have Jake remain willing to help us make use of the open space characterization that he so deftly created for us. We then were blessed over the course of the first few months of the year to have our membership augmented and greatly enhanced by new members Jenny Caldwell, Don Schaufler, and Bill Evans. Of course, they needed to be oriented to the group and its work, an ongoing process that in its implementation had us dealing with several important procedural and training needs.

New Town Planner CJ Randall has been working on a CAC manual that will make it easier for future appointees to understand what the CAC is about and move smoothly into full participation. We visited the town's ethics policy, concluding that it sufficed for our purposes (although we noted that it could stand some serious editing), but recommending that candidates for appointment in the future be given copies before their appointment so they understand the potential for conflicts of interest.

Matt Ulinski volunteered to become our web page administrator and minute manager, bringing order to the rather uneven posts that preceded his doing so, much to the benefit of the public and our visibility to those interested in what we do. Jenny Caldwell and Mary Woodsen created a rack card to extend our reach in a different medium. These efforts enhance our credibility in small, but important, ways.

### Management Plans

We focused on the two main properties that can reasonably be considered town conservation lands—the DePutron Hollow property and the Water District property. Both of these are now at a stage where management plans can be drafted and run by the public for comment. In the case of the Water District property, on which most of our vision was trained, a subgroup of our members met with representatives of the Water District and its Commissioners to share perspectives and potential management objectives. We also sought and were given access to the management plan for the Lindsey-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, a large Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) holding that surrounds the Water District property on 3 sides. Similar objectives would enhance the effectiveness of our plan as well as those of the FLLT.

A part of our management plan work, assessing the flora and fauna on the sites, helps inform the creation of management objectives. We are still trying to determine to what degree this inventorying of assets needs to be carried out in order to be useful, but not onerous. We asked for, and got, volunteers to help with identification of species, and Ronda Roaring volunteered and was appointed to oversee this effort, which will be of use not only for town conservation lands, but also for potential conservation easement properties, by assisting landowners in describing their properties' conservation values.

### Conservation Easement Program

The Palmer and Melchen easements were completed this year, bringing the total number to 3, and the protected acreage to 80—not bad for a fledgling conservation organization. Now that our new membership is “up to speed”, we are becoming more proactive in soliciting donation of conservation easements. A letter to 30 large landowners in Danby went out in early December, the first in what is likely to be a series of initiatives to garner interest. We will pause that effort should we reach our capacity to handle inquiries; there is no sign of that.

Once easements are in place, they require regular monitoring to ensure compliance with their terms. An annual site visit is advisable, and a protocol for conducting this visit and recording the result is something we need to develop. Since the FLLT has a well-established and effective system of easement “stewards” using a trained cadre of volunteers to accomplish this monitoring, we looked to them for guidance. We decided to do the monitoring ourselves at first, using the monitoring template the FLLT has graciously shared with us. Our first easement property has been examined, and the current owner (Steve Selin) accompanied us and assisted—since fortuitously, he has been steward of the adjacent Thayer easement, held by the FLLT.

### Educational Programming

Promoting a conservation ethic both facilitates and complements our land conservation efforts, and one way we can do that is to sponsor or conduct educational programming with environmental themes. We had two opportunities to do so in the last year. Don Schaufler conducted a well-attended tree identification walk at the Danby Community Park, and Bill Evans organized several natural history talks for Danby Community Council which we took advantage of by co-sponsoring in part.

—continued on page 9 ➔

**Fire Departments:****Who Are We and What Do We Do?**

The all-volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services cover the Town of Danby. From the newest recruit to the fire chief, our members typically come to the company with no background in fire service and receive training through us.

We need additional volunteers and there are a variety of ways you can get involved.

- **Exterior firefighters** perform all fire suppression skills except for using self-contained breathing apparatus.
- A few of our members are **interior firefighters**, trained to do what everyone thinks of firefighters doing: enter burning buildings to rescue trapped victims and put out the fire.
- The majority of our calls are medical in nature. As a non-transporting first response service, our **Emergency Medical Services Providers** offer initial care before transferring patients to Bangs Ambulance.
- The duty of **Fire Police** is to control traffic around an emergency scene to protect our members and the public.
- **Support members** help maintain the fire station, assist with events and fundraisers.
- **Junior Members** aged 16-17 are welcome to volunteer with the consent of their parent or guardian.

