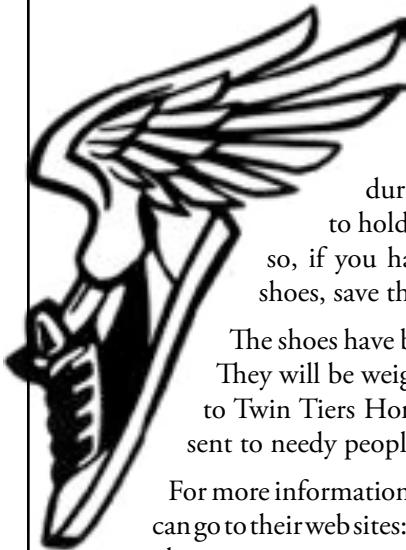


DANBY AREA NEWS

THANKS FOR THE SHOES!

Submitted by Cindy Cerrache, Shoe Drive Coordinator

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE who donated shoes to help raise money for the Twin Tiers Honor Flight.



We received 300 pairs of gently worn or new shoes from the Danby Community and a total of 131 bags of 25 pairs of shoes during this shoe drive. We plan to hold another shoe drive next year so, if you have any gently worn or new shoes, save them for the next collection.

The shoes have been picked up by *funds2orgs*. They will be weighed and a check will be sent to Twin Tiers Honor Flight. The shoes will be sent to needy people around the world.

For more information about the organizations, you can go to their web sites: [twintiershonorflight.org] and [funds2orgs.com].

If you know a veteran who would like to go to Washington, DC, encourage them to sign up through the web site. If you would like to be a Guardian for a veteran on a trip, you can sign up through the web site too.

Again, thank you for your support of worthy organization! ❀

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- DVFC Fundraiser ③
- Town Meetings and Info ③
- Fire District Update ④
- Supervisor's Update ④
- WD Water District Update ⑤
- The Land Of Plenty ⑤
- Legislature Update. ⑥
- CAC Update ⑦
- Community Library. ⑧
- Seniors ⑧
- Mobile Food Pantry. ⑧
- Youth Grants ⑧
- Danby Animal Stories ⑧
- The Youth Flyer ⑨
- Calendar ⑩

BE A WITNESS TO HISTORY

Submitted by M.A. Barr, Danby Town Historian

THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HISTORIANS of New York State is documenting this COVID-19 pandemic and is inviting individual experiences. What has this time been like for you?

If interested in being, "a witness to history," contact me, [mbarr@townofdanbynny.org], or just an Email describing your COVID-19 experiences in words and/or photos. I will be sending a report to the State Historians Association, chronicling how Danby is dealing with the pandemic. Words from individual people make our story real.

Here are samples of the questions the State Historians are asking. Contact me for the complete list.

- What were your thoughts when the first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in the United States?
- Your thoughts when the first case was diagnosed in New York State?
- Did you start stockpiling groceries and toilet paper? Did you start washing your hands, using sanitizer and social distancing?
- How have things changed for you and/or your family? Do you need to do schoolwork from home? How are you dealing with that?

Some people have started journals. I started a *Day One to Day X* (X is a number to be filled in when the pandemic ends). Words like "tedious" (regarding masks and keeping safe) appear throughout my scrawls.

COVID-19 has given everyone challenges, big and small. The small changes add up and underscore societies shift to a, "new normal." I had supper with three friends at Brookton's Market the evening additional picnic tables were set up to accommodate dining outdoors: a small thing when looking at just one change at one restaurant, but large in the bigger picture of restaurants across the country making adjustments in order to serve people and stay open.

All these "little" things together make up the whole picture of the pandemic. Tell me what you have witnessed about this pandemic and be part of the big picture of recorded history. ❀

September 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.

The Danby Area News (DAN) is a publication of the Danby Community Council (DCC) produced by contract with the Town of Danby. All statements are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, sponsors, the DCC and its officers, or officials and employees of the town of Danby. All works remain © of the contributors. Please provide a SASE if you wish to have materials returned. The DAN and DCC are not responsible for typographic or other errors.

