

# DANBY AREA NEWS

## BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Submitted by Asher Hockett

The Ithaca area 117<sup>th</sup> annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count took place on a beautiful sunny New Year's Day. 148 volunteers in a 15-mile-radius circle centered on Varna hit the field or watched our bird feeders; our mission: to count every bird we saw.

Twelve of us were assigned to cover the Danby sector, one of ten sectors of the circle. It includes the inlet behind the big-box stores downtown, Upper and Lower Buttermilk Falls State Park, the hamlet of Danby proper, Ithaca College, and all the open and forested spaces in between. We walked the train tracks along the inlet, drove from spot to spot, or sat at home watching backyard feeders—all the while counting and listing what birds were seen.

At 3:30 in the afternoon, many of us met in Danby's Town Hall to compile our sightings, with refreshments courtesy of Bill Evans and the Community Council. In addition to Bill, counters included Julie Clougherty, Mary Beth Gladwell, Sandy Wold, John Confer, Kathy McLaren, Paul Anderson, Beth Bannister, Lang Elliott, Susan Franklin, and Carmen & Asher Hockett. We saw many hundreds of birds and a total of 41 different species, including a Bald Eagle and a Yellow-rumped Warbler.

At 7:15 that evening, the 10 area coordinators met, along with

—con't on page 7 ⇨

## TOIVO: FINNISH MUSIC AND ITS COUSINS

Submitted by Ted Crane

Transfer of the Grand Duchy of Finland from Sweden to Russia in 1809 set the stage for a conflict—not always cultural—that persists today. Mosquitoes still dominate politics in that part of the world. Finnish culture has been part of the Finger Lakes since the early 1900s, when Finns began escaping from “Russification” by emigrating to North America.

Finns brought social clubs and farm cooperatives, the sauna (Finnish has more words for “steam” than Inuit has for “snow”), Cardamom-flavored Pulla bread, and music. Everyone in Finland, it seems, is a musical prodigy, even when they are living in the Finger Lakes.



According to *Life in the Finger Lakes*, South Danby Road was once known affectionately as “Finn Boulevard”. The west side of Cayuga Lake, right up to Trumansburg, is still known for its eclectic sauna styles. Living and quietly playing his accordion among the old-time musicians of Podunk and Swamp College Roads, Rich Koski created Toivo, a musical spirit of hope.

Don't ask how all that relates to Tex-Mex music, because it's a long story. Or a short story, depending on the length of the accordion bellows.

On Sunday, February 5, Danby will be treated to the multiple ethnic flavors called Toivo. The concert begins at 3pm in Danby's Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road (a.k.a., NYS Rt.96B).

Toivo includes Rich, his son Jason (mandolin), Stefan Senders (banjo), Jim Reidy (guitar), Harley Campbell (bass), and Annie Campbell (percussion).

—continued on page 3 ⇨

### This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Town Clerk's Desktop . . . . . ③
- Danby Farms The Sun. . . . . ④
- West Danby Water District Update ④
- Supervisor's Update . . . . . ⑤
- Community Health Program . . ⑥
- Pancake Breakfast Season . . . . ⑥
- County Legislature Update . . . ⑥
- Grants Relieve Taxpayers . . . . ⑦
- Events 'Round Town . . . . . ⑦
- Seniors / Food Pantry . . . . . ⑧
- Community Library. . . . . ⑧
- American Legion Update . . . . ⑧
- Youth Flyer / Youth Grants . . . ⑨
- Energy Navigators. . . . . ⑨
- Seed-to-Supper . . . . . ⑨
- Southern Tompkins Town Talk . ⑨
- Calendar . . . . . ⑩

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

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

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

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**DANBY NEWS NOTES**

Submitted by Ted Crane

**Submission Guidelines:** Before submitting an item for the Danby News, please have a look at the *Submission Guidelines*. You can request them by Email from the editor at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or find them at [danbyny.org/DanbyNews]. If you’re thinking of sending something for publication in the Danby News, there’s two documents to read: the

*Guidelines* and the *Submission Guidelines* at the same web location.