**Membership Process**

- Fill out an application, available in Fire Stations on Mondays at 7pm (except holidays).
- Appear at a monthly business meeting of the Fire Company and submit the application. Business meetings are held at the Fire Station on the second Monday of each month at 7pm.
- Your application will be considered and, if accepted, you will be instructed as to further steps in the process. ❁

➔ **CAC Report, continued from page 8**

**Support for a Carbon Tax**

We stepped away from local engagement this fall to address the climate crisis brewing as a consequence of global warming. It has already had a local impact, as was evident in the unprecedented rain and flooding this last June, which were worse than anything in our recorded history. I proposed, and was pleased to have the membership support, a resolution urging adoption of a tax on carbon, coupled with a return of the raised monies to households as a dividend (thereby minimizing the adverse economic impact of the tax and incentivizing the transition to renewable fuels). While some might wonder how this action is relevant to our work, we believe it central to any effective stewardship of our natural resources to address their greatest threat. We were pleased to have the Town Board join us in urging our elected officials in higher office to address this issue. ❁

## FREE STUFF FROM THE DANBY FIRE DISTRICT

Submitted by Ed Kokkelenberg, Sharon Gaden, et al.

- Job Related Health Insurance
- \$10,000 of Life Insurance
- College Tuition for qualified fire courses
- Rides To/From Work (the fire) in a Shiny Truck
- Annual Medical Exams
- CPR and First Aid certifications
- Training
- Equipment for the Job
- Safety Equipment

But most of all, the District is giving away a sense of pride in doing a job for the community, and recognition of your commitment to your neighbors and community.

How do you get all of this? Become a volunteer Fire Fighter.

In connection with the statewide *Recruit New York* weekend, the Danby Volunteer Fire Company will be holding an Open House and Chicken BBQ on April 23, 11am-2pm.

The weekend is designed to showcase the need for volunteers, not just here in Danby but in all the Volunteer Fire Companies statewide. There are many different types of volunteer positions; stop down and check us out! There will be fire related games, great BBQ and much more. ❁



Sunset Hike in Dotson Park

## 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!*

### Community Council Events

*Shapiro and Shore Concert:* Sunday, April 10, 3pm, Danby Town Hall. Refreshments. Free.

*Physics Bus:* Saturday, April 16. 10am at West Danby Fire Station, 1pm at Danby Town Hall. Free.

*Youth Employment Info Session:* Wednesday, April 13, 6pm, Danby Town Hall. Pizza. Free.

### At the DFC

#### Danby Federated Church, 1858 Danby Road

*Chicken And Biscuit Dinner:* Friday, April 8, 5-7pm. Chicken and Biscuits, mashed potatoes, squash, apple sauce, corn, green beans, harvard beets, beverage and desserts.

*Free Lunch:* Soup, Friends, and Games, April 25 at Noon. Join us for a good time and good company in the heart of winter.

### At the West Danby Fire Department

*Spring Craft Show and Chicken BBQ:* Saturday, April 9, 10am-2pm. Chicken ready at Noon. 3

## GARDENING FOR NATIVE POLLINATORS

Submitted by Pat Curran

Attractive flowering plants that support native pollinators add another dimension to gardens and landscapes. Native plants, in particular, are great for our native pollinators. There are pollinator plants suited to hot, dry sites, clay or sand, even dry shade.

Learn how to diversify your plantings to support pollinators throughout their life cycles. Gardening for Native Pollinators will be offered on Wednesday, April 6, 6:30-8:30pm in the Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca. There is a \$5-\$10 self-selected sliding scale fee. Pre-registration recommended to ensure enough handouts. Please call 607.272.2292 for more information or registration. ♻️

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, County Legislator

The only County road/bridge project in Danby scheduled at this time for 2016 is South Danby Rd. The project may be completed in 2016, or it may be stretched out over two construction seasons.

The project includes clearing the right of way, drainage work on ditches and culverts, and repaving ("mill and fill"). It is believed that the road base is in good shape, so the entire road bed will not have to be rebuilt. There is no widening planned.

Some of the work on the sides of the road should begin soon, with the repaving to start later in the season.

