

DANBY AREA NEWS

MYRA KOVARY: HARP MUSIC FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Danby Community Council

Enjoy the peace and beauty of classical harp music when Myra Kovary presents a free concert of classical harp music through the ages at the Danby Town Hall, 2pm on Sunday afternoon, December 17.

Myra Kovary performs as a harpist with several orchestras including the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, and the Tri-Cities Opera Orchestra. She has played chamber music with faculty ensembles at Ithaca College, Cornell University, with the Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble, and with Pro Musica of Ithaca. Kovary was well-known for many years for her harp performances during Sunday Brunch at the Ramada Inn of Ithaca.

A twenty-year musical partnership with flautist Laura Campbell has led to two recordings featuring Myra on the concert grand harp. *Morning Light* contains the light classical, peaceful background music which Laura and Myra often play for weddings and receptions, and *Visions* captures a harp new piece written especially for Kovary by local composer Laurie Conrad.

The Concert grand harp stands close to five feet tall, and has a big, full sound. Contrasts of plucked and strummed strings evoke a series of ringing harmonics. Myra plays with a crisp precision, using the full range of her harp. The music is both thrilling and soothing to the soul. The December 17 concert will include music by J. S. Bach, Johann Pachelbel, Georg Frederic Handel, Claude Debussy, Carlos Salzedo, and Stephen Sondheim. Kovary will end with *Silent Night*.

Kovary's solo performance is appropriate for the entire family; the concert is free and open to everyone. The Danby Community Council concert series is supported by a grant from the NYS Council on the Arts/TC Community Arts Partnership Decentralization Program. ❀

AN INTERNET OPTION IN DANBY

Submitted by Eloise Greene and Ted Crane

Many Danby residents appreciate the relative peace and quiet of our spread-out community, close to but outside of the Ithaca metropolis. Sadly, these advantages also make it difficult to obtain the reliable, high-speed Internet access required for daily life—including children's homework assignments. Slower dial-up service from Ithaca's major ISPs, Clarity Connect and Lightlink, has been the only alternative for many net surfers.

Danby is beyond the three-mile range of DSL service from Verizon's downtown Ithaca office, and low population density on some roads has delayed Time Warner's Cable access. Satellite connections are faster than dial-up, but have certain restrictions.

During the November 8 Danby Community Council meeting, John Guttridge of Lightlink described its expanding wireless Internet system. Unlike short-range, in-home wireless networks, wide-area wireless uses line-of-sight communication from a home or office to an antenna which may be several miles away. [Clarity Connect currently has limited wireless service in Danby but, according to Chuck Bartosch, it plans to have fairly complete coverage by late Spring.]

The wireless installation process begins with a free site survey to locate an existing, direct line-of-sight antenna or to determine that a new antenna is required to provide service. There is a fee (Lightlink: typically \$600) for the initial equipment purchase and installation. The monthly service fee (Lightlink: \$60) is competitive with DSL, cable, and satellite service.

Eloise Greene is collecting the names of Danby residents who have an interest in exploring a wireless connection. There is no purchase commitment but, obviously, if there is interest from several homes in a region that is not currently served by an antenna, the provider has an incentive to expand in that direction. Please contact [danbyinternet@gmail.com] or call 607.273.5547. ❀

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To contribute:
Danby Area News
PO Box 6886
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Text submissions:
Send text in body of Email
(not as an attachment); or
mail typewritten copy, double-
spaced on white paper. Short
handwritten submissions ac-
cepted; please write legibly.

Graphics: JPEG preferred.
TIFF, GIF, or PNG accepted
but discouraged. 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 gener-
ally not exceed one page. We
cannot print political material
or letters of opinion.

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DANBY TOWN HISTORY: THE ROAD OF DANBY

Submitted by Joan Grant, Town Historian

Did you ever wonder how our roads came into being, who planned them, and why they chose the locations and directions they did? Our roads are older than our villages, towns and cities. Many of the roads we travel today were adapted from the paths and trails that deer and Indians forged centuries ago through the forested wilderness; over hills, through valleys, and along waterways.

