

DANBY AREA NEWS

GUITARS COMING TO DANBY

Submitted by Katharine Hunter, Community Council

Classical Guitar, stemming from even earlier instruments like the baroque guitar and lute, has been around for centuries. Also known as a *Spanish guitar*, a classical guitar has nylon strings with a warm, mellow tone.

The Classical Guitar and its musical repertoire is quite different from other “classical” instruments. It is extremely effective as a solo instrument, and can deliver multiple melodies and harmonies simultaneously.

On Sunday, April 19, 3pm, in Danby’s Town Hall, you can hear three local guitarists showcasing some wonderful examples of Classical Guitar.

Dave Richman studied Music and Classical Guitar at SUNY Oneonta. He plays many styles—bluegrass, rock/blues, and jazz. His quest on classical guitar is simply for the love of the music.

Matthew Ocone studied at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. In addition to his solo guitar work, he has visited Danby with puppeteer Lily Silly. Read about his various musical projects and his passion for Hippopotami at his web site, [\[matthewocone.com\]](http://matthewocone.com).

Isaac Sharp also studied at Eastman and earned a Masters degree from the Manhattan School of Music. Isaac is currently the classical guitar instructor at Cornell University. He divides his time between various musical, artistic, poetical and agricultural activities. [\[isaacsharp.art\]](http://isaacsharp.art)

What with the rapidly changing landscape of health safety, this event may well be cancelled. Stay tuned. Sign up for updates and other DCC information at [\[programs@danbycc.org\]](mailto:programs@danbycc.org). ❁

WHAT IS THE REC PARTNERSHIP?

Submitted by Marnie Kirchgessner

The Recreation Partnership (RP) helps bring recreation programs to your children. All families who live in Danby are members of the RP and receive a discounted fee, and there are scholarships for families who qualify!

The Youth Bureau provides the programs and offers: theatre; pottery; art; sport leagues and lessons; martial arts, summer camps, and more. Look for the IPLAYbook in your child’s backpack, your school office, at Town Hall, the Tompkins County Public Library and other community locations or go to [\[iybrec.org\]](http://iybrec.org) to learn more about programs. Click on 2020 spring programs to view our current on-line catalogue that includes prices, dates and more details.

On-line registration is simple. Programs in the booklet are open to everyone, but those labeled “RP” offer you a discount as a member of the RP.

What with school closings, it’d be best to check the web site for information about the programs! ❁

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HEATSMART HEATS HOT

Submitted by Tom Seaney

In order to help local residents learn about the newest home heating technology and, in turn, connect them with qualified installers, HeatSmart is offering new online videos and webinars that explain the advantages of upgrading to a more efficient system.

When you go to [\[solartompkins.org\]](http://solartompkins.org), you’ll find videos, fact sheets and a webinar schedule all designed to help update your knowledge of the latest in heating and cooling systems. And we have put together a list of the various incentives and grants that make the conversion less expensive.

—cont’d on page 3 ➡

April 2020

Layout: Ted Crane

Count-n-Label Crew:

Diana Van de Bogart; Ted and Pamela; Katharine Hunter; Julie and her family; others.

Post Office Crew:

Julie, Katharine, and Ted

To contribute:

Danby Area News

PO Box 6886

Ithaca, NY 14851-6886

Phone: 607.273.8678

Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

Text submissions:

Send text in the body of an 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 15th 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. ❁

NO BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED

Submitted by Steven Cortright, Code Officer

As promised, here is a list of things that do not require a building permit:

- ① construction or installation of one story detached structures associated with one and two family dwellings or multiple family dwellings (townhouses) that are used for tool and storage sheds, playhouses or similar uses, provided the gross floor area does not exceed 144 square feet
- ② installation of swings and other playground equipment associated with one and two family dwellings and multiple single family dwellings (townhouses)
- ③ installation of swimming pools associated with one and two family dwellings and multiple single family dwellings (townhouses), where such pools are designed for a water depth of less than 24 inches and are installed entirely above ground
- ④ installation of fences that are not part of a pool enclosure
- ⑤ construction of retaining wall unless such walls support a surcharge or impound Class I, II or IIIA liquids
- ⑥ construction of temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets and scenery
- ⑦ installation of window awnings supported by an exterior wall of a one and two family dwelling or multiple single family dwellings (townhouses)
- ⑧ installation of partitions or movable case work less than 5'-9" in height
- ⑨ painting, wallpapering, tiling, carpeting, or other similar finish work
- ⑩ installation of portable electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation or cooling equipment or appliances
- ⑪ replacement of any equipment, provided the replacement does not alter the equipment's listing or render it inconsistent with the original equipment's specifications
- ⑫ repairs, provided that the repairs do not involve:
 - (a) the removal or cutting away of a load bearing wall, partition, or portion thereof or of any structural beam or load bearing component
 - (b) the removal or change of any required means of egress, or rearrangement of parts of a structure in a manner that affects egress
 - (c) the enlargement, alteration, replacement or relocation of any building system
 - (d) the removal from service of all or part of a fire protection system for any period of time

As always if you have any questions please contact the Code Enforcement Office, 607.277.0799 or [code@townofdanbyny.org]. ❄

STREAM BUFFER PLANTINGS

Submitted by Jason Haremza

Have you heard of the *Buffer in a Bag*? If you own property with 50 feet or more of land along a stream or waterbody, and would like to plant or improve a riparian buffer, this is for you!

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation *Trees for Tribs* Program is offering a free bag of bare-root tree and shrub seedlings to enhance streamside areas on the property of private landowners in New York. You can apply online, [dec.ny.gov/animals/77710.html], or by mail before April 10, 2020 to receive your free materials.

Stream buffers provide important natural functions that protect water quality in streams including erosion prevention and filtration of nutrients and sediment from runoff. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to improve the health of a stream near you!

Apply and learn more about the program by contacting [treesfortribs@dec.ny.gov] or 518.402.9405. ❄

➤ Heat Smart, cont'd from front page—

If your present system is older and especially if you are heating with oil, propane or electricity this is a good time to take action. Enroll now with us and get a free, no obligation home assessment. You could be more comfortable, cut your energy use and help the planet all at the same time. ❄

Town Office Info

Town Clerk • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

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

Saturday, 10am-Noon.

Highway Department • [highway@townofdanbyny.org]

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

Planning Office • [planner@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.2400 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Thu, 9am-5:30pm

Appointments encouraged (or call or Email ahead). **ONLINE, EMAIL, OR 607.592.0417**

Code Enforcement Office • [code@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm

Town Court • [courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031 • Tue, 9am **CLOSED**

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, Town of Danby Supervisor

Unprecedented. That one word pretty much describes our current situation, does it not? Yesterday, March 17, we closed the Town offices, hitting the “pause” button while we reposition ourselves to operate in a novel framework where personal interaction needs to be at arm’s length (or greater!). How do we provide the services that you expect from your government safely? By the time you read this I am confident that we will have it worked out and have a continuity of operations plan in place. Some things are already clear. Most, if not all, Town meetings will be held by video or audio conference. You will be able to attend by signing in using links in the calendar of events on the Town web site [townofdanby.org]. The Town Court is shut down for some time, with important matters centralized in a single court in Ithaca. We will have posted on the web site instructions for how to get a license or apply for a building permit or subdivision without doing so in person. We will have in place a way to pay for services not in person. The web site is the go-to place for all of this and more. If you want information sent to you directly as it appears on the “news” area of the site, sign up for the Email list—also on the web site!

