



# DANBY AREA NEWS

## DANBY HARVEST FESTIVAL

By Shonah Banford, Youth Correspondent

The Harvest Festival in the town park was a very cold but fun experience. One of the most exciting things about it was the pumpkin-throwing trebuchet. The trebuchet was a very large mechanism that was similar to a catapult. It was a bit taller than a grown man and mostly made of wood. Throughout the festival they were shooting pumpkins forwards and backwards. The backwards part wasn't exactly intentional but it made people laugh.

By the trebuchet was a very well liked and needed camp fire. There was also various types of food, such as apple pie, apples, apple cider, hot dogs, and smore packets for the fire. There was a face painting stand as well, run by my good friends Josie and Lucy.

I hope to see more attendees next year, but a word of advice: dress extremely warm! ❧



*A hearty round of thanks are due to Tom Janda, the architect, builder, and Fire Control Officer for the first Danby Trebuchet. He took a hare-brained idea to solid reality.*

*You'd have had to be there to appreciate the huge smiles that Tom's work brought to everyone's face, from young'uns pulling the trigger rope to big bruisers hooting when the pumpkins flew more than 200 feet. "Fire in the Hole!"*

*Next year, maybe there'll be two dueling trebuchets in Danby's Punkin' Chunkin' Brigade? Contact [trebuchet@danbycc.org].* ❧

## DCC CONCERT: VIOLIN RECITAL

Submitted by Bob Strichartz

On Sunday, December 8, 3-5pm, violinist Nicolas DiEugenio and pianist Mimi Solomon will perform an exciting program of classical music in the Danby Town Hall. The concert includes a sonata of Mozart and the popular Enescu *Sonata in the Romanian Character*.



DiEugenio is on the faculty of the Ithaca College School of Music, and has a DMA degree from Yale School of Music. Solomon is a visiting assistant professor of piano at Cornell and has a Masters of Music from Julliard. They have performed as a duo throughout the US and abroad, including at Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, and Weill Hall (part of Carnegie Hall) in New York.

This concert is the last of the Danby Community Council's series for 2013. All DCC concerts are free, and receive grant support from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County. We have applied for funding again for 2014. Look forward to reading about future concerts in the Danby News. ❧

### This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Town Clerk's Desktop . . . . . ③
- New Pumpers Arriving . . . . . ③
- County Legislature Update . . . . ④
- Seeking: Town Wants Applicants ④
- Supervisor's Update . . . . . ⑤
- Fire District Election . . . . . ⑤
- Town Office Directory . . . . . ⑤
- CAC Update . . . . . ⑥
- Dotson Park Update. . . . . ⑥
- Town Talk. . . . . ⑥
- Envisioning Danby . . . . . ⑦
- Community Council Seeks . . . ⑧
- Register for STAR . . . . . ⑧
- Events 'Round Town . . . . . ⑧
- Master Gardeners / Seniors . . . ⑨
- Veterans Day Thoughts . . . . . ⑨
- Youth Grants / Caroling. . . . . ⑩
- Danby Community Library . . . ⑩
- Youth Flyer . . . . . ⑪
- Calendar . . . . . ⑫

**December 2013**

**Layout:** Ted Crane

**Count-n-Label Crew:**

Ted and Pamela, Julie and her family, among others.

**Post Office Crew:**

Julie Clougherty

To contribute:

Danby Area News

PO Box 6886

Ithaca, NY 14851-6886

Phone: 607.273.8678

Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

Text submissions:

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

Graphics: JPEG preferred. TIFF, GIF, or PNG accepted but discouraged. 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.

The Danby Area News (DAN) is a publication of the Danby Community Council (DCC) produced by contract with the Town of Danby. All statements are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, sponsors, the DCC and its officers, or officials and employees of the town of Danby. All works remain © of the contributors. Please provide a SASE if you wish to have materials returned. The DAN and DCC are not responsible for typographic or other errors.

We would like to thank these sponsors for their help:

**PATRON:**

**ARNOLD PRINTING CORP** • 604 West Green Street • 607.272.7800  
High Quality Printing Services • Recycled papers / Soy based inks  
Complete Digital pre-press • Family owned and operated

**SUPPORTERS:**

**EASTMAN ASSOCIATES**

**DANNY EASTMAN, CPA**

126 Fieldstone Circle • 607.277.0881

[deastmancpa@ithacacpa.net]

Individual, Small Business tax preparation  
Day Care, Non Profit and College Students

**TINY HOUSE RENOVATIONS AND RESTORATIONS**

41 Lieb Road • 607.07.0888

[nytinyhouse.com] • [tinyhouse@twcny.rr.com]

Drywall + Spray Foam Insulation + Painting

**FRIENDS:**

**HIGHLAND FARMS BOARDING KENNEL AND STORE**

168 West Miller Road • 607.273.3251

[www.highlandfarmskennel.com]

Hill's Science Diet. Treats & toys,  
Embroidered Gifts.