THE DANBY TRAIL

Traveling from Ithaca to Danby, the *Catherine's Town* trail went out Spencer Street, up the Stone Quarry Road and past the present site of Kings Cemetery. The trail then followed the Buttermilk Creek (or, as the Indians called it, Sto-ke, meaning North Creek) into the village of Danby. A short branch connected with the Cayuga-Owego trail at the Wilseyville turn-off. This branch followed southeast down the valley of Danby Creek.

Heading south from the village of Danby, the main trail continued past the west side of Jennings Pond up the slope of the north end of Bald Hill. It crossed Bald Hill

through the southern extension along the ridge that descended a steep slope to the Point of Rocks where the Michigan Creek flows out of the hollow. From there it followed a level to Spencer Lake (Ganiatarenge), where it joined the Inlet Valley trail.

This trail was used as a direct route south to Tioga Point, now Athens, Pennsylvania, at the junction of the Chemung and Susquehanna Rivers.

THE INLET-WEST DANBY TRAIL

Two Indian trails, separate but with parallel routes, headed south from the Ithaca valley, leading to and joining at Spencer Lake before continuing south. The lower, *Inlet Valley*, trail from Ithaca followed the Catherine's Town trail to a point just south of the Inlet Valley Cemetery on the Ithaca-Elmira highway. It branched to the left and crossed the Enfield Creek close to where it joins Cayuga Inlet Creek, then continued south toward Spencer following NYS Rt.34/96. The trail in its primitive state must have been exceedingly difficult to travel over. The long rough climb toward West Danby traversed a dark, narrow valley, filled with boggy places, steep pitches, and the debris of fallen timber. Continuing on through West Danby village, the path joined the Danby, or *East Branch*, trail at Spencer Lake.

Resource: "Old Indian Trails in Tompkins County", W. Glenn Norris, 1944. ❀

DVFC PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben, Trustee

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company plans to offer breakfasts this winter, beginning in January. We prepare eggs (cooked the way you want them), home fries, pancakes, ham, sausage, french toast, coffee, hot chocolate, and orange juice, and we offer seating at tables inside the station and service by wait staff.

All proceeds benefit the Danby Volunteer Fire Company by helping us purchase fire or medical equipment and station supplies. Watch the breakfast dates in future issues of the Danby Area News, and on flyers posted around town.

We hope to see you there, and please join us in welcoming our new member, Simon Wyatt of West Miller Road. ❀

Last Minute Item: Town Justice Resigns

Town of Danby Town Justice Gerald (Gerry) Catlin, Sr. resigned from office on November 17, 2006 due to health problems. We will miss you Gerry. ❀

HALLOWEEN PARTY THANKS

Submitted by Carol Bushberg

The Annual Danby Halloween Party, on Saturday, October 28th at the Danby Fire Hall, was a great success and great fun was had by all.

There was food and games, calligraphy by Bob the Letterman, and a special guest appearance by our favorite magician, Mike Stanley (and his lovely assistant!).

I counted over 40 children in costume!

Thanks to all who contributed to this fun event: Andrea Hazard, Bea Hogben and the Danby Volunteer Fire Department, Tom Archibald and his Danby kids, Italian Carry Out, Cornell Orchards, the Ceres Market which donated delicious food, and the efforts of our own Danby Community Council. Wishes for a fast recovery to our Parade Grand Marshal, Naomi Strichartz, who missed the party after an injury that day. ❀

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Danby Town Supervisor

I'd like to report to the residents of the Town of Danby about various projects we are involved in. This first report will focus on the Environmental Protection Agency Notice served on the Town Highway property on Hornbrook Road.