While a lot of what we were about before COVID-19 showed up has slowed down while we devote the necessary energy to change the way we operate, some things did take place and much is ongoing. The results of the housing needs assessment were shared with the public at a meeting on February 24. Approximately 16 percent of Danby households have incomes below the federal poverty level. 74 percent of renters and 25 percent of homeowners are “cost burdened”, meaning that they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. Cost burdened households are apt to be challenged in paying to maintain their homes, and the survey data documented the extent of that problem. 67 percent of houses assessed at less than \$150,000 were rated as either moderately or severely substandard. Only 14 homes are in such bad shape that they were rated “dilapidated”, however. Those are houses where the cost of repair is so high that replacement is cheaper (which doesn’t mean that they cannot be repaired, only that paying someone else to do it would cost more than paying someone else to replace them). We have now documented a significant need for assistance to help homeowners care for their houses. The next step will be to strategize how to help. Applying for housing assistance grants will certainly be one way. The summary as well as the complete report are on the web site (search “Community Housing Needs Assessment”).

We are looking at options to extend the South Hill Recreation Way. We collaborated with the other towns in seeking NY state grant funding to assess the cost of doing so, but that grant was not awarded to us. The four towns (Ithaca, Dryden, Caroline, and Danby) have now applied for tourism grant funding to cover at least part of the needed cost assessment. We still have not arrived at a satisfactory agreement with NYSEG (who owns the property), but the feeling is that these two matters can proceed in parallel.

The Town Board addressed the question of whether to undertake a harvest of marketable Ash trees on the Water District property in West Danby. The Conservation Advisory Council had recommended that such an action be considered in light of the likely death of these trees from the Emerald Ash Borer. Previous guidance from the Town Board had been that there should be no timber harvest on this property. In response to the CAC’s recommendation, the Town Board asked the CAC to conduct an assessment of the options and their environmental impact (that report is on the Town web site). New to the discussion was the possibility of treating some or all of the trees to protect them. The report goes into all the considerations in depth and demonstrates what knowledgeable volunteers can accomplish. In the end, the Town Board left previous guidance in place—there will be no harvest of Ash. Neither will we move to protect the trees.

On a more positive note, the Board authorized planting of a tree donated to commemorate Ric Dietrich’s service to the Town. The tree, a dogwood, was planted on the south lawn of the Town Hall on Sunday, March 15. This was intended to supplement the gathering in Ric’s honor at the Fire Hall but that event was postponed because of COVID-19. It is a nice tree, which David Mastroberti masterfully planted with a little ceremonial help.

The Town Board also voted to change its meeting schedule. This was in response to a staff initiative. It was pointed out that the two monthly Board meetings just a week apart made it hard to prepare well for the second meeting, including timely posting of the agenda. A couple of week’s space would even out the work. There was reluctance on the part of the board, though, because evenly spaced meetings would make it hard to travel without missing meetings. We compromised. The new schedule will be the second Monday and the Wednesday nine days following. That new schedule will

—continued on page 6 ➞

HISTORY, VOTING, AND RESEARCH COMPETITIONS, OH, MY

Submitted by M.A. Barr, Town Historian

We often take the right to vote for granted as a part of our school, community, state and national activities. A hundred years ago it was a different story for more than half of American citizens: no woman and no person of color could vote. Like the stripes in our nation's flag, the history of voting in America cuts a path across the length of our years as a republic.

America's history of voting might be a good subject for the Student Research Awards competition. Will some of Danby's young people take on this challenge? Pull out your research tools: smart phone, tablet, computer, and see what ideas you can come up with. (In the old days the tools were the library, books, paper and pencil and they are still good tools today.)

There is a Student Research Awards poster on the bulletin board in Town Hall with details for the project. Or go to [nysarchivetrust.org] and click on "education." And don't let the term "research" put you off. It is really a creative project which can take the form of a web site, a PowerPoint presentation, an exhibit, a performance (musical or otherwise) and so on.

You can get a copy of the poster from me at Town Hall. Contact me at 607.277.4788 or [docsmanager@townofdanbyny.org] or come in to the Historian's office on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday afternoon, 1-4pm.