**DANBY FEDERATED CHURCH "A Place for All"**

1859 Danby Road • 607.272.1687

[www.danbyfederatedchurch.org]

**CAROL BUSHBERG REAL ESTATE**

607.273.3400 • [carolbushberg.com]

Carol Bushberg, Broker/Owner

High quality customer service & innovative marketing. 25 years experience selling Ithaca area real estate. Danby resident.

**BARN-LIVIN' LLC**

**GREEN HOMES FOR BLUE COLLARS**

[www.barnlivin.com]

[lso@barnlivin.com] • 607.742.9464

Design • Drafting

Construction Management Services

**BIG AL'S PIZZA**

**MANLEY'S MIGHTY MART**

1103 Danby Road

[manleysmm.com] • 607.272.3448

Open Every Day \* Home Delivery

**DAN KLEIN**

[danbydan@hotmail.com]

607.272.7582

**DANBY NEWS NOTES**

Submitted by Ted Crane

**Submission Guidelines:** Have a look at the "Danby News" section of the Town of Danby web site, [town.danby.ny.us/DAN]. If you're thinking of sending something for publication in the Danby News, there's two documents to read: the *Guidelines* and the *Submission Guidelines*.

You'll learn what is, and isn't acceptable material for publication. If it's acceptable, we'll make an effort to in-

clude 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.

**DANBY WEB SITE**

Have you visited [town.danby.ny.us]?

Meeting agendas, minutes, and relevant documents. Happenings in Danby. Everything in a nutshell. ♣

## TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

### Providing Information

In many small Towns across New York, the role of a Town Clerk includes responsibilities as the Public Information Officer. PIOs are messengers for government agencies, delivering information to elected officials, residents and citizens, and the media. The news we share can be anything from emergency information to fun facts about recreational opportunities. My monthly column in the Danby Area News is just one facet of my work providing public information.



In many ways, my role as Public Information Officer overlaps with my Town Clerk's duty as Records Management Officer: providing general government information. In addition to the important public access to meeting minutes, Local Laws, and Regulations, Town Clerks provide other timely information including meeting agendas, special notices to neighbors on zoning issues, legal posting

of public hearings, and preliminary and final information about the Town Budget.

Some of this information is becoming even more accessible through an inter-municipal electronic records storage project. Older Town minutes, from 1967 through 2009, have been scanned and are now stored electronically (minutes from 2010 through the present are already stored both in digital and archival paper form.) The original copies of the older minutes have been kept, stored (for the most part) on archival paper.

While the electronic copies provide additional access, the primary reason for the scanning project is to create a backup to protect against accidental destruction of records, perhaps by an unpredictable natural disaster. This same process will soon be accomplished with other documents, such as building permits, which need to be kept forever.

Town Clerks provide a variety of information needed to maintain our quality of life. People come to us with all sorts of questions. Individuals and property lawyers ask for property tax information throughout the year. Every week, we do our best to answer a range of questions about property records, dates for hunting seasons, what to do when a dog is running loose, what documenta-

tion is required to get a marriage license, and even how to get a handicap parking permit!

But there is other, fun information about our town. We have information about the Danby Community Park and the Danby Community Council's upcoming concerts and events. You can pick up general information about programs such as Solarize Tompkins, Tompkins 211, waste management/recycling, and youth programming. Conservation easement information—both from the Finger Lakes Land Trust and from Danby's own Conservation Advisory Council—is available. And even general historical information.

### Bike Maps

The newest pamphlet to go into our information rack, located right next to the Clerk's window, is a full color bike map of Tompkins County. The map, created by the Ithaca-Tompkins Transportation Council and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, is color coded for on-road bicycle suitability. Many of the roads in Danby are rated good to very good, and a few are rated excellent! The ratings were created for the average cyclist. This is a great way to plan your ride and really see Danby.

### Hours and (sigh) Taxes

In December, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday and 10am-Noon on Saturdays. When tax collection begins in January, Saturday hours will increase by one hour to 10am-1pm. As always, the Clerk's is closed on Sundays and Thursdays. And yes, there's plenty of chocolate in the bowl by the Clerk's office window.