We would like to thank these sponsors for their help:

PATRON:

ARNOLD PRINTING CORP • 604 West Green Street • 607.272.7800

High Quality Printing Services • Recycled papers / Soy based inks

Complete Digital pre-press • Family owned and operated

SUPPORTERS:

COME HOME TO TENWOOD LODGE

Fabulous • Spacious • Unique
Family Reunions • Vacation Rental • B&B
Making treasured family memories since 2013.
[tenwoodlodge.com] • 607.273.9546

RETIREMENT PLANNING & INVESTMENTS

Vince Mazzarella LUTCF • 30+ years experience
Securities Offered Through
NEXT Financial Group, Member FINRA/SIPC
132 Yapple Road • 607.662.5262 • [vincemazzarella.com]

FRIENDS:

Highland Farms Boarding
Kennel and Store

168 West Miller Road • 607.273.3251

[www.highlandfarmskennel.com]

Danby Community Church
“Serving God and Community”

1859 Danby Road • 607.272.1687

[www.danbychurch.org]

Jefferson Colman

Custom Portable Homes

607.279.3757

Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA

Dedicated to Improving Health • Non-profit
607.277.5491 • [taoisttaichi.org]

Bankruptcy & Divorce Law

Debt Relief • *Atty Advertising*

Mark Gugino • 144 Bald Hill Road, Danby
607.319.0766 or 607.207.0888

Are you interested in becoming a sponsor?

Help the Danby News build community!

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

DANBY NEWS NOTES

Submitted by Ted Crane

Submission Guidelines: Before submitting an item for the Danby News, please have a look at the *Submission Guidelines*. You can request them by Email from the editor at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or find them 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. ❁

FUNDRAISER FOR THE DVFC

Submitted by Denise Benjamin McDermitt

ON AUGUST 11, many residents in Danby heard the siren at our fire station on two separate occasions. Some were wondering why this occurred, and what it meant. As a life-long resident of Danby, I knew what it meant; someone was in need of assistance and the call went out to the members of our all volunteer fire company to aid them. On that day, there was a structure fire in Spencer that our firefighters responded to, and later that evening, a fire at the Slavic Pentecostal Church on Danby Road.

This single day activity got me thinking about how fortunate our town is to have a group of dedicated firefighters and first responders willing to volunteer their time and energy to respond to the needs of our community members at any time of the day or night, in any type of weather, even during a pandemic. For medical emergencies, car accidents, fires, floods, etc., we call 911 and the Danby Volunteer Fire Company responds.

As most of 2020 has been a blur to so many of us, it dawned on me that, unlike prior years, the Danby Volunteer Fire Company did not have two of its major fundraisers (the pancake breakfasts and Danby Fun Day). After speaking with Chief John Gaden, I learned that this inability to fundraise as usual has resulted in an approximate \$5,000 shortfall for the department.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Submitted by Jason Haremza

AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING, COVID-related physical distancing continues. The Town of Danby is continuing to hold its meetings via an online video conferencing platform called Zoom, which also allows for people to dial in by telephone (call 646.876.9923 and enter the MeetingID and PassCode). However, guidance from New York State regarding public meetings is subject to change.

Please visit the calendar on the Town web site [townofdanbyny.org/calendar] for updates and links to the Zoom meetings. For more information about Town Board meetings, contact the Town Clerk; information about Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, Conservation Advisory Council, and Planning Group meetings can be had from the Town Planner. ❁

—see meeting info on back page calendar ➔

I recognize the recent months have been challenging--both emotionally and financially--for many of us. But after getting the okay from Chief Gaden, I am coordinating a fundraiser called, *Give Back to 911 by 9/11*. I am asking the members of the Danby community to join me in an effort to offset the fundraising losses by making a charitable donation to the fire company. Anyone making a donation will receive a letter from the DVFC noting their charitable donation for their 2020 taxes.

In this time of social distancing all we need to do is write a check, stamp an envelope and mail it to: Danby Fire Company, 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

The Town of Danby has more than 1300 owner-occupied households, several rental units, and a handful of businesses. Please let's show our gratitude to the members of this first responder community who are on call for us 24/7. Let's see if we can meet and even exceed their fundraising goal of \$5,000 by 9/11/2020. It directly benefits the Danby Volunteer Fire Company, but ultimately, we end up being the true beneficiaries! ❁



Bobcat parade

—photo by Jim Holahan

Town Office Info

Town Clerk • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
 Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 8:30am-4pm,
 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: 592.0417 • Fax: 277.0559
 Mon-Thu, 9am-5:30pm
 Appointments encouraged (or call or Email ahead).