Maybe someone can tell me why in the world the women in the Student Research Awards poster are sporting those crazy hats. ❧



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

Classical Guitars: Sunday, April 19, 3pm, Danby Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road. Concert w/ three guitarists. *Stay tuned for cancellations!*

Danby Community Church

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner: Friday, April 17, 5-7pm. *Stay tuned for cancellations!*

The Great Room at Slow Lane

Contra Dancing: Most Fridays, 8pm. Beginners welcome, no partner needed, dances taught. Also: *Scandinavian music and dance*, Sunday, 2pm, May 3. Info: 607.273.8678. *Stay tuned for cancellations!*

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]. ❧

W.D. WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak

We will schedule distribution line flushing for May and October this year. During the last two years it was still too cold in April.

The District now has a full slate of commissioners, none of whom are operators. Those commissioners are: Bruce Richards, chair; Marrell

Cortright, Carl Seamon, Anna Finley, and Skip Fairchild. Scott Wendt and Tod Sukontarak are the operators and Marge Seamon is our billing person.

The next district meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 5pm, in the ~~Water~~ Danby Fire Station conference room. ❧



PLANNING OFFICE...ONLINE

Submitted by Jason Haremza, Town Planner

As with much of life, the Planning Office will be moving online for a period of time. Planning Board and BZA meetings will likely take place through video conferencing.

We will make every effort to ensure public access. But we would also ask for your understanding as circumstances change rapidly, new procedures are put into place, and folks are brought up to speed.

For upcoming meetings, comments submitted in writing are very strongly encouraged. For more information and updates, please check the Town web site, [townofdanbyny.org] (click on Departments then Planning and Zoning).

You can contact me at [planner@townofdanbyny.org] or directly, at home, 607.592.0417. Thank you all and take care. ❀

PLAYGROUND PLANNING POSTPONED

Submitted by Danby Community Park Association

Out of an abundance of caution, the DCPA cancelled its Playground Planning meeting, originally scheduled for March 21. It will be rescheduled the discussion for a time in the future, and announced to the public.

Please stay well, and consider a walk in the open air of Dotson Park to help you get through this challenging time! [dotsonpark.org] ❀

MOWING PROPOSALS SOUGHT

Submitted by Sharon Gaden, Secretary, Danby Fire District

The Danby Fire District is soliciting proposals for lawn mowing at the Danby and West Danby Fire Stations for the 2020 season. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal should contact the Danby Fire District, 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, or call 607.319.4721, for a list of requirements.

Proposals will be considered during the April 14, 7pm, Danby Fire District meeting in the Danby Fire Station. ❀

➔ *Supervisor's Update, cont'd from page 4*

begin in May, with the meetings being on the 11th and 20th, on the web. To participate, sign up on the web site calendar. We will be using Zoom, which allows you to take part by phone as well as computer.

Moving to videoconferencing for all our meetings will be a bit challenging for the Planning Group, but it will be the way forward for it as well. Two in-person meetings were held, one in February and the other in early March. We considered whether to make interim changes to our laws pending the execution of the much bigger project of redoing all of our planning documents, but decided against doing so at this time. Instead, we will launch into the process with the current framework left in place. We were fortunate to be able to hold these important early meetings before the need for social distancing became apparent; it would have been very difficult, IMHO, to feel each other out as we did were it a videoconference. Moving forward from here, though, looks quite possible.

Four working groups were created. One will focus on tax policy. That emerged from discussion at the first meeting where several pointed out that rising assessments on undeveloped land are making it harder and

harder to resist selling. What can be done to provide some relief? A second group will work on publicizing the work and facilitating public engagement with it. A third will identify priority conservation areas in the Town, augmenting the CAC members already embarking on that. The fourth working group will look at where and how to develop the hamlets and potentially other relatively dense housing clusters (like ecovillages). Currently, there are 31 signed up to either actively participate in the work of the Planning Group or be a part of the Email contact list. Anyone may join at any time. If you would like to join any of the groups described above, a contact person will be indicated for each on the Planning Group page of the web site. You can also send me your Email address and I will add you to the list so you can attend and participate in the full group E-meeting on April 7, 7pm. Fuller information on what the Planning Group is about is—you guessed it—on the Town's web site.

