



DANBY AREA NEWS

BIRD COUNT WARMUP

Submitted by Bill Evans, Community Council

The 115th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) takes place at more than 2100 locations across the continent between December 14 and January 5. The Ithaca CBC, which has been running for more than 50 years, involves counting birds in a 15-mile diameter circle on January 1 each year.

Danby resident Asher Hockett coordinates section VI of this count circle, a large portion of which is in Danby.

The count is one of the ways we get to see beyond our backyards and tune into the ebbs and flows of population for many species in the broader region and the continent as a whole. For example, did you know that the Ithaca count often has had the highest Black-capped Chickadee tally of any count in North America? Or, that our colorful Cardinal was not likely a resident of Danby until the 1940s?

Every year has a unique species composition due to available food resources and weather dynamics. This year the forecast is that we may have an invasion of Common Redpolls from the north!

The more folks reporting data, the more interesting and complete the picture becomes. All Danby residents are encouraged to participate, even if it is just by birdwatching in your neighborhood or taking 5 minutes to count birds at your bird feeder. Areas in Danby outside of the Ithaca CBC circle or section VI will still be included in the historic record for Danby, which we plan show in an online map.

In preparation for this year's count, the Danby Community Council is

—continued on page 5 ➔

LONG JOHN AND THE TIGHTS A LEG UP ON OLD TIME MUSIC

Submitted by Ted Crane, Community Council

"It's the boinkiest band around," says Richie Stearns, and it's coming to Danby's Town Hall on Sunday, December 13, 3-5pm.

Long John and the Tights is an old-time string band that enjoys the dance music, fiddle tunes, and songs inspired by American Country music...before it splintered off Blues, Bluegrass, and Rock and Roll.



John Hoffmann (*Up South* and others) plays fiddle and Stefan Senders (*Chicken Chokers* and beyond) plays a 5-string banjo. They're pushed along by four rhythm gurus: Randi Beckmann

on piano and guitar, Jim "Honking Duck" Reidy on banjo-uke, Jody Platt on tenor guitar, and Sally Freund on big standup bass.

Carol Jones said, "Hot diggity," and Joe Damiano raved, "Awesome, how could I miss this?" Somebody said, "Banjo Fireworks!", and Lucy Rose admired, "What a good-lookin' band!" What'll you think?

Like all of the Community Council's events, this concert is free and open to the public. It's supported by funding from the Town of Danby, by a grant from the Tompkins County Community Arts Partnership, and by donations from attendees. It's family- and kid-friendly, wheelchair accessible, and fun. We'll have some foodly treats to share and seats for all.

Sunday, December 13, 3-5pm, in Danby's Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, known to foreigners as NYS Rt.96B, south of Ithaca College. ❁

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Town Clerk's Desktop ③
- Fire District Election ③
- Southern Tompkins Town Talk . ④
- Something New and Interesting . ④
- County Legislature Update . . . ④
- Supervisor's Update ⑤
- Know Your Fire District Facts . . ⑥
- In Memoriam: Bea Hogben . . . ⑦
- American Legion Update ⑦
- New Year Community Dance . . ⑧
- Pottery for the Holidays ⑧
- Yoga for the Holidays ⑧
- Seniors / Book Club ⑨
- West Danby Water District . . . ⑨
- Events 'Round Town ⑨
- Seasonal Caroling ⑩
- DCC Youth Grants ⑩
- Community Library ⑩
- Youth Flyer ⑪
- Calendar ⑫

December 2015

Layout: Ted Crane

Count-n-Label Crew:

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

Post Office Crew:

Julie Clougherty,
Katharine Hunter

To contribute:

Danby Area News

PO Box 6886

Ithaca, NY 14851-6886

Phone: 607.273.8678

Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

Text submissions:

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

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

Deadline is the 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.

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:

ACT GREEN BE GREEN SPRAY FOAM, INC.

Do you qualify for a free Home Energy Audit?

I'm a BPI & NYSEDA Certified Contractor

607.319.0766 • [foam@twcny.rr.com]

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.

FRIENDS:

Highland Farms Boarding
Kennel and Store

168 West Miller Road • 607.273.3251

[www.highlandfarmskennel.com]

Danby Federated Church

“A Place for All”

1859 Danby Road • 607.272.1687

[www.danbyfederatedchurch.org]

Barn-Livin' LLC

Green Homes for Blue Collars

[www.barnlivin.com]

Are you interested in becoming a sponsor?

Help the Danby News build community!

For info, contact [danbynews@tedcrane.com].

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 in their temporary location 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*.

