



# DANBY AREA NEWS

## TOWN SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR BZA

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

The Town Board of the Town of Danby is seeking three members for its Board of Zoning Appeals to complete the remainders of:

- a one-year term (ends December 31, 2016);
- a two-year term (ends December 31, 2017);
- a three-year term (ends December 31, 2018).

Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals:

- Must be residents of the Town of Danby
- Must submit a Letter of Interest and be appointed by the Town Board
- Are expected to fulfill the New York State attendance and training requirements for BZA members
- Follow Town Law, Section 267 (a)

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) consists of five citizens, appointed by the Town Board. These are not salaried positions; however, they play an important role in ensuring that the zoning process is equitable. A zoning law is a community's guide to its future development. The Danby Board of Zoning Appeals is a quasi-judicial body, existing primarily to act as a buffer for aggrieved applicants requesting relief from the zoning.

BZAs have two appellate functions: the review of applications for use and area zoning variances, and the power to render interpretations of the zoning regulations. The Board of Zoning Appeals also conducts environmental quality review (SEQRA) when necessary.

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## COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONCERT: UNCLE JOE & ROSEBUD RAMBLERS

Submitted by Ted Crane, Community Council

Where are you and your family going to be on Sunday, May 15 at 2pm? Why, in the Danby Town Hall, of course, listening to *Uncle Joe and the Rosebud Ramblers*.



Bob's Uncle. Your Joe Chicone comes from a tradition of banjo playing and singing

inspired by the traditional work of Uncle Dave Macon and Pete Seeger. He first picked up the banjo when he was thirteen!

These days, he plays using both clawhammer and its syncopated cousin, two finger up "thumb lead" style. He has played in folk festivals from Union Grove to Pine Stump. He's even got two CDs out there in the wild, which is sayin' quite a bit for a banjo feller. Joe will also play guitar and entertain us with some cowboy songs!

Mum's the word, but Joe's something of a renaissance fellow. When he's not keeping the stage level with his banjo, he's a farrier...and that's not just hammering shoes to horses. In quieter moments he's a barber, too, a regular scissors wizard. And he's a long-time horseman, and repairs saddles and horse tack. Sadly, he's only bringing music to Danby's Town Hall.

Joe is backed up by Renee Baum, a fiddler and the proprietor of a pivotal Collegetown record empori-

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**May 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 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

Of all of the jobs of a Town Clerk, preparing minutes of Town meetings is the most important. While we are here to serve you, the primary legal job of a Town Clerk is to keep a record of actions and decisions of the Town Board. The rest of a Town Clerk's legal job description has been "tacked on" to this primary responsibility.

Several recent events in Danby have raised the issue of timeliness regarding minutes. New York's Open Meetings Law states that the record of the meeting must be available to the public within two weeks. Several residents, who could not attend a meeting, have expressed a desire to have meeting minutes available within days. While this is desirable, it is rarely, if ever, possible, mostly because of the time demands of all of those "tacked on" responsibilities.

All meetings are sound recorded as digital "mp3" files. These are also public record, and if you need to learn about a

meeting before the minutes are prepared, you can listen to the recording. The files are too large to conveniently Email but, if you bring a USB storage device (flash drive, etc.) to Town Hall, you can get a copy.

Clerks must assure that the permanent historical record of the Town is complete and accurate. Town Board members may miss a meeting, but, "A Town Clerk must attend every meeting and keep a written record of all proceedings of the Board even though he or she is not a member of the Board and does not have a vote on matters coming before the board."

Clerks have substantial guidance, from NY municipal law and recommendations from the NY Association of Towns regarding the process of drafting minutes and the content that should be included. That said, there are few set rules. At a minimum, the minutes should include the date and time when the meeting took place, the names of those in attendance, and the full text of any motions or resolutions considered with the full vote of the Board. As is common practice, the Danby minutes also include a record of the discussions leading to a vote as well as comments and concerns from the public. In this way, the minutes capture the background of actions.