You’ll learn what is, and isn’t acceptable material for publication. If it’s acceptable, we’ll make an effort to include it; *generally, we print everything we receive!* You’ll find hints about how to prepare a submission. Following these guidelines makes the editing and layout easier.

A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page. ❁

## TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

As I write this, we are halfway through January property tax collection. We're been working our way through the piles of payments coming in the mail and enjoying lots of visits with Danby neighbors who pay in person. We fully expect to be busy through the end of the month, with an avalanche of checks coming our way in the last week of January.

Tax bills were sent out at the very end of December.

If, for some reason you did not receive your Town, County, and Fire property tax bill, please call us as soon as possible.

*The last day to pay this bill without an additional finance charge, or to pay with the installment option, was Tuesday January 31.*

The end of January does not mean that we are finished with tax collection. The Town, County, and Fire property taxes are collected at Danby's Town Hall through March 31. During these two months, taxes must be paid in full and will have a 1 percent per month penalty

added. And yes, payment is accepted by postmark date through the US mail.

Early in April we turn all tax collection over to Tompkins County Finance. Please note that second installment payments are made to Tompkins County Finance, located in the "Old Jail" building on Court Street in the City of Ithaca.

Remember, Town Clerks are only tax collectors. We don't set your assessment or the tax rates. I know that there's little I can do to make winter better than it is, but I can promise that the candy bowl will be filled with chocolate kisses including plenty of dark chocolate. Thanks to the generosity going into the "loose change chocolate fund" there will be plenty to go around.

Other business continues at the same time as tax collection. January is a busy time for the Town Board as well. The first meeting in January is always an "Organizational Meeting" when a large number of resolutions, that define how the Town does business, are passed. These include approval of salaries (as defined by the Town Budget, which was approved and adopted in November), various fiscal management resolutions, reaffirmation of various policies and procedures, designating the Town's official attorney, newspaper of record, and

bank depository, and setting the regular times and dates for Town Board meetings. The Board also acknowledges departmental appointments of support clerks and deputies, such as Deputy Town Clerk Sue McLellan and Court Clerk John Norman.

Appointments to various boards are typically made at the beginning of the year. The Planning Board and BZA chairs were reappointed and reappointments made to the BZA and Conservation Advisory Council. While most appointments were made in January, there are still some vacancies to be filled. The Conservation Advisory Council still has open seats. This group does interesting and useful work, such as a town-wide Natural Resources Inventory and community outreach related to Conservation Easements. The Planning Board also has an open seat. Contact the Clerk's office for more information if you would like to get involved.

In order to be as accessible as possible, the Town Clerk's office will be open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Saturday morning hours return to 10am-Noon. We are always closed on Thursdays and Sundays. *The last day to pay Town, County, and Fire tax without an additional finance charge, or to pay with the installment option, was Tuesday January 31.*

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

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

You can expect Finnish, Tex-Mex, and original music: waltzes, schottisches, polkas, mazurkas, two-steps, hambos, and the occasional tango, huapango, two-step, bourree, and polonaise (from the Finnish regions of Argentina, Venezuela, Louisiana, France, or Poland). These Finns sure get around.

As with all of Danby's Community Council concerts, this event is free, open to the public, and refreshments will be served. Coffee and pulla, anyone? The series receives grant support through the **COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP** and the Town of Danby.

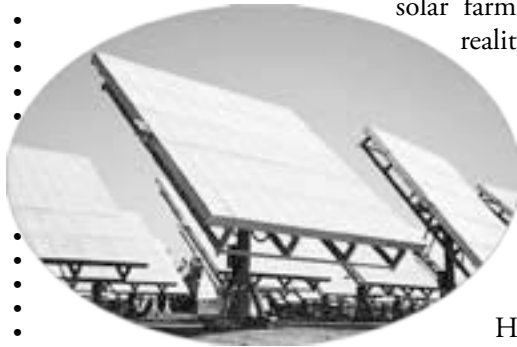
Coming soon: the *Grady Girls* on March 12, and the *Cornell Klezmer Ensemble* on April 9. ❧



# 144kW SOLAR ARRAY SET FOR MARCH CONSTRUCTION

Submitted by Paul Hansen, Code Enforcement Officer

After a year-and-a-half in the works, the Town of Danby is proud to report that a construction date has been set for a 144kW solar farm on the grounds of the Danby Highway Department. Thanks to the cooperation between the Danby Town Board and the Danby Fire District (which oversees the Danby Volunteer Fire Company and the West Danby Fire Company), the solar farm has become a reality.