Questions? Call 607.277.4788 or send Email to [townclerk@town.danby.ny.us]. ❧

## NEW PUMPERS ARRIVING

Submitted by Deanna Bowles, Fire District Secretary/Treasurer

The Danby Fire District expects delivery of its two new pumpers on Sunday, November 24. There will be hands-on training for several days, so expect to see the new trucks around town.

If you stop by the stations when members are there... including any Monday night, we would be pleased to show you the new vehicles. Thank you for your support! ❧

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Frank Proto, County Legislator

As you read this final report for 2013, please bear in mind that the County budget is on top of our agenda and hopefully will be finalized very quickly.

The final numbers that will come out indicate that the approximate County tax levy increase will be 2.95% with a County-wide average tax rate increase of approximately 1.34% and an increase of 1.31% in local spending. That translates to an approximate increase on a median priced home assessed at \$163,000 of \$14.81.

Please remember this is a maintenance-of-services budget. There still can be tweaks, but I suspect our numbers will stay pretty much in this range. Thanks to all of you who spoke at the recent public hearings to encourage us to include particular items on the Advocacy Center, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs.

The decision on retaining the psychiatric centers in Elmira and Binghamton is still pending! However, pressure from client's families and our legislature has resulted in some movement on those psychiatric centers being retained. A big thank you to those of you who contacted our State legislators, but I would suggest keeping the pressure on.

The effort we have been making on the youth jobs issue is still ongoing between TST-BOCES and our own Youth Services Department. I am hoping that we will be able to

work with the TST-BOCES Advisory Board to continue to work towards a successful end.

Although there have been some issues regarding the Affordable Healthcare Act, and signing up for insurance, it was recently reported that many of those issues are not affecting New York State. Folks who have enlisted the aid of navigators have had a reasonably successful time in determining their healthcare needs, and applying for insurance. I would urge you to continue in this vein.

As a reminder, please make sure you complete your initial enrollment or renewal enrollment in the Basic STAR program. If you fail to renew you may lose this exemption. Also, as a reminder, anyone receiving Enhanced STAR benefits is not affected by this change. Should you have a question please call the County Assessment Department at 607.274.5517.

At the Health and Human Services Committee meeting earlier this month, Frank Kruppa, the Health Department Director, reported that the new Community Health Improvement Plan is moving through the Department well. The priorities that have been selected will affect all of us and, once finalized, please review it and contact the County Health Department with your comments and concerns.

As always, if you'd like to discuss any item or have a question, please don't hesitate to contact me at 607.277.4875 or [[fproto@tompkins-co.org](mailto:fproto@tompkins-co.org)]. Wishing you all a safe and pleasant Thanksgiving. ❧

---

## TOWN SEEKING APPLICANTS

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Have you ever thought about getting more involved in local government? It's not too soon to think about Board appointments for 2014.

The Danby Town Board will seek applications for several Boards, including a seven year term on the Planning Board, five year terms on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the West Danby Board of Water Commissioners, two year terms on the Conservation Advisory Council and a two year term representing Danby on the Environmental Management Council and Youth Services Board. Two seats open for one year terms on a Board of Assessment Review. The Town Board will also review applications for persons interested in serving as Town Webmaster and Town Historian (one year term).

Persons interested in serving in these capacities should fill out an application (available at the Town Clerk's office) or write a letter of intent listing professional, educational, or other experience that would assist the applicant in serving and answering the following questions: Why you are interested in this position and what you hope to accomplish in this position. Include mailing and Email addresses and telephone contact information. More information about application deadlines will be in the January issue of the Danby Area News.

Appointments are made during the January Organizational meeting, usually in the first week of January. More information about each and any of these appointments is available at the office of the Town Clerk at the Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca NY 14850 or [[townclerk@town.danby.ny.us](mailto:townclerk@town.danby.ny.us)]. ❧

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town Supervisor

I think it's OK—it's surely polite—to say, "Thank You," to the impressive numbers of Danby residents who came out to vote last month. That's the true democratic process at work. Thank you one and all for caring so much about the town that you live in.

In other news, our annual Town budget is approved and done with. It's always a challenge to meet expenses and even to reduce costs. I do think we have one of the best budgets around. Thanks to the cooperative team spirit from all involved.

Our boiler project at the Town Highway Barns is up and moving again. Last winter did not allow enough time to get the system we put in place to become fully operational. It is unusual to get it just right the first time when you are making reality with something fresh off the drawing board.

We have found several different areas of concern and at present we are working with our contractors to address these issues. Something to talk about this winter.

I have been asked the question, "How complicated can it be?"

