

DANBY AREA NEWS

EARTH DAY HAPPENINGS

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

EARTH DAY WILL BE Sunday, April 22. We will be celebrating with some fantastic events to learn more about the natural resources of our town.

The afternoon will start with a talk about and search for native snails by science illustrator and snail expert Marla Coppelino.

Then, 3-5pm, we will have a talk and walk by moss expert Norm Trigoboff. Finally, 5-8pm, we will have a joint event at Jennings Pond of kayaking, a dish-to-pass-dinner and a bonfire. These will be interesting and educational events for the whole family. More details in the next Danby News.

Everything is free except the kayaking. If you have your own kayak, great! No problem, no charge. For those who don't have a kayak, Route 96 Power & Paddle will be supplying kayaks, paddles and vests for a charge of \$40 per kayak (2-person kayaks are avail-



DCC CONCERT: GRADY GIRLS

Submitted by Ted Crane, Community Council

THIS MONTH, THE GRADY GIRLS return to Danby for the fifth year in a row. The Sunday, March 11, 3pm concert is sure to be packed, so be sure to arrive at Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, on time for a good seat.

The Gradys are very much a family band. They travel, for music, for inspiration, and for fun, but always return to Ithaca...to play in Danby, of course.

Saoirse (fiddle) is a few years older than pictured above, but she's a good reason to bring your young to this concert. There's nothing like seeing one of your age peers on stage, to inspire a budding musicians.

As always, this free concert is presented by Danby's Community Council with support from the Town of Danby and grant support from the **COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP** of Tompkins County.

Refreshments will be served and a good time is promised for all!



able). To reserve your kayak, please send a check made out to *Route 96 Power & Paddle* to Ronda Roaring, 571 South Danby Road, Spencer, NY 14883.

See you on Earth Day!



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March 2018

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Text submissions:

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

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

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

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DANBY NEWS NOTES

Submitted by Ted Crane

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

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

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

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

TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

Parking Accessibility Tags

WE'VE ALL SEEN THEM. Some of us have used them, hanging from a rear-view mirror. Red or blue accessibility car tags. The red tags are *Temporary* and are effective for anywhere from a month or two to a full year. The blue tags are *Permanent* and are generally effective for five years.

Although the tags are used in cars, they are issued to people. The office that provides them in New York is the local Town Clerk's office.

When a person has an accessibility need, their first stop is with their doctor. There must be a medical need, determined and prescribed by a physician. Such needs can range from cancer treatment, difficulty breathing (COPD), heart disease, or chronic conditions such as Parkinson's disease. The vast majority of tags issued in Danby related to bone/structural conditions such as arthritis, joint replacement, fractures and other injuries.

Please remember: someone's accessibility concern may not always be externally visible. Don't assume, when you see someone parking in a "handicap" parking place.

Once the person has the prescription and/or form from their physician, the next stop is the local Town Clerk's office. The process of issuing or renewing an accessible hang tag is brief—usually less than five minutes. We will need some basic information (entered into our secure database) and then the hang-tag is dated and stamped. There is no charge for this service.

To renew Permanent (Blue) tags (for conditions impacting accessibility which are not going to change or improve), a physician recommendation is welcome but not required. A physician's prescription *is* required for Temporary (Red) tags, when it is expected that condition will improve or go away. If it is determined that you need an extension on the time allowed for the accessibility, the doctor will need to specify the length of the extension. Bring that former prescription to the Clerk's office, and we will be happy to help.

In either case, the tag goes with the person not the vehicle. You may use your accessibility tag in any vehicle you ride in. Some parking areas seem to request the last digits of a person's driver's license on the tag for identification purposes. It's a convenience for them—but is not required. A tag may well be issued to a person who does not have a driver's license; for example, to a child or a visually impaired person.

Looking at statistics from Danby during the past few years can be interesting. Our records show an average 78 accessible tags issued per year to Danby residents. A few more Permanent tags are issued to Danby residents: over four years, the average is 45 blue and 33 red tags. The slowest season for issuing tags tends to be Spring; Fall tends to be busier. The reality is that the need, whether from a chronic condition, scheduled surgery, or emergency, can come at any time of the year. We are ready to help.

