November 2018 FREE TO RESIDENTS

DANBY AREA NEWS

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

Here IT IS, THE FOURTH WEEK IN OCTOBER, and we have had a hard freeze. Usually we kinda slip into fall to winter mode, giving a person some time to organize, get collected, take the house plants in, then things like tomatos and gourds, and then the pressure washer, garden hoses, and the like. But not this year, everything had to be done, ASAP.

No one is excited about a freeze this early, not if you have a garden, anyway. My koi have stopped eating. We stare at each other and, soon, the cold will come for keeps and they will be under the ice until spring.

The Town roads reacted to so much moisture and low temperatures. Highway was doing its best to sand, and salt before the school buses were out. We plan to use more sand in our mix this year, and our barns are full with enough salt to reach January, when we will re-evaluate.

The Town Board passed a preliminary budget for public review. You can get a copy from the

lic review. You can get a copy from the Town Clerk. We kept the budget flat last year and remained under the NYS tax cap. This year, we also remained under the tax cap. Depending on individual assessments (not under Town control), property taxes for some residents could go down.

Union negotiations resulted in a two percent raise for Town employees.

Later this fall, we will bring all our Boards together to set goals and priorities for next year. Excellent progress has been accomplished in this past year. The Conservation Advisory Council has a more active role in the protection of the Town's environmental concerns. The Town Board has commitments to efforts to control erosion, using grant

—cont'd on page 5 ⊃

VETERAN'S DINNER IN WEST DANBY

Submitted by Alison Christie, WD Community Association

Let's appreciate the courageous service of our local veterans with a community dinner. On Saturday, November 10, in honor of Veteran's Day, we'll share a meal, enjoy a performance by Finger Lakes Fife & Drum, and hear remarks by Peter Hanson, who served in both the army and marines.

Food will be ready at 5pm in the West Danby Fire Department, 47 Sylvan Lane.

Dinners for veterans and members of the military are complimentary. A free will donation is suggested for attendees. You are welcome to bring a dish or dessert to share.

Menu: Baked Ham, Applesauce, Tuscan Potato Bake, Balsamic and Dill Green Beans, bread & butter.

We look forward to your company! This event is sponsored by the West Danby Community Association. To volunteer at this event, please contact me at 607.564.3653.

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PANCAKES ROLLING BACK TO DANBY!

Submitted by Marrell Cortright, WD Fire Department

On November 10, 8-11am, the West Danby Fire Dept will be holding its annual Fall Pancake Breakfast in the West Danby Fire Station on Sylvan Lane in West Danby.

We serve an all-you-can-eat breakfast of pancakes, bacon, home fries, sausage, eggs made to order, coffee, juice and hot chocolate. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, kids ages 5-12 are \$5, and children under 5 eat for free.

November 2018

Layout: Ted Crane

Count-n-Label Crew:

Diana Van de Bogart; Ted and Pamela; Katharine and Scott; Julie and her family; others.

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Text submissions:

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

Graphics: JPEG preferred for photos, GIF for line graphics. PNG also works. Check with editor before sending hard-copy graphics.

Deadline is the 15th of the month. Materials may be accepted later if time allows. Submissions should generally not exceed one page. We cannot print political material or letters of opinion.

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Danby News Notes

Submitted by Ted Crane

Submission Guidelines: Before submitting an item for the Danby News, please have a look at the *Submission Guidelines*. You can request them by Email from the editor at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or find them 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.

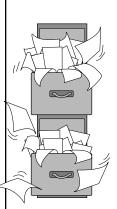
TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

The Season of Gratitude

The past few months have seen a lot of grey, rainy days. I see another grey, damp day as I am writing this November Clerk's desk article. As the song goes, "Rainy days and Mondays get me down." Keeping our spirits up can be a challenge in the chill, damp days of diminishing sun.

November is, on average, one of the most grey, damp, and depressing months of the year. And yet, this is also the traditional month for gathering together with friends and family to express gratitude for what we



have received in the past year. Even on a dreary day, I can remember how grateful I am to live in a place with such natural beauty. And I am grateful for times when the community gets together to enjoy and celebrate the seasons.

October's Harvest Festival, organized by the Danby Community Council and Dotson Park is a good example. We had a beautiful day, with many families enjoying the park, listening to local jazz and old time music, doing woodworking with hand tools, roasting hot dogs and

marshmallows, and watching pumpkins and potatos being shot into a rare clear blue sky. It was great fun.