The road may be closed for one day during this whole process. That closure would take place in the middle of the day so that people on a typical workday schedule will be able to get to and from work normally. All closures will be announced and residents will be notified.

I want to mention the issue of lead in our schools. This is obviously an issue of huge concern for everyone, especially for parents of children at Caroline Elementary School. I have been following this issue closely. There have been continual developments about the water testing related to who, when, where, how, and how much. From the time I write this column until the time you read it, at least 2 weeks will have gone by. This is not the right forum for me to try to give you up-to-the-minute information.

At this point, the federal Environmental Protection Agency is involved, and I am glad we have their expertise to draw on.

If you are not satisfied with the answers you are getting about the safety of your child, you should consider having your child tested for lead. You would do this through your private doctor. If that is not an option for you, you should call the Tompkins County Health Department to discuss the situation with them.

I am also happy to talk with you to hear any information or questions you have; [[danbydan@hotmail.com](mailto:danbydan@hotmail.com)] or 607.272.7582. ♻️

## FIRE STATION PARKING

Submitted by Tom Sessler, DVFC At-large Director

This is just a friendly reminder that, if you use the Danby Fire Station for voting or other events, you should not park in the lot directly in front of the building, with the exception of the two handicapped parking spaces. ♻️

## BROADBAND IN DANBY UPDATE

Submitted by Ted Crane

As some of you have already learned, Clarity Connect is active in Danby, installing customer connections to the Internet!

Clarity has completed two distribution antennae in Danby (on Durfee Hill Road and Curtis Road), adding to other covering antennae in Newfield and Enfield. A third antenna is in progress on Hillview Road in West Danby. If you can “see” any of these, you can get connected.

Clarity Connect issued a press release about six weeks ago. It boiled down to two items, and both involve Clarity being in “wait mode”. One item, no surprise, was that New York State has been a bit slow in releasing funds and that has delayed the system completion.

The second item is that—surprise—in the areas where the distribution antennae are complete, Clarity is waiting on *customers!* Here’s an edit of what the press release said:

Note that we have a very long backlog of requested services so we are, as before, prioritizing based on neighborhood sign up density. Households calling us about service won’t speed up the installation schedule—but more households signed up in an area will, since it’s more efficient for us to do batches of installs in a neighborhood.

One issue we’re having right now is trying to actually get a response from people who have pre-signed up. When we’re ready to install customers in a neighborhood, we send an Email to the address they gave us upon signing up, and follow that up (when necessary) a few days later with a phone call. But we’re currently only getting about a 30% response rate (we don’t seem to be reaching the other 70% since they don’t respond to the email or the call).

In other words, if you want service, when Clarity contacts you don’t delay your response. If they don’t contact you, you might contact them with the intent of establishing a “hot” neighborhood. 607.257.8268 or [[clarityconnect.com/signup](http://clarityconnect.com/signup)].

### And How’s *Your* Installation...?

The majority of new customers have straightforward installations and are up and running in a matter of hours. Among the others, there are two consistent themes: trees and geography.

Trees have proven to be a bigger issue than was anticipated. The moisture—especially in the leaves—blocks the radio signal that carries the Internet. Danby residents love their trees, and Clarity has two options to try before they consider the idea of cutting trees. A high-gain antenna can replace the regular one, in the hope of punching the signal through the trees, or the antenna can be mounted higher up to avoid the trees entirely, typically on a pole or mast. Unfortunately, both of these are extra-cost options.



Geography and topography, in the form of gullies, gorges, and plain old holes in the ground, has bitten a few potential customers. Note that some holes in the ground are relative to the surrounding hills on the ground. Geography issues tend to occur in clusters, like the Coddington Road area in northeast Danby. Clarity is considering solutions for these customers.

Some residents have noted that the up-front cost is steep; this is most apparent when, ironically, they’ve taken advantage of Clarity’s substantial pre-pay discount. Approximate costs are \$200 install cost, \$150 for a router (you can supply your own), and \$480 for one year of service (paid in advance). This totals up to about \$830. If you don’t pay for service in advance, the monthly fee rises from \$40 to \$50.

If you need the high-gain antenna, that’s about \$200 extra, and a guyed mast can be around \$600 extra.