Feel free to contact me about any of this and anything else, 607.564.7647, 607.227-4440, or [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org]. Spring is happening. Take time to relish it. ❀



In Appreciation of RIC DIETRICH and his lengthy service to the Town of Danby • March 15, 2020



HOUSING AGE IN DANBY

Submitted by Ted Crane

Recognize the map below? You can almost see the roads, eh? Each dot represents one property/home in Danby. Using data from the Tompkins County Assessment Department, the dots are colored by the age of the home:

- darkest, 1988-2019, 32 years, 444 properties
- dark gray, 1955-1987, 33 years, 438 properties
- light gray, 1915-1954, 40 years, 136 properties
- lightest, 1800-1910, 111 years, 223 properties

There's so many insights to be had from one picture; there isn't room to list them all here. For example: oldest housing follows the main roads; newest, most tightly dense housing in northern Danby; housing growing much faster since 1950-ish.

This data was independently prepared for presentation to Danby's Town Board and Planning Boards. If you're interested in seeing the original, interactive, online versions, please Email me, [danbynews@tedcrane.com]. ☘



DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

How better to weather this coronavirus "storm" than by tucking in at home with a good book or two and some DVDs. The outdoor book drop allows for the return of your books without coming into contact with anyone. Our allotment of books from TCPL will be suspended while they remain closed.

New purchases:

Books on CD

- *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz
- *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson
- *Sontag* by Benjamin Moses
- *Quichotte* by Salman Rushdie
- *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett
- *Coming Through the Slaughter* by Michael Ondaatje
- *The Bone and Sinew of the Land* by Anna-Lisa Cox

Adult Fiction:

- *The King's Justice* by Susan Elia MacNeal ☘



I tried everything to get to sleep last night.

Well, everything except closing the book and putting it on the nightstand.

Let's not get too crazy.

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 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. ☘

UNIQUE HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

Submitted by White Hawk Ecovillage

White Hawk Ecovillage and Earth Arts Ithaca are partnering in a new nature and arts based program developed by Earth Arts staff Sophia Hutnik and Jesse Worden, held on White Hawk's 120 acres. The program meets once a week and, "seeks to cultivate...feelings of place and connectivity in the participants." It is open to all children ages 4.5-8 years old who are looking for innovative, fun, and child-led group activities.

"What a rich and fulfilling opportunity for kids to learn about this land, and gather in community around celebrating this beautiful place," said Kartik Sribarra, a White Hawk resident and parent of two participants. "There's a special joy in my kids being able to learn and experience this land so deeply--not to mention the convenience of an on-site program!"

Children spend sessions outside observing animals and plants, developing meditative practices and relaxation techniques, tracking animals, building shelters from snow and other natural materials, wildcrafting, and cooking food and teas over campfires.

White Hawk Ecovillage is a vibrant, welcoming community integrating ecologically sound principles and community sufficiency. When completed, White Hawk will include thirty privately owned homes around a common recreation area.

Ten homes are completed, with more under construction and in the planning stage. The land boasts forests, streams, walking trails and ponds, and is used by community members for gardening, farming and permaculture projects, bee keeping, maple tapping, animal husbandry and more.

The program's winter session recently wrapped up, with a six-week spring session scheduled to begin April 17. Email Sophia at [shutnik213@gmail.com] for more information.