Code Enforcement Office • [code@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559
 Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm

Town Court • [dgair@nycourts.gov]

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

CLOSED

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Andrea Hazard for the Fire District

COVID-19 Presents Challenge

SIX MONTHS INTO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PPE are still in short supply, according to George Jakubson, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director for the Danby Volunteer Fire Company. N95 respirators that George ordered in February have yet not arrived, and many suppliers are not even accepting orders for PPE.

As a result of these shortages, the Danby Fire Companies have been forced to reuse masks meant for one-time use. Fortunately, the Cayuga Medical Center has offered to sterilize masks free of charge, and an organization called Ithaca PPE Supply has made 3D-printed face shields available at no cost to first responders. Still, it is not possible to fully equip the entire crew on every call. For this reason, one responder does an evaluation from the doorway to determine what kinds of protections are needed.

Protective measures are particularly important for small departments like Danby's, as there are not enough members to take over if several end up sick or in quarantine. This risk is not just a theoretical problem: several responders to a car crash in April had to quarantine when the driver tested positive for COVID-19.

You can do your part in protecting our first responders by taking measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, including practicing social distancing, wearing a mask in public, and keeping your hands clean.

You can also do your part by becoming a first responder yourself or by working behind the scenes to help our first responders. By doing so you will meet an important need—and an amazing group of people. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Danby Fire Chief John Gaden [jjgaden@danbyfiredistrict.com] or West Danby Fire Chief Scott Wendt [swendt@danbyfiredistrict.com].

George's parting advice is to call immediately if you do have a medical emergency: treatment for severe illness or injury cannot be postponed even in the midst of a pandemic. He also encourages us to be careful to avoid injury or illness in all aspects of life. In his words, the best emergencies are those that never happen! ❧

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, Town of Danby Supervisor

THIS HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A REAL SUMMER, has it not? Plenty hot and plenty dry. Shaping up to be a vintage year for grape growers and it was one of the

best berry years I have seen in a long time. Local produce will be peaking in both volume and diversity when you read this—revel in it while it lasts!

Local Law Proposed To Change The Highway Superintendent's Residency Requirement

You may recall that the voters of this Town have been asked twice in recent years to approve changing the position of Highway Superintendent from elected to appointed and twice voted it down. The Town Board respects that decision and will not try again. It still remains true, however, that no one in the Highway Department is a Town resident other than the Highway

Superintendent himself. The requirement that the Superintendent be a resident of the Town is thus a barrier to advancement for the entire department. The second time the proposal to shift from elected to appointed was put forth, it was suggested that an alternative way of dealing with this situation would be to expand the area from which candidates could be sought. Turns out this has been done before and the change was upheld by the courts. In this knowledge, I proposed that we make residents of the towns adjoining Danby eligible to run for the office of Highway Superintendent in the Town of Danby. A local law to do that will be considered for adoption by the Town Board in October. The formal public hearing will take place at the October 12 meeting. We opted for October to allow ample time for public comment and debate. You may be hearing about the proposal here first, but there will be an effort to solicit media attention so the pros and cons can be carefully weighed before the Town Board acts. Unlike the change from elected to appointed, *this change will not be subject to referendum so it is important to let those who will be making the decision know what you think before the vote.*

—continued on next page ➔



EMS Director George Jakubson, a 9-year volunteer with DVFC, serves as an EMT, exterior firefighter, truck driver, and pump operator. —photo by Ted Crane

W.D. WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak



THE LONG DRY SPELL in the last few months coupled with increased summer needs resulted in the District's water consumption being greater than normal. Rain in August, and maybe slowing of the garden season, now has us getting closer to average.

We had a Zoomed water district meeting on August 5, which I forgot to announce in the Danby News. My bad. Our next meeting, on September 9, will also be via Zoom. Details for logging in can be found on the Town web site.