In return, you can expect a connection with up to 6Mbps down and 2Mbps up. This is usually sufficient for smooth video. Like most other broadband providers, Clarity reserves the right to limit your usage but—unlike other providers—it doesn’t charge extra for more usage and says that it has only rarely encountered a customer who moved enough data to require a warning or a cutoff.

My experience with this service has been good. I’m using about 30GB down per month; this would cost about \$185 from another local supplier. I haven’t noticed a lot of unexplained service interruptions; when problems occur I dive into my router, where they can almost always be identified. Only once in several months has it been necessary to call Clarity...and they were already aware of and fixing the problem I’d encountered. ❁

## DANBY BOOK CLUB MEETS AGAIN!

Submitted by Janice Beal

The Danby Book Club will meet again on Sunday, April 24, 4pm, in 371 East Miller Road. We'll discuss *Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic* by David Quammen.

We welcome new members, so please join us! If you have any questions, please call me at 607.5896924. ❀

## APRIL: ORGAN DONATION MONTH

Submitted by Dan Klein

In researching this, I came across two interesting statistics. One is that New York State has the lowest rate of people signed up to be organ donors of any state in the country. The other is that Tompkins County has the highest rate of sign-ups of any county in NY. This is another reason to be proud of where we live.

Local government plays a key role in getting people to sign up for organ donation. When you renew your driver's license, you are asked if you want to be an organ donor. Or anytime you are at the Department of Motor Vehicles, you can fill out a form to become a donor.

Whenever someone registers to vote in NY State, they are given the option on that form to sign up to be an organ donor. NY is the only state in the country to do this.

I am signed up to be an organ donor because if I can be helpful to someone even in my death, I want to have that opportunity. I am glad that local government is helping to recruit and register people to be organ donors. ❀

## 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, April 25 at Noon. It will be held at the Danby Community Church. ❀

## DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, April 7 at Noon, for a dish-to-share luncheon.

In March we were fortunate to have Linda Howe cook our "Easter ham"—many thanks, Linda! Hostesses for March were Donna Mosher and Gen Sanford, and we had a good turnout of about 50 people.

In May we return to our summer hours, gathering at 6pm. We'll continue meeting at this time through September.

President Judy Cuyle did two raffles and asked if we'd like to do Bingo in April. The travel committee (Alice Humerez, Sally Hall) outlined the upcoming trips: May 18 to Penn's Peak, PA for a Benny Goodman/Peggy Lee tribute concert and luncheon, and June 22 to Letchworth State Park for a tour and luncheon at the Glen Iris Inn. Call Nancy Weitzel, 607.272.6570 for more information. ❀



It takes a lot of hands to build a bird house.

## WE BUILT THEM. NOW WILL THEY COME?

Submitted by Alison Christie, Community Council

A handy crew of seven, led by talented Community Council Director Julie Clougherty, turned the Town Hall grounds into a carpentry workshop on Saturday, March 12. Hands big and small, skilled and novice, crafted fifteen beautiful bluebird houses for our Danby Bluebird Nestwatch program.

Wood and materials were generously donated by DCC members Danny Wheeler and Gould Colman, and Danby resident Don Schaufler.

The boxes will be installed soon in Dotson Park. And then we wait. And watch. If you would like to be part of our inaugural Nestwatch season, pipe up. Participants will complete a brief online certification program. Then you will be assigned 6 weeks to watch a set of boxes, record data on your observations, and perform any needed maintenance on the boxes in your care. You will visit the boxes three times a week. The data you collect will be shared with Nestwatch, a Citizen Science program, see [[nestwatch.org](http://nestwatch.org)].

We hope you will be rewarded with the opportunity to witness the surprise of finding a nest, the joy of eggs hatching, and the bittersweet fledging of baby bluebirds. Or chickadees. Or house sparrows. But we're crossing our fingers for bluebirds. To join the nest watching fun, contact me at [[achristie@danbycc.org](mailto:achristie@danbycc.org)].

Volunteer needed: We welcome a Danby resident to step forward to be our Nestwatch coordinator, confirming participant completion of the training, coordinating the monitoring of boxes, setting up our supply backpack, and ensuring the data is entered. Contact me to learn more. ❧



## LOVE-A-FAIR WITH COMPOST

Submitted by Jay Smith

People are having a love affair with compost.

Compost? Yes, compost. Across the country there are more and more folks getting into composting, which is, essentially, turning food scraps into arable soil.