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

Looking Back - Looking Forward

December is a natural time for looking back at the challenges and accomplishments of 2015. It has been said that, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." If that is so, we must be quite strong at the end of 2015.

There have been major challenges touching every aspect of local government and community relations. I can testify that lessons have been learned from what we have experienced. Improvements have been made to aspects of local government and community relations. Progressive change can be a very good thing.

Looking back, working through problems has led to improvements in procedures, large and small. We're re-evaluating ways of doing things which have not worked...or which worked in the past but do not measure up in the present. In the Town Clerk's office, examples include record keeping for financial questions and better processes for public works contracts. We continue to improve organization, retention, and public access to documents through online archiving and databases available through the Town web site. We are acutely aware of how important organization and public access to information is for residents with real and pressing concerns.

Looking forward, I have hope for the potential of 2016. During the first half of 2016 there will be Public Hearings for the draft Aquifer Protection Ordinance and related zoning amendments. I will be working with the boards and planning office to make sure that all of the procedures are followed as need be. Decisions will be made on other planning and zoning issues, some of which will also involve public hearings and communication to the community. I will do my best to facilitate these processes.

Are we "Looking forward" to tax collection? Well, maybe not exactly. While this is an engrossing and time consuming task for all involved (I "look forward" to being quite worn out by the end of January), tax dollars are what keep our local services going: fire protection, road maintenance, careful planning, and all of the small yet valued services you've come to expect from local government. We've learned that we can't count on state and federal help in the case of some emergencies... so, our local support is essential.

Looking back, working through problems has led to improvements in procedures, large and small. We're re-evaluating ways of doing things which have not worked...or which worked in the past but do not measure up in the present. In the Town Clerk's office, examples include record keeping for financial questions and better processes for public works contracts. We continue to improve organization, retention, and public access to documents through online archiving and databases available through the Town web site. We are acutely aware of how important organization and public access to information is for residents with real and pressing concerns.



The "Town and County" property tax bills will be sent out at the end of December. The first day of tax collection will be Saturday, January 2. Payments (without additional fees), and the option for installment payments, will be received through Saturday, January 30. For many of you, this may be the one time in the year when you visit Town Hall. We'll look forward to saying, "Hello," and to sharing some chocolate.

Once again, I am deeply thankful for the efforts of so many people who work for the benefit of our Town, and the ways we have supported each other through a difficult year. You have proven that it really does make a difference to get involved.

Holiday Calendar

The Town Hall will be closed for holidays: December 23-26 for Christmas and December 31/January 1 for New Year. For the rest of the month, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and Saturday mornings 10am-Noon. We are closed on Sundays and Thursdays.

The first day for tax collection is Saturday January 2. You can always reach us at 607.277.4788, and [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]. And yes, the chocolate bowl still is kept full. It is the holidays, after all. ☘

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

Tuesday, December 8 brings to us the last in the annual cycle of elections, primaries, and other referenda. The Fire District Commissioners, Danby's "other" elected officials, are chosen by balloting every year on the second Tuesday in December.

This year's voting, on Tuesday the 8th, will take place in both Fire Halls, 5-9pm. The West Danby Hall is at 47 Sylvan Lane, just off NYS Rt.34/89, and the Danby Station is at 1780 Danby Road, on NYS Rt.96B.

Most years, only one Commissioner is elected. This year, after former Commissioner Tom Halton moved away from Danby, a second seat is open for the remaining part of his term.

The District received letters of interest from two candidates prior to its November 17 deadline. Kevin Faehndrich is running for a 2-year term, and Katherine "Kat" Anderson is running for a 5-year term.

Be informed about what goes on in your town...and be sure to vote in every election! ☘

SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal columnist

During this holiday time I would like to remind my neighbors in Danby, West Danby, Newfield, Brooktondale and Upper South Hill to please send me your stories for my *Ithaca Journal* column, *Southern Tompkins Town Talk*.

Perhaps you have a special recipe or a memory of a holiday gone by, or perhaps you have just an all-around good story to share. New baby in the family? A wedding? Special anniversary? School award?

This column is dedicated to and written about the communities that I have named here. It is your column and I continue to appreciate the support I have received while writing it. It won't be long now before i will be sharing my 500th column! Thank you. [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or 607.273.6530. ❁

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, County Legislator

Community Choice Aggregation is a program that I am excited about, currently under development by NY State. Tompkins County has just signed a non-binding letter of interest. If the program comes to pass, it will not take effect for more than a year, so you will be hearing about it again.

The basic idea is that a municipality--such as the Town of Danby or Tompkins County--will enter into a contract with an electricity provider for all the residents of the municipality. This will include all residential accounts and all "non-demand" business (e.g., small business) accounts. The residents of the municipality will then get electricity at a contracted price that will be lower than their current price, because of the bulk buying power of hundreds or thousands of other participating consumers.