Highlights from the August meeting include that Bruce Richards repaired the frozen steamer cap on the Brown Road Fire hydrant, and we are only in need of a few pieces of water supply information before sending a packet off to RCAP in Olean to have them help us restructure our billing rates.

Scott Wendt and Tod Sukontarak attended a day-long water training seminar at the W2O training facility in Cortland on August 7. ❄️

➡ Supervisor's Update, cont'd from page 5

Planning Grant Work Coming Soon

We sought and were awarded a \$10,000 grant by the County to look at enabling hamlet development at the kind of density that was typically found when the area was first settled. Absent shared systems for water and wastewater, Health Department requirements preclude the kind of small lots that make a real hamlet possible. Shared systems and small lots reduce costs, which is why this money, aimed at improving housing affordability, was allotted to us. Buck Engineering, headquartered in Horseheads, will be looking at the types of systems that might serve and our Town Planner will complement that work with his own offerings of zoning changes to enable that kind of development as well. I am guessing that we may need enabling legislation from NY State for a truly comprehensive approach. The work by Buck is set to commence shortly and be completed by the end of the year.

Development Proposal in West Danby

Mike McLaughlin, of nearby Newfield, is proposing to develop a lot on the corner of Brown and Short roads in

THE LAND OF PLENTY?

Submitted by Ted Crane

GROWING UP DURING THE COLD WAR, I was surrounded by imagery making it clear that "ours" was the land of plenty. Photos of fully-stocked supermarket shelves were juxtaposed against those of empty shelves and bread lines in "their" country.

Living in the happily ever after, I became used to those full shelves and even to the ever-narrowing aisles as stores added more shelves to display a dizzying array of products that differed mostly in...packaging and marketing. I even became used to the shrinking "Net Weight" numbers, the growing price tags, and the labels that said, "Contents may have settled during shipping." Yeah, right.

COVID, the global economy, and profit-driven marketing have wiped that picture—and our supply system—clean in just a few months. It started with panic buying of toilet paper (some paper goods shelves are still empty!), moved to cleaning products (were they being used as health supplements?), and, now, the *vitamin* supplies are shrinking. Have you tried to buy a ring light recently? (Hint: it's for *Zooming*.)

My shopping habits are changing. I buy defensively, stocking up to anticipate tomorrow's shortages. Just like the shoppers in the pictures of, "over there." ❄️

West Danby. This property was used as a town park for over 20 years (rented, not owned by the Town) and then used for Community Association events for another 20 years due to the generosity of Jim and Diana Hatch who owned and maintained it for that time. When the Hatches decided to move to Spencer, the property was sold to Mike. At just over 2 acres, it has a lot of road frontage and access to the water district's water line. It could be divided into 4 half-acre lots, each of which could have 2 housing units--either attached or as separate dwellings if granted a special permit to do so. Mike has proposed 3 duplexes. He has expressed a willingness to cluster the units on smaller lots (we already have a provision for clustered subdivision as an alternative to what is usually called a "standard" subdivision) with a shared wastewater system. Doing that would make it possible to retain the existing pavilion and picnic area (which he is willing to give to the Town), with the adjoining leach field and surrounds serving as recreational space for both the residents of the subdivision and others. Ultimately, the goal would be for the Town to take

—continued on page 6 ➡

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Tompkins County government furloughed about 80 employees. Because of the additional federal COVID unemployment money, most of these employees saw no reduction in their salaries. That federal program ran out at the end of July.

In July, the County Legislature voted to continue furloughing 17 of those employees, with the probability that they will be laid off at the end of the year. I voted against this round of furloughs. I voted against it because now that the federal unemployment bonus is over, these employees will be seeing a reduction in their income. I thought it was premature to take this action, for several reasons.

One reason is that the \$250,000 this saves the County is quite small compared to our approximately \$45 million fund balance. There may very well come a day when we will need to lay off employees. In the mean time, we have the capacity to keep these people employed.

