

DANBY NEWS

TICKS ARE MORE THAN LYME

EVERYONE, PROBABLY, in the Northeastern United States has heard of Lyme disease and most are taking precautions against deer ticks. A recent case in Danby illustrates why we should respond effectively to all tick bites and to more than just Lyme.

A few months ago, Danby's Walter Drake noticed an itchy, scabbed area on his skin. He didn't make a fuss about it. A few days later, his wife Marie became aware that he was unusually tired, that he wasn't eating and wasn't particularly thirsty, either. He slept, almost literally, for several days. Marie urged him to get medical care.



At the hospital, he was diagnosed with Anaplasmosis, (see [cdc.gov/anaplasmosis]) a disease caused by the bacterium *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. These bacteria are spread by tick bites, usually from the blacklegged tick.

Immediate treatment with intravenous antibiotics—and a few days in the hospital—brought Walter back as good as new. Delayed treatment (or other risk factors, like age) of Anaplasmosis might have resulted in severe illness, even to the point of organ failure and death.

All tick bites are potentially dangerous and should be considered with care. It's not just deer ticks and Lyme. Prompt detection and treatment are key to continued good health. Or, to paraphrase Marie, after a tick bite *any* change from normal should be checked out, and the testing should go beyond the minimal check for Lyme. ❀

380 WORDS ABOUT...

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

Submitted by Ted Crane

YOU'VE BEEN HEARING RUMBLES about something called *Community Choice Aggregation* from various Town sources, but no clear explanation of what it is...and why it might benefit you.

Your electric bill used to be easy: there was only one company you could buy electricity from: NYSEG. Then New York State gave customers a choice: it broke bills into two parts: supply and delivery.

Delivery is easy: you pay someone, typically NYSEG, to bring electricity to your house. You have no delivery choice except to go off-grid and have no delivery at all.

Ahh, but the supply charge. Customers are allowed to buy electricity from any supply company. If the customer chooses a not-NYSEG supplier, NYSEG is allowed to collect a "payment and billing services" fee along with its delivery fee.

After NY changed its rules, electricity suppliers appeared from the woodwork; some generated electricity, others were wholesalers. Some had good prices, some did not, and some (we have heard) weren't particularly reputable.

Finding a good supplier required research and persistence.

I was lazy and accepted the default supplier. When it morphed—without notice—into a different company whose rates were sky-high...well, after a few months of Public Service Commission complaints, I got a big refund and a new supplier.

Bottom line, choosing a good supplier is tough. The individual consumer has little or no power to bargain for a better deal.

Enter Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). It allows communities, like Danby

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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- Happy 200th. ⑦
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- Calendar ⑧

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September 2021

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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 15th of the month prior to publication date. 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 Guide-*

lines 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. ✿

➤ **CCA, continued from front page**

or even Tompkins County, to get together and bargain with suppliers. The bigger the community, the more bargaining power it has. It can ask for better prices or electricity from renewable sources.

CCA establishes a “default” supplier for the community. A customer who accepts the community default gets a bill as usual. NYSEG gets its delivery charge and there is a (hopefully) favorable charge from the electricity supplier.

The loophole is that our bargainers (that is, our local governments) will choose what they feel is best for the community as a whole. It might not be the best choice for all customers...so...any customer can easily opt out from CCA. Don't want the default supplier? Opt out and choose your own.