March Hours

During March, the Town Clerk's office will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10am-5pm, and Saturday mornings, 10am-Noon. We are closed on Sundays and Thursdays. Tax collection continues through Monday April 2. Due to circumstances, there may be times when we are closed briefly. We appreciate your understanding. You can always reach us by phone, 607.277.4788 and by Email at [townclerk@townofdanby.ny.org]. Thanks to your generosity, we can keep the chocolate bowl full. ❁

WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

THE WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT'S next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 5pm, in at the West Danby Fire Station. ❁



SOUTH DANBY ROAD WORK

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

THE TOMPKINS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT will be finishing its work on South Danby Road this season. This will include

- trimming back overhanging branches
- replacing the culvert where Sulfur Springs Creek runs under the road (near 571)
- paving, applying a topcoat of stones, and marking the lines

The culvert work will begin in April or May.

The NYS DEC and the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District have been involved in the design of the new culvert, which will be flush with the creek bed on both sides of the road to allow fish to swim upstream and will be high enough for deer to walk through.

For more information, contact Matt Watros, Senior Highway Crew Supervisor, [mwatros@tompkins-co.org] or 607.274.0300. ❁

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, , Tompkins County Legislator

TOMPKINS COUNTY COLLECTED more in sales tax in 2017 than in any other year ever. Sales tax collection was 6.2 percent greater than in 2016, yielding about \$2,000,000 additional revenue. This is a change from the last two years, which had seen decreases in sales tax revenue. Increased sales tax collection benefits all the municipalities in the County, which receive a portion of the sales tax.

This is important because Town and County governments have basically only two ways to raise money they feel they need to carry out services to residents: property tax and sales tax. If sales tax collections go up, there is a less of a demand on property tax to fund the services provided.

Danby received \$654,451 in sales tax revenue in 2017, an increase of 6 percent over 2016.

When I talk about sales tax numbers with people, they often ask why these numbers go up and down. Lots of people like to speculate, but it is hard to get actual facts on what is causing the changes.

NY State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli gave these reasons why he thinks sales tax collections are up over most of the state:

- Improved consumer confidence and stronger, though modest, wage growth.
- The price of gasoline has gone up, so the taxes collected on it have also gone up, for the first time since 2010.
- Consumer spending and retail sales were modest for the first three quarters of the year. However, the fourth quarter was very strong.

This last point is especially true in Tompkins County, where the 4th quarter sales tax revenue was almost 12 percent higher in 2017 than in 2016.

One other set of data from the County Finance Director, Rick Snyder, shows the flip side of an economy that is heating up. The County borrows money in the short term as part of a complex cash-flow system to make sure we always have enough cash on hand, and in the long term for capital projects: bridges, buildings, etc. Part of the idea behind borrowing for long-term capital projects is that we expect the bridge we are building today to last 30 years. It is therefore only fair to have taxpayers 30 years from now pay part of the cost of that bridge, rather than putting the whole burden on today's taxpayer.

The cost of borrowing has been rising as the economy improves. The County recently borrowed some money at 2.3 percent interest.

A year ago, we borrowed at 2.0 percent. The year before that it was 1.4 percent. These numbers represent an increase in the cost of doing business. They are still historically low. But, at some point, if they continue to rise, we might have to re-evaluate our borrowing policy.

These are just two sets of numbers that paint a picture of the economy in Tompkins County. They are not the whole picture, but they are important as they contribute to figuring out what services we can provide and at what cost to residents.

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

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

HISTORICALLY, YEAR OVER YEAR, the weeks of February between when I write this article and when you read it in March are an important period for the Highway Department.

In the time I have been in Danby, these weeks can have the potential for the most snow and ice. It is also a transitional period for Maple Syrup as the highs and lows are what the sap needs to flow. The woods are starting to wake up.