Last year we added approximately 25 new employees to the Tompkins County government roster. I was opposed to this move. I wrote at the time,

I think most of us consider Tompkins County to be in good financial shape. There are many reasons for this and many ways to measure it. One reason is that we have been very stingy with adding additional positions to the roster. Adding a position is somewhat of a forever commitment. With salary and benefits, the annual cost for an employee is in the \$100,000 range. So adding positions adds pretty significantly to the budget, this year and every year going forward.

⇒ Supervisor's Update, cont'd from page 5

ownership of the wastewater disposal system, with the properties in the subdivision becoming a taxing district to raise the money for ongoing maintenance. A lot of things need to come together to enable this scenario to take the place instead of the easy path of 3 duplexes on 3 lots, each with its own septic system and occupying the entire property. This proposal is slowly working its way through the Planning Board. Zoom in on the meetings if you have an interest in seeing how it turns out.

A Broader Approach to the Broadband Issue?

In last month's message I reported the creation of a Broadband Committee, to be chaired by Sarah Schnabel and speculated that there was potential for a collab-

I will also mention that during the Great Recession, ten years ago, the County did not lay off any employees. This was at least partly as a result of restraint in hiring over the years.

Adding 25 employees one year and laying off 17 the next year is a situation no one considers desirable. The details surrounding this poor decision are more complex than I can go into here. No one saw this particular economic crisis coming, but anyone who pays attention should have known that some economic downturn was on the horizon. One always is. I hope that going forward, the County will be more restrained in making long-term financial commitments in order to prevent having to lay-off employees, and to keep our tax rate low.

The County has two major financial problems coming. One is the 2020 budget shortfall, which is estimated at between \$5 million and \$10 million. Without a federal stimulus bill, that hole will be filled by our fund balance.

Then comes the 2021 budget. That budget will be presented on September 8. It will come with its own hole built-in that must be filled with some combination of expense reductions, revenue increases (including taxes), and the fund balance. Not knowing the exact size of the 2021 budget hole, I can't say with assurance what my plan is. But I can tell you that my goal is a zero percent tax increase and a large draw from the fund balance to stabilize things for at least one year.

The fund balance is our rainy day fund. It is raining hard right now.

If you have questions or comments, you can contact me at [danbydan@hotmail.com] or my home phone number, 607.272.7582. ☪

orative approach. When I mentioned to Mark Witmer, Caroline Town Supervisor, in a telephone conversation that many of the towns in the southern part of the county have the same topographic challenges to wireless broadband, he suggested combining forces to explore options. Besides Caroline, there is interest in Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses, and the Town of Ithaca in such a joint venture. Lansing has already formed a committee of its own and is proceeding independently, and Dryden is ahead of the pack with a plan already in place for town-wide fiber-optic broadband. Dryden's plan was generously shared by Jason Liefer, the Dryden Town Supervisor and has generated great interest. If the consultant's projections prove accurate, the multi-mil-

—continued on next page ⇒

CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Clare Fewtrell, Conservation Advisory Council

THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL held its monthly meeting via Zoom on August 11.

It is almost a year since we inspected our current conservation easement properties and it was agreed that it is important to do inspections every year. Ruth Sherman offered to chair a committee that will arrange with the landowners for members of the CAC to inspect their properties. Several CAC members offered to serve on this committee.

The CAC discussed a proposal from one of its members to grant a conservation easement on a small property on Comfort Road. An inspection had been carried out and a draft of the Baseline Report was reviewed. A few details remain to be resolved but we hope to go ahead with this soon.

George Adams reported that the reactivated logging subcommittee hopes to come up with a proposal for a logging ordinance for Danby soon. The intent is to ensure that the Town knows when logging is happening and that it is done responsibly using best practices. Education of landowners will also be important since many owners are unaware of the value of their timber and how best to harvest it sustainably.

Jon Zisk, from the management plan committee, provided draft management plans for the Town of Danby's Deputron Hollow property and the Town's West Danby Water District property on Sylvan Lane. In both cases the plan is to do the minimum intervention needed to preserve and conserve these woodlands. It is hoped that these plans will be finalized by our next meeting so that they can be sent to the Town Board for approval and adoption.