Every day I'm here at the Clerk's office, I'm grateful for the support and assistance of Alex Pfeifer and Mary Ann Barr. Working with others who are interested in local history and care about good documentation is a real joy. We know that our history is important. What people have done, said, and accomplished is the basis for our future. This is true whether the past is 100 years old, 10 years old, or 10 hours old.

I am grateful to be part of a friendly and effective team, not only in the Clerk's office but between all our municipal offices. We work well together. I'm grateful that we put our minds together so that our local government can work as efficiently as possible.

One example of this is the effort which has come together to protect and preserve our natural resources and infrastructure. In all of this wet weather, spring and fall, roads can get badly damaged as a result of heavy truck traffic and logging activity. When this happened in Deputron Hollow and in the State forest near Travor Road, residents brought the problem to the attention

of the Town Supervisor and the Highway Department. Now, the Highway Department, Planning, Conservation Advisory Council, and Town Board are all working together to draft the best approaches to protect Danby's roads and sensitive ecosystems. I'm grateful that there are systems that allow Towns to have this power and authority—and that I am able to help in small ways.

Tax Bills

Every Autumn we get a flurry of calls from residents wondering about their school tax bills. No, Town Clerks have nothing to do with the school taxes. School tax bills are sent by the school districts in October. If you have not gotten yours, you need to contact the school district for your property, remember that Danby is covered by several districts: Ithaca, Spencer, Newfield, and Caroline.

Municipal property tax bills—which are managed by Town Clerks—are sent at the end of December. More, sadly, about that next month.

As a reminder, the Town Clerk's office is open and accessible 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Through the Autumn and Winter, our office is open on Saturdays 10am-Noon. We are closed on Sundays and Thursdays. We will also be closed on Thursday through Sunday, November 22-25, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Messages can be left at 607.277.4788. And yes, the chocolate bowl is still full

You can always reach us by phone, 607.277.4788 and by Email at [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org].

INCOME FROM RURAL PROPERTY

Submitted by Don Schaufler, Conservation Advisory Council

Landowner Tools

Owning land in the Northeast can be financially challenging, and there are a variety of ecological hurdles to overcome as well. Many landowners cannot justify the up-front costs of properly managing their forested and open lands for long range goals. In this presentation, Lance Ebel of Newleaf Environmental LLC draws on over a decade of experience, working with grant programs that help landowners to fund management activities.

Danby's Town Hall, Monday, November 26, 7pm. Light refreshments before and after.

CAC PRESENTS MAPS

Submitted by CJ Randall, Town Planner

Danby's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is pleased to present the draft maps from the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) on Tuesday, November 13, 6pm, in Danby's Town Hall. The maps provide a baseline of information for helping Town officials, residents, and developers make informed and environmentally sound land use decisions. CAC members and the Town Planner will be available to answer questions about the maps and the forthcoming Natural Resources Inventory report.

A Natural Resource Inventory is a document that compiles data on the naturally occurring resources of an area such as forests, wetlands, surface water and groundwater, and farmland. The NRI can help form a basis for municipal planning in the preparation of plans, review of proposed development plans, and completion of environmental assessment forms. It also serves as an informational document for those looking to learn more about the natural environment of Danby as it clarifies information such as the location of prime agricultural soils and where the Town's steepest slopes are. Over the last 18 months, the Danby CAC has collected and compiled physical and digital data to create a series of two dozen maps that show the Town's hydrological, land, and ecological resources along with a landscape and habitat connectivity analysis.

The CAC is responsible for developing and maintaining an NRI under Town Board resolution No. 82 of 2010 as well as NYS General Municipal Law. Conservation Advisory Councils and Conservation Boards advise local legislative bodies, planning boards, and boards of zoning appeals on matters related to the environment. The CAC provides a scientific perspective on land use planning and decision-making, contributing to the improvement of the local environment and quality of life for residents.

The draft NRI maps are available to view online (link on Danby web site) and in person during the presentation. Following the presentation of the NRI maps, the CAC is hosting a talk by Bob Beck, Chair, Rail Trail Task Force in the Town of Dryden, New York; Member and past chair of the Dryden Conservation Board; and Author of the book Journey at Malloryville Bog.

Please contact me, 607.277.2400 or [cjrandall@townofdanbyny.org], or Matt Ulinski, [mulinksi@townofdanbyny.org] with questions.