The Solar Farm will provide the electricity for the two Danby Fire Stations, the Danby Highway Department, the West Danby

Water District, Danby's 23 street lights, and the part of Town Hall's usage that is not covered by its existing solar array. The motivation for this project comes from the Town's ongoing commitment to decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels and its goal of saving taxpayer money.

Over the 25 years of the manufacturer-warranted power production of the solar farm, clean power will replace almost 7 million pounds of carbon dioxide that would otherwise be created by burning fossil fuels. This is equivalent to the emissions from burning 349,000 gallons of gasoline or 3,300,000 pounds of coal.

The Town will not have any up-front expense for the solar farm and will begin saving taxpayer dollars—about \$2500 in the first year, roughly ten percent of its total electric bill—immediately. The savings will increase each year.

Unlike your home-based, residential solar power systems, municipalities can not receive the financial incentives from NYSERDA that make solar power systems cost effective. Instead, they are allowed to contract with a third party that receives an even larger incentive when it purchases and installs the system.

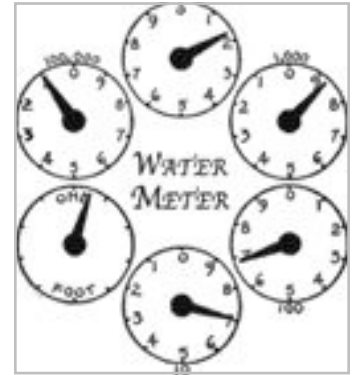
The full arrangement is somewhat complicated. The State allows a third party to purchase the array, place it on Town property through a lease, and sell the en-

# WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

The Town Board appointed our newest District Commissioner, Anna Finley, during its first meeting of the new year. Welcome Anna. She joins Skip Fairchild, Marrell Cortright, Carl Seamon, and me as one of the five Commissioners of Water District.

I asked Anna if she would be willing to serve, as she is a long-time resident of the District and has shown interest and has been involved in water district issues in the past. Thank you Anna for accepting the responsibility.



On Friday, January 13, the District pump house had its fire and safety inspection from the Town Code Enforcement office. In addition to the inspection, it was also good opportunity to give Paul Hansen an overview of the system's functions. We have a repair to make in the pump house as a result and we'll be discussing it during our next meeting.

ergy to the Town at a reduced rate. The Town may then sell that energy to NYSEG at a higher commercial rate and apply that credit to its electric bill, even though the electricity is used in several different locations by separate branches of the government. Bottom line, the taxpayer saves money.

In ten years, the Town expects to purchase the solar farm at a price that is much less than the initial installation cost. After that, the Town will no longer have to purchase power from the third party and its cost savings will increase to about \$24,000 per year; our electricity will be almost cost-free. We will be green and we will save money.

The Town Board has been a consistent supporter of the project since it started in 2015. Without this support of the project, the project would never have been realized. Also, when this project was started, Sue Beeners was still with us, and this solar farm must be remembered as part of her legacy, as well as that of Matt Cooper, who was CEO at that time.

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

Mid-January, mild week ahead, daybreak sunrise touching the overnight frost meets sun to produce a blazing morning. Sitting in my sun room, soaking up the brightness, dreaming spring thoughts and, laptop in lap, I commence writing to you, checking in with my monthly update and trying to keep residents up to speed on current events.

You are reading this article as part of our Danby Area News, a monthly paper, that showcases events and information for residents and elected officials and anyone who wants to know what is going on in Danby.

Many many years ago, my wife was involved with the Danby News, so I have some first hand knowledge of what it entails. First, getting the material in a timely fashion never happens, and it all ends up crashing in at the last minute. Formatting material is always an interesting work in progress, stapling and mailing, "deadlines", many deadlines to consolidate.