It is impossible to say exactly how much money you would save. Other states have initiated this type of bulk buying. Their results indicate that you might save 5-10 percent off the best electric rates currently available. Since many people are not getting the best rates currently available, savings could be even greater.

Individuals will have several opportunities to influence whether or not they will be participating. The first opportunity comes in the form of a referendum. Let's say the Danby Town Board decides they want to pursue this. They would pass a resolution, then the decision

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING

Submitted by Sharon Gaden, Danby Volunteer Fire Company

Something new and exciting is happening at the Danby Fire Company. We are having our first Breakfast of the Season in December this year!

December 13, 8-11am, come have breakfast with friends and neighbors, relax and visit while we serve it fresh and hot to you. Menu: pancakes, french toast, eggs made to order, sausage, home fries, orange juice and coffee. ❁



would go to a townwide referendum. All registered voters would get to say whether they want the Town to proceed or not with this plan.

Assuming the referendum passes and the plan goes into effect, each electricity customer will then have the ability to opt out. In other words, even if the plan goes into effect, you will have the option to continue to get your electricity from your current provider.

It may be possible to offer residents of the municipality more than one choice. For example, you may be able to choose between the cheapest rate possible and a plan where half your electricity comes from green sources but costs slightly more.

Another potential benefit of this program is that the municipality has the option of adding in a small surcharge. The surcharge would be invisible to you, and you would still be saving a lot of money. The surcharge could be used in various ways such as providing funds for energy efficiency for low-income homes, or for building community solar projects.

NY State has not finalized the rules for this program... that should be coming in another month or two. After that, the municipalities in Tompkins County will work on crafting the details of what they want from an electricity provider. If all goes smoothly, you may be voting in a referendum on this in November 2016.

As I said, you will be hearing about this again. Stay tuned. Contact me at [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582. ❁

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

As I write this, it's a beautiful morning outside. For me this has been a great Fall.

I have a large window that looks out at my backyard, and I sit and read my morning mail and shuffle through the computer papers for the latest update on the new bad news.

This morning though was spent watching my neighbors—the animals, not the Danby residents. I was entertained by a pileated woodpecker who was working out the pecking order at the bird feeder with a large gray squirrel. I enjoyed the walks over to the apple trees by various tribes of deer. I saw the panic that the does get into when they smell a buck approaching...and run away. And I must say we have some very impressive specimens of buck out here.



Out for a stroll

Photo by Daniel Egan

A large flock of turkeys wandered through. They come for the chestnuts and acorns. The bird feeder is a world

of delight with birds cascading in from all directions, and the chipmunks scrambling for leftovers.

A endless parade of interactions is wonderfully entertaining. It is quite pleasing to witness the world around me doing its thing outside of the human world.

Approaching Thanksgiving, the world in which I live is challenging to explain. We are experiencing anxiety and fear in reaction to the news. With the world struggling to make some sense of how to react, it is comforting to experience a different reality in the backyard. I am fortunate to live in a place where a measure of peace and balance exists.

My pensive mood is following me south; by the end of the week I'll be with my daughter for a new birth. It's probably happening as I write. They live in North Carolina on a modest organic farm, so we will probably hang there a while to help with chores and generally get in the way.

The Town, I believe, is in good order and settling in for the winter. Budget and elections are behind us, a new roof is on the Highway Barns, the new Gradall is online (Highway paid cash for this). Carl and Laura are doing a great job in managing the Highway finances; they saved the Town money by not having to add interest to the purchase price. The CSEA talks as well as the Gunderman Road PDZ issues are still in the works.

So I am going on a road trip and looking forward to it. I hope your Thanksgiving was fulfilling (a little play on words there).

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

➔ *Bird Count, continued from front page*



sponsoring an informational meeting in Town Hall on December 6, 10:30-11:30am (w/ hot beverages and homemade baked goods). Afterward, 11:30am-12:30pm, we will birdwatch around Town Hall and Dotson Park—all skill levels

welcome! For more information visit [audubon.org/menu/christmas-bird-count] or contact [asherhockett@hotmail.com].

Town Office Info

Town Clerk • [townclerk@townofdanby.org]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

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

Saturdays 10am-Noon

Highway Department • [highway@townofdanby.org]

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

Code Enforcement Office • [code@townofdanby.org]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

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

Town Court • [courtclerk@townofdanby.org]

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

KNOW YOUR FIRE DISTRICT FACTS

Submitted by Ed Kokkelenberg, Fire Commissioner

This month, test your knowledge about the Danby Fire District by answering twenty multiple choice questions below. Much of this material was covered in articles that have appeared previously in the Danby News. The correct Answers appear on page 8.