After the minutes are completed, they are sent to Town Board for review. The Board has no legal obligation to review or to approve the minutes, but it is a common practice. In Danby, the Board generally votes to approve minutes during the following month's meeting. I appreciate that the Danby Town Board has always approved the minutes I have written, providing its "stamp of agreement" that the record is true and accurate.

Whether or not the board approves the minutes, State Law ensures that there must be no delay in public access. Minutes are available via the Town of Danby's web site and paper or electronic copies may be requests from the Town Clerk's office.

Minutes are also stored and accessible through the Laserfiche link on the Town web site. There, you can find minutes of all the Danby boards (Town, Planning, and Board of Zoning Appeals) going back to 1964. Older minutes—dating back to 1892—are contained in fragile books and housed in the Town Hall vault. These minutes are the history of our town and make interesting reading. I'm pleased and honored to be part of a lineage of Clerks who have written and preserved this history.

In order to be as accessible as possible, the Town Clerk's office is open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Saturday hours are dropped during the summer, starting Mother's Day weekend. If there is a need, Sue McLellan or I can be available by appointment. As always, we are closed on Sundays and Thursdays. And yes, there's still chocolate in the bowl on the counter.

Questions? You can contact me at 607.277.4788 or [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org].

## WEST DANBY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Submitted by Sandra Fish

The West Danby Cemetery Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, May 21, 2016, 10am, in the First Baptist Church of West Danby, 2219 West Danby Road.

All lot owners and descendants of lot owners are encouraged to attend. For further information or questions please call 607.592.5923.



## COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, County Legislator

In April I was involved in one of the actions that I have enjoyed the least in my time on the Tompkins County Legislature. The Tompkins County Area Transit (TCAT) Board, of which I am a member, voted to cut back on summer bus service throughout the county, including in Danby.

The primary reason for this cutback is a shortage of bus drivers. There are several reasons for this shortage. TCAT bus drivers make approximately \$19/hour and have good benefits...but it is a difficult job. Buses run from 5:00 in the morning until 2:00 at night. Since peak times are the morning and evening commutes, there are often gaps of time in the middle of the day when the drivers are not working (and not getting paid), so their overall day is very long. When they are driving they are on a tight schedule and cannot stop to answer the phone, run an errand, or any of the other little things people with more flexible jobs can do. Because we cannot just randomly not operate a bus route on any given day, there can be a lot of mandatory overtime. It is a difficult job.

At the same time, the unemployment rate in Tompkins County continues to be the lowest in the state, and is now approaching an all-time low. People have more choices about jobs. On top of that, TCAT drivers must have Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDL). CDLs are valuable and it is easy to find other jobs if you possess one.

There appears to be a bus driver shortage across New York State and much of the country.

So for all these reasons, TCAT has been unable to retain enough drivers. Therefore, we felt the only appropriate action we could take right now is to trim back service. This reduction is in effect for the summer. We have not yet decided if the reduction will continue into the fall.

There are currently seven buses a day that make the round trip from downtown Ithaca to Danby and back (route 65). Two of those will be eliminated. Those two are the runs that leave downtown at 8:50am and 1:18pm. These two runs will affect an average of thirteen riders a day. Some of them will be able to adjust to other schedules, some may not.

No one is happy about these cuts. TCAT is in the business of providing bus transportation to our residents. We will continue trying to find ways to restore, and hopefully even expand our service.

As always, feel free to contact me, [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582, with questions and comments. ❁

## WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

We will be flushing hydrants during the second week of May, weather permitting, on Wednesday the 11th from about 10am until 1pm. In the event of inclement weather the flushing will occur the next good weather day at similar times. ❁

## 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

*Uncle Joe & Rosebud Ramblers Concert:* Sunday, May 15, 2pm, Danby Town Hall. Refreshments. Free.

### At the DFC

**Danby Federated Church, 1858 Danby Road**

*Red Cross Blood Drive:* Friday, May 13, 1-6pm.