The Town is seasonal also, with different focus depending on the time of year. Budget in the Fall, taxes, and snow clearing during the Winter, building permits in the Spring, and road repair during the Summer. Woven through it all is the mundane, but essential, everyday business that the Town must process each month.

Then there are the projects the Town is working on, the issues that come before our various Boards, planning for future projects, and preparing grant applications to support these projects.

BOARD VACANCY

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

THE TOWN BOARD of the Town of Danby invites residents to apply for a seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Your involvement is welcome and needed.

Following the resignation of one member, there is an open seat (to complete a partial term of three years) on the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Board of Zoning Appeals meets as needed (usually 4th Tuesday) to hear and decide variance requests related to the Zoning Ordinance.

The West Danby Water Commissioners, have at least one and possibly two vacancies. Contact the Town Clerk or Tod Sukontarak for more information.

An appointment application is available through the Town Clerk's office. This simple form includes contact information for the applicant and three simple questions: any experience (professional, educational, etc.) that would assist in the position, a brief description of why you would like to be considered, and what you would hope to accomplish in this position.

If interested, or for more information on these positions, contact Town Clerk Pamela Goddard at townclerk@townofdanbyny.org or 607.277.4788. ❧

Broadband (high speed) Internet is one of the long-running initiatives that the Town has been involved with. The goal here has been to have this service available to as many of Danby residents as possible. This has manifested itself in several ways, and each of them seems to morph into different forms during the course of its implementation.

The Town is still trying to find and work with different service providers to achieve its goal. After a two-year hiatus, talks with Comcast (whose Spectrum division, formerly Time-Warner, provides Internet) have started up again. New York State has opened up another pool of funding and we are trying to negotiate a cooperative arrangement with a consortium of players. Unserved areas of Coddington, South Danby, Durfee hill, and Curtis Roads are all being given new attention and feasibility studies.

I say this more to let residents know that Danby still has a priority to make progress toward its goal to have Broadband Internet available to as many residents as possible. Also to say that, even after wringing blood from a stone, this effort will not solve all our connection problems. Until agreements are in place to accomplish this task, this article is to let you know that your requests are actively being addressed. It's a work in progress.

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

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.

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:

Grady Girls: Irish Traditional Music: Sunday, March 11, 3pm, Town Hall.

Ariana Kim: Classical Violin; Sunday, April 15, 3pm Town Hall.

The Great Room at Slow Lane

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

Scandinavian Dancing: music by Steffan Ohlström and Stephen Ellner. Sunday, March 4, 2pm. Info 607.273.8678. Also Sunday, April 1.

Keith Murphy: internationally known singer and guitarist. Sunday, March 25, 3pm. Info 607.273.8678.

Three Ravens: music and song from masters of the art. Sunday, April 15, 3pm. Info 607.273.8678.

Danby Community Church

Chicken and Biscuits: Friday, March 9, 5-7pm. Also April 13.

Lunch and Games: Monday, March 19, Noon. Hot homemade soup and easy games. Also April 16.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Friday, March 16, 1:30-5:30pm. Walk-ins welcome.

Senior Citizens Gentle Exercise: Mondays and Thursdays, 9am.

Tai Chi Exercise Group: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-Noon.

Fire Departments

Pancake Breakfast: Danby Volunteer Fire Company, Sunday March 4, 8-11am.

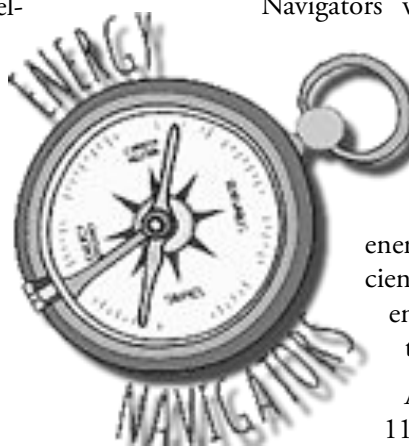
St.Patty's Day Breakfast: West Danby Volunteer Fire Company, Saturday, March 17, 8-11am. ❧

ENERGY NAVIGATORS

Submitted by Karim Beers

Become an Energy Navigator—Help people reduce energy use and bills and transition to renewables!