❶ The Danby Fire District has ___ Fire Companies, each with its own station and apparatus.

(a) None (b) One (c) Two (d) Three (e) Four

❷ The Danby Fire District has ___ water tankers.

(a) One (b) Two (c) Four (d) Five (e) None

❸ A new tanker costs about ___.

(a) \$90,000 (b) \$125,000 (c) \$350,000 (d) \$500,000 (e) \$600,000

❹ The Danby Fire District has ___ engines or pumpers.

(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) None (e) More than four

❺ A new engine or pumper costs about ___.

(a) \$125,000 (b) \$350,000 (c) \$500,000 (d) \$1,000,000 (e) \$2,000,000

❻ To report a fire or emergency you call ___.

(a) 0 (b) 211 (c) 555 (d) 911 (e) 411

❼ The DFD gets most of its water from ___.

(a) Hydrants
(b) Garden hoses
(c) Bolton Point
(d) Jennings Pond
(e) The Station's plumbing

❽ Danby Fire Fighters are paid ___.

(a) Minimum wage
(b) A stipend
(c) A per call fee
(d) They all are volunteers and get paid nothing
(e) Their property tax is reduced by one-half.

❾ The Danby Fire District responded to approximately ___ calls in 2014.

(a) 10 (b) 50 (c) 125 (d) 250 (e) 450

❿ Our Stations are manned...

(a) They are not manned (b) 24/7 (c) Evenings only
(d) Evenings and weekends (e) During the night only

❶❶ The Danby Fire District recently received a Grant from ___.

(a) The Firehouse Subs Foundation
(b) The Walton Foundation (c) Congressman Tom Reed
(d) Ithaca Bakery (e) The Ithaca Voice

❶❷ A suit of new Turn Out gear or a Bunker jacket and pants (per fire fighter) costs about ___.

(a) \$1500 (b) \$750 (c) \$500 (d) \$250 (e) \$100

❶❸ As a result of the purchase of two new engines two years ago, the approximate average age of our Apparatus fleet is reduced to ___ years.

(a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 20 (d) 25 (e) 40

❶❹ Most of our calls are ___.

(a) Emergency Medical or accident (b) Fires of all kinds
(c) False alarms (d) Mutual aid to other Fire Departments (e) Brush and trash fires

❶❺ We are supported principally by ___.

(a) Breakfasts, bake sales donations and grants (b) Real estate Taxes (c) Tompkins County (d) The Town of Danby (e) The State of New York

❶❻ The number of Fire Commissioners is set by ___.

(a) Town Law (b) A Interstate convention
(c) State Law (d) Federal Law
(e) Arbitrarily voted upon by the Fire Fighters

❶❼ The amount of water needed to fight a fire depends upon ...

(a) How long the fire is burning before the Fire Company gets there (b) The type of construction (c) The floor plan (d) The contents (e) All of the above

❶❽ The Danby fire District has been in existence since

(a) 2000 (b) 1900 (c) 1963 (d) 1895 (e) 1946

❶❾ The Danby Fire District's total budget for 2015 is about

(a) \$25,000 (b) \$250,000 (c) \$400,000 (d) \$750,000
(e) About one half of the Town Budget

❶❿ Fire Fighter Training ...

(a) Fire fighters of sound body do not need training as most of the work only requires physical strength and common sense
(b) Takes place weekly
(c) Is a monthly event on one weekend day
(d) Consists solely of learning to drive the various fire trucks
(e) Involves only classroom work



IN MEMORIAM, BEATRICE HOGBEN

Submitted by Pamela Goddard

Some people have a major impact on their community just by being who they are. In Danby, Beatrice Hogben was such a person.

Bea passed away on Sunday, November 15 following a brief illness. Her passing is a loss for many. She was an active member of the Fire Department for 30 years, played the organ for church services and weddings, and was a dedicated volunteer with the Danby Community Library. Those close to her cherish fond memories of her community service.

Bea was an active member of the Danby Volunteer Fire Company for 30 years. After joining in 1985, she did fire police, was the Fire Company Secretary for many years, and also served as a Trustee. Sharon Gaden remembers, "She was our first female life member. Bea was still coming to the station on a daily basis to check on things. The members of the Fire Company will dearly miss Beatrice and all she did for us."