*Ladies Tea:* Saturday, May 14, 4-6pm. Light tea party food, beverages and program for ladies of all ages. Bring your favorite tea cup!

*Senior Citizens' Exercise Group:* Mondays and Thursdays at 9am. A little stretching, a little walking, a little work with hand weights, and a lot of friends and laughter. ❁

### ➤ **Uncle Joe Concert, cont'd from front page—**

um, famous for its hard-to-find classical and folk music. Harder to find nowadays, since Rebob closed. You'll enjoy her tunes, for sure.

Mike Charnoky and his guitar, and Robin "bigger than his bass" Ploss behind his upright bass put a solidly yuuuge rhythm floor underneath the pickin' and scrapin'.

The room will be set up, "in the round." Kids are welcome to sit up front and 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. It starts at 2pm—that's 2pm—so, come early! Refreshments will be served. The Danby Concert Series is supported by the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County and the Town of Danby. ❁

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

Depending on where you live and how much you read the news, you know that Gunderman Road issues are front and center on the Town Board's table. The situation also has my attention, and is another example of how best to go about dealing with contentious issues before the Town.

Land Use has to be right on up there on the emotional ladder when it comes to how Boards deal with residents.

The lessons of Gunderman Road apply to all of Danby. It shows how important community and neighborhood issues are for the town. It is how we stay current, relevant and responsive to our residents. Having the membership on our boards reflect the makeup of our community is important. Engaging all our residents' opinions needs to be a top priority and having a government that is inclusive rather than exclusive should be our goal.

Danby, our county, our nation, and our world are changing and your Town government is among the many that are trying to adapt to new realities: what is our Town, who decides what—and why. The short answer is, “your local government,” but the larger answer is, “the residents who elect us.” Some land use issues are in front of us now and more are to come. What this says to me is that better choices are made when more of us are involved.

Government looking out through a window doesn't always see the same view as residents might see, looking through the same window.

We have decisions to make on solar buildout (and a land swap involving Town property at the Highway Department and a neighboring property, necessary for the solar farm), and the possible purchase of the property adjacent to Town Hall.

Lots of stuff, lots of stuff for a few people to decide.

This task is more challenging than you might think. It brings me back to my question, what do WE want the town to be, and who should decide.

The Town's Comprehensive Plan needs to be updated to better reflect and deal with new realities, with storm water, and with how we manage our land and aquifer. All of these have serious impacts, not only for Danby, but for all municipalities downstream. Protection

plans—protecting both current residents and those downstream in both geography and time—will need to be put in place. These plans and the laws accompanying them will need your approval to implement.

Aquifer protection laws, rewrites to zoning, the Comprehensive Plan, all residents will be affected. Some people could see these new laws in a negative perspective, while others would embrace the Town for its thoughtful stewardship.

Another article in this month's Danby News explains the need for the Town—and you—to understand the zoning updates that will be brought out for review this summer.

Our destiny ultimately lies with our legislators and therefore with the residents who vote them into office, but public participation in decision-making is also important. Please try to stay informed about the questions that are in front of decision-makers and let them know how you feel.

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

## BEES GETTING SMALLER

A recent Cornell study indicates that bees are getting smaller in locations that are intensively farmed. ❄

[[morningagclips.com/ground-nesting-bees-grow-smaller](http://morningagclips.com/ground-nesting-bees-grow-smaller)]

## 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.

## FIRE SIRENS, PAGERS AND RADIOS

Submitted by Ed Kokkelenberg, Fire Commissioner

In the colonial period, volunteer firemen were called to a fire by ringing a bell mounted either at the fire station or in the belfry of a local church.

However, in more recent years, volunteer fire fighters have been summoned by a siren that wailed when an emergency was at hand. Many fire sirens also warned about tornadoes or gave other community alerts.

Both fire stations in the Danby Fire District have a fire siren.