It is a huge time commitment, a work of love because no one could commit to accomplish this task month after unflinching month unless they have a deep commitment to the task.

There are many residents who give generously to our Town. It is a essential part of our town's health and well-being. Without our volunteers stepping up to the plate to fill the gaps the Town can not function. The Danby News is the place that tries to keep us all connected to what has happened, what is and what will be of interest to all our residents.

Thank you Ted Crane, we all owe you our gratitude for your commitment to the Town, and the wonderful Danby News you provide for us each month.

In other news, Paul Hansen, our zoning officer, has prepared an update on our solar farm project. Like all the long-term projects the Town takes on, the solar array is an exciting achievement many years in the making.

Other projects that has been long in the making, like broadband, are still unfinished. I am still committed to finding a solution for those still left unserved, so I am again asking any residents who have or are in negotiations with different service providers to let me know how these are going.

It is my understanding that if a geographic area of the town can band together and send out a request for pro-

posals, there are at least three potential bidders with somewhat different solutions. The group can pick a service provider and split the cost of the solution.

That is my present understanding of how residents have been moving forward on this issue. I will be pursuing other possibilities, that the Town could do, and will keep you updated.

Going into the new year, the Town has passed new laws, some to further protect our aquifers and ground water resources, and some to strengthen our oversight of construction in Danby.

Late in 2016, during a combined meeting of our boards, three areas of focus were highlighted: the hamlet, updates and possible revisions of the numerous PDZs (planned development zones), and stream setbacks. Actions in these areas and proposals for possible changes in the zoning laws will be on our boards agenda for 2017.

I do wish that, when you read this, the day is as pleasant as is today.

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

## BOARD POSITIONS STILL OPEN

As of the end of January, one seat on the Planning Board and one seat on the Conservation Advisory Council remain unfilled. Contact the Town Clerk, 607.277.4788 or [[townclerk@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:townclerk@townofdanbyny.org)] for information and an application. ❀

## Town Office Info

**Town Clerk** • [[townclerk@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:townclerk@townofdanbyny.org)]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

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

**Highway Department** • [[highway@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:highway@townofdanbyny.org)]

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

**Code Enforcement Office** • [[code@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:code@townofdanbyny.org)]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

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

**Town Court** • [[courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org)]

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

Submitted by Cole Janda

The Danby Community Council invites you to a free public health presentation on Saturday, February 4, 11am in Danby's Town Hall.

Courtney McCallen-Kim of the Cancer Services Program of Cortland and Tompkins County will be talking about the importance and availability of cancer screening in our community. Before Courtney's presentation begins, there will be a free blood pressure check. Healthy refreshments will be served.

This is the first of three health-related presentations that will be offered in the coming months as part of an Eagle Scout project. Future topics will include lyme disease and high blood pressure and diabetes. Future events will also be followed by a free blood pressure screening. ❁

## PANCAKE BREAKFASTS CONTINUE

Submitted by George Jakubson and Marrell Cortright

You can treat your sweetheart to breakfast at the annual *Valentine's Sweethearts Breakfast* in the West Danby Fire Station on Saturday, February 11, 8-11am. Better yet, *insist* that your sweetie treats you!

Come meet your neighbors, enjoy the view of the weather outside, and have a delicious breakfast made and served by your local volunteer firefighters (and some friends). What could be better? And you don't have to cook or do dishes afterwards!

Proceeds benefit your volunteer fire company.

Breakfasts continue at the (uphill) DVFC on Sunday, February 26, (downhill) for the *St. Patty's Day* event on Saturday, March 11, and then (uphill) again on Sunday, March 26. ❁

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislature

Here is a roundup of several issues Tompkins County government is working on.

### Energy

The County replaces its fleet cars on a 5-rotation. We are going to start rotating in electric cars as the internal combustion cars age out. We just got five Chevy Volts, and five more are scheduled to be rotated in later this year.

Tompkins County has entered into an agreement to purchase all the electrical output generated by a small hydroelectric plant in Seneca County. This green energy is now providing half of the electricity used by County government, at a price lower than what we were paying before.