Beatrice worked hard on fund raising for Danby's Rescue Truck 442. "I believe that she was qualified on 442 and drove it to calls until she was 70 years old," Ben Hogben remembers. "It was then that she decided to stick to directing traffic and providing food for emergency calls." According to her obituary, Bea would rise at all hours of the day or night to provide food for fire fighters or to direct traffic at the scene. Her friend, Dawn Parks remembers, "I can recall meeting her di-

recting traffic on the corner of Comfort and Gunderman Roads and almost freezing because she had stood out in the cold for so long."

Dawn worked with Bea as a library volunteer for our Danby library for many years. "We could tell when she was in the Town Hall because she left her shoes at the door, so as not to track in dirt," Dawn remembers. "Whenever anyone was ill or had surgery she sent cards and delivered cookies faithfully." I experienced this myself, when Bea made us a gift of several books for my husband to read while he was recovering from hip surgery.

We learned from Bea's obituary that, "Second only to her deep love for her family was her love for music, which she shared as organist for three local churches. She acquired an extensive library of music and especially enjoyed accompanying people as they either sang or played a musical instrument." She played the organ at the Danby Federated Church before the current Pastor came. Bea also shared her talents with the Brooktondale and Caroline Center churches. She played the organ at the Caroline Center church as recently as Sunday November 8, a week before she passed away.

It was Bea's wish that donations in her memory be considered for either the Caroline Center Church or the Danby Volunteer Fire Company. We can also continue her legacy by volunteering our time and energy to community organizations and helping our neighbors. She was dedicated to her passions and cared deeply about others. ❁

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv English

Well here it is, the first of December, and the weather hasn't been all that bad.

We had a beautiful day for the Veteran's Day Parade and hope that a lot of you made it out to the Parade but, if not, maybe you caught the nice job done at Dewitt Park for the Veterans Day Ceremony. Did you remember that November 10 was the Birthday of the Marine Corp?

Congratulations to all that marched, attended the ceremonies and paid respect to our Veterans.

On December 5, we will be having a Steak Dinner at the American Legion Post, 1231 Danby Road. The menu will be steak (cooked to order), salad bar, choice of steak toppings (sautéed mushrooms or onions). You can also choose between french fries, baked potato or onion rings. Home-

made desserts, coffee or tea, and a dinner roll. Still just \$12.

On December 18, we will have a Fish Dinner: fish (fried or broiled), choice of baked potato, french fries, or onion rings, dinner roll, Donna's homemade desserts and coffee or tea. The cost is still \$12.

On December 19, we will be celebrating the holidays with an Adult Christmas Party starting at 5pm. We will have a D.J. and snack food. Stop by and celebrate the holidays.

If you are in need of a place for your Holiday Party and your garage is too small or too cold, give us a shout. We have several options to help you. We can seat up to 100 people downstairs or you can use the Dining room for those smaller parties. 607.272.1129 for more information.

Have a Happy Holiday. Be safe, be careful. ❁

COMMUNITY NEW YEAR DANCE CELEBRATION

Submitted by Ted Crane and Pamela Goddard

How to celebrate the New Year and have fun without leaving Danby: visit the annual Community New Year Dance Celebration in the Great Room at Slow Lane. It happens December 31, starting with a potluck supper, runs thru waltzing, music, and other easy-to-learn rural and contra dances, until the New Year arrives with a non-alcoholic toast at Midnite!

Slow Lane is at the intersection of Comfort and Lieb Roads, just uphill from Jennings Pond. The driveway for 888 Comfort Road is about 100 yards south of the intersection.



The evening is open to everyone: musicians, dancers, listeners, foodies, kids, teens, adults, and seniors.

The rustic Pot Luck supper begins around 6pm. By 7pm, the musicians will be warming up for an hour of "Waltz Jam". They'll play sweet tunes while dancers turn around the room.

Waltzing is easy, fun, and even useful. If it's your first time, ask for a 1-minute intro!

Speaking of musicians, if you play an instrument, this is a great evening to bring it. If you don't already know the uncomplicated, traditional tunes, music books will be available. Like the dancers, the band wants more players and will welcome you with a big smile.

The waltzes will be followed by an old time Barn Dance--circles, contras, squares, and what have you. If you've ever done the Virginia Reel—or seen it in a movie or on TV—you've done an kind of contra or barn dance. All the dances use a short list of similar figures: circles, stars, turns, and swings. You'll quickly recognize the ladies chain, roll-away, and chaszez.

Don't worry if you've never done this before. All dances will be taught and helpful, experienced dancers will be on hand to ease newcomers into the figures. Dances early on in the evening will be kept simple. Stay for as much as you like.