According to Wikipedia, the first siren was invented by John Robison and used as a musical instrument in an organ. Modern sirens were developed during 1877-1880 by James Douglass and George Slight. Fire stations and companies converted to sirens because the sound carries better than that of a bell.

### So why don't I hear the siren any more?

As pagers became available for fire department use, many communities—including Danby—have deactivated their fire sirens.

In Danby, each volunteer is issued a pager that summons her or him when there is an emergency. There was some initial reluctance on the part of volunteers in some areas but pagers are now widely used and provide much more information than a simple siren (or bell). Danby's pagers are activated by the Tompkins County 911 Emergency Response Center, which coordinates the response for all emergencies in the County. The pagers can have multiple channels, are ruggedly built, and have many other useful features.

### So much for getting the volunteer to the scene.

#### But how do we communicate when there?

The fire ground is dangerous and communication among all the firefighters and commander is essential for safety and effective response. Consider a multistory structure at night with smoke obscuring vision. Where are the firefighters, on what floor, on what side, and what conditions are they encountering? Where is there danger, where are any victims, and where do we need immediate water?

Without radios, these are things that are quite difficult to know and this then complicates the task of the commander in coordinating the extraction of any victims, efficient fighting of the fire and the safety of the firefighters.

## DOTSON PARK: SPRING PROJECTS

Submitted by Michele Lenhart

The Danby Community Park Association hosted a member recruitment meeting in March. It was well attended and there is a renewed energy for park projects! Several volunteers committed to working on the trails in Dotson Park, including clearing new trails and building footbridges over the swampiest parts of the park.

DCPA is looking for local locust wood for the bridges, so please Email [[dotsonpark@gmail.com](mailto:dotsonpark@gmail.com)] if you have a source. Other volunteers will be taking the lead on the natural playground project, designing a natural amphitheater and even researching a potential sustainable basketball court and a composting outhouse. Meanwhile, the DisClthaca crew has been working diligently on developing the disc golf course, with two new holes on track to open this summer.

If one of these projects piques your interest, we encourage you to contact us online or join us at our May meeting, on Thursday, May 19, 7:30pm in the Dotson Park pavilion. In case of inclement weather, we will post an alternate location at [[dotsonpark.org](http://dotsonpark.org)] and on Facebook. The May meeting will be our final meeting before our DCPA Annual Meeting & Picnic in July when new board members are elected, so this is a great time to check us out!

Whether you are a patron of the park, an active volunteer, or newly interested in learning more, DCPA welcomes you. Longer, sunnier days mean more time in the park—we hope to see you there soon! ❁

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The arrival and deployment of the necessary water tankers on narrow country roads is another situation where radios are imperative.

Fire radios are similar to many other emergency responder radios but have some unique features. Danby has one such radio in each of the chiefs' vehicles, and one in each apparatus or truck. Our interior firefighters all have radios, and we are actively seeking funding from FEMA to provide enough radios so each firefighter has one.

Pagers and radios are modern necessities in fire fighting. ❁

## A PRIMER ON ZONING

Submitted by CJ Randall, Danby Planner

The recent round of development proposals has many Townspeople asking about planning and zoning rules and why they matter in everyday life. Zoning is the land use equivalent of gravity—invisible but governing the built environment just the same!

### What is zoning?

Zoning describes the control by authority of the use of land, and of the buildings thereon. Danby's Zoning Code explains in detail what areas of the Town you can build on, regulates building dimension and position on a property (like, how high your house can be), and limits the range of activities (uses) you can pursue on a property.

Zoning is meant to create stability within zones, so that each zone allows for a reasonably predictable range of uses and building types. The Town of Danby has zoning regulations for commercial and residential development as well as for mobile home parks and planned development zones. The zoning must be in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Town's Comprehensive Plan (most recently updated in 2011, and currently under review by the Town's Planning Board).

We are completing an audit of the current zoning from a sustainability perspective but do not anticipate major changes to zoning until after the Comprehensive Plan revisions are complete. A major revision to the County's housing study is currently underway; it will help inform how we think about future demand in the Town of Danby.