This ten-session training prepares volunteer Energy Navigators to help others in the community understand their energy use and make progress towards reducing energy use and bills, and towards switching from fossil fuels to renewables. Focus is on helping low- and moderate-income residents—both homeowners and renters—save energy and money.



Navigators will learn about programs and options that can help homeowners and renters cut down on their energy use and bill, reduce their carbon footprint. Topics include understanding energy bills, home energy efficiency, renewable heating, solar energy, transportation alternatives, and more.

Applications are due March 11 and training begins on April 11. A limited number of stipends are available to support the engagement of underserved groups. For more information and to apply, visit [getyourgreenbacktompkins.org/navigators], or contact me at [kwb6@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.

Energy Navigators is a program of Get Your GreenBack Tompkins with the support of Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. ❧

TAI CHI IN DANBY

Submitted by Margo Yntema

TAI CHI CLASSES ARE WELL UNDERWAY at the Danby Community Church! The four-month cycle introducing students to the 108 move set will continue until mid-June; participants may join at any time.

Classes are held at the Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Road, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-Noon. The instructors, Jim Meyers and Margo Yntema, are Danby residents, and they are happy to have visitors come by and to answer any questions. ❧



Benay Rubenstein, surrounded by her children Ivan and Sarah
Photo by Tamara Beardsley

DANBY-ITE HONORED

Submitted by Tamara Beardsley

DANBY RESIDENT BENAY RUBENSTEIN has been honored by the Tompkins County Human Services Coalition with its 2018 Spirit of Inclusion Award. The award was created in 2012 to honor the legacy of Cecilia Montaner-Vargas, a relentless fighter for the rights of each and every one to have a decent, dignified life. The recipient is selected for significant efforts to build diversity or inclusion in the local health and human services community.

Benay was nominated by her daughter, Sarah Rubenstein-Gillis, who wrote, “Benay has 35 years of professional experience working in and outside of prisons and jails to make a pathway to (and through) college truly possible and doable for people who are incarcerated or formerly-incarcerated. Her drive to do this work comes from a profound belief in equality, and in education as both a fundamental human right and a tool for personal and cultural transformation.

“In 2016, she founded College Initiative Upstate, now a fully integrated program of OAR of Tompkins County. Her idea was to adapt College Initiative, a program she founded in NYC (now a part of the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice), to a rural environment with unique issues and challenges.

“Recently, College Initiative Upstate, in close collaboration with Tompkins County and Ithaca City Courts, has become an Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) program—possibly the first program in the nation for court-involved and formerly incarcerated people with higher education at its core.

“Benay’s trailblazing programs have been studied, replicated and covered by multiple local and national media agencies.” ❁

BIRD COUNT UPDATE

Submitted by Asher Hockett

ON NEW YEAR’S DAY, 2018, eleven intrepid volunteers braved single-digit temperatures to participate in the Danby portion of the 118th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The count takes place in a 15-mile diameter circle centered just east of the Cornell Campus. It is divided into nine sectors: sector VI includes the hamlet of Danby, the inlet area east of Rt.34 and behind the big box stores, the Ithaca College Campus, Buttermilk Falls State Park, and a great deal of open country inbetween.

We counted all the birds we could find, from owls ID’ed by their calls in the predawn hours, to every bird seen from dawn to dusk. Some folks hiked the trails in the park or along the inlet, while others visited spots by car. In late afternoon some of us met at the Danby Town Hall to tally our results. These results were then taken to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (affectionately known as the Lab of O), where they were compiled with the results from all nine sectors and the feeder sightings—yes, you can join the count by watching your feeder from the warmth of your home.

Abundant sunshine offset the cold and led to a very successful day of counting. This year we found 33 species in the Danby section of the count and a record 102 species were documented in the whole count circle. There were three species seen for the first time ever during the count’s history: Black Vulture, Tufted Duck, and European Goldfinch—the latter likely wandered away from one of the small populations of such birds established by escapees from bird cages in the NYC area. High counts for the year included 12 Bald Eagles and 2 Peregrine Falcons. Both species were once nearly extirpated from upstate NY due to the DDT fiasco, and both now seen every year. In all, 40,536 birds were counted by 122 people in the field and 12 at feeders.