It sounds like the best of both worlds: a supplier chosen by community representatives with strong bargaining power...or your own best choice. ✿

SAVE THE DATE:

Bald Hill Road Picnic
 John Rowley, organizer of the annual Bald Hill Road Picnic *and pie baking contest* has spoken: September 11, 4-6pm, at Jennings Pond! ✿

Town Office Info

Offices in Danby's Town Hall except where noted
 Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Town Clerk • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]
 Phone: 607.277.4788 • Fax: 607.277.0559
 Hours: Mon-Fri: Noon-2pm, 4-6pm
Highway Dept • [highway@townofdanbyny.org]
 93 Hornbrook Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
 Phone: 607.272.9169 • Fax: 607.275.3264
 Hours: Mon-Thu: 6am-4:30pm
Planning • [planner@townofdanbyny.org]
 Phone: 607.592.0417 • Fax: 607.277.0559
 Hours: Mon-Thu: 9am-5:30pm
Code Enforcement • [code@townofdanbyny.org]
 Phone: 607.277.0799 • Fax: 607.277.0559
 Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm
Town Court • [dgair@nycourts.gov]
 Phone: 607.277.0095 • Fax: 607.277.0031
 Hours: Tuesday, 9am

THANK YOU, HIGHWAY DEP'T

Submitted by Olivia Vent

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, members of Danby's Highway Department showed up in its trucks on East Miller Road to repair damage to the road. The shoulder was carved out due to the severe rains this summer. As a consequence, when it rained intensely, water ran through our stable creating drainage and management challenges.



Storm water damage (before repair):
 Gully carved out of road, road washed into field
 —Southern Comfort Road

I wanted to be sure any new grading wasn't going to make the situation worse. When I flagged the crew on duty that day, Jim and Kent, they got out of their trucks to look at the problem and figure out what could be done. They proposed a couple of options and, later in the day, returned with the equipment and materials needed to do the work we agreed on, to channel the water more effectively a short distance down the road to the culvert and away from the entrance to the stable.

I'd like to express my appreciation to them and the Highway Department for the positive and helpful way they responded. When the mowing crew was out, earlier this summer, I also made a request that was listened to and respected regarding plantings around the property. I know it's not always easy to balance road, ditch, and water management along our roads with residents' wishes, and would like to thank the Highway Department for doing their best to achieve that balance. ✿

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

MY GARDENS ARE APPROACHING their productive peak as I write this and will have passed it by the time you read it. The hottest summer in global meteorological history (records only go back to the late 1800s) will be winding down and those of us who preserve the summer's bounty will be scrambling to "put food by" for later consumption. It is a bittersweet time of the year. Here is some of what is happening in your Town government while all of this agricultural activity is taking place.

New Town Web Site Expected September 1

Janice Adelman, Danby's Town Clerk, has been playing the lead role in moving the Town's web site to a better platform—one that will give us greater flexibility to make it more attractive and user-friendly. She is ready to pull the trigger on September 1. The new site will be [danby.ny.gov]. We will be moving to a new Email platform as well. For both of these changes, messages to the old addresses will be redirected to the new, so it should be an easy to navigate change for the public. I expect a few hiccups for those of us who are in the system, but the benefits are substantial and worth the hassle.

Phone System Upgrade

We are also heading toward a revamping of the Town's phones. What we have is a mishmash of land lines and cell phones, with no interconnectivity. AT&T is sunsetting its commercial landline accounts as of October 31, so we would be forced to do something in any event. Fortunately, Janice has been looking into options for a voice over internet protocol (VOIP) system and has narrowed the options to a promising few. I expect the Town Board will be making the selection at the first September meeting, just in time to make the switch. This change will not only make it possible to direct calls to appropriate parties, it will also save the Town money. More for less!

Request to Enable Videoconference Meetings

As I mentioned in the August *Danby News*, the Town's decision-making bodies were forced to return to in-person meetings with the ending of the emergency declaration and its associated suspension of the Open Meetings Law. In light of the resurgence of COVID due to the delta variant, there is widespread discomfort with being forced to meet in person. The Town of Enfield Board proposed a resolution requesting that the Governor reinstate an Executive Order allowing Zoom meetings and asked other municipalities to join in. The Danby Town Board has already requested that the legislature enable

videoconference meetings, but legislative action is not likely until the next session, late in this or early next year. The Town Board was to take up the Enfield resolution during its August 18 meeting.