### What Are Subdivision Regulations?

Subdivision regulations control how a parcel of land is divided into smaller lots, how those lots are laid out, how the infrastructure serving the lots is installed, and how any parks or open spaces are situated on the parcel(s). Conservation subdivision regulations can allow for flexibility in development without sacrificing important farmland and open spaces.

### Why should we be concerned about changes to the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations?

There are many options for updating our zoning and subdivision regulations and we'll be discussing these in the months ahead.

Our current zoning borrows from mid-century car-centric zoning, which has long had sprawl as its unin-

tended consequence. Sprawl is defined as low or very low-density development on previously undeveloped lands; this can include both residential and non-residential development. Many hidden costs, such as loss of important open space and farmland, increasing cost of public service delivery, and greater use of non-renewable resources are a direct result of zoning and subdivision laws that permit sprawl.

### How will we know if this is really smart growth?

Ecological sustainability and continuity require that we plan at the landscape level, rather than on a fragmented project-by-project basis.

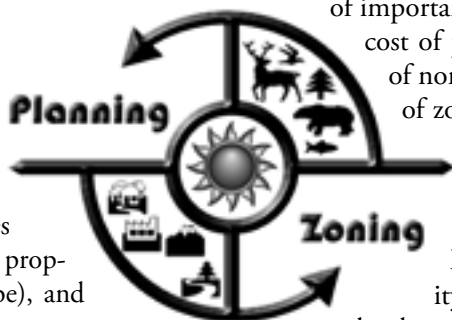
There are a number of criteria we can use to examine the environmental bona fides of a particular development proposal. Most larger development projects are also subject to review under SEQRA, the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

We'll be sharing upcoming dates for discussing these concepts in depth and how we can work together on growing Danby greener. If you have specific questions on these topics or any other area of planning and zoning, please contact me at Danby's Code Office, 607.277.0799 or [cjrandall@townofdanbyny.org]. ❁

### ➤ BZA Applications, cont'd from front page—

State law requires that BZA members receive at least four hours of training each year on the Town's zoning ordinance and on case law that affects BZA decisions. Training materials will be provided by the Town. Trainings are also available regionally and online for if you are unable to attend a scheduled in-house trainings. Meetings to hear variance appeals are typically held once a month or once every two months, scheduled as needed to hear variance applications.

Please contact me, 607.277.4788 or [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org] to fill out an application to join! Applications received by May 2 will be considered during the May 9 Town Board meeting. Applications are welcome after this date and will be considered until all vacancies are filled. ❁



## LOCAL OFFICIALS MEET WITH JUSTICE DEP'T

Submitted by Rebecca Brenner, Paula Younger, and Ric Dietrich

On Thursday, April 7, members of the town of Danby met with Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Paula Younger, Deputy County Administrator, Tompkins County organized the meeting as part of a series of planning activities related to the formal Request for Technical Assistance that she submitted to DOJ/COPS last September on behalf of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office. Three representatives from COPS program Tawana Elliott, Senior Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Justice, Captain Charles Huth, Kansas City, MO Police Department, and Jeff Steger, Virginia Center for Police Innovation, Richmond, VA spent the day in Ithaca and Danby to meet with all categories of stakeholders. Earlier in the day, DOJ/COPS met in Ithaca with local law enforcement and County government officials. In the afternoon they met in Danby for two separate meetings. COPS representatives clearly defined that the meetings in Danby were not to discuss the appropriateness of tactical action, but how to better understand police actions during the Hornbrook Road incident, what happened and what can be learned. The first meeting in Danby was with elected officials Danby Supervisor Ric Dietrich, Tompkins County Legislator Dan Klein (who represents Danby), and Danby Councilmember Rebecca Brenner. COPS representatives and Danby elected officials discussed lessons learned how we can better manage public safety situations, how to improve communication between police and town officials, and the response of the community to the action. We also discussed how the community of Danby interacts with police, why the action changed the perspective of police for Danby residents and how to repair that crucial relationship. In the second meeting, members of the public from Town of Danby discussed with COPS representatives more about the public perspective of the police action. Pastor Ed Estine, Frank Darrow, Ted Crane, Tom Seaney, Camille Doucet, and Rebecca Brenner each gave different perspectives of how community viewed the police action and the repercussions of the police action in the community. All meetings were productive and we are waiting for follow-up information to come from the COPS program as the next step in the Technical Assistance (TA) planning process. Conversation to be continued. ❧