Our next meeting will be held (via Zoom) on Tuesday September 8, at 7pm. 🍷

➡ **Supervisor's Update, cont'd from page 6**

lion dollar project will be cash flow positive in its third year and pay itself off within 10 years while offering higher speeds for less money. The publicly-owned fiber network will be connected to participating households and businesses by private companies, which companies will also provide customer service.

It would make sense for a fiber-optic network to be emplaced as a county-wide or even region-wide initiative. Dan Klein, our representative on the County Legisla-



Junior Joey, the too-curious deer

—photo by Ted Crane

ture, is exploring the possibility of a county-led effort. How that goes will inform what happens to the Danby committee and the potential inter-municipal collaboration. I will keep you posted.

Conservation Advisory Council Vacancy

One of the members of the CAC has resigned. The position could be left vacant until the usual annual appointment period at the end of the year, but it could also be filled with an appointment for the balance of the term. The second option would strengthen the CAC in its important work for the Town. Besides advising Town and Planning Boards on conservation matters, the CAC is in charge of implementing Danby's conservation easement program. Conservation easements are a voluntary mechanism for preserving open space and reducing development potential. If you are willing to help protect undeveloped land in the Town, then apply to be appointed! The application form can be found on the Town's web site [townofdanby.ny.org] and can also be had from the Town Clerk.

—continued on page 8 ➡

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

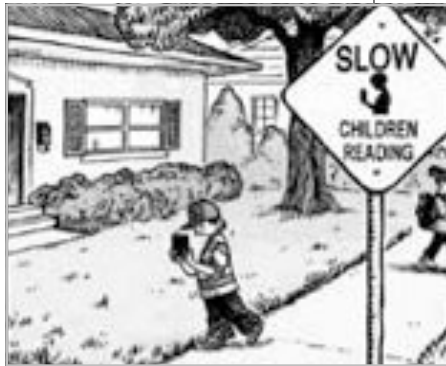
THE DANBY SENIORS REMAIN ON HIATUS. We'll decide month to month whether to meet. We're wondering if we can even gather in December. We'll keep you posted. Miss our monthly luncheons! ❀

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

THE CONTACTLESS PICK-UP of our books and movies has been going so well, we will be offering an opportunity for Saturday pickup, 10am-Noon in addition to the Thursday pick-up, 10am-Noon.

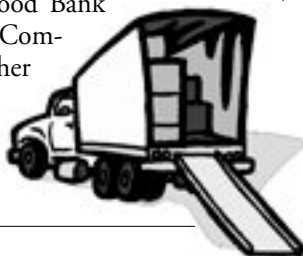
Go to Danby's web site and click on the Library link to view our collection and make your choices. ❀



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

THROUGH SEPTEMBER the Food Bank of the Southern Tier is doing Community Food Distributions rather than local mobile pantries, therefore no mobile food pantry at Danby Church in September. ❀



➔ Supervisor's Update, cont'd from page 7

A Difficult Budget Year

The Town is in a much less precarious place with its budget planning than the County and the State because property taxes make up the lion's share of our revenue and the tax base for the next budget year is already known and stable. The Town Board will be looking to assess our need for capital investments in our buildings, our roads, and the West Danby Water District's physical plant, something we were looking to do before the pandemic and needed to inform the annual budgeting process. What will be harder now is scheduling the work and the money to pay for it. The uncertainty of our current situation has the Board in a cautious mood.

YOUTH GRANTS

Submitted by Bill Evans, 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 September 15 for programs beginning (or with payment deadlines) in October, November, and December, 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. ❀

DANBY ANIMAL STORIES

Submitted by Bill Evans, Community Council

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL SECTION of this year's Cynthia Colman Creative Writing Exposition devoted to stories about animals in Danby (wild or pet).

The due date is the end of January 2021, and early contributions may be featured in the Danby News. Next month's issue will include a somewhat miraculous story of a Danby cat who returned home. ❀

We have been using our savings to cover part of the budget in the last few years to keep taxes down, while at the same time deferring maintenance. We can't keep doing that forever, but I expect the Board will be reluctant to completely reverse course this year. Striking a balance will require judgment calls. Your opinion matters and can affect what projects get prioritized. All the Board meetings are open to the public, although not in person as of yet. Written comments are always in order and available to anyone.