It's a chance to meet your Danby neighbors and for the community to come together for a relaxing evening out. Play, dance, hang out under the stars. Drive safely. For more info, 607.273.8678 or [danbybardance@tedcrane.com]. ❀

9TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTTERY AND SECONDS SALE

Submitted by Renata Wadsworth

Amazing deals on beautiful handmade pottery, right here in Danby! Pottery by Renata Wadsworth, Lola Schissel, and Sarah Veak, jewelry by Laurel O'Brien, greeting cards and more...items with cosmetic and/or minor flaws will be sold at ridiculously low prices. Rejects as low as \$1! Closeouts and discontinued items 30-75% off!

Ten percent of the proceeds to benefit *Healthy Food for All*, a local initiative that provides subsidized CSA shares for low-income families. For more info about this program, to apply or donate, go to [healthyfoodforall.org].

This is a great opportunity to find great gifts this holiday season while supporting local artists, farmers and families!

The event is hosted by Renata Wadsworth Pottery, on Wednesday, December 16, 5-8pm, and Saturday, December 19, 11am-2pm, in the studio at 379 Gunderman Road.

Please, no early birds. For more info or updates try [facebook.com/HolidayPotterySale], Instagram [@HolidayPotterySale], [renatawadsworth.com], [info@renatawadsworth.com], or telephone call to 607.227.4272. ❀

SPECIAL HOLIDAY RESTORATIVE YOGA CLASS

Submitted by Kelly Morris

Think candlelight, piles of cozy blankets, supportive bolsters (cylindrical pillows), meditation bells, soft music, and gentle guidance into well-propped and supported poses to rest your nervous system, balance your muscles without effort, enhance your breathing and calm your mind.

Where: Yoga in the Woods, 90 Lieb Road in Danby

When: Monday, December 21, 6-7:30pm

Fee: Donation

More information: [yogainthewoods.info] ❀

Quiz Answers: 1c, 2b, 3c, 4b, 5c, 6d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 10a, 11a, 12a, 13c, 14a, 15b, 16c, 17e, 18e, 19c, 20c

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The December meeting of Danby Seniors will NOT be on the first Thursday, but on Saturday, December 5, at the Holybrook Country Club, for a holiday buffet and entertainment. Signups are required...call Ted and Connie.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, January 7 at Noon, in the Danby Federated Church.

Big thanks to Dave & Ann VanDeMark, Gen Sanford, and Dan & Kathy Clements for hosting in November. Also huge thanks to Ted Merritt for preparing our turkey, gravy, and potatoes! Linda Howe has done this (and Easter hams!) for many years for us but was unable to this year. The David VanDeMarks, Clements, Bodas and Cuyles all hosted twice this year--many thanks for your extra efforts! ❀

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SEASON BEGINS

Why rise up early in the morning and suffer labor in your kitchen, when the Danby Volunteer Fire Company is willing to prepare a tasty and energizing breakfast for you? Not only that, they serve with a smile and clean up afterward! What more could you ask for?

The first in its annual series of Pancake Breakfasts will happen on Sunday, December 13, 8-11am, in the Fire Hall at 1780 Danby Road. In early 2016, pancakes will be on the griddle on January 24, February 28, and March 20. ❀

WOMEN CAN VOTE, TOO

Summarized from an article by Carol Kammen, County Historian

Five years before women gained the right to vote nationwide in the United States, an attempt was made to give women the vote in New York State.

100 years ago, in 1915, New York State (male) voters rejected giving women the right to vote by a wide margin. The vote failed in Tompkins County too, by a margin of 3,871 to 2,556, or about 60 to 40 percent.

In the Town of Danby, the measure passed by a margin of 121 to 93, a difference of 28 votes. ❀

WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

Mary Beavers has successfully completed certification course work for becoming a Grade C Water Operator. We now have a qualified replacement for one of our operators should one of them leave. Thank you Mary. ❀

DANBY BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Janice Beal

The Danby Book Club would like you to join us at 4pm on Sunday, December 20, at 638 East Miller Road. We will be discussing *Deep South* by Paul Theroux, a notable travel writer. Coffee, tea and refreshments will be served. Questions? 607.220.4288. ❀

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!

DCC Concerts and Events in December

Sundays, 3pm, in Danby's Town Hall:

Dec. 6: 10:30am • Bird Count Warmup

Dec. 13: *Long John and the Tights*

At the DFC

Danby Federated Church, 1858 Danby Road

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Saturday, November 28, Noon-2pm, Free!

Giving Tree and Winter Warmth Tree: November 29-December 14. Benefit for Food Pantry Families. People take tags from Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall and bring in items by 12/14. Mitten, scarves and hats on Winter Warmth Tree. Pantry families choose items as gifts for parents and kids.