## DANBY COMMUNITY MEETS WITH JUSTICE DEP'T

Submitted by Ed Enstine, Camille Doucet, Frank Darrow, Tom Seaney, and Ted Crane

Representatives of the US Department of Justice's "COPS" (Community Oriented Policing Services) program and members of the Danby community went home from a meeting on April 7 with important messages from each other.

Local folks felt that the DOJ COPS had a genuine concern about the way the Hornbrook Road incident was handled and about the way that incident contributed to an ongoing shift in how the public feels about dealing with law enforcement personnel. It was clear that the COPS were listening and hearing...and not putting themselves in a defensive posture.

The COPS were pleased by the candid comments from all levels of local representatives (Law Enforcement, County Administration and Local Government, and Community). More to the point, though, they were complimentary and receptive to what community members had to say, even though some of what they heard couldn't have been easy to listen to.

The community group expressed that the police and the public seem to have grown far apart, to the point where many residents experience a nagging sense of fear in all but the most trivial interactions with police. If incidents such as we experienced in Danby can happen to one family, they can happen to anyone. We should not be living in an "us vs them" culture.

The COPS were aware of recent events in communities across the country and the need for greater sensitivity by law enforcement to the needs and expectations of people in the community.

Even the careful language employed by law enforcement became a subject of discussion when we described our observations and feelings during the event. It was difficult for us to hear a "person" described as a "subject." To the police, this language keeps descriptions neutral but, to the public, it can be heard as callous and dehumanizing. It can seem that the police see things one way, while the public sees a very different picture.

Better training for various law enforcement agencies as well as improved public awareness needs to happen locally. Even if resources are stretched this is not an

—continued on page 9 ⇨



## CALLING 9-1-1

Submitted by Linda Wyatt

I hope that's a call you never need to make, but if you do, there are a few things about 911 that you may find helpful to know. Most people don't know how the 911 system works, and sometimes, what they know is based on urban 911 systems, which are a little different from what happens in our lovely little rural town.

When you call 911, your call goes to Tompkins County Dispatch, up by the airport. They take calls from everywhere in the county, and figure out what assistance is needed. This means that they dispatch police, firefighters, EMTs and ambulances—and sometimes, all of them at the same time. They are trained Emergency Medical Dispatchers and their protocols include asking a list of questions designed to determine the best response. It can feel like they are “wasting time” with all those questions, but there is a method to their madness, and they are able to get help on the way to you before the end of the questions, if they determine that to be necessary. Sometimes, you will have the attention of more than one dispatcher!

Out here in Danby, as is the case in many rural towns across the country, we have an all-volunteer fire department. Two, actually. Our stations (one in Danby and one in West Danby) are not manned, meaning that most of the time there is no one there. When there

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### ⇒ *Community & COPS, continued from page 8*

impossible goal and it is a necessary step to avoiding problems in the future.

The DOJ representatives emphasized that COPS is not an investigative or punitive arm of the Department of Justice. It doesn't exist to police the police, so to speak, but to evaluate incidents and make recommendations to local law enforcement, with the goal of improving those local departments and fostering better relations with the communities they serve. The “other arm of the DOJ” only gets involved as a last resort, if COPS feels its recommendations are being ignored and a situation is not improving.