In 1984, the EPA began implementing provisions of the Clean Water Act Underground Injection Control Program in New York State, including a regulation that prohibited municipal garage floor drains from draining into septic fields. When the Town Highway Garage on Hornbrook Road was built in 1990, it included a combined floor drain/sanitary drain system that was designed and approved by the the Tompkins County Health Department. At that time, the Town had no knowledge that the EPA had already begun to prohibit these systems.

Around 1995, the EPA began inspections in upstate New York, sending mandates for changes to non-compliant systems. The Danby Town Board was not aware of these mandates until March, 2006, when a notice was received from the EPA.

During the last two years, the EPA has conducted a general survey of many commercial, industrial, and municipal facilities in our area, and the Danby Highway Garage is only one of many facilities that has recently received a notice from the EPA. All facilities with floor drains connected to septic systems were ordered to correct the problem.

The Town was proactive in addressing the EPA mandate. The Highway Department quickly closed the floor drains, changed the chemicals used to more environmentally-friendly ones, adopted 'best management practices', and arranged to wash vehicles at the City of Ithaca and at Tompkins County until a new system could be installed. We expect that a new wastewater system will be installed by mid-January.

Further, the Town Board retained an firm that specializes in this kind of work, as well as an engineering firm to oversee the project. The Town checked with its attorney and insurance company to see who would have to bear the cost of bringing the drainage system into compliance. The research is ongoing but, at this time, it looks like the Town will have to foot the bills.

During testing this summer, a small amount of Freon 12—only slightly higher than NYSDEC standards—was detected in ground water samples. Freon 12 was often used in automotive air conditioning units manufactured prior to 1995, but it has also been used in aerosol spray cans containing insecticides and fungicides. Because of the low concentration of the compound, the Town's consultant has concluded that the Freon 12 does not appear to be indicative of a significant environmental concern.

A Bonding Resolution, subject to a permissive referendum, was adopted by the Town Board on September 11. It was announced at the Town Hall and in the Ithaca Journal, but no substantial public comment was received during the 30-day review period. The Bonding Resolution was based on an estimated maximum cost—a very worst case scenario—of \$385,000. Since then, we are hopeful that the project cost will be less than \$300,000, perhaps as low as \$270,000.

The Bond for this project will not be taken out until 2008, but a Bond Anticipation Note will be obtained soon. We are fortunate that Bonds from older projects, such as the Town Hall addition, will be maturing soon, so that the Bond for this Highway Garage Project should not result in a significant increased debt load for the Town.

I would be glad to answer any questions that Danby residents have about this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 607.227.2434. ❁

TOWN HOURS

TOWN CLERK

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
Tue–Fri, 9am–4pm; Sat, 9am–Noon

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169
Mon–Fri, 6am–2:30pm

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559
Wed–Fri, 10am–5pm or by appointment

TOWN COURT:

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
Tue, 7pm

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tue & Thu 3:30–5:30pm, Sat 9:30am–2:30pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

DANBY TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Correspondent

Happy Holidays! As I finish up my second year of the *Ithaca Journal's* Danby Town Talk column, I'd like to thank those who have contributed to its success.

People stop me to say how much they enjoy the column, even though they do not live in Danby nor do they know anyone here. So, obviously, the stories you have shared with Journal readers are appreciated!

In today's fast-paced world, we all yearn for peace and quiet...and for something to make us smile. Kicking back with "stories from the heart" fills that need.

Please keep your stories coming in to me: Danby history, memories of growing up in Danby or of recently settling in to the region, a great recipe or gardening tip, or a special trip or special occasion. I try to fit as much of your thoughts into my column as possible. Don't forget photos!

So, thank you for your stories! I look forward to sharing lots more of them in 2007. Danby Town Talk runs every other Thursday in the Ithaca Journal. Contact me at 607.273.6530, at 65 Gunderman Road, or via Email at [\[gayhuddle@hotmail.com\]](mailto:gayhuddle@hotmail.com). ❁

JOIN THE COMM. COUNCIL!