When you think about your average wood stove, wood or pellets go in, produce the desired heat, and smoke goes up the chimney. Ours is a bit more complicated for a number of reasons. The biggest reason is the sheer volume of space to be heated, and then there's the recovery time when doors are opened to move trucks in and out of facility. We're also concerned about the burn efficiency, to create very low emissions into the community.

I am still committed to Danby being a leader in alternatives to fossil fuels and a center for dispersing information gained from our efforts. It is a work in progress right now.

The Town Board will meet three times during December: two regular meetings and one more to deal with year-end budget adjustments.

Some interesting stuff for us this year, as we will be seating three new Board members, not the usual two. The new Board will appoint one of the three to fill a vacant seat. Changes in the structure of our Boards, including new chairs, will set the stage for a discussion of our goals for 2014.

Meanwhile, there is still much to do in the garden. I've really fallen behind in my duties there; the compost

piles need turning, the deer are having a great time with my apples, and can someone tell me how they can eat Chestnuts? Have you ever even tried to pick one up?

As I write, the big Turkey day is still on the horizon. I am definitely looking forward to it. When you read this, it will already be in the past; I hope it was everything you wanted it to be!

As always, if there is an issue the Town should address, please contact me, [[supervisor@town.danby.ny.us](mailto:supervisor@town.danby.ny.us)]. ❁

## DANBY FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

Submitted by Deanna Bowles, Secretary/Treasurer

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Election of the Danby Fire District will take place on December 10, 2013 between the hours of 5pm and 9pm at the Danby Fire Station located at 1780 Danby Road, Town of Danby, Tompkins County, New York and the West Danby Fire Station located at 47 Sylvan Lane, Town of Danby, Tompkins County, New York, for the purpose of electing one Commissioner for a five (5) year term, commencing January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2018. All residents of the Fire District as of November 10, 2013 or before and duly registered with the Tompkins County Board of Elections as of November 18, 2013 shall be eligible to vote. Candidates for District Office shall have filed their names with the Secretary of the Danby Fire District, 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 no later than November 20, 2013. Request shall include office sought, candidate's printed name, signature, address, and date. This notice is given pursuant to Town Law, Section 175(1). ❁

## Town Hours

### Town Clerk

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

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

### Highway Department

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

### Code Enforcement Office

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Wed, 9am-4pm; Thu-Fri, by appointment

### Town Court

Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031

Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

## CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, CAC Chairperson

With the development of a template for negotiating conservation easements in the Town, the Conservation Advisory Council has reached a milestone in its evolution. While that might not sound very exciting, it was a long and careful process to reach this point, and it positions the CAC to actively seek conservation easements on Danby properties. The easement template can be found on the CAC page of the Town of Danby's web site [[town.danby.ny.us/CAC](http://town.danby.ny.us/CAC)].

The CAC's objective is to protect as much open space in Danby from development as possible while, at the same time, minimally restraining the use of the protected land. The restrictions included in the template agreement are there to prevent degradation of the land resource. They mostly address the main threat to the land, erosion.

Most Danby residents share the desire to keep Danby rural, and if we work together, we can make it happen. For landowners who share this goal, protecting their land by restricting future development is a commitment to generations to come.

The CAC is striving to minimize the cost of ceding development rights, limiting them to the actual transaction costs. If you have an up-to-date survey the costs

can be minimal, indeed. If necessary, we will fundraise to help anyone needing assistance with these costs. We are not just out to get easements on large properties, either (although we certainly hope to get owners of large parcels to participate). If you own a property in Danby's low density zone that can be further subdivided, we're interested.

But wait, won't giving up your development rights reduce the equity in your land? In most of the rest of the world it might but, here in Tompkins County, properties protected by conservation easements have a history of selling for as much as comparable unprotected properties. That means you probably won't get any property tax break, but you will probably be eligible for a NY State tax credit against the property taxes (including Town, County, and School taxes!) you pay on easement-protected land: 25 percent of the amount paid, up to a total of \$5000, or your tax liability, whichever is lower. The Town loses no revenue, since the credit is against the taxes you paid, not a reduction in what you owe in local taxes.

The tax incentive will almost certainly cover the cost of donating the easement, but it isn't the main reason for making the gift. Your gift is a gift to future generations of Danby residents and to the rural landscape we all love.

For more information, contact me, 607.564.7647 or [[joelpgagnon@hotmail.com](mailto:joelpgagnon@hotmail.com)]. ❁

## DOTSON PARK UPDATE

Submitted by Michele Lenhart

### Winter Fun in Dotson Park

Don't let a little cold weather keep you away from your community park!