Community members came away hopeful that COPS' findings will help to bridge the gulf between the methodology of law enforcement and the expectations of the people it is intended to protect. If this goes to preventing future incidents, our work was not in vain. ❧

is an emergency, volunteers are notified by pager (and sometimes cell phone). They respond to the call, typically going to the fire station to drive either a Rescue vehicle or one of the fire apparatus, but sometimes going directly to you in their personal vehicle. This takes a little time, so our response times are not as fast as they might be in a larger city, where emergency responders are paid, full time, are at the fire station between calls, and usually don't have very far to go to get to you.

Even so, we are closer than getting an ambulance from Ithaca. We have EMTs who respond as members of the fire department, and this is why you will most often get both the local fire department and Bangs Ambulance when you call for an ambulance. Our EMTs are often able to reach you more quickly and can save valuable time by assessing the patient and gathering information before an ambulance arrives.

We can provide Basic Life Support treatments, but do not have Advanced Life Support capabilities or any way to transport you to a hospital. That is why Bangs Ambulance is automatically sent to all of our medical calls.

Sometimes, for a variety of reasons, law enforcement is also sent to medical calls. If they are the first to arrive at your house, they would be able to provide CPR if it is necessary, and they also are able to communicate with Dispatch and other responders. Emergency Services is a team effort!

If your call is because of a fire or other hazardous condition, rather than a medical emergency, you may be surprised to discover that, many times, there will be responders from several fire departments, not just Danby and West Danby. In this day and age, with fewer volunteers available, we rely more on mutual aid from nearby departments.

In some parts of Danby, it is possible—or even likely—that a mutual aid department will be the first to arrive on scene. Parts of Danby that are farthest from our fire stations are closest to mutual aid departments—we often end up working together.

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about how Emergency Responders work together, or if you are interested in finding out how to become involved as a volunteer, stop by the fire station on a Monday night around 7pm, when we have our trainings and company meetings. We'd love to tell you more about it! ❧

## 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PLANT EXCHANGE

Submitted by Dan Klein

The 24th annual Plant Exchange will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2016, 1-3pm, at the Danby Fire Station on NYS Rt.96B.

This free event is an opportunity to swap, donate, and try new perennials, houseplants, seeds, annual seedlings, and anything else garden related. It is not necessary to bring a plant in order to get a plant, nor is it necessary to stay the whole time.

It's better to divide plants in advance so they don't suffer in the heat on the day of the Plant Exchange. So start dividing perennials, planting a few extra annuals, and taking houseplant cuttings. Also, label what you bring if you can.

For more information contact me, 607.272.7582, or [danbydan@hotmail.com]. ❁

## DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be Thursday, May 5 at 6pm in the Danby Community Church, for a dish to share dinner. All seniors 55 and over are welcomed to attend for fellowship.

Thank you to Bill & Pat Dougherty, Nancy Gould, and Carol Bosch for hosting our April meeting. ❁

## 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— please send news of your graduates so I can give them a shout out in the column—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. ❁

## YOUTH GRANTS

Submitted by Susan Franklin, DCC Youth Grant Coordinator

Do you have a child going to summer camp, or participating in another type of program during the next few months? Financial assistance is available for Danby youth up to age 21, in the form of grants of up to \$100 per youth per year.

Grants are awarded quarterly for camps, lessons, after-school programs, and more. You can submit an application for May through September...right now. The deadline is *right now* for May and June and June 15 for programs beginning (or with payment deadlines) in July through September.

Funding is provided by the United Way and the Town of Danby. Families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch are especially encouraged to apply.

For more information and applications please contact [youthgrants@danbycc.org]. You can also find applications on the Town Hall bulletin board. ❁

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Movie watchers...watch our movies! *The Revenant* comes out 4/19 and the *Big Short* and *Brooklyn* are coming, too. We have G and PG rated movies as well as R rated movies, all separated by rating.

Missing: A book on CD that belongs to FingerLakes Library System: *A Lonely Death* by Charles Todd...please return!