White Hawk is actively seeking new households to join as members. The community holds diversity, equity and inclusion as core values, and as such, especially seeks households that add to the diversity represented by existing members. To learn more about White Hawk Ecovillage or to get in touch and explore joining the community, visit [whitehawkecovillage.org]. ❧



NIGHTMARE IN WEST DANBY

Submitted by Bill and Veery Evans

One day in 2018, after very heavy rain had soaked the region, we were headed to Bald Hill in Danby from West Hill in Ithaca. To avoid Ithaca traffic, we cut down Route 13A, past the Calvary cemetery near the junction of Bostwick Road to the Route 13 intersection, with its Tutelo traces, then southwestward past Robert Treman State Park to Route 34, and southward on 34 a mile or so to Blakeslee Hill Road. But as we turned to drive up Blakeslee Hill, we noticed a jack-knifed tractor-trailer at the first curve and that the road was impassable. We turned around in the little parking lot for Cayuga Inlet fishing and continued southward with the idea of taking Station Road. As we started up Station and crossed the railroad tracks, in the center of the road was an orange *Road Closed* sign, presumably due to a washout ahead.

Now this was becoming an unusual trip, and we joked it was turning into a nightmare in West Danby. We were too far south of Ithaca to drive all the way back to Sandbank Road, so we continued south to Hillview Road, past the old landfill, past Myers' Gardens and Point O'Rocks, then began the circuitous 4-mile route toward home up Michigan Hollow Road. Transit of this four-lane-ish unpaved road through the Danby State Forest normally takes less than 10 minutes, but it was a mess with all the rain; seemingly a foot deep in mud, our car skidded and slogged along. Finally, we made it to 96B and our home on Bald Hill Road. The whole trip from West Hill, which usually takes about 20 minutes, took more than an hour.

Over the next year, every time we passed through West Danby the memory of our errant road trip came up and at some point, sparked the idea of writing this story—with a hair of hyperbole in the title. ❧

This is a portion of a story contributed to Danby's 2020 Cynthia Colman Creative Writing Exposition. Anyone can share a written story involving life in Danby—past, present, or future, factual or fiction, poem or essay. Email questions and submissions to [colman-cwe@danbycc.org].

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

Danby Seniors will not meet in April. We've decided to be cautious in these upcoming weeks. Even though we're not a huge crowd, we are in close proximity when we're together.

We thank our March hosts: Sharon and Rollie Boda, assisted by Margie VanDeMark and Bill and Judy Cuyle. Three raffle winners won gift cards to Aldi's and we all very much enjoyed hearing Ted Davenport on the harp! He played a variety of music including patriotic songs, Elvis, contemporary, and favorite hymns, and all were delightful.

Cindy Cerrache will be collecting new and gently used shoes to benefit the Honor Flight program. They can be brought to the next Danby Seniors meeting. ❧

WHAT SHAME LOOKS LIKE

Submitted by Ted Crane

Dotson Park is a precious resource to all Danby residents. A lot of love (and effort) from Danby's Community Park Association goes into making it a quiet, natural, and pleasant place for the public to enjoy.

Some among us seem to have a different view of rural beauty. They've dumped couches and garbage and now, in March, this pile of household trash.

This is beyond disrespect and selfishness.

If you see someone dumping, please record the license plate and report it to the police and the DCPA. If you're too late (it's already there), notify the DCPA at [dotsonpark@gmail.com]. ❧



AROUND THE VIRTUAL FIRE

Submitted by McCadden

With Spring's arrival, we were pretty excited to start expanding beyond Moon Gatherings, to bring Community Story Nights and Song Circles to Danby.

Apparently...now is the moment to gather via Internet, so here's the for-the-time-being we're having gatherings around the virtual fire.

While staying put, at home in Danby, *Honey Sweet Harmony* will facilitate ancestral traditions like Community Story Nights, Community Sing Alongs, and Moon Phase Gatherings, plus other group phone/video calls to help adults and kids connect to our own best selves, our community, and the natural world.

Please Email [honeysharmony@gmail.com] to request event details including specific dates, times, and descriptions.

Wishing you and your two- and four-legged families (and any feathers, scales, etc.) good health and abundant community support! ❧

RURAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Submitted by Sharon Boda

The Danby Rural Cemetery Association annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020, 9am in the Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Road. Please note the schedule change from the usual June date.