The data from this count will be incorporated with data from the previous 117 years of the count, and contribute to conservation efforts by birders and nature lovers everywhere. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is the largest and longest continuous Citizen Science project in existence and it all depends on volunteers. Thanks to all those who turned out to count for Danby, and don’t forget to mark your calendars for next year!



TOWN HISTORIAN NOTES

Submitted by M.A. Barr, Town Co-Historian

SMALL PIECES OF DANBY'S HISTORY have been on view in our display case in Town Hall for many years: glassware, photographs, a sword, and other antiques.

Last fall the display case and its contents went into hiding. For safety sake, the case was moved to avoid a leak in the Town Hall roof. It will be back in public view as soon as possible though no definite date is set. Suffice it to say, it will be when the leak is fixed.

Meanwhile, the Danby Library has made space for display of some of our historic items as well as books about Danby's history.

The most recent book, *Jacob's Land: Revolutionary War Soldiers, Schemers, Scoundrels and the Settling of New York's Frontier*, was donated by a fellow Danbyite. Written by Charles Yaple, it can give the reader a broad picture of life in wilderness New York. Individual family tales of the Brants, DeWitts, and Yaples and Native American points of view are all woven into the plot.

Bald Hill: The Lost Community, written by Wayne Myers, Kathleen Clements, Ross Cortright, Robert Johnson, and Robert Snyder, is also on the history shelf in the Library.

Some dishware, documents, and other items will also be displayed. If you are interested in history it is worth a look around when you come to Town Hall.

Something else to check out is the poster on the board inside Town Hall's front door announcing "Student Research Awards". Winners will receive cash and/or certificate awards. The deadline is July 1, 2018. You can learn more at [archives.nysed.gov] (click on "education") or, if you have the appropriate app on your smartphone, you can scan the code on the poster.

As Dr Scott, the paleontologist, says, "get up, get out, and make your own discoveries." In this case, discoveries about history at Town Hall. ❁

DANBY NEWS DELIVERY CHANGES

Submitted by Ted Crane

One of the biggest changes—ever—in the delivery of the Danby News is over and, with luck, it won't happen again. Here's what happened...and a heads up about what to look out for.

Thanks to recent strict enforcement of USPS rules, the Danby News can no longer be delivered cheaply to "Postal Patron." We are required to individually address every copy. So, we had to expand our mailing list from about 300 addresses (those that didn't used to be delivered to Postal Patron) to more than 1500 addresses.

It took a day or two of merging lists and about five hours of driving around Danby to verify and improve the result. We think we found just about everybody, but please ask your neighbors, "Did you get your copy?" and let us know about problems.

We can let you know about one problem. Danby News recipients with a 13864 ZIP-code (that's Willseyville, one of the five ZIP-codes that serve Danby) had to wait an extra 10 days or so to receive their copies. 13864 is not in the same USPS region as the rest of Danby, and delayed delivery is likely. We're looking into a fix, any fix, short of using a first-class stamp.

While delivery for the rest of Danby is more predictable (usually 2 days), the USPS does not guarantee it; the USPS considers two weeks acceptable (see: Willseyville) for this class of mail.

Another problem is that the process is more expensive, from the cost of making an additional 1200 labels to higher fees for mailing each piece. Sticking on the 1500 labels is no laughing matter, either. Any volunteers? You have to be ready to go on about 3-hour notice.

There is one potential advantage to the "label on every copy" change. Readers who are content to find the latest issue on the web do not need to—potentially—receive a paper copy. The catch is, when that reader moves away from Danby, the new resident at that address would not receive a paper copy, either. When we have a foolproof way to solve that problem, we'll ask you whether you whether you're "Internet connected."