What do they love? Well, first, eating the yummy fruits and veggies whose peels, rinds, and leavings go into the compost pile. Secondly, for gardeners, especially organic growers who avoid artificial fertilizers, it's a marvelous way of adding vital plant nutrients like nitrogen back into the soil. Growers love how compost enhances the water retention and natural fertility of the soil. Thirdly, towns and municipalities are liking, if not loving, the money they save *not* hauling food wastes to landfills that are filling up, because more than 70 percent of garbage consists of food waste.

Ecologists love that people are finally recognizing the importance of restoring our soil, whose volume and quality is rapidly declining all over the world. By managing a process that naturally builds soil, as it has for millions of years, and returning organic matter back to the earth, we can help to "love" our soils to grow the foods we love to eat.

Just after the celebrations of Earth Day, Cornell Cooperative Extension is having its annual Compost Fair on Sunday, April 24, Noon-4pm in 615 Willow Avenue in Ithaca. This year's fair will be in conjunction with the 4H Duck Race & Color Splash Run. People love it.

Admission is free to both events and open to the public. There will be information, with Master Composters to answer your questions and demonstrations of beginning and advanced compost techniques, continuous tours of our demonstration site, live music, activities

for kids and a compost cafe. Several partner organizations and sustainability groups will be joining us. All attendees will be eligible to win fabulous compost prizes. Compost bins (Earth Machines, welded wire cylinder and worm compost bins) will be for sale while supplies last. Save the date! Come have a love-a-fair with compost. ❧

## NEWFIELD COMMUNITY PINWOOD DERBY

The Newfield Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts are co-sponsoring a Newfield Community Pinewood Derby and Scouting Awareness Event. The Newfield Masons have generously purchased a new track and electronic finish line for the scouts to use.

The event is to be held Saturday, April 30, at 9am in the Newfield High School Auditorium. Any person (child or adult) can enter a newly designed or previously raced car.

The day of the event will also offer parents the opportunity to see what the Newfield Scouting community has to offer their child.

For more information and for the latest updates on the Community Pinewood Derby, please visit the derby Facebook page (search for Newfield Community Pinewood Derby).

If you have any questions about divisions or where to get a car kit, contact [newfieldderby@outlook.com]. ❀

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

### And the Oscar goes to.....

We now have the following Oscar-nominated DVDs:

<i>The Danish Girl</i>	<i>Spotlight</i>
<i>Room</i>	<i>Mad Max:Fury Road</i>
<i>Bridge of Spies</i>	<i>Inside/Out</i>

And coming soon:

<i>The Revenant</i>	<i>The Big Short</i>
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As well as...

<i>Pixels</i>	<i>The Good Dinosaur</i>
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Did you see *The Lady in the Van*? It comes out on DVD in mid April and we will order it for the library. A mostly true story and Maggie Smith is excellent.

Thank you to Dan Klein for his library article in last month's Danby News. Unfortunately, the info about the DCL was incorrect: we can no longer accept TCPL returns at DCL and we can no longer offer inter-library loan requests.

Friends of the Library book donations must be dropped off at the Book Sale building on Esty Street in Ithaca. ❀

## 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]. ❀

## GIRL SCOUTS: CHICKEN BBQ CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE

Submitted by LoriAnne Bellavigna-Robbins

On Saturday, April 23, 11am-gone, the Newfield Girl Scouts Service Unit is hosting a Chicken BBQ in the Newfield United Methodist Church, 227 Main Street, Newfield. Tickets are \$9 for chicken dinner, which includes BBQed half chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans, roll, and dessert. A chicken-only option is \$6.

Tickets go on sale March 22, and are available through any Newfield Girl Scout Troop or by contacting me at [lorianne3666@aol.com]. All proceeds will benefit the Newfield Girl Scout Service Unit for service unit encampments, the annual GS Derby, and various other scouting activities.

In addition, on the same day and location—but 9am-3pm—the Girl Scouts will also be busy with a can and bottle drive day. All returnables will gladly be accepted. ❀



## Community Council Spring 2016 Youth Programs

Hey Danby Youth!