There is plenty of fun to be had in Dotson Park this winter. There is no hunting allowed in the 92-acre park, so it is a great place to walk the trails with your canine friends. On snowy days, the trails are perfect for snowshoeing and there is a sledding hill that will please kids of all ages. Check out our newly expanded 12-hole disc golf course, open year-round. Discs make a great holiday gift, by the way!

Thank you to all of the Danby folks who came out to enjoy the Fall Festival and Geo Space Launch events in November. If you have an idea for an event in Dotson Park, please contact the Danby Community Park Association, [[dotsonpark@gmail.com](mailto:dotsonpark@gmail.com)]. This is your community back yard, after all! ❁

## TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Columnist

I hope you will send me your stories to share in the Danby Town Talk column. You might say you don't have a story, but I would bet that you do! I also enjoy running pictures with the stories. Please contact me, [[gayhuddle@hotmail.com](mailto:gayhuddle@hotmail.com)] or 607.273.6530.

I can tell you that I get lots of positive feedback about the column, and that, in fact, sometimes the Town Talk columns are what readers look forward to the most in the paper and/or online. These columns are meant to highlight what is going on in the smaller, often rural neighborhoods outside of Ithaca proper, and these stories are engaging and informative, offering more upbeat reading that can often be found under the front page headlines! These stories are *your* stories, so please keep them coming. Thank you. ❁

## ENVISIONING DANBY

Cathleen Banford,  
Danby Community Council

The DCC has been seeking out ideas and needs from Danby residents through a questionnaires distributed online and in last summer's Danby News. We also held a *What would you like to see in Danby?* booth during *Fun Day* in the summer.

The responses were fairly connected around the idea of having more dedicated space to hold community functions and meet the needs of our individual households. Two examples are a village market and a community center.

For those who generously shared their voice, thank you for helping to create a vision and feel for the potential of our community. These ideas will directly help us, your community council, to prioritize events and projects for the upcoming year. For those who did not share their thoughts, suggestions are always welcome. You are encouraged to speak up and help define the face and fabric of programs for youth, families, seniors, community development, concerts, and other fun activities.

These were the most popular choices from our survey:

### Spirit/Support

- Danby parade, Fun Days
- Danby Community Council
- Nature-based, interfaith, or intellectual events

### Beginnings

- Multi-generational, gender, racial, and ethnic inclusiveness at council meetings
- Annual town meeting with "open space" meeting format

### What's Next

- Cooperative or private general store/coffee shop
- Revitalize farmers market
- Craft/sewing/woodworking workshops

### Hard Work

- Arts education
- Community builds, cleanup
- Educational workshops, lecture series

### Grounded Support

- Mentor program for youth, including elders
- Really free market, seed swap, harvest swap
- Beautification team
- Tutor-equipped study hall times for youth
- Nature walks
- Social, environmental, food justice meetings and workshops
- Primitive pursuits

### Presenting

- Picnics, parties, dining
- Dances, concert, storytellers
- Art exhibits, fairs, festivals

### Connection

- Internet access
- History talks, articles, exhibits
- Neighborhood block parties, potlucks

### Coordination

- Elder stories
- People friendly, cooperative

It was suggested that we take it slow to gather up a thorough understanding of what most people want, as well as the best way to go about achieving these goals. What we can do for more immediate actions is hold more community activities. Of those suggested, the *Harvest Festival* has already

happened and more events are on the way!

And finally, here are some quotes given by Danby residents:

- "Danby Petting Zoo"
- "I wish the playground would be put back to wood."
- "I wish that we had a pool. I love swimming." "So do I!"
- "People playing, hiking and eating at Danby Park. I wish more people would come to Danby Park."
- "Danby Market should be again."
- "Dance party!"
- "Slow, steady, patient growth."
- "More family events and learning opportunities." ❁



## RE-REGISTER FOR NYS STAR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The state of NY is making all 2.7 million Basic STAR recipients re-register by the end of this year. In Tompkins County, about 19,500 recipients will need to re-register.

Letters were mailed to all “Basic STAR” recipients last summer. The letter provided a unique code that could be used to file an online application or, for those without Internet access, to identify the applicant to one of the telephone operators.

Seniors receiving the “Enhanced STAR” exemption are not affected by this change, but they must continue to apply annually.

The Tompkins County Assessment office will have very limited ability to answer questions or register people outside of the online application. The phone number at the State to call is 518.457.2036.

The application deadline is December 31, 2013. ❧

## EVENTS 'ROUND TOWN

*This column will appear 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!*

### At the DFC, 1859 Danby Road

After Thanksgiving—Thanksgiving Dinner: Saturday, November 30, 2013, 12-2 pm. Free to all, featuring Deep Fried Turkey and all the fixings! If you missed out on Thanksgiving, come home to our family.