All lot owners, relatives and other interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend. For further information, call me at 607.273.8241. ❧

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

The Mobile Food Pantry will take place on Monday, April 27, Noon, at the Danby Community Church for anyone needing food. The truck comes from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and brings many wholesome food items.



Please bring your own bags/boxes. ❧

Community Council Youth Programs

I'm writing this to you in mid-March, and there's no way of knowing what the coming weeks may hold. As the current situation stands, both Ithaca Schools and the Danby Youth Programs will be out of session until at least April 12. I'm currently working on setting up programs that can work remotely via Zoom.

Although things have come to a halt, the first few weeks of my March/April programs were great. Participants in Knit Wits made knitting needles and began their first projects; the Maple Mania group toured Supernatural Syrup in Spencer and set up a tubing system at our Danby location; the Iron Chefs have created beautiful renditions of stuffed sweet potatoes, fried rice, and sushi.

If you'd like to receive updates about Danby Youth Programs, please contact [youthprograms@danbycc.org] and to be added to the mailing list.

Please visit [danbycc.org/YouthPrograms] or contact me, 585.236.6304 or [mas759@cornell.edu], for the most up-to-date program schedules.

—Melis Schildkraut ❀



Caitlin with her first knitting project:
a BooBoo Bunny photo by Melis Schildkraut

Danby Youth Flyer

EGG HUNT CANCELLED

Submitted by the West Danby Community Association

We're canceling our annual egg hunt this year due to the uncertainty of our community's ability to gather safely during this time of "social distancing" due to the Coronavirus.

We hope you have a great egg hunt at your own homes nonetheless. We look forward to the return of spring to our hamlet, and we'll see you at next year's hunt...hippity hop! ❀

DONATE DOLLARS...FOR FREE

Submitted by Ted Crane

Are you house-bound? Are you ordering *even more* from Amazon? Take advantage of the AmazonSmile program to benefit Danby's community organizations.

It costs you nothing beyond the minutes required to sign up. You visit [smile.amazon.com], search for a local organization (enter "Danby" in the search box), select one...and done! Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases when you shop.

You do have to remember to start your Amazon purchase at AmazonSmile but, once there, everything works as you already expect.

You're not limited to my favorites, the Danby Community Council and the Danby Community Park Association...but it sure is nice to use this free program to support in-town groups and their free concerts, informational programs, festivals, and more. ❀

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 was March 15 for programs beginning (or with payment deadlines) in April, May, and June, 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]. You can also find applications on the Town Hall bulletin board. ❀

Apr 2020

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Apr 1 • Wed

Day of the Fool

5pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • WD Water District ~~CANCELED~~

Apr 2 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Community Church • ~~CANCELED~~ Seniors

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Danby Community Council Mtg

Apr 4 • Sat

9am 🏠 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Apr 6 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting ~~ONLINE~~

Apr 7 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Planning Group Meeting ~~ONLINE~~

Apr 13 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting ~~ONLINE~~

7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire Dept't Meeting

7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • WD Fire Dept't Meeting

Apr 14 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Conservation Advisory Council Meeting ~~ONLINE~~

Apr 16 • Thu

3-6pm 🏠 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry

Apr 17 • Fri

5pm 🏠 Community Church • Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

Apr 19 • Sun

3pm 🏠 Town Hall • Concert: Classical Guitars ~~STAY TUNED~~

Apr 21 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Planning Board Meeting ~~ONLINE~~

Apr 25 • Sat

9am 🏠 Danby Comm. Church • Rural Cemetery Mtg.

Apr 27 • Mon

Noon 🏠 Danby Comm. Church • Mobile Food Truck ~~STAY TUNED~~

May 7 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Community Church • Seniors

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Danby Community Council Mtg

May 9 • Sat

9am 🏠 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

May 11 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire Dept't Meeting

7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • WD Fire Dept't Meeting

May 12 • Tue

7:30pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg

May 20 • Wed

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting

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

🏠 American Legion Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road