What have you been up to this Spring? We have been having a ton of fun in and around Danby, visiting bird nesting locations, checking out local historical sites, but most importantly, *having tons of fun!*

We regularly head out in the CCE van to get to the best local spots, so space in these programs is strictly limited. We still have a couple of spots if you would like to join us and see what our programs are really all about! Additional program/registration information can be found below, in Danby's Town Hall, on the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County web site [[ccetompkins.org/4-h-youth/rural-youth-services](http://ccetompkins.org/4-h-youth/rural-youth-services)] and in flyers given out in schools. If you have any questions about the new programs or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [[ttj22@cornell.edu](mailto:ttj22@cornell.edu)] or 607.272.2292.x222.

Here are the programs that are up and running! These programs are free of charge for Danby Youth ages 8-14.

### Back to the Future-Grade 5 and up

Wednesdays, March 16-June 15, 3:30-6pm  
Danby Community Church

How can you move forward if you don't know where we've been? Ever heard of the Underground Railroad? Harriet Tubman? How about the Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira? This program will be heading out on adventures to decode local (and not so local) locations of action, museums, cemeteries, people and buildings. Period appropriate meals, practices and challenges will also be enjoyed. Come enjoy the comradery, travel, and experiences of looking into the somewhat recent past. For the finale of the program, we will get to attend a live Civil War reenactment right here in Danby at Dotson Park. Come ready for awesome adventures and stories you wouldn't believe!



The Lost Kingdom in Dotson Park



### Bring on the Birds-Grades 5 and up

Fridays, March 18-April 22, 3:30-6pm  
Danby Community Church

As the snow is leaving, what comes back with the warm weather? Birds! Which are the first and last to arrive? What do they sound like? How many Red-Winged Blackbirds can there really be? We will start with sites that are walkable for observations and move out to different environments to track down specific species (Bald Eagle, Osprey, and Blue Heron). Of course, Cornell's Lab of Ornithology will also be on our list! Cheep Cheep!

### Lunch Bunch-Grades 6 and up

Tuesdays, March 15-June 14, lunchtime  
Boynton Cafeteria

Games, food, fun and friends. Bring your lunch to our table, have some special snacks and relax. Exotic fruits and veggies are arriving daily! ♣

## DANBY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INFO SESSION

Submitted by Beth Bannister, Cooperative Extension

The Danby Community Council and Cooperative Extension will present an informational session in Danby's Town Hall on Wednesday, April 13, 6-7:30pm. Youth (ages 14-17) and families are invited to learn about local summer and school year employment opportunities. Skills covered include how youth can apply for working papers, filling out applications, interviewing skills and basic job etiquette.

Adults are invited to stay and learn how they can best support youth in their first job experience. Free Pizza and salad will be provided. RSVP appreciated—please call me at 607.272.2292.x229 or Email [[bab47@cornell.edu](mailto:bab47@cornell.edu)]. ♣

Postal Patron

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 26 • Sat

11am 🏠 West Danby Hatch Pavilion  
**West Danby Easter Egg Hunt**

Apr 2 • Sat

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

Apr 7 • Thu

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

Apr 8 • Fri

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

Apr 9 • Sat

10am-2pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall  
**West Danby Spring Craft Show & Chicken BBQ**

Apr 10 • Sun

3pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Concert**  
**Shapiro and Shore • The American Folk Tradition**

Apr 11 • 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**

Apr 12 • Tue

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

Apr 13 • Wed

6pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Youth Employment Info Session**

Apr 16 • Sat

10am 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Physics Bus**  
1pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Physics Bus**

Apr 18 • Mon

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

Apr 19 • Tue

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

Apr 21 • Thu

3-6pm 🏠 Danby Comm. Church • **Food Pantry**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**

Apr 23 • Sat

11am-2pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall  
**Open House • Chicken BBQ • Volunteer Recruitment**  
9am-3pm 🏠 Newfield U.M. Church  
**Girls Scouts Can & Bottle Drive**

Apr 24 • Sun

4pm 🏠 371 East Miller Road • **Danby Book Club**

Apr 25 • Mon

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

Apr 30 • Sat

9am 🏠 Newfield High School • **Pinewood Derby**

May 5 • Thu

6pm 🏠 Danby Community Church • **Seniors**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

May 7 • 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  
Call for Info.

### 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 Community Church • 1859 Danby Road

🏠 American Legion Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road