Festival of Wreaths...and More: December 6, 6-9 pm and December 7, 10am-5 pm. Wreaths, swags, centerpieces, kissing balls, a cookie walk, and much more! To benefit Hospicare.

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner: Friday, December 13, 2013 5-7pm. Chicken and Biscuit, Squash, Green Beans, Corn, Harvard Beets, Apple Sauce, Pies and Assorted Desserts, Beverage. Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.

### Classical Music Concert

Sunday, December 8, 3-5pm in the Town Hall. Nick DiEugenio, violin, and Mimi Solomon, piano. Free!

### Community Caroling

Christmas Caroling: Sunday, December 15, 3pm at the old West Danby Church. ❧

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL SEEKS

There's been a lot of interest and great turnouts for recent Danby Community Council events: several concerts and the Harvest Festival. And you can bet that the folks organizing the events had at least as good a time as the attendees!

If you have an urge to volunteer...to help during an event, to help with event organization, or whatever kind of help you can offer...now's the right time to step up! In fact, there's never a bad time to volunteer.

If that sounds like you, please contact [nominations@danbycc.org].

All Danby residents, 18 years of age or older, are automatically members of the Danby Community Council. In addition to an annual General Meeting in January, the Board of Directors meets monthly (see the Danby News for schedule) and its committees sometimes meet during the month.

The Community Council provides youth programming, concerts, the Danby News, scholarship grants to youth, and events and public interest programs. In short, it builds our Danby Community.

You don't have to be a Director to be involved, but the DCC is always looking for folks who are interested and willing to devote a little bit of time on a regular basis to oversee its operations. ❧



Home Remedy plays in Town Hall on October 20.



## MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Submitted by Pat Curran

The Master Gardener Program of Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension is offering training, starting in January 2014. The Master Gardener Program is a national program of trained volunteers who work in partnership with their county Cooperative Extension office to provide home gardeners with research-based information.

Master Gardener trainees should have a basic knowledge of gardening, enthusiasm for acquiring new knowledge and skills, and good communication skills. Most important of all, MG trainees must have the willingness and spare time to participate in volunteer activities.

Training will take place Thursday evenings, 6-9 pm, at Tompkins CCE, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, from January 9 through April 10.

If you would like to be considered for this training, please contact me as soon as possible, 607.272.2292 or [pc21@cornell.edu]; include your mailing address, Email address, and telephone number. The application and information packet needs to be sent out soon, so that applications can be sent back promptly, and interviews scheduled for early December. ❁

## DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, January 2, 2014 at Noon. There will *not* be a regular December meeting but, rather, a holiday luncheon out on Sunday, December 8. If you've not signed up, contact myself or the Merritts to do this.

Big thanks go out to our November hosts, Dawn & George Parks, and to Marge & Jim Hovanec. Also thank you Linda Howe for preparing our Thanksgiving turkey & fixings. There was an abundance of good food, especially desserts!

All seniors, 55 and over, are welcome to join us for fellowship! ❁



## VETERANS DAY THOUGHTS

Submitted by Gay Huddle

I was extremely honored to have read the Veterans Day Proclamation from Governor Andrew Cuomo on November 11—Veterans Day—in Ithaca's Dewitt Park.

I was approached by Ronda Catlin, a Veterans Day Committee member, who offered me this opportunity. Needless to say, I happily accepted. Ronda told me she felt I have been supportive of the committee's efforts and encouraged the community to show its respect and appreciation for our troops.

My Dad, Robert Gombash, is a proud World War II veteran who served in the Philippines. He lives in Texas and, at age 90, is still a funny man with a great sense of humor and a tremendously strong sense of patriotism. During the reading I thought of him and of my father-in-law, Harry Huddle, who was also a World War II veteran who passed many years ago. I also thought of all the families through the years who have waited at home, anxiously looking forward to the day that their deployed loved ones were safely back. I thought of families such as the Bordoni family of Ithaca, who

lost their beloved son, Christopher Bordoni, when he passed away from injuries he suffered while serving in Afghanistan. Chris was 21 years old.

There were all ages of military personnel in the crowd on November 11, from young recruits to those aged 90 and beyond. There were military men and women. The Salvation Army band was there, as was the Patriot Guard riders. There was a young soldier sitting on the bench in tears, and some of us hovered around him trying to soothe him. He told us he had just spent four years as a soldier and the ceremony was just overwhelmingly meaningful to him. I told him he looked about 12, because he did. That got a little smile out of him!