We welcome our new registrants and remind patrons that they can use our self-check system any time the Town Hall is open and can return materials to our outdoor bookdrop near the North entrance to the Town Hall at any time. Books are signed out for 4 weeks and DVDs can be borrowed for 2 weeks. ❁



# Danby Youth Flyer

## Community Council Spring 2016 Youth Programs

Hi Danby Youth!

Spring is in full swing and we are taking advantage of the nice weather by getting out and about around Danby and other local trips! We have been having lots of fun visiting historic locations close by, watching awesome birds and seeing some of the most incredible local natural areas.

The next round of programs is very exciting and we are super busy right here in Danby. First off, we will see one of our most popular programs return: Iron Chef. Our cooking challenges will take a surprise turn on some days, so be ready for it all! Back To The Future is going strong and looking forward to the Civil War Living History event at the end of June in Dotson Park. Make It Mondays is a new and totally participant driven program, sure to provide for engaging and exciting activities every day!

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.

### JENNINGS POND NEEDS LIFEGUARDS

Submitted by Mary Ann Kozak, Pond Coordinator

Let's think ahead to summer! Jennings Pond needs lifeguards in June and July!

The Jennings Pond Swim Program will reimburse for lifeguard training. Lifeguard courses that are needed for certification are given at the YMCA beginning April. Contact Amy Cusimano, [[myemail607@gmail.com](mailto:myemail607@gmail.com)], or Mary Ann Kozak, [[mkozak1@tcwny.rr.com](mailto:mkozak1@tcwny.rr.com)] for more information. ♻️

### Make It Mondays-Grade 5 and up

Mondays, May 2-June 13, 3:30-6pm

The Danby Community Church

This participant-driven program will cater to the interests of the daily group. Participants will brainstorm what they would like to see and have a heavy role in activity selection for the following week. Options are (almost) limitless with what we can do, whether it is hiking, local trips, field games, Mythbuster challenges, natural crafts, frisbee, orienteering, and others. Come ready for anything-indoors, or out!

### 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 Living History event right here in Danby's Dotson Park. Come ready for awesome adventures and stories you wouldn't believe!

### Iron Chef-Grade 5 and up

Fridays, May 6-June 17, 3:30-6pm

The Danby Community Church

Back in action for the end of the school year, bring your cooking expertise and an open mind, and be ready to eat some great food. Each week will be exciting as challenges will vary greatly with the weather, cuisine for the day, and cooking locations. Food preparation, taste, ingenuity, teamwork, and leadership will be the areas of focus, with the ever-popular Mystery category to shake it up!

### 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! ♻️

Postal Patron

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Apr 30 • Sat  
9am 🏠 Newfield High School • **Pinewood Derby**

May 5 • Thu  
6pm 🏠 Danby Community Church  
**Seniors**  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall  
**Rabies Clinic: Dogs & Cats**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Danby Community Council Mtg**

May 7 • Sat  
9am 🏠 Town Hall  
**Library Volunteers Meeting**

May 9 • 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**

May 10 • Tue  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

May 13 • Fri  
1-6pm 🏠 Danby Community Church  
**Ladies Tea**

May 14 • Sat  
1-6pm 🏠 Danby Community Church  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**

May 15 • Sun  
2pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Community Council Concert**  
**Uncle Joe and the Rosebud Ramblers**  
**Banjo, Cowboys, Band and Songs**

May 16 • Mon  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Town Board Meeting**

May 17 • Tue  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

May 19 • Thu  
3-6pm 🏠 Danby Comm. Church • **Food Pantry**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**  
7:30pm 🏠 Dotson Park • **Park Association Meeting**

May 21 • Sat  
10am 🏠 WD First Baptist Church  
**WD Cemetery Association Meeting**  
1-3pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall  
**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Exchange**

May 23 • Mon  
Noon-1pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall  
**Mobile Food Truck**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall  
**Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Jun 2 • Thu  
6pm 🏠 Danby Community Church • **Seniors**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Jun 4 • 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