Contact Bonnie Rathbun 607.272.1606 or [brathbun3@gmail.com] for further information.

Chicken And Biscuit Dinners: Friday, December 11, 5-7pm. Chicken and Biscuits, mashed potatoes, squash, apple sauce, corn, green beans, harvard beets, beverage and desserts. Also on 1/8, 2/12, 3/11, 4/8.

Bake Sales: Friday, December 18, 6-9pm, and Saturday December 20, 10am-4pm. To benefit Hospicare.

At the Danby Volunteer Fire Company

Breakfasts. Sunday, December 13, 8-11am. Pancakes, eggs, french toast, sausage, home fries, beverages. Also on 1/24, 2/28, 3/20. ❀

SEASONAL CAROLING EVENT

Submitted by Alison Christie, W.D. Community Association

One of the joys of any season, and the Winter Holiday season in particular, is listening to and singing its rich repertoire of seasonal traditional music.

Once a year, the West Danby Community Association organizes Seasonal Caroling. This year, on Sunday, December 20, 3-5pm, the event will happen on the edge of West Danby...in "uphill" Danby...in the Great Room of Ted Crane and Pamela Goddard's *Slow Lane*, 888 Comfort Road. Up-hillers head for the intersection of Comfort and Lieb, while down-hillers get there via Station and Bald Hill Roads to Comfort Road.

Being uphill on the edge of West Danby, if the weather is good we'll watch the sunset as it heads toward the shortest day of the year!

We have hot chocolate, cider, home made bread, and a selection of baked goods and dried fruits for the event, plus anything you want to bring.

For the most part, people sit around and sing. Occasionally, we have some music, too. Blake, Liam, and I have played a tune or two on the tin whistle! If you think you have a tin ear or a too-original sense of voice, come listen a while...and join if humming isn't fun enough. ❁

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

Have you seen our great DVD selection? Something for everyone! 2 week due date! Did you know that we have all of the Harry Potter movies (and all of the books)?

New this month on DVD:

Inside/Out *Jurassic World*

Coming Soon:

Minions *A Walk In the Woods*

Ever read a book, really like it and go back for more by that author? Jane Smiley has written a 100-year trilogy, starting with *Some Luck*, which follows the Langdon family from Denby, Iowa from 1920 to 2020, through three novels.

Other popular authors with new books at our library:

John Irving: *Avenue of Mysteries*

Erica Jong: *Fear of Dying*

Robert Galbraith (aka JK Rowling): *Career of Evil*

YOUTH GRANTS FROM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Submitted by Julie Clougherty

During 2015, the Town of Danby and the United Way of Tompkins County provided direct funding to the youth of Danby in the form of grants to aid with program expenses.

A total of \$2600 was granted to 27 Danby youth over the year. Each youth received up to \$100 toward cost of fees and tuition for various enrichment programs. The programs that were funded this year are as follows: summer camps including 4-H, Primitive Pursuits, Boy Scouts, Southside Community Center, theater, sports, GIAC, and visual arts; Some youth also received funding for lessons, including piano, dance, horseback riding, and swimming.

No one was turned away and everyone who applied received a grant. Grants will again be awarded in 2016, and applications for programs that begin in January through March are being accepted now. The deadline for applying is January 15, 2016. For programs starting in April, May, or June, applications are due by March 15.

Youth up through age 21 who reside in Danby at least half-time are eligible to apply, and preference may be given to those who qualify for free and reduced price school lunches. Applications may be requested at [youthgrants@danbycc.org], or by calling grant program coordinator Julie Clougherty, 607.272.7189. If you have any questions, please be in touch! ❁



I attended the new Danby book group's second meeting where we discussed *The Shipping News* by Annie Proulx. Interesting books, interesting people, good discussions. Look for their article to find out more. ❁

Community Council Fall/Winter 2015 Youth Programs

Hi Danby, Travis Judd here, your Youth Program Manager with updates on this year's programs! Our first round of programs have ended. Campfire Cooking and Fridays at the Farm both were a blast as we explored different ways to prepare foods in both programs, saw the Fall season come and what harvesting, prepping and planning is involved with operating a produce farm. Outdoor Adventure is transitioning into winter focused skills and Lunch Bunch still has lots of games to play! Days at Dotson and Find it Fridays now in action! If you have any questions about the new programs below or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [ttj22@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.x222. Additional program announcements will be in this newsletter, in Danby's Town Hall, on our web site [ccetompkins.org/4-h-youth/rural-youth-services], and in flyers given out during lunchtime in school. These programs are free of charge for Danby Youth ages 8-14.