I didn't write the words in the Proclamation, but it was very important to me to deliver them clearly and with feeling, and I believe I did that. Nervous as I was as I walked to the microphone, once the words started and I looked out into the crowd it all became amazingly easy.

This was an extraordinary experience. ❁

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL YOUTH GRANTS

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

There's good news for Danby's children! The Community Council's Youth Grant Program will be continuing to provide financial assistance for youth enrichment activities in 2014.

Despite a few bumps implementing the new quarterly system during 2013, the program was able to help defray the cost of programs for 24 of Danby's youth during 2013 with grants of \$100 each. Many recipients would not be able to attend these diverse enrichment programs without this assistance, which comes from the United Way of Tompkins County and from the Town of Danby.

---

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

It was a wonderful concert yesterday at the Town Hall. We are so lucky to have events like this right in Danby. One of the performers—an Enfield resident—was admiring our library and said it inspired her to try to create one in her community. Kudos to our volunteers for working to have our library looking so good!

Lots of celebrations this time of year. We have holiday books and films available for borrowing.

### **New this month at Danby Community Library:**

Fannie Flagg: *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion*

Wally Lamb: *We are Water*

TCPL Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction Collections

TCPL Large Type Books

FLLS Books on CD

TCPL Graphic Novels

### **Look for our end-of-year acquisitions:**

DVDs: *Despicable Me 2*, *Planes*, *Man of Steel*, *Monsters University*, *Turbo*, etc.

Kid's books: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid 8*

Book and DVD: *The Book Thief*

Favorite authors' new books: Tan, McCall-Smith, Evanovich, Grisham

If you are thinking of New Year resolutions to start some volunteer work, please join us at our monthly volunteer meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm, right here at the library in the Danby Town Hall. ❁

Programs and activities funded during 2013 included camps (sewing, theater, visual art, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Primitive Pursuits, Earth Arts, rowing, Media Arts), sports (hockey, soccer, gymnastics, track), after-school programs, and lessons (ballet, karate, piano). We are extremely pleased that two-thirds of this year's recipients were new to the program.

All youth, 21 and younger, who reside at least half-time in Danby are eligible for up to \$100 per year for a variety of year-round programs such as those listed above. Payment is made directly to the program. Applications for grants are pooled and awarded quarterly. For programs beginning January-March 2014, the application deadline is January 15.

If necessary, priority will be given to those who qualify for the free or reduced-price school lunch. Applications are available by Emailing [[youthgrants@danbycc.org](mailto:youthgrants@danbycc.org)]; they're also hanging on the bulletin board in Town Hall. Questions? Call me at 607.272.7189. ❁

---

## COMMUNITY CAROLING

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, West Danby Community Association

Caroling has been a part of traditional year-end activities for centuries, world-wide and even here in Danby.

This year's Christmas Caroling at the old West Danby Church will on Sunday, December 15, 3pm. Sally Reagoord, the new owner of the building, will be there to join in. We owe her thanks for her willingness to host this event.

Hot chocolate, mulled cider, fresh whole wheat bread and peanut butter, fruit, and, yes, cookies provided.

Just about any song you can think of and associate with Christmas is now in our book of lyrics. If what you are looking for isn't there, well, then we can add it next year!

The church is in the heart of downtown West Danby, just south of the Station Road/Maple Avenue intersection with NYS Rt.34/96. If you like to sing and enjoy the company of others doing the same, this is the premier event in our area for doing so. Come be a part of it.

This event is sponsored by the West Danby Community Association. For more information or to volunteer to make it even better, contact me, 607.564.7647 or [[joelpgagnon@hotmail.com](mailto:joelpgagnon@hotmail.com)]. ❁

## Community Council Youth Programs December 2013

# Danby Youth Flyer

December is upon us and I give thanks for another wonderful year, welcoming winter and the magic of the holidays. With both sadness and excitement I'd like share with you that I am leaving the position of Danby Youth Program Manager to explore a different calling in my life. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have worked with all of you...and also that this program exists for all of the youth in Danby.

With a full heart, I send all of my best wishes out to the Danby community as youth programs continue to happen with a new program manager. I look forward to running into you, as so often seem to happen in this town. But, before I go, I have one more round of programs to offer, including a Family Gingerbread House Build!