Please, help us update the mailing list! Ask your neighbor, *Did you get your copy of the Danby News?* ❁



OUR NEIGHBORS: STEVE SELIN

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

BEFORE I MOVED TO DANBY in the late 1970s, I lived in Wayne County and worked in quality control at Duffy-Mott, the makers of Mott's apple sauce and apple juice. I love apples and it's a great pleasure to introduce Steve Selin, the owner of South Hill Cider.

Steve lives on West King Road with his wife Ellyn and their two children. He came to the Finger Lakes in the early 1990s, when he moved in with an aunt and uncle who lived in Naples. There, he worked at Hunt Hollow ski area and as a glassblower. He began making trips to Ithaca to take banjo lessons and shop at GreenStar... and wound up settling in Danby.

Steve got to know Arthur Hansen, who owned two nearby properties. He suggested that Art put a conservation easement on his land and that Art sell the land to Steve. "I orchestrated the easement," says Steve. "At first we were in conversation with the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT), but they had restrictions in their easement that made agriculture difficult. But the Town of Danby was more understanding about keeping land in agriculture without placing a lot of restrictions on the agricultural process. The process with the CAC [Danby's Conservation Advisory Council] was pretty easy."

Art was eager to keep his land undeveloped and jumped at the idea of selling the land to Steve. "I explained to him the whole process, that I wanted to have an orchard, and eventually a hard cider cidery, and he totally understood the whole plan and was supportive of it. Art...picks up litter along the roads, and he would find cider bottles and give them to me."

Steve says the conservation easement on the land never put him off, as having the easement on the land was part of the overall plan all along. "Having a conservation easement is probably the only way to preserve land in Danby. It's a voluntary process." He worries that trying to restrict land through zoning would become "contentious."

His only frustration is with the Tompkins County Department of Assessment, which will not, at this time, decrease the assessed value of property in consideration of the easement.

Steve's orchard is 49 acres, bordering the Sweedler Preserve (owned by the FLLT) and Buttermilk Falls State Park. He has planted 1400 apple and pear trees includ-

ing 17 apple varieties. A lot of the best-flavored ones are European varieties, but he is increasingly planting nameless, grafted wild varieties from the local area.

Some of Steve's ciders are 100% from wild apple trees. He would like to hear from people who have wild apple trees that he might prune and pick from. For more information, visit [appleproject.exposure.co].

Steve's long-term plan is to have a visitors' tasting room and become more of the Finger Lakes tourism scene. For now though, he works with a distributor in Manhattan who places his ciders in fine restaurants and wine bars in Brooklyn and Manhattan. "Our ciders taste the way they do because they're made in Tompkins County, and we make them like wine. These ciders exhibit terroir. The people who drink our ciders are interested in terroir."

Others are taking notice. Articles mentioning South Hill Cider have appeared in Vogue, the Washington Post, the Wine Journal, Bon Appetit, and others. Recently, South Hill was the only New York State cidery to be awarded the Good Food award.

I asked Steve what he envisioned for Danby in the next 25 years. "If we [talked about] tourism in the comprehensive plan, it would help to preserve the land because that is part of the attraction, to help preserve the beauty and the natural resources," he replied.

Steve said he hopes the land around his on West King and Sand Bank roads, land that is still undeveloped but on which there is no easement, will always stay in agriculture. "I grew up where the suburbs end and the farmland begins outside of Buffalo," said Steve. "Every fall, I used to feed wild apples to the cows. Right now, that farm, with its great soil, is planned to be converted into a housing development. I've seen many farms like that get broken up in the past few decades. That's why I'm so passionate about preserving my land in Danby with orchards, a rather poignant fact after having fed all those wild apples to cows on a farm that is now being lost forever."

You can learn more about South Hill Cider at [southhillcider.com].

If you would like to suggest someone to be interviewed, feel free to contact me at [rondaroaring@hotmail.com]. ❁

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marvin Eastman, Post Manager

WELL, FIRST LET ME APOLOGIZE for Mother Nature and the cancelling of our Pasta Dinner on the 7th of February. We did reschedule, but not in time to make the news.