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

Flute Concert: Sunday, December 9, 3pm, in Town Hall. Wendy Mehne (flute) and Diane Birr (piano).

The Great Room at Slow Lane

Contra Dancing: Most Fridays, 8pm. Beginners welcome, no partner needed, dances taught. Info: 607.273.8678.

Scandinavian Music and Dancing: Sundays, November 18, December 9. Music by Stefhan Ohlström and Friends. Info: 607.273.8678.

West Danby Community Association

Veteran's Dinner: Saturday, November 10, 5pm, West Danby Fire Station.

Seasonal Songs: Sunday, December 16, 3pm, in the Great Room at Slow Lane.

Danby Community Church

Election Day Dinner: Tuesday, November 6, 5pm. Pork or Chicken, stuffing, and more.

Holiday Craft Fair: Saturday, November 10, 10am-2:30pm. Crafts, vendors, bake sale, silent auction. Food.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Friday, November 16, 1-5pm.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Saturday, November 24, Noon. Turkey and all the fixings with your neighbors!

Danby Gathery

For tickets or information, [danbygathery.com] or 607.319.2595.

Vinyasa Yoga: Thursday, November 1, 8, 15, 29, 5:30-7pm. \$60 series or \$20 per class.

Soapmaking Workshop: Sunday, November 4, 2-5pm, \$62. Learn to make natural bar soap. Oils, herbs, oatmeal, and you take home 6-10 bars of soap.

Yoga Day Spa: Sunday, November 11, 1-4pm. With Lenessa Shantaya. Spinal wellness, healthy posture, breathing. Tea blending, facial products.

Punch Needle Rug Hooking: Saturday, November 17, 10am-Noon, \$50. Make a small wall hanging. ❖

ELECT OR APPOINT A HWY SUP'T?

Submitted by Ted Crane

Danby's Highway Sup't is elected but the position is rarely contested. The only contested election this century was in 2005. Before that, the previous contest was in 1993.

The perceived problem is that NYS law requires town officers, in general, to reside within the town. With only about 3,300 residents, Danby has a shallow pool of potential Sup'ts...but the key words are *in general*.

The Town Board has placed a proposal on the November 6 General Election Ballot. This proposal would eliminate the *elected office* of Highway Sup't. This is the third time (it failed in 2010 and 2016) it has been considered.

There are other ways to solve the problem. For example, New York law allows the Town to permit voters to elect a candidate from outside the Town. This option was never considered.

Danby's Town Board has asked Danby's citizens to make a choice by voting in the General Election. Danby's citizens can choose to give up the vote on future Superintendents, or can ask the Town Board to come up with an alternate, more voter-friendly option to continue our good highway management.

Supervisor, cont'd from front page—

funding, working with NYS Fish and Wildlife, the NYS DEC, and the County Soil and Water Department.

We remain sensitive to the slew of other factors that need to be considered, like the investment in our solar farm to meet the goal of free power to the Town when this is accomplished.

We hope a grant will fuel our housing project but, in the meantime, the Town is gathering info on how to use this information. How to assess the needs of seniors, what housing could qualify for grants, new homes, affordably housing, and transportation are all work being gathered by the Town.

We are also looking at grants to connect the Danby trail loop around Jennings Pond to the Finger Lakes Trail. Details of many of the items mentioned above can be found on the Danby web site.

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

APPRECIATION TO THE VANDEMARKS

Submitted by Roland Boda

POR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, John and Marjory Van-DeMark have volunteered to mow the Danby Rural Cemetery on Curtis Road. Lot owners and visitors have remarked how beautifully the grounds are kept.

The Cemetery Association is very grateful for their devotion to the task. Next spring we will be looking for one or more people to take over the mowing using the zero turn mowers on site. Please contact Dick Hautala, the cemetery trustee, at 607.272.3287 if you can help.

Thank You John and Marge!

WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

The Water Commissioners met on October 10. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 5pm, in the West Danby Fire Station confer-

ence room.



Scott Wendt has successfully completed his Class C Water Operator course and will begin getting on-the-job training in our system soon. We have been given permission to turn off the water at one vacant residence in our district to keep frozen pipes from bursting.

Town Office Info

Town Clerk • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm, Saturday, 10am-Noon Highway Department • [highway@townofdanbyny.org]

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

Code Enforcement Office • [code@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

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

Town Court • [courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, , Tompkins County Legislator

THE TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE had 10 additional meetings during September and October to work on its 2019 budget. The final budget is scheduled to be voted on November 8. Some people will see a small decrease in their County taxes and some people will see a small increase.