Tompkins County is establishing an Energy Advisory Task Force to help with the various energy plans that have been generated in the last few years. This task force will be less about philosophy and debate, and more about implementation.

### Housing

Tompkins County is involved in a project of Tompkins Community Action to build housing for 23 homeless youth in Ithaca. The County is involved in the financing but, in the end, no local tax money will be used.

There are also plans in the pipeline for several more affordable housing projects. These projects would also be brought forth by not-for-profit agencies and the County would play a role to help bring the projects to completion.

### Airport

As of the time of this writing (mid-January) we were still waiting to hear about some NY State grants that we were hoping to get for the airport. Terminal expansion is one of the projects we are requesting money for. Another project is to get a customs facility at our airport, so that planes could fly in directly from Canada and beyond.

A separate grant seeks money to help relocate the NY State Department of Transportation from its current location on Ithaca's waterfront to land adjacent to the airport. The current Department of Transportation site is prime real estate and could be developed for higher uses. If the facility relocated to the airport property, it could literally pave the way for other industrial uses there, as long envisioned in the County Master Plan.

As always, feel free to contact me about these or any other County Legislature issues at 607.272.7582 or [danbydan@hotmail.com]. ❁

## GRANTS RELIEVE TAXPAYERS OF SOME COSTS

Submitted by Edward Kokkelenberg, Fire Commissioner

The Danby Fire District has applied for many grants during the past three years, and has received some that have lightened the tax burden for Danby businesses and residents.

As the reader knows, the Fire District receives the lion's share of its funding from property taxes. In an effort to moderate tax increases we have applied for over \$300,000 of grants from the Federal government, the State of New York, and from local government, private firms, and foundations.



We have been awarded grants totaling about \$85,000 from funders such as the Firehouse Subs Foundation, the State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the Triad Foundation, the Danby Fire Company, FEMA, Tompkins County Beautification Committee, True Insurance, Tompkins Trust Company, and the Town of Danby.

Two recent examples are the successful solicitation of grants to help fund the new electronic sign in front of the Danby Station, and the receipt of a grant to help pay for the engineering study completed last summer that led to substantial improvements in our apparatus.

More recently, one of the Fire Companies received a substantial private bequest and such private donations are always warmly appreciated.

The Danby Fire District has reinvigorated its efforts to seek grants as a way to provide needed apparatus, equipment, and training to serve the needs of our community. We appreciate any thoughts readers may have on this topic.



The Danby Fire District is comprised of two fire departments, Danby and West Danby, and provides fire and rescue services to our community 24-7 using an all-volunteer force. For more information on volunteering, contact the chiefs, [swendt@danbyfiredistrict.org] or [jgaden@danbyfiredistrict.org], or Commissioner Faehndrich, [kfaehndrich@danbyfiredistrict.org], or call 607.319.4721. ❧

## EVENTS 'ROUND TOWN

*This column appears monthly, featuring brief descriptions of events—current and upcoming months—around Danby. If you have a non-profit event that the general public is invited to...send a notice to the Danby News!*

### Community Council Events

*Toivo:* Sunday, February 5, 3pm, Town Hall, see article.

*Grady Girls:* Sunday, March 12, 3pm, Town Hall. Traditional Irish music.

*Free Tax Preparation:* Saturday, March 11, 10am-2pm, Town Hall. Also Saturday March 25, 10am-2pm, West Danby Fire Hall. Call 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment.

### Danby Volunteer Fire Company

*Pancake Breakfast:* Sunday, February 26, 8-11am. Also 3/26.

### West Danby Fire Department

*Valentines Sweetheart Breakfast:* Saturday, February 11, 8-11am. Also *St. Patty's Day Breakfast*, March 11.

### At the DFC

*Chicken and Biscuits:* Friday, February 10, 5pm. Also March 10, and April 14.

*Hot Soup, Friends, and Games:* Monday, February 20, Noon.

*ReFit Exercise Classes:* Mondays, 5:30pm. \$5.

*Red Cross Blood Drive:* Friday, March 17, 1-6pm.