Solar Farm Proposal Now Under Review

The application has been received and deemed complete. The Town Board revised the fee schedule for solar applications at the August 9 meeting to address an inequity present in the previous schedule. At the time we passed the solar equipment permit fees, it was not believed that Danby would prove to be a suitable location for large solar farms because we are not located near major transmission lines. Turns out that distribution lines have enough capacity to enable a farm of the size proposed by Norbut solar (15 megawatts). Our fees were based on the number of kilowatts in the array. For a 15 megawatt array, the fees would have been in the neighborhood of \$75,000. Moreover, they would have been required with the application, with no assurance of approval. The Board agreed that that was unreasonable. We will now be requiring an up-front fee to cover our basic costs (fees for arrays smaller than 300 kilowatts will not be affected by the changes). An escrow account will be funded by the applicant to cover consultant costs incurred by the Town in review. That account (initially \$20,000) will be replenished as needed by the applicant. David West, our Town Planner, consulted with Dryden, which has much more experience with solar farms, in drafting the proposed revisions. Dryden's experience is that applications of this size cost \$30–40,000 dollars to review.

The Planning Board held a first public hearing on the proposal on August 17. During its September meeting, the Planning Board will send its recommendations to the Town Board with respect to the establishment of a Planned Development Zone (a Town Board action). The Town Board is expected to declare themselves the lead agency for environmental review at the August 18 meeting. If and when a PDZ is approved by the Town Board, the Planning Board will then need to approve a subdivision for the property [the 15 megawatts are structured as three 5-megawatt arrays to stay under a State size cap that would put them into a different set of rules; those rules also reduce local control over the project]. The entire approval process will take on the order of four months to complete. With luck, the developers might break ground sometime in 2022.

—continued on next page ➔

➔ Supervisor, continued from previous page

Septic Upgrade at the Town Highway Facility

The Town got a NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) energy efficiency grant nearly three years ago for improvements to the highway facilities. It paid for improved insulation, weather-sealing, heat pump heating to replace the propane for the offices, and insulated doors for the truck bay. We went over budget for the work, so the Town will have to pay some of the cost, but the improvements will save money and energy. Part of the grant is to cover separating the sewer system from the wash water drainage from the truck bays. The existing arrangement had them both going to a holding tank, which needed to be pumped and transported to the Ithaca wastewater treatment plant. We managed to get this separation funded on the grounds of improving the environmental impact of the facility. The last part of the grant was to make the separation happen—and the deadline for doing it is September 1 or we would lose the grant funding to do it with. Jeff Rockwell submitted a proposal to do the work and get it done in time. He was awarded the project at the August 9 meeting.

The Latest on CCA

Community Choice Aggregation is the name of an initiative whereby electricity demand is combined and made the default choice for energy supply within a participating area. The Energy Committee of the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) has been looking into the possibility of establishing a CCA program here in Tompkins County. Danby has expressed interest in participating. The Town Board held a public hearing on the idea on August 9 to get feedback from the public. Not a whole lot of comment—there wasn't much notice—but the questions prompted me to go to the committee for answers. The situation is very much still evolving, greatly influenced recently by the appointment of a new Sustainability Director for the City of Ithaca, Luis Aguirre-Torres. He has extensive experience with CCAs in California, where they have been around for some time. His suggestion would have the City and Town of Ithaca doing the initial establishment, with the Towns then invited to join once that is up and running. Stay tuned!

As always, please feel free to contact me, [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org] or 607.227.4440. About any of these matters or anything else on your mind. ❁

CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Margaret Corbit, CAC

DURING OUR AUGUST MEETING we covered many agenda items. The design has been finalized for the signs that will be distributed to the owners of properties with Conservation Easements this fall. The signs include a QR code that will send the curious to the CAC web page for more information on the Easement Program. The sign project was led by George Adams who sadly has left the CAC to take on greater responsibilities for another regional conservation organization. His efforts are greatly appreciated.