Whether your taxes increase or decrease depends on the value your house is assessed at. If your assessment did not go up this year, then your tax bill will actually decrease. Houses are usually assessed every three years. Most houses in Danby were not re-assessed this year, so most people's County taxes will go down a little bit.

This is the 5th year in a row that the County tax rate has decreased.

There is also something on your tax bill called the Solid Waste Fee. This is a per-household charge to pay for all the garbage, recycling, composting, and hazardous waste programs that the County runs. No other tax money is used for these programs. This solid waste fee also pays for monitoring of closed landfills in the County, including the Hillview Road. landfill in West Danby. These landfills continue to leak toxic material and must be monitored even decades after they have been closed.

The Solid Waste Fee will be increasing from \$55 to \$58. The reason for the increase has to do with China. China has been the main importer in the world of materials to be recycled. They recently declared that they will no longer be importing this material because it is too contaminated. "Contamination" in this case means things like the wrong kind of plastics mixed together or too much cheese stuck to the pizza box in the recycling bin.

With China no longer accepting material to be recycled, the market has collapsed and the material we previously got paid for has little value. It will likely take a few years for the recycling market to rebuild.

You probably know that Tompkins County has an unusually high amount of tax-exempt organizations (including our colleges) and tax-exempt land. By having our garbage and recycling programs paid for through a separate fee rather than a straight tax, we are able to get our tax-exempt organizations to chip in for the cost of these services. I think most taxpayers would agree that this is fair and desirable.

In November, the County Legislature is planning on voting on a resolution asking NY State to legalize marijuana. I know this is an issue that generates a lot of opinion and

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marvin W. Eastman



WELL, HERE WE ARE, just a few short weeks from 2019. What happened to 2018? It feels like just yesterday, we were celebrating 2018. Boy, has time flown by.

This month we pay homage to our living veterans and to those that have passed on. In celebration of Veteran's Day there will be a parade in downtown Ithaca on November 4. Lets show our pride and spirit and attend this great event.

On November 3, 5-7pm, we will be having a Steak Dinner. Menu is steak cooked to order, salad bar, and choice of baked potato, french fries, or onion rings. As always, we will have homemade desserts. All for just \$13.

On November 16, 5-7pm, we will have a Fish Dinner. Fish either fried or broiled, choice of baked potato, onion rings, or french fries, salad bar, dinner roll, and homemade desserts. Still only \$13.

Be advised that due to the holidays and scheduling conflicts we will not have any Pasta Dinners until January 9, 2019.

Remember Veteran's Day is a time to acknowledge our veterans, If you see one, Thank them for their service. But this should not be the only time that we thank our veterans for what they have done. January, February, or any day, thank a veteran for their service.

Remember, freedom is not free. Some gave all and all gave some.

Mobile Food Truck Update

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

NOON, at the Danby Community Church. Bring your own bags/boxes. No truck in December—it's holiday week for the Food Bank.



interest, so watch the news or check in with me if you want to know exactly what we will be voting on and when that vote is.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me; [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582. \$

Community Council Youth Programs

Hi, I'm Tom Janda, Danby's Interim Youth Program Educator. If we've never met, I'm the trebuchet guy from Danby's Harvest Festival!

I'll be leading three afterschool programs this fall:

Art and Soul is an ongoing program at Boynton Middle School. It meets on Thursdays through December 13.

On Wednesdays through Dcember 12, also at Boynton, we will have a **Board and Card Games** program.

There's a new program on Tuesdays in Danby, open to all ages. We're calling it **Theater Explora-**

A fall brochure detailing these programs is going out via Email. If you know you are not on my contact list (or even if you're not sure) please contact me at [tj37@cornell.edu] or watch the Danby Youth Program web site, [danbycc.org/YouthPrograms].

ANCESTOR SUPPER 2018

Submitted by Kira McCadden

All ages are invited to come together on Saturday, November 3, 5pm, for an Autumnal Gathering. Ancestor Supper will be a truly unique night of an ancient tradition, sharing food, stories and music to honor ancestors and all our dearly departed.

RSVP to me at [honeysharmony@gmail.com] for directions and additional details.

SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Columnist

 ${f P}$ Lease remember to send your stories to me for the Southern Tompkins Town Talk column that appears every other week in the Ithaca Journal.