Submitted by Dan Klein, Danby Community Council

The Danby Community Council needs new volunteer members for 2007. The Community Council provides activities, programs, and scholarships for Danby residents and supports other Danby organizations.

No special skill is required, just a desire to make Danby a better place. For information, contact Dan Klein at [\[danbydan@hotmail.com\]](mailto:danbydan@hotmail.com) or call 607.272.7582. ❁

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Submitted by Carol Szczepanski, Danby Town Clerk

The Danby Emergency Management Planning Committee—Town government and Fire Department representatives—continues to improve community preparedness. The Committee recently met with Mike Raffé, of the American Red Cross to discuss community preparedness education, and is pursuing this subject with local churches, clubs, and organizations.

Meanwhile, with winter approaching, please make sure that your household is stocked up with supplies to brave a winter storm. ❁

CAN WE FIND YOUR HOUSE?

Submitted by Beatrice Hogben, DVFC Trustee

If you have an emergency at your home and need to call for police, medical, or fire personnel, can these responders easily find your house?

Many residences in the Danby Fire District—with addresses in Brooktondale, Danby, Ithaca, Spencer, West Danby, and Willseyville—are difficult to spot because they are poorly marked. If an address is difficult to find in the daylight, think how much more difficult it might be to find during night time! This difficulty translates to lost minutes in coming to your aid.

Take time today to make sure your house numbers are clearly visible from the road. For best visibility, all numbers should be a minimum of 4" tall and visible from both directions along the road. This may mean affixing numbers on both sides of your mailbox. Residents of multi-dwelling structures and complexes should make sure each unit has visible labelling. Numbers are sold in most hardware stores. Please replace deteriorating or faded numbers and remove overgrown vegetation.

The Danby Fire Company is sponsoring a sale of address number signs to the community. These signs are designed to be placed along the road in front of your house, preferably near your driveway entrance. The custom-made signs, with 4" tall lettering on a 6"x18" green metal reflective background, are becoming more popular and can be seen in many surrounding towns. Up to five digits are printed on each side, and you choose a horizontal or vertical orientation.

Each sign costs \$12.00; a metal support post with mounting hardware is available for an additional \$5 (without the post, you will need to mount the sign yourself). Fire company members will assist anyone who needs installation help.

To order, contact the Fire Company closest to your address: in Danby, contact Neal Franklin 607.273.3831, or in West Danby, contact Steve Cortwright or Marrell Schutt at 607.564.0020. The signs will be delivered free of charge to your residence, or we will contact you when your order is completed.

Whichever type of identification you choose, please take care that it identifies your residence clearly. Your Volunteer Fire Company hopes that you won't need us, but we want to find you quickly if you do. ❁

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Read the Book before you see the movie!

Currently showing or available to rent: *The DaVinci Code*, *The Lake House*, *Aquamarine*, and *Running With Scissors* (the true story of a boy whose mother gave him away to be raised by her unorthodox psychiatrist, who bore a striking resemblance to Santa Claus).

Did you know we have high speed Internet at the Danby Community Library? If you can't get it where you live, please come in during Library hours and use our computer for free! We're open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-5:30pm, and Saturdays 9:30am-2:30pm.

We have some new shelving to display our new line of DVDs and Books on CD. New collections arriving this month: Juvenile Fiction and Adult Paperbacks. Every month we also get several bestsellers in through the McNaughton Lease program, thanks to Tompkins County Public Library and the support of the Town Board.

Thanks to the Danby Town Board for their support for our community library. Happy Holiday Season and many thanks to all of our volunteers and supporters! ❁

NYSERDA ENERGY GRANTS

Submitted by Elizabeth Keokosky, INHS

Homeowners who want to reduce their heating and cooling bills can get help from the *New York Energy Smarts* program offered through Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services. Low interest rate loans (4%) and matching grants up to \$5,000 help pay for energy improvements that will both lower energy costs and make your home more comfortable. The improvements are installed by certified contractors and monitored by INHS staff. Typical energy efficiency improvements include insulation, air sealing, replacement windows, and energy efficient heating systems and appliances.