As the year moves on, we considered the fact that several members's terms will be ending in January. While we hope many current members will agree to continue on, we are always looking for new members, especially those with an interest in actively promoting the conservation easement program.



Allium: Onion, Garlic, Shallot
photo by Ted Crane

The Town Board is now considering the draft Timber Harvest Law and awaiting input from several reviewers.

We expect to have an updated version of the Conservation Easement Template soon. And have begun planning for the annual monitoring of current easements this fall.

Our most exciting item was learning from Betsy Keokosky about the fall educational webinar program on Regenerative Agriculture that she has offered to head up. Many people might not realize that Conservation Easements can be set up for agricultural properties. Betsy is providing more information about this important monthly series that will begin in October.

We would like to remind everyone that several recorded informational presentations are available at the CAC web page, as well as links to the meeting notes and agendas of our meetings.

The CAC meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held (via Zoom) on September 14, 7pm. ❁

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SERIES

Submitted by Betsy Keokosky

IN RESPONSE TO THE WORK of the Ag Working Group created during Danby's zoning discussion, the CAC is offering three presentations during the fall. The Group's purpose was to add the voices of farmers and those who consider farming important to the Town's zoning considerations.

This series is still being developed and being coordinated with the speakers. But you can see the flavor of it below. It will be in webinar format. Dates are to be announced, so please keep an eye out for them in next month's *Danby News*. Please contact me, [evk1@cornell.edu], if you would like to be a speaker or recommend one.

1. Introduction

(Speakers: Barb Neal (Tioga CCE), Farm Bureau, farmers from Danby)

- Common misperceptions about farming
- Farming in transition; value-added farming, organic
- Farm Bureau—what it does
- How is Agriculture important to our community?

2. Regenerative Agriculture:

Soil Health and climate change

(Speakers: Graham Savio (Tompkins CCE), Cornell Small Farms, NY Soil and Water, Permaculture Institute)

- Methods and Philosophy
- Just passed—New York Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act
- Land use—water absorption and carbon sequestration?
- Implications

3. Preserving farmland

and transitioning it to new farmers

(Speakers: Amy Olney from NY Agricultural Land Trust, Samantha Levy or Tim Biello (American Farmland Trust), others)

- Conservation Easements
- Encouraging new farmers
- Purchase of development rights
- Recognizing the common good

DOTSON PARK ANNUAL MEETING

Submitted by Mish Lenhart

THE DANBY COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION is hosting its annual meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 7pm, under the Dotson Park pavilion. All Danby residents are welcome to attend to learn about what's been happening in the park during the past year, and hear about future plans for the natural playground, disc golf course, mound makeover, new event spaces, trails, and more.



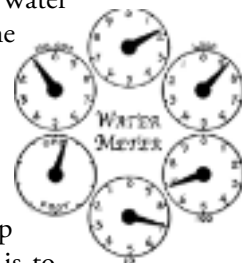
Arch and Esther Dotson Park

There will be an election of new Board members. You can learn how to get involved in park activities—everything we do is based on the work of volunteers—and you might even be interested in learning how to join the board yourself! Check out [dotsonpark.org] for more information about the park, or Email [dotsonpark@gmail.com] with questions or comments. Bring a friend, bring your ideas, bring a chair, and join the Park Board to discuss the present and future of Danby's backyard, Dotson Park. ❄️

WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak

ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY, September 13 and 14, we will be flushing hydrants in the Water District. Monday, starting at 9am, the hydrants north of the Fire Station will be flushed. Tuesday, also starting at 9am, those hydrants south of the Fire Station will be flushed.



The flushing schedule is being moved up to September from October. The goal is to get two flushings per year at roughly 6-month intervals. That interval was not possible this year as the May flushing was not completed due to a water main leak and its repair on the scheduled days. Since there have been a few brown water complaints the thought is to schedule the second one sooner rather than later. Next year we will hopefully return to our May/October schedule and get both flushings done. ❄️

Bookworm Thing:

Laughing out loud while reading a book in a public place and getting funny looks from other people.