I cover the neighborhoods of Danby, West Danby, Brooktondale, Newfield, and Upper South Hill. Pictures (in JPEG format) are always welcome.

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

Do you have a telescope or other astronomical tool? Could you bring it to Dotson Park on January 20? Contact [programs@danbycc.org] to help with viewing of Total Lunar Eclipse!

Danby Community Library

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

THIS YEARS' COMMUNITY READ, We Have Always Lived in the Castle, has arrived! Three copies are available.

We have another local author in our midst, J. Scot Witty. He has written a YA (young adult) series, *Hibernia Chronicles*, and we are lucky enough to have Book One and Two.

Newest purchases:

DVDs: The
Book Club,
Teen Titans Go!:The
Complete First
Season, Early Man,
Peter Rabbit, Sherlock
Gnomes, Goodbye Christopher Robin, The Boss Baby, Hotel
for Dogs, Doctor Strange.

Books: Warlight by Michael Ondaatje, Clock Dance by Anne Tyler, and Shadow Tyrant by Clive Cussler. \$\frac{1}{3}\$

Danby Seniors Update

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

THE NEXT MEETING of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, November 1, at Noon in the Danby Community Church. All seniors 55 and over are invited to enjoy our dish to share luncheon. Sharon Boda has offered to cook up turkeys for us, so it will be our "Thanksgiving" meal.

Our December meeting will be a holiday luncheon at La-Tourelle at Noon on Wednesday, December 5. There is a \$15 cost per person and a lovely buffet lunch menu (with drinks and desserts!) will be offered. We'll also be enjoying another show from Rich Wilson, singer/entertainer, at 1 pm. You must sign up at our November meeting or with me, 607.273.8046 or [margievan@live.com].

On December 15, we have planned a bus trip to the Cortland Repertory Theater for a mystery cabaret show; Greek Peak Resort for lunch; and Hollenbeck's Cider Mill. For more info, contact Pat Phelps, 607.539.6477 or [patriciaphelps2.0@gmail.com].

Classic Quote of the Month (Marcus Aurelius)

The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane. (tc) \(\frac{4}{5} \)



Danby Area News: Event Calendar

Nov 1 • Thu

Noon Danby Comm. Church • Seniors
7pm Town Hall • Danby Community Council Mtg

Nov 3 • Sat

9am 🕰 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting 5pm 🕰 American Legion Post • Steak Dinner

Nov 4 • Sun

3am Everywhere • Clocks Fall Back

Nov 5 • Mon

7pm Town Hall • Town Board Meeting 2019 Budget Hearing

Nov 6 • Tue

6am-9pm 🙀 Fire Stations • General Election 5pm 🙀 Danby Comm. Church • Election Day Dinner

Nov 10 • Sat

8-11am West Danby Fire Hall • Pancake Breakfast 10am-2:30pm Danby Comm. Church Holiday Craft Fair

5pm 🚇 West Danby Fire Hall

WDCA: Veteran Appreciation Dinner

Nov 12 • 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

Nov 13 • Tue

7pm 🔁 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting 7pm 🔁 Town Hall • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg

Nov 15 • Thu

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

Nov 16 • Fri

1-5pm American Legion Post • Fish Dinner

Nov 19 • Mon

7pm A Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

Nov 20 • Tue

7pm 🙀 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

Nov 24 • Fri

Noon Danby Comm. Church After-Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner

Nov 26 • Mon

Noon Danby Comm. Church • Mobile Food Truck
7pm Town Hall • Income From Rural Properties

Dec 1 • Sat

9am Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Dec 5 • Wed

Noon La Tourelle • Seniors Holiday Luncheon
5pm West Danby Fire Hall • WD Water District Mtg

Dec 6 • Thu

7pm A Town Hall • Danby Community Council Mtg

Jan 20 • Sun

afternoon A Danby Town Hall • Tour of the Solar System evening Dotson Park • View A Total Lunar Eclipse

Ongoing Events

Danby Community Library Town Hall
Open whenever Town Hall is open!
Librarian on duty when the Open flag is out.

Seniors Strength Training Group Danby Community Church Mondays and Thursdays, 9am.

Tai Chi Classes A Danby Community Church Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am.

AA Meeting Danby Community Church Wednesdays, 7pm.

Danby Quilters Group **2** 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 Drive, off Rt.34/96
- Danby Community Church 1859 Danby Road
- American Legion Post 221 1231 Danby Road