

# DANBY AREA NEWS

## CYNTHIA CARSON COLMAN CREATIVE WRITING EXPOSITION

The Danby Community Council invites you to share a story involving people, events, and locations occurring in the town of Danby, past, present, or future! You could share something factual or fiction in the form of a poem, a short essay, or longer story.

This is your opportunity to reflect upon living in our part of Tompkins County. The Exposition honors Cynthia Carson Colman, an avid 50+ year Danbyite and an English teacher at Lehman Alternative Community School from 1974-1993.

Contributions are due by December 31, 2020—that’s a whole year from now.

A digital treasury of the submissions will be finalized in early 2021. Email your questions and submissions to [colman-cwe@danbycc.org].

Although you must identify yourself for administrative purposes (receipt will be acknowledged) you can choose whether to sign your submission. If you prefer to use a pen name or leave the authorship anonymous, we’ll keep your identity private. Editing help is available on request. ✿



## BIRD-IN-HAND STRING BAND IN CONCERT

Submitted by Ted Crane, Community Council

### Scots-Irish Roots Of Old-Time Music

David Deacon chuckles as he admits to his history, “I’m a transplant from Southern Pennsylvania, near the small country town of Bird-In-Hand. It’s sort of, like, near Gettysburg and near Amish country, and nowhere at all like Philadelphia or Pittsburgh.” Some say he grew up, walking from General Store to General Store, and learning fiddle by sitting at the feet of old-timers perched on barrel tops...playing fiddle and banjo tunes.

David moved to Syracuse and, in the nature of how traditional music works, he met Deborah Justice (another PA transplant, but to Ithaca), a banjo, guitar, and hammered dulcimer player.

David and Deb are coming to Danby’s Town Hall on Sunday, January 12, 2020, 3pm, to play for the first concert in the Danby Community Council’s 2020 Vision series. Arrive early to get a seat!

In the 1820s, before the definition of the various genres of music that today make up American folk music, a man got on his horse in rural Pennsylvania and took a trip south to the Carolinas, west to Tennessee, and all the places between. He returned with a wife and with a sketchbook full of stories and tunes. He had the picture, in notes and staves, of what the only-recently-united States of America sounded like. David and Deb have those tunes, and they’ll be playing them for us in Danby.

This concert is supported by funding from the Town of Danby and the COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP of Tompkins County. . As always, the performance is free and is open to the public. And refreshments will be served. ✿

### This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Comm. Council Annual Mtg . . . ③
- W D Comm Assoc Annual Mtg. ③
- Legislator’s Update . . . . . ③
- Danby Home Repair Survey. . . ④
- CAC Wants Members . . . . . ④
- More Tick Info . . . . . ④
- Fire District Legal Notice . . . ④
- Events ’Round Town . . . . . ④
- Supervisor’s Update . . . . . ⑤
- Help Wanted . . . . . ⑤
- Seniors / Mobile Food Pantry . . ⑥
- Community Library. . . . . ⑥
- War of the Pig. . . . . ⑦
- Youth Programs / Youth Grants . ⑧
- Calendar . . . . . ⑩

**January 2020**

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Text submissions:

Send text in the body of an unencoded, plain-text 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 hardcopy graphics.

Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Materials may be accepted later if time allows. Submissions should generally not exceed 250-350 words (one column). 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. ❁

## WEST DANBY COMM. ASSOC. ANNUAL MEETING

Jason Haremza, the new Town of Danby Planner, is the guest speaker during the West Danby Community Association's winter potluck dinner on Saturday, January 18, 5pm, in the West Danby Fire Hall on Sylvan Lane, just south of the hamlet center.

Jason's presentation (see sidebar) will serve as the entry point to a discussion with our own questions and observations of the places we love and call home.