Outdoor Adventure-Grade 6 and up
Thursdays, September-December 17, 3:30-6pm
at Boynton Middle School

We have learned history about the area, fire building skills, identified trees and flowers, spotted lots of wild-life, played lots of games and practicing our belaying skills (on the ground). While on the lake shore searching for driftwood and animals, we have gotten to witness kite surfing, hot air balloons and lots of tree climbers. Now we are practicing our winter survival skills, shelter construction, backcountry travel and navigation.



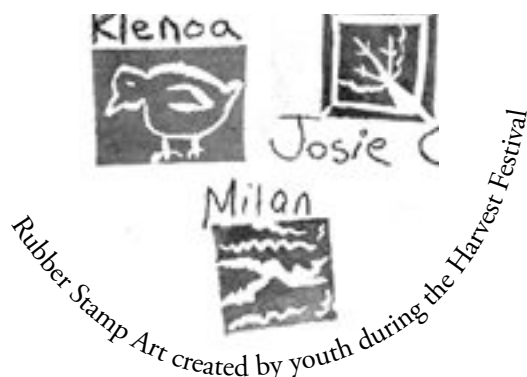
Lunch Bunch-Grade 6 and up
Thursdays, September 24-December 17
Boynton Cafeteria during Lunchtime

Days at Dotson-Grade 5 and up
Tuesdays, November-December 15, 3:30-6pm
in Dotson Park

Come join us as we embark on an adventure to learn our amazing resource inside and out. Cartography, creating a minimal impact group camp area, Letterboxing and wilderness games will be our focus for the program. Come dressed for the weather with extra layers and boots, it can get wet and cold out there so let's stay safe!

Find it Fridays-Grade 5 and up
Fridays, November-December 18, 3:30-6 pm
in the Danby Federated Church

What drives you? What skills do you want to build? Who else around here shares your interests? Find it Fridays is our program to discover and feed your passions. We will look at various areas such as solar powered robotics, cooking skills, coding, small scale construction, magic and . However, the real question is, what is your passion? Bring it along, we will all learn about it and maybe you will find others who are just as passionate as you!



Postal Patron

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Dec 3 • Thu
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Dec 5 • Sat
9am 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
🏠 Hollybrook CC • **Seniors Holiday Luncheon**
5-7pm 🏠 American Legion • **Steak Dinner**
- Dec 6 • Sun
10:30am 🏠 Town Hall • **Bird Count Warmup**
- Dec 8 • Tue
5-9pm 🏠 Both Fire Halls • **Fire District Election**
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- Dec 11 • Fri
5-7pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Chicken & Biscuits**
- Dec 13 • Sun
8-11am 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**
3pm 🏠 Town Hall
Community Council Concert: Long John and the Tights
- Dec 14 • 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 15 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
- Dec 16 • Wed
5-8pm 🏠 379 Gunderman Road • **Pottery Sale**
- Dec 17 • Thu
3-6pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Food Pantry**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**
7:30pm 🏠 Ithaca Beer Company
Danby Community Park Association
- Dec 18 • Fri
5-7pm 🏠 American Legion • **Fish Dinner**
6-9pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Holiday Bake Sale**
- Dec 19 • Sat
10am-4pm 🏠 Danby Federated Church
Holiday Bake Sale to benefit Hospicare
11am-2pm 🏠 379 Gunderman Road • **Pottery Sale**
5pm 🏠 American Legion • **Holiday Party**

- Dec 20 • Sun
3pm 🏠 Slow Lane, 888 Comfort Road
Seasonal Caroling
4pm 🏠 638 East Miller Road • **Danby Book Club**
- Dec 21 • Mon
6pm 🏠 90 Lieb Road • **Holiday Restorative Yoga**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
- Dec 28 • Mon
Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Mobile Food Truck**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**
- Dec 31
6pm 🏠 Slow Lane, 888 Comfort Road
Community New Year Dance Celebration
- Jan 1 • Fri
🏠 **Christmas Bird Count**
- Jan 2 • Sat
9am 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Jan 7 • Thu
Noon 🏠 Danby Federated Church • **Seniors**
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Jul 9, 2016 • Sat
Danby Fun Day and Parade

ONGOING EVENTS

- Danby Community Library Open** 🏠 Town Hall
Saturdays, 10am–Noon, Wednesdays, 1:30–3:30pm,
and when the **Open** sign is out!
- Seniors Strength Training Group** 🏠 Federated Church
Mondays and Thursdays, 9am.
- AA Meeting** 🏠 Federated Church
Wednesdays, 7pm.
- Danby Quilters Group** ☎ 607.273.2950
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