For the current program flyer, please visit [\[ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby\]](http://ccetompkins.org/4h/rural-youth-services/danby). Happy winter, Simone [scl223@cornell.edu]

### Gift Givers (Grades 3-8)

Mondays, 2:30-5:30pm, December 2, 9 and 16  
Meets in Danby Town Hall

Get ready for the holiday season by gathering to make gifts. Each week there will be multiple craft stations set up and youth will have the opportunity to complete different projects that they can wrap up and bring home as gifts for friends and family. Bus is available from South Hill Elementary School, Boynton, and Lehman Alternative School, and Home Schoolers are always welcome.

### Winter Explorers (Grades 3-8)

Tuesdays, 2:30-5:30pm, December 3, 10 & 17  
Meets at June Pollak's (43 Hornbrook Rd)

Learn ancestral living skills such as shelter building, native crafts and nature awareness. Explore the outdoors, go hiking, and get moving! Please dress for the "weather of the day" and wear clothes that can get dirty! Bus is available from South Hill Elementary School, and Home Schoolers are always welcome.

### South Hill Elementary Lunch Bunch (Grades 4-5)

Tuesday, December 10

In-school program during recess and lunch

Come have lunch with others in your grade from Danby, play games, work on crafts and go outside on nice days. We will also get to work on other service projects for school.

### Gingerbread House Build (Families!)

Saturday, December 7, 1-3pm,  
Meets in Danby Town Hall

Come gather to celebrate the holiday season, enjoy each other's company and build a gingerbread house with your family. Gingerbread, icing, and some decorations will be provided. Limited to eight families, so please be sure to register early. ❄️

## FREE SUNDAYS AT SCIENCENTER

The Sciencenter opens its doors for free to all guests on the first Sunday of every winter month, December 1, January 5, February 2, and March. Hours each month are Noon-5pm.

Admission, which is normally up to \$8, is waived during these Sundays, courtesy of generous support from NYSEG. If you've never been, or you haven't visited recently, be sure to take advantage of this offer.

The Sciencenter inspires excitement for science through more than 250 interactive exhibits and programs that engage, educate and empower. It's a hands-on museum! ❄️

## OVERCOMING HOLIDAYS STRESS

Submitted by Lori Robbins

In need of a much-needed break? We can help!

How about a *kids' night out* for any age group? several rooms in the Newfield Nursery and Elementary School will be open and supervised on Saturdays, December 7 and 14, 6-9pm.

There is a \$10/student or child fee, with proceeds to benefit the Newfield Class of 2014 All-Night/After-Graduation Celebration. Light snacks will be provided and volunteers will keep your children entertained while you have three hours to do as you wish—shopping, dining out, movies, Christmas wrapping, or just relax.

Drop your children off and take a rest! ❄️

Postal Patron

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 30 • Sat

Noon-2pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church  
After Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Turkey

Dec 4 • Wed

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Dec 5 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Community Council Meeting

Dec 6 & 7 • Fri & Sat

6-9pm & 10am-5pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church  
Festival of Wreaths; ornaments sold to benefit Hospicare

Dec 8 • Sun

🏛️ Danby Seniors Holiday Luncheon  
3pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Community Council Concert:  
Nicholas DiEugenio and Mimi Solomon

Dec 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

Dec 10 • Tue

5-9pm 🏛️ Danby & West Danby Fire Halls  
Fire District Elections

Dec 12 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Planning Board Meeting

Dec 15 • Sun

3pm 🏛️ Old West Danby Church • Christmas Caroling

Dec 16 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

Dec 17 • Tue

7pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

Dec 19 • Thu

3-6pm 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • Food Pantry  
7pm 🏛️ Dotson Park • Park Association Meeting

Dec 23 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Conservation Adv Council Mtg

Dec 30 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

Jan 1 • Wed

6:30pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Jan 2 • Thu

Noon 🏛️ Danby Federated Church • Seniors Meeting  
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • Community Council Meeting

Jul 12, 2014 • 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 🏛️ 273.2950  
Fridays, 9-11am.

### WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

🏛️ Danby Town Hall • 1830 Danby Road

🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • 1780 Danby Road

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

🏛️ Danby Federated Church • 1859 Danby Road

🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road

West Danby Volunteer Fire Company 🏛️ WD Fire Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7pm.

Danby Fire Commissioners 🏛️ Fire Hall or WD Fire Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:30pm.

Danby Community Council 🏛️ Town Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7pm

Danby Community Park Association 🏛️ Town Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7pm.

Danby Fire Company 🏛️ Fire Hall  
Mondays, 7pm; monthly mtg 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7pm.

The Town of Danby has a web site with lots more info.  
Check it out: [<http://town.danby.ny.us>] ❄️

Find the Danby News on the web!  
[<http://town.danby.ny.us/DAN>] ❄️