Besides the potluck and the chit-chat, we'll be reprising the year's activities of the WDCA and holding the annual meeting and election of officers for the coming year. ❧

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator

### The Loophole In Tompkins County's Open Meetings Policy

Earlier this year, the County Legislature spent a lot of time over several months discussing an update to our Open Meetings Policy. There is a NY State Open Meetings Law, and you would think it would apply to all meetings where County business was being discussed and voted on. You would be wrong.

I have personal experience with three different County programs, where a group called itself a "subcommittee" and then went ahead and met without public notice or the ability of the public to attend, did not take minutes, and took votes during those meetings. I believe that this is a clear violation of section 103(e) of the NYS Open Meetings Law.

To remedy this situation, I proposed numerous times to simply add the word "subcommittee" to our policy. I lost that vote. I have lost a number of votes, and someday I plan to write an article for this space titled *Legislative Votes I have Lost*. Usually I do not take it personally when I lose a vote. But this time, it did become personal.

—cont'd on page 6 ⇨

## DANBY COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The Community Council is holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, January 9, 7pm, in Danby's Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road.

Everyone who lives in Danby is a member of the Community Council, can attend the meeting, and can participate in the selection of members of the Board of Directors! You can even join the Board, or learn about its meetings and attend to offer your input.

The January 9 meeting will include our annual reports—activities and finances—and the election of new Board members.

Come hear how the DCC used more than \$50,000 of State, County, Town, and grant funding during 2019 to benefit of Danby residents with concerts, educational programs, outdoor activities, youth programs, youth scholarships, and more. The DCC has open board seats and welcomes new participation for 2020. Refreshments served. ❧

### To be, or not to be...

#### Hamlet...no, not *that* Hamlet.

Although hamlets, the communities, would do well to ponder that question as well. The term "hamlet" has its origins in Medieval Anglo-Norman (hamelet) and is related to the Old High German "heim" and Old English "ham", which mean "village" or "home". These words survive in place names such as Mannheim, Trondheim, Cheltenham, and Nottingham.

Through millenia we humans, as social creatures, have tended to gather together in groupings of various sizes. Cities, towns, villages, hamlets...home. A powerful and fundamental concept.

In human communities of all sizes, conditions from social bonds to the economic reason for being have changed. Patterns of transportation, employment, retail, education, and religious observance have altered the way we live our lives.

What can we do to improve our human settlements? Many city neighborhoods and small towns (what we in New York State tend to call "villages") have become desirable and valued places to be. Can hamlets in general do the same? Can Danby's two hamlets do the same?

—Jason Haremza

There Are two kinds of people: Those who can extrapolate from insufficient informaton.

## CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Are you interested in advocating for preservation and protection of natural resources? Are you engaged in agricultural use of the land or a large landowner? Are you a person—young or old—interested in the conservation of your family’s land against the pressures of development? Do you want to see Danby maintain its rural character?

The Danby Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is looking for Danby residents like you to work on issues like these and more. Among our charges is to inventory and map open spaces and wetlands of the town, and develop a list of scenic and/or historic sites that the community decides are important to protect. One of our ways to help protect land is the Danby Conservation Easement (DCE) program. We are searching for people interested in protecting their land from future development. The DCE is a very flexible way for landowners to give up some or all of their development rights in order to protect their land in perpetuity—forever, in a word. A CAC member works with the landowner to help them determine the desired level of protection. Ownership and use remain with the landowner, but easement limitations pass on with sale of the property to future owners.

NY State tax credits on conservation easement protected land can help offset property taxes. Look on the Danby CAC web page for further information. Contact the Town Clerk to submit an application for appointment to the CAC. ❧

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## MORE TICK PROBLEMS

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

A friend of mine in Spencer told me that a relative of hers who lives in Syracuse has become the third person in the state to be diagnosed with *Borrelia miyamotoi*, a tick-borne disease.

You can find out more about this disease at [[healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov)] (click on Immunizations and Infectious, then click on Tickborne and find *Borrelia*) and elsewhere on the Internet. ❧

## 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!*

### Danby Community Council

*Annual Meeting:* Thursday, January 9, 7pm, Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road.