Always feel free to contact me about any of the above or to share your thoughts on anything else: [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org] or 607.227.4440. ❀

Community Council Youth Programs

It's the first week of September, and summer programming has finally come to a close.

The summer has been a blast! We've learned so many things, developed new friendships, and cherished the in-person time we've had together amidst the crazy new landscape of living life with COVID-19.

Over the past 8 weeks, twenty-two youth have participated in Danby Youth Summer Programming in a combination of both in-person and online settings. Enthusiasm for programming has never been so high, and I'd like to thank everybody who has participated in and supported our learning this summer.

Due to the uncertainty of school reopening, the program schedule for September is not yet available. If you have a child in grades 4-8 and would like up-to-date information on programming, please send me an Email and I will add you to my mailing list. You are also welcome to check out Danby Youth Programs on Facebook, where I have been posting real-time photos and updates of our adventures.

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

—Melis Schildkraut ❀



Elena learns how to clean a bluegill during fishing camp.

DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

Danby Youth Flyer

I'M WORKING THIS SUMMER as a watercraft steward for PRISM (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species

Management) through the state (DEC) and paid by Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva. I'm stationed at the Clute Park boat

launch in Watkins Glen. Other stewards are stationed all over the state, including Treman Marina in Ithaca. Our job is to inspect the boats going in and out of the water for invasive species and to educate the public about these plants and animals.

One day, I decided to do a sample of the aquatic plants in Jennings Pond. I launched my kayak into the muck. Of the seven samples I took, two were invasives--milfoil and curly-leafed pondweed. Since no motorboats are allowed in Jennings Pond and people rarely kayak there, how did these plants get into the water?

Well, it just so happens that the birds are bringing them there. In *Gut travellers: internal dispersal of aquatic organisms by waterfowl*, the authors found that, "36 percent of 1581 waterbird droppings collected in the field contained one or more intact propagules, with macroinvertebrates found almost as frequently as plant seeds."

When birds eat plants like milfoil, which can take root even when cut into small pieces, bits of undigested plant can survive to make their way into any waterbody on a bird's flyway...including Jennings Pond. These plants are currently infesting wetlands across the country. The problem is that milfoil shades out native plants like eel grass and other native plants, plants birds like to eat.

If you have a kayak or canoe and can get out and remove the milfoil and curly-leafed pondweed (there are plenty of photos of these plants on the internet), please do. You'll never remove them all, but you will make a difference. Put what you've gathered on the dirt of the parking area where it will dry up and be ground up by the cars. If you find any zebra mussels in the milfoil, let me know. Thanks.

Note: Learning to identify these plants is a good exercise for kids. Use the photos on the internet as a key. Questions? Contact me at [rondaroaring@hotmail.com]. ❀

Sep 2020

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Sep 1 • Tue
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Planning Group Meeting**
- Sep 3 • Thu
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Sep 5 • Sat
9am 📺 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Sep 8 • Tue
7pm 📺 YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**
- Sep 14 • Mon
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
7pm 📺 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm 📺 West Danby Fire Hall • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**
- Sep 15 • Tue
7pm 📺 online • **Planning Board Mtg**
- Sep 17 • Thu
4-6pm 📺 Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
- Sep 22 • Tue
7pm 📺 YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**
- Sep 23 • Wed
7pm 📺 online • **Town Board Meeting**

- Oct 1 • Thu
Noon 📺 Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Oct 3 • Sat
9am 📺 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Oct 6 • Tue
7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Planning Group Meeting**
- Oct 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**
- Oct 13 • Tue
7pm 📺 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**
- Oct 15 • Thu
4-6pm 📺 Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**

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.
- 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 • 47 Sylvan Drive, off Rt.34/96
- 📺 Danby Community Church • 1859 Danby Road
- 📺 American Legion Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road

Meeting	Date	Zoom Mtg ID	Pword
Planning Group	Sep 1	954 0523 2483	064352
CAC	Sep 8	972 1566 0090	423584
Town Board	Sep 14	987 9929 2091	571585
Planning Board	Sep 15	958 0817 5336	245871
Zoning Appeals	Sep 22	986 3534 5196	281804
Town Board	Sep 23	962 4083 6061	575443
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			