If all goes well, and Mother Nature cooperates, we will have a packed March.



On March 3, 5-7pm, we will be having our Steak Dinner. The menu includes steak (from a Prime Rib Loin) cooked to order, with either baked potato, french fries, or onion rings, our salad bar, dinner roll, and homemade desserts. Just \$13.

We will follow up with a Pasta Dinner on both March 7 and 21. Dinner includes pasta with your choice of sauce (plain marinara or meat sauce for \$7, or Loaded Sauce for \$8), Chicken Parmesan with a side of pasta for \$8, and the house specialty, Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo for \$8. All dinners include salad bar, garlic bread, and either sausage or meatballs.

On March 16, 5-7pm, we will be having a combination Fish Dinner and Corned Beef and Cabbage Night. The Fish is either fried or baked, with a choice of french fries, or onion rings, salad bar, and homemade desserts for \$13. The Corned Beef and Cabbage, with salad bar and desserts, is \$10.

Save room for the Chicken BBQ on March 25, starting at Noon and going 'til sold out. Arrive early as we usually sell out quickly. Your dinner includes 1/2 chicken, choice of macaroni salad, BBQ beans, or salt potatoes, and a dinner roll for just \$10. 1/2 chickens available for \$6 each.

If you haven't yet, check us out on Facebook for updates and other events at the Legion. Don't forget, as our hearts turn to spring, and you need that special place for a family gathering, business meeting or other get-together check us out. We have the outdoor pavilion, downstairs banquet room and/or the dining room for small parties. Call 607.272.1129. ❀

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE DANBY SENIORS will be on Thursday, March 1, Noon, in the Danby Community Church.

All seniors 55 and over are welcomed to join us for a dish to share luncheon. Linda Howe will be preparing Easter ham that day since our April meeting will fall after Easter.

We thank our February hostesses: Donna Donnelly, Suzanne Walker, and Sharon Siegard. We enjoyed hearing useful information from two speakers,

Brian Wilbur and Beth Harrington, from the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response. ❀

WOMEN'S FICTION

Submitted by Joanne Farbman

THE WOMEN'S FICTION BOOK CLUB of Danby is currently meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. Since it's a pretty new group, this schedule could change.

So, anyone interested in this new group should contact me at 607.280.3069 or [jsfarbman@gmail.com]. We'd love to have you! ❀

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] or 607.273.6530. ❀

DANBY BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Janice Beal

THE DANBY BOOK CLUB meets on the third or fourth Sunday of each month, 4pm, at one of our homes.

We read mostly non-fiction and are very focused on discussing the book. Refreshments are served.

Please join us! New members are always welcome. Questions? Contact me, 607.279.1480 or [beal.janice.e@gmail.com]. ❀

Community Council Winter Youth Programs

The last two months of program have been exciting; youth have been learning to cook and make books at the Danby Community Church, and have begun collecting sap from our sugarbush located atop Autumn Ridge Lane.

I'm constantly impressed by the Danby youths' ability to learn, communicate, and have fun all at the same time.

In the coming weeks, I plan to host a weekend sap-boiling event at our program site. Making maple syrup is a long and arduous process, but we are all excited to see what our trees and our hands are capable of producing.

Nikki Nease and Branden Thorpe, owners of Supernatural Syrup in Spencer, have been really helpful throughout the tapping process, and have given us their original boiling tray to try out. All Danby families will be invited to the event, and are encouraged to bring a dish-to-pass so that we can stay warm and energized during the long boiling process!

I will be coming out with a new program schedule soon. If you are not already on my mailing list, please send me a message and I will add you. Contact me at 585.236.6304, or Email [mas759@cornell.edu] or visit [danbycc.org/YouthPrograms] - Melis Schildkraut ❀

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 funds for January-March activities may still be available).

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]. You can also find applications on the Town Hall bulletin board. ❀

WEST DANBY EGG HUNT

Submitted by Alison Christie, WD Community Association

It's time for our annual egg hunt extravaganza. Come to the Hatch Pavilion in West Danby (at the corner of Short and Brown) on Saturday, March 31, 11am, and say hello to the Easter Bunny, hunt for eggs, see some live bunnies, and choose a book to take home with you.