*Deacon & Justice in Concert:* Sunday, January 12, 3pm, Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road.

### West Danby Community Association

*Annual Meeting:* Saturday, January 18, 5pm, West Danby Fire Station, 47 Sylvan Lane.

### Danby Community Church

*Chicken and Biscuit Dinner:* Friday, January 10, 5-7pm. Also Feb.14, Mar.13, and Apr.17.

### The Great Room at Slow Lane

*New Year's Eve Event:* Potluck 6pm, Waltzing 7pm, Contras & Squares: 8pm. Info: 607.273.8678.

*Contra Dancing:* Most Fridays, 8pm. Beginners welcome, no partner needed, dances taught. Also: *Scandinavian music and dance*, Sundays, 2pm, Jan. 19, Feb. 23. Info: 607.273.8678.

### The Gathery

#### Moon Gatherings

Community potluck, nature connection, meditation, songs, story sharing at each New Moon, for all ages. For dates and directions, contact [[honeysharmony@gmail.com](mailto:honeysharmony@gmail.com)]. ❧

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## DANBY FIRE DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Organizational Meeting for the Danby Fire District of the Town of Danby, County of Tompkins, New York, will be held on Tuesday the 14th day of January 2020, at 7:00 P.M. at the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby Road, Town of Danby, County of Tompkins, New York. The regular meeting will follow.

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Danby Fire District.

Sharon Gaden, Secretary  
December 10, 2019

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, Town of Danby Supervisor

Let me begin this, my first message to you as Town Supervisor, with a note of gratitude. Gratitude for your support at the polls, certainly, but also gratitude for the service of those just retired from public office.

Ric Dietrich served a total of 22 years as Town Supervisor, but even that remarkable achievement is merely the most recent phase of a lifetime of public service that included a career with the Ithaca Youth Bureau and volunteer stints with the Danby Fire Department and a variety of Town boards and committees. His ability to calm a crowd of sometimes angry and concerned residents was both impressive and admirable—a hard act to follow, although I will do my best to do so.

Pamela Goddard served 10 years as Town Clerk, succeeding the even longer-serving and much admired Carol Sczepanski under somewhat trying circumstances. She has earned a place among the best in that office and is even now helping to ensure a seamless transition to her successor.

Retiring Town Board member Jack Miller's cooperative spirit and thoughtful input contributed meaningfully to the good working relationship among Town Board members.

My gratitude extends to appreciating the team of public servants that are now in place and will carry the work forward. We are well-positioned to address the challenges before us; doing so is my highest priority.

Danby really is at something of a critical juncture. Unless we take action to invest in our future we are well on our way to being a former place, little more than a collection of roads connecting disconnected residences to Ithaca and beyond. That in itself is a very good thing, and one almost universally cherished. We love the rurality of Danby and the connection to nature that comes with it. Unless we take measures to protect it, though, this too shall pass.

Can we conserve what we most value and transform our hamlets into compellingly attractive places in which to live? Neither of these will happen without a game plan and effort. If you are willing to help, opportunities abound.

A good place to begin is with the potluck dinner and conversation with our new Town Planner Jason Haremza on Saturday January 18 in West Danby (see the separate article). If you would like to offer to help and want to explore how, feel free to contact me, 607.564.7647, 607.227.4440, or [[supervisor@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:supervisor@townofdanbyny.org)]. ❁

### **Help Wanted**

**Qualifications:** an interest in our home town of Danby: its background and what happened here years ago.

**Job Description:** anything to do with Danby's history.

**Hours:** make your own (most of the time).

**Contact** (4 ways to get in touch):

- ❶ Phone Town Hall, 607.277.4788
- ❷ Write, care of Town Historian, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
- ❸ Email [[mbarr@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:mbarr@townofdanbyny.org)]
- ❹ Drop in to the Historian's office in Town Hall on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday afternoons after 1pm. ❁

## Town Office Info

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

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 8:30am-4pm,

Saturday, 10am-Noon. January: Saturday, 10am-1pm

**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, 9am

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

➔ **Legislator's Update, cont'd from page 3—**

Last month, I found out that a County subcommittee was going to release a 93-page report about the pros and cons of logging the County-owned forest. This is an issue that I have followed closely. I sent in a request to see the document that had already been circulated to the subcommittee members. My request was denied.