### The Great Room at Slow Lane

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

### ➤ Bird Count wrapup, cont'd from front page—

many of the area counters, over a dish-to-pass supper at Cornell's Lab of Ornithology. We compiled all the day's numbers—an annual event hosted by the Cayuga Bird Club. Over 41 thousand birds were seen, and the total species count was 90.

We thank the Danby Community Council for helping to promote the event. Next year's count will be held on Monday, New Year's Day 2018. We hope you can join us then and, in the meantime, good birding, everyone! ❧

## DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, February 2, at Noon in the Danby Community Church. All seniors 55 and over are welcomed to join us for a dish to share luncheon.

Our hosts in January were John & Margie VanDeMark, assisted by Sharon Siegard and Sarah Spearman. Judy raffled off three gift card prizes. Cindy Parlett spoke with us about the Danby Community Library, complete with sample books and DVDs and lots of good information. Thanks Cindy! ❀

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Patti Meyers

We have a new collection of Books on CD from the Tompkins County Public Library. These make great listening during trips!

We are missing two titles from the Books onCD collection: *Storm Front* and *Murder 101*.

Cindy Parlett did a BookTalk at the Senior Citizens meeting. Any other groups interested in learning more about the library? Please contact us.

We have two new patrons signed up this month. Welcome!

Do you love thrillers, mysteries, suspense novels? We have a large collection of books by James Patterson, John Grisham, Lee Child, David Baldacci and Clive Cusler. Borrow one for yourself or a friend or family member.

The nominations for the Oscars are due out this month and we will buy new DVDs based on this list. Watch them and vote! ❀



## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

A reminder that the Mobile Food Pantry truck—from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier—will be inside the Danby Fire Station on February 27 and March 27.

Free food for those who need it—please park in the parking lot—and bring your own bags or boxes!

The MFT is sponsored by the Danby Community Church and usually has a variety of food items: there may be bread, produce, dairy items, canned goods, frozen meats or speciality items, or personal care items. Folks may pick up for one other family after going through for themselves. ❀

## AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marv Eastman

Well, hopefully, the weather stays nice enough for everyone so you can get out and enjoy yourself. If not, think of having dinner locally at the Ithaca American Legion.

We will be having a Steak Dinner on February 4, 5-7pm. Our steaks are cut from a Prime Rib Loin, and are approximately 12 to 14 ounces. You will get your steak cooked as ordered, and you can have it smothered with sauteed mushrooms and onions. You will also get your choice of baked potato, onion rings, or french fries. Don't forget the salad bar and the homemade desserts. All this for just \$12.

On February 12, the S.A.L. (Sons of the American Legion) will be putting on a Chicken BBQ from Noon 'til sold out. Come early as we usually sell out very quickly. The BBQ will feature a half of chicken, a dinner roll, and choice of two from salt potatoes, BBQ beans, and macaroni salad. Cost is \$10. Half chickens are also available for \$6.

February 17 will be a Fish Dinner, 5-7pm. Get your fish either fried or broiled, the salad bar, choice of baked potato, french fries, or onion rings, and, of course, dessert. Still only \$12.

Looking for a place to have a party or other gathering, check us out. Summertime we have a 24' by 48' Pavilion, inclement weather, we have a banquet room that seats approximately 110 people. Small group, baby shower, or birthday party, we have a room for up to 55 or 60 people.

Thinking of having nice and tasty wings on that chilly night, stop in and check out our menu. Stop by and check out the American Legion, enter as a stranger, leave as a friend. ❀



# Danby Youth Flyer

## Community Council Youth Programs

The Danby Youth Program is committed to offering quality, stable, uninterrupted programs to the youth of Danby. Our search for a permanent manager continues as of press time. For updates, check us out on the web at [[danbycc.org/YouthPrograms](http://danbycc.org/YouthPrograms)]. ❄

### YOUTH GRANTS

Submitted by Susan Franklin, DCC Youth Grant Coordinator

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

Grants are awarded quarterly for lessons, after-school programs, and more. The deadline is March 15 for programs beginning (or with payment deadlines) in April thru June (but check about January-March programs).

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

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

### SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Columnist

Please remember to send your stories to me for the Southern Tompkins Town Talk column that appears weekly in the Ithaca Journal.