This year we will have a special focus on birds. Danby's Youth Program Manager, Melis Schildkraut, will be on hand to lead cooperative games for the kids. We will have snacks for all, and delicious freshly brewed coffee, donated Gimmee!, to keep the adults warm while they chat with neighbors and watch the children play.

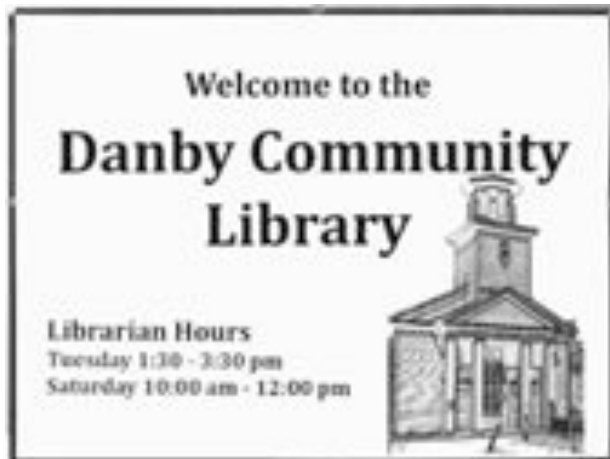
The egg hunt will start promptly at 11 am. Sponsored by the West Danby Community Association with, once again, generous support from Alternatives Federal Credit Union. Our event location is courtesy of Mike McLaughlin. ❀

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST PATRON and volunteer, Mary Jo (Gopi) LaBranch!

New selection of Mystery books will be arriving this month. For those of you who followed the Oscars, we have ordered several of the nominated films: *Call Me By Your Name*, *Darkest Hour*, *Dunkirk*, *Get Out*, *Lady Bird*, *Phantom Thread*, *The Post*, *The Shape of Water*, and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri*. ❀



DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 1 • Thu

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

Mar 3 • Sat

9am 🏛️ Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
5-7pm 🏛️ American Legion • **Steak Dinner**

Mar 4 • Sun

8-11am 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**

Mar 7 • Wed

5-7pm 🏛️ American Legion • **Pasta Dinner**
5pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall • **West Danby Water District**

Mar 9 • Fri

5-7pm 🏛️ Danby Comm Church • **Chicken & Biscuit Dinner**

Mar 11 • Sun

2am 🏛️ Everywhere! • **Clocks *Spring* Forward**
3pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Community Council Concert**
The Grady Girls • Irish Traditional Music

Mar 12 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
7pm 🏛️ Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**

Mar 13 • Tue

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

Mar 15 • Thu

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

Mar 16 • Fri

1:30-5:30pm 🏛️ Danby Comm. Church • **Blood Drive**
5-7pm 🏛️ American Legion
Fish Dinner and Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Mar 17 • Sat

8-11am 🏛️ West Danby Fire Hall • **St.Patty's Day Breakfast**

Mar 19 • Mon

Noon 🏛️ Danby Comm Church • **Hot Soup & Cool Games**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**

Mar 20 • Tue

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

Mar 21 • Wed

5-7pm 🏛️ American Legion • **Pasta Dinner**

Mar 26 • Mon

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

Mar 31 • Sat

11am 🏛️ Hatch Pavilion (corner of Short and Brown)
West Danby Egg Hunt

Apr 5 • Thu

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

Apr 7 • Sat

9am 🏛️ Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
5-7pm 🏛️ American Legion • **Steak Dinner**

Apr 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**

ONGOING EVENTS

Danby Community Library Open 🏛️ Town Hall
Tuesdays, 1-3:30pm, Saturdays, 10am-Noon,
and when the **Open** sign is out!

Food Scrap Recycling 🏛️ Town Hall
Saturdays, 9am-Noon

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

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

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 Drive, off Rt.34/96

🏛️ Danby Community Church • 1859 Danby Road

🏛️ American Legion Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road