The job of elected officials would be easier without the Open Meetings Law. That is exactly why we have it, and why it's important to follow the spirit of the law to the extent that we can. There is no legal penalty for violating the Open Meetings Law. The only penalty is that the public knows that their government hasn't been doing everything it can to make sure that residents have the ability, if they so desire, to know what their government is doing. That is why I am writing this particular article.

The County-owned forest logging issue is active right now, although the formal public comment period ends January 3. If you have comments about the forest logging issue after that, please send them directly to me. You can find a lot of information, including links to the County-issued report, at a website I maintain, [tompkinsoldgrowth.org].

You can contact me directly at [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582. ❀

**DANBY SENIORS UPDATE**

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday (always the first Thursday of the month), January 2, Noon, in the Danby Community Church for a dish to share lunch.

We enjoyed a lovely holiday buffet luncheon in the currently-being-renovated Stella's Barn during December. Twelve (free) raffle winners took home poinsettias. ❀

**SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK**

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Columnist

**P**LEASE REMEMBER TO SEND your stories to me for the Southern Tompkins Town Talk column that appears every other week 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 COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

*Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.* —Mason Cooley

As the cold weather is upon us, it's always nice to snuggle up with a good book or to listen to one. We just received a donation of Books On CD (BOCD) and they are in excellent condition.

**New purchases include:**

Biography: *The Secret of My Life* by Caitlyn Jenner

Non-Fiction: *Just Add Hormones* by Matt Kailey

Fiction: *Blue Moon* by Lee Child (a Jack Reacher novel)

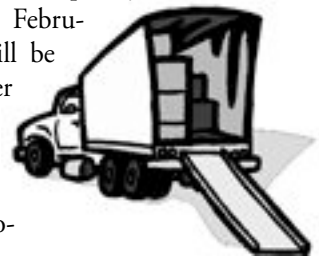
Picture Books: *Sisters First* by Jenna Bush Hager ❀



**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

Reminder: There will be no mobile pantry truck here in Danby during January and February. The next distribution will be on Monday, March 23. Other 2020 dates are: April 27, none in May (holiday), June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 25, November 23, and December 28.



Folks can access the Food Bank website [foodbankst.org] to find available food distribution dates and locations. Anyone needing food is welcome to come to mobile pantries.

The Danby Food Pantry, for Danby residents, held inside the Danby Community Church, is always on the third Thursday of each month. January 16 is the next date, 3-6pm.

For help beyond food (to connect to community services), dial 2-1-1 or 877.211.8667. ❀

## Community Council Youth Programs

I'm happy to announce that I will be sticking around as Danby's youth program manager in the new year! We've had a lot of fun this fall: exploring Dotson Park, visiting the Hangar Theater to see /A Christmas Carol/, and cooking delicious food at the Danby Church.

I believe strongly in the importance of these programs, as they give youth the unique opportunity to learn tangible skills within the comfort of their own community. I'm looking forward to furthering the relationships that I've already developed in this community, as well as forming new ones.

Here is a listing of upcoming programs. More plans are in the works; please visit [[danbycc.org/YouthPrograms](http://danbycc.org/YouthPrograms)] or contact me, 585.236.6304 or [[mas759@cornell.edu](mailto:mas759@cornell.edu)], for the most up-to-date program schedules.