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

Please contact me at [[gayhuddle@hotmail.com](mailto:gayhuddle@hotmail.com)] or 607.273.6530. ❄

### ENERGY NAVIGATOR TRAINING

This ten-session training, beginning in March, will prepare volunteer Energy Navigators to help others in the community understand their energy use, to make progress towards reducing energy use and bills, and to switch from fossil fuels to renewables. Energy Navigators is a program of Get Your GreenBack Tompkins with the support of Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.

Topics include understanding energy bills, calculating carbon footprint, home energy efficiency, renewable heating, solar energy, transportation alternatives, and more.

Training begins in March of 2017, with specific dates and places to be announced. For more information and to register your interest, visit [[getyourgreenbacktompkins.org](http://getyourgreenbacktompkins.org)] or contact Karim Beers, [[kwb6@cornell.edu](mailto:kwb6@cornell.edu)] or 607.272.2292. ❄

### SEED-TO-SUPPER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Are you interested in helping beginning gardeners in your community learn to grow their own vegetables? A free training program on five Wednesdays, 6:30pm on February 15 and 22, then March 15, 22, and 29, will prepare Seed-to-Supper volunteer educators to teach free vegetable gardening classes throughout Tompkins County. The program takes place in the CCE-Tompkins Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca.

Volunteers will learn some hands-on activities that they can use when teaching Seed-to-Supper classes in their communities. Volunteers will work in pairs to teach the classes and are provided with all the materials needed to run the classes. There is no cost for the training and the classes held in communities are offered for free as well.


The Seed to Supper curriculum originated in Oregon where it has been used since 2010 to help thousands of residents learn how to grow their own food. We have adapted this wonderful curriculum for growing conditions in New York State. Topics include planning the garden, soil preparation, composting, planting, garden maintenance, pests and diseases, and harvesting.

Contact Chrys Gardener, [[cab69@cornell.edu](mailto:cab69@cornell.edu)] or 607.272.2292.x241 with questions or to receive an application. ❄

Postal Patron

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Jan 31 • Tue

 Town Hall • **Last Day of (Simple) Tax Collection**


Feb 2 • Thu

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

Feb 4 • Sat

9am  Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**  
11am  Town Hall • **Community Health (Cancer)**  
5pm  Amer Leg Post • **Steak Dinner**

Feb 5 • Sun

3pm  Town Hall  
**Concert: Toivo** (Finnish and Tex-Mex music)

Feb 10 • Fri

5pm  Danby Comm Church • **Chicken & Biscuit**




Feb 11 • Sat

8-11m  West Danby Fire Station  
**Valentine's Sweetheart's Breakfast**


Feb 12 • Sun

Noon  Amer Leg Post • **Chicken BBQ**



Feb 13 • 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**


Feb 14 • Tue

7pm  Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**


Feb 16 • Thu

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


Feb 17 • Fri

5pm  Amer Leg Post • **Fish Dinner**

Feb 20 • Mon

7pm  Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**

Feb 21 • Tue

7pm  Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Feb 26 • Sun

8-11m  Danby Fire Station • **Pancake Breakfast**


Feb 27 • Mon

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


Mar 2 • Thu

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



Mar 4 • Sat

9am  Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**


Mar 10 • Fri

5pm  Danby Comm Church • **Chicken & Biscuit**

Mar 11 • Sat

8-11m  West Danby Fire Station  
**St.Patty's Day Breakfast**  
10am-2pm  Town Hall  
**Free Tax Prep (call 2-1-1 for an appointment)**


Mar 12 • Sun

2am  Everywhere  
**Clocks Spring Forward...lose an hour of sleep**  
3pm  Town Hall • **Concert: The Grady Girls**


Jul 8, 2017 • 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**  Danby Community Church  
Mondays and Thursdays, 9am.


**AA Meeting**  Danby Community Church  
Wednesdays, 7pm.

**Danby Quilters Group** ☎ 607.273.2950  
Call for Info.


### WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

 Danby Town Hall • 1830 Danby Road

 Danby Fire Hall • 1780 Danby Road

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

 Danby Community Church • 1859 Danby Road

 American Legion Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road