INHS offers this program to eligible homeowners with modest incomes throughout Tompkins County. For more information, contact Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Service at 277-4500. ❁

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$28,848
2	\$37,728
3	\$46,608
4	\$55,488
5	\$64,352

WEST DANBY CAROLING!

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, WD Community Association

Gather in downtown West Danby on Sunday, December 17 at 6:30pm, at the old West Danby Church, for some heart-warming caroling! Bring flashlights or headlamps to illuminate the carol sheets (unless, like Sally, you know all the verses to all of the carols).

Please bring desserts (cookies, brownies, fudge, fruit cake, etc.) if you can. We'll eat our share of them (along with hot chocolate, provided) after the caroling and the extras (make extra!) will be divided up and distributed to venerable elders in the community by official West Danby Community Association Cookie Ambassadors.

This event is a go regardless of the weather; if it's too frightful, we will carol in the church! Our thanks to Toni and Jim Iacovelli for letting us use the church. ❁

SHOVEL THAT SNOW!

Submitted by Trina Schickel, TC Office for the Aging

It's not too early to think about snow! With winter coming upon us, the Tompkins County Office for the Aging is updating its listing of snow shovelers.

Deep snow and icy sidewalks are dangerous for everyone—and especially for senior citizens. Many seniors are not able to remove the snow from their sidewalks without assistance.

If you are interested in assisting seniors by shoveling or plowing, either on a paid or volunteer basis, please call the Tompkins County Office for the Aging at 607.274.5482. ❁

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Submitted by Janet Gray

The Danby Federated Church will hold its Christmas Eve Service at 7pm on Sunday, December 24th. Everyone is invited to this enjoyable annual tradition in the Danby community.

In addition, remember that a free breakfast is served every Sunday at 9:30am (inbetween the 8:30am and 11am services). Everyone is welcome. Come see the new addition! Contact Sid Doan at the church for more information. ❁

Community Council Youth Programs December 2006

It's not too late to sign up! Free programs!

Programs are for youth who live in or near Danby; the age range is listed for each program. All programs are free. Look for brochures and registration forms in the Danby Store, at the Town Hall, and on the web.

For Tom's programs, to have a brochure mailed or faxed to you, please contact Tom Archibald, 607.272.2292 x222, [tga4@cornell.edu], or visit [http://www.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/rys/local.htm].

For Julie's programs, contact Julie Kulik, 607.339.6097, or [flickerdharma@yahoo.com].

**Danby
Youth Flyer**

Primitive Pursuits—Grades 4-8—w/ Tom

Danby Federated Church

Mondays, September 18–December 18 (3:30–6:30pm)
(special bus drop-off is available from Boynton)

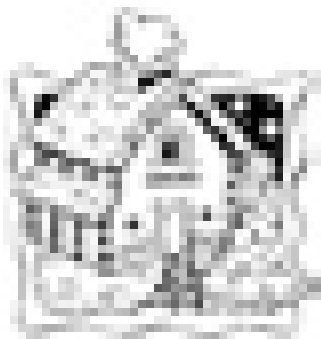
Youth learn ancestral outdoor survival skills including shelter building, knife safety, fire building, cord making, orienteering, outdoor cooking and much more. This popular program is an extremely valuable occasion for youth to get away from the fast-paced lives they often lead and relearn how to look at the world (natural and man-made) through a different lens. The future benefits are multiple and diverse, for both the environment and the youth.

Gingerbread Construction—Grades 4-8—w/ Tom

Danby Federated Church

Saturdays, December 2 & 9 (10am–1pm)

Come have some fun while we design, cook, and build gingerbread houses together. We will spend two weeks constructing houses for you to decorate later, with more friends and family. We won't need cranes and backhoes, just lots of dough and a good attitude. See you there!