—Melis Schildkraut

### Danby Family Field Trip

Rockwell Museum & Corning Glass Museum  
Saturday, January 4, 2020, 9am-5pm

Join other Danby families for a free field trip to visit the Rockwell Museum and the Corning Museum of Glass. The bus leaves from the Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Road, at 9am and returns at 5pm. All families with school-aged kids residing within the Town of Danby are invited to participate. Tickets, transportation, lunch, and snacks will be provided.

If you would like to participate, please contact Melis ASAP.

### Herbal Concoctions

Friday, January 3, 11am-4pm  
Cooperative Extension, Willow Avenue, Ithaca

Experienced educator and herbalist, Nikki Nease, will join us for a day of herbal concoction and exploration. We will be focusing on winter wellness and will explore herbs that assist the body with colds and immunity. Youth will learn about the properties of elderberry, lemon balm, rosemary, oregano, sage, hibiscus, honey, and water. They will experiment with tea mixes, learn about the ability of herbal steams to relieve colds, and make a syrup out of elderberry, honey, and other herbs.

### Traditional Woodcarving - Grade 6-7-8

Tuesdays, January 7-February 11, 3:30-5:30pm  
Boynton Middle School

Learn how to safely use hand tools to carve objects out of wood! We will practice basic whittling skills, carving into basswood blocks. By the end of the program, youth will create a spoon and a miniature canoe. ❄️



### GIRL SCOUT TROOP FORMING!

Submitted by Donna Clark

Do you want to know more about Girl Scouts? We are offering four exciting evenings with a /Frozen/ theme. Learn how to make your own snow, build a hibernation hut, make a ski jump, or have an indoor snowball "fight". Register now at [[gsnypenn.org/join](http://gsnypenn.org/join)].

We will meet on Wednesdays, January 8-29, 6:15-7:30pm in the Enfield Elementary Cafeteria, 20 Enfield Main Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Parents are encouraged to attend and learn more about the Girl Scout leadership program. Questions? Contact Community Recruitment Manager Donna Clark, 315.698.9400 x2312 or [[dclark@gsnypenn.org](mailto:dclark@gsnypenn.org)]. ❄️

### YOUTH GRANTS

Submitted by Susan Franklin, DCC Youth Grant Coordinator

**D**O 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 was December 15 for programs beginning (or with payment deadlines) in January, February, and March, but it's seldom too late to apply.

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. ❄️

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Jan 2 • Thu  
8:30am 🏠 Town Hall • Tax Payments Begin  
Noon 🏠 Community Church • Seniors  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Danby Community Council Mtg
- Jan 4 • Sat  
9am 🏠 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting
- Jan 6 • Mon  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting
- Jan 9 • Thu  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • DCC Annual Meeting
- Jan 10 • Fri  
5pm 🏠 Community Church • Chicken & Biscuit Dinner
- Jan 12 • Sun  
3pm 🏠 Town Hall • Community Council Concert  
Bird-In-Hand String Band
- Jan 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
- Jan 14 • Tue  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg
- Jan 16 • Thu  
3-6pm 🏠 Danby Comm. Church • Food Pantry  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Planning Board Meeting
- Jan 18 • Sat  
5pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Station  
WDCA Annual Meeting • Jason Haremza Speaks!
- Jan 20 • Mon  
Noon 🏠 Danby Comm. Church • NO Mobile Food Truck
- Jan 21 • Tue  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting
- Jan 31 • Fri  
4pm 🏠 Town Hall  
Last Day to pay Taxes without penalty (postmark accepted)

- Feb 1 • Sat  
9am 🏠 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting
- Feb 3 • Mon  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting
- Feb 5 • Wed  
5pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • WD Water District Meeting
- Feb 6 • Thu  
Noon 🏠 Community Church • Seniors  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Danby Community Council Mtg
- Feb 10 • 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 11 • Tue  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg

### ONGOING EVENTS

- Danby Community Library 🏠 Town Hall  
Open whenever Town Hall is open!  
Librarian on duty when the Open flag 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