Gingerbread Decorating—all ages!—w/ Tom

Danby Federated Church

Saturday, December 16 (1–3:30pm)

Bring the whole family to enjoy this semi-annual event where we will decorate gingerbread houses and cookies. Whether you plan to eat your house right away, or save it to gather dust for months, you won't want to miss this fun gathering. There will be refreshments served in addition to the houses, cookies, and decorating materials provided to everyone who comes. Please RSVP by December 9th, thank you!

Tom adds, "Stay tuned for more great programs to be offered starting in January! For more information, or to share your ideas about potential youth programs, feel free to call.

The more the merrier, so please don't hesitate to come and try these wonderful free programs. Homeschoolers are more than welcome. Youth who don't go to Boynton are also more than welcome to come to the program that meets there. Wherever you are, in or near Danby, just come! See you soon!"

Julie from Earth Arts writes, "Thanks so much to all the children and Moms who joined me during my Youth Classes this past month! It was wonderful to meet you all and to spend time in the woods with your children.

I will be offering more classes after the holidays, watch your Danby News for details!" ❀

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Submitted by Tom Archibald

As the holiday season arrives, I think back to the many traditions that I joyously (in most cases) received from my family. Traditions bring us together, rekindle fond memories, and encourage us to have fun and to feel youthful. One tradition in my family was making and decorating gingerbread houses.

So, when I started running youth programs for the Danby Community Council, I was happy to learn that gingerbread has also been a Danby tradition.

This year, some Danby youth will help me get ready for a gingerbread decorating party on Saturday, December 16, 1-3:30pm at the Danby Federated Church. Everyone is invited, but please RSVP by December 9 so we can prepare materials for you. ❀

Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 28 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Board of Zoning Appeals

Dec 4 • Mon

6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board Agenda Meeting

Dec 6 • Wed

7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Comprehensive Plan Task Force meeting

Dec 7 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Danby Senior Citizens Catered Christmas Luncheon
Reservations required, call Nancy Weitzel, 607.272.6570
7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Danby Community Council Meeting

Dec 11 • Mon

6:30pm 🏠 Town Hall
Town Board Meeting

Dec 12 • Tue

9:30–11:30am 🏠 Market
Meet Your Representatives—County Rep Frank Proto
and Town Supervisor Ric Dietrich

Dec 14 • Thu

7pm 🏠 Town Hall
Planning Board

Dec 16 • Sat

1pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Gingerbread Decorating Party (see page 7)

Dec 17 • Sun

2pm 🏠 Town Hall
Concert: Myra Kovary, Seasonal Harp Music
6:30pm 🏠 West Danby Church
Christmas Caroling

Jan 13 • Sat

?pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall
West Danby Community Association Annual Meeting

ONGOING EVENTS

Seniors Strength Training Group 🏠 Federated Church
Mondays, 9am.

West Danby Volunteer Fire Company 🏠 WD Fire Hall
2nd Monday, 7pm.

Danby Fire Company 🏠 Fire Hall
Mondays, 7pm; monthly mtg 2nd Monday, 7:30pm.

Danby Food Pantry 🏠 Federated Church
2nd Thursday, 6–8pm, 3rd Friday, 4–6pm.

Danby Community Library Reading Group 🏠 Town Hall
4th Tuesdays, 7pm.

Danby Quilters Group ☎ 273.2950
Fridays, 9–11am.

WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

🏠 **Danby Town Hall** • 1830 Danby Road

🏠 **Danby Community Library** • 1830 Danby Road

🏠 **Danby Market** • 1774 Danby Road

🏠 **Danby Fire Hall** • 1780 Danby Road

🏠 **West Danby Fire Hall** • Sylvan Lane, off Rt.34/96

🏠 **Danby Federated Church** • 1859 Danby Road

🏠 **American Legion Hall** • 1231 Danby Road

Did you know you can find the Danby News on the web? [<http://danbynews.tedcrane.com/>] 🏠