DANBY SENIORS!

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

A DELICIOUS CHICKEN BARBECUE was served up on August 5 for 83 Danby Seniors! Big thanks to Jon Mosher for heading up the chicken cooking and to Mary and Diane at the American Legion for preparing the sides! So wonderful to see everyone!

Save the date: Thursday December 2 for our holiday luncheon at LaTourelle. ❄️



Danby Seniors BBQ at the ALP photo by Margie Vandemark

HAPPY 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Lynn Kingston-Harris

THERE WILL BE a Happy 200th Anniversary celebration for Danby's Community Church on Saturday and Sunday, September 18 and 19, 2021.

Saturday's events will include a concert and an ice-cream social, while Sunday features the burying of a time capsule along with dedication of the sanctuary and a picnic. Event times are still to be determined. ❄️

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

THE DANBY LIBRARY WILL RESUME rotating collections from TCPL (Tompkins County Public Library) during September. These will include Large Type Adult Fiction and Mysteries.

Our hours are Tuesday, 1-3pm, and Thursday and Saturday 10am-Noon. For special requests or to renew an item feel free to call 607.277.4200 or Email [library@townofdanbynny.org].

New Adult Fiction:

- Red Knife* by William Kent Kreuger
- Iron Lake* by William Kent Kreuger
- In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende
- The Mother-In-Law* by Sally Hepworth
- The Secrets of Midwives* by Sally Hepworth. ❄️

MENTORING TO

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Submitted by Susie Kossack

MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE in a child's life! Join a team committed to change! The Mentor-Student Program of Cooperative Extension 4-H seeks 1-on-1 volunteer mentors for middle school students who will benefit from an adult role model.

Attend a 12-hour training, receive ongoing support, and meet with your student 3:25-4:35pm twice a week. Learn and grow together. Contact me at 607.275.6250 or [mskossack@yahoo.com]. ❄️

FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE FBC

Submitted by Shannon Sessler

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of West Danby (2219 West Danby Road) will be hosting a Family Fun Day on Wednesday, September 15, 6-8pm. We will have games, prizes, food and other fun activities. This event is free to all.

Some other events coming up are:
 September 19, 6pm, Youth Groups kick off for kids in grades 5-12.
 September 22, 6pm: Orange Kids Ministry kicks off for kids, pre-K to grade 6.
 Sunday morning worship starts at 11am, every Sunday. Hope to see you there. ❄️

Sep 2021

DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Aug 30 • Mon

6pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting: Budget Review**
 7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting: Zoning Review**

Sep 1 • Wed

5pm 🏠 Zoom • **WD Water Board Meeting**

Sep 2 • Thu

7pm 🏠 Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Sep 4 • Sat

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

Sep 8 • Wed

7pm 🏠 Dotson Park • **DCPA Annual Meeting**

Sep 13 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
 7pm 🏠 DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
 7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**

Sep 14 • Tue

7pm 🏠 DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
 7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Sep 16 • Thu

4pm 🏠 Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**

Sep 17 • Fri

4-7pm 🏠 Dotson Park • **Something Special**

Sep 20 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting: Zoning**
 8pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting: Budget**

Sep 21 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Mtg**

Sep 22 • Wed

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

Sep 28 • Tue

7pm 🏠 DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**

Oct 2 • Sat

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

Oct 7 • Thu

7pm 🏠 Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Oct 11 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
 7pm 🏠 DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
 7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**

Oct 12 • Tue

7pm 🏠 DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
 7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Ongoing Events

- Seniors Strength Class** 🏠 Danby Community Church
 Mondays and Thursdays, 9-10am
 Contact [jmchurch@twcny.rr.com] for info
- Danby Community Library** 🏠 Town Hall
 Tuesday, 1-3pm; Thursday & Saturday, 10am-Noon
 Curbside pickup available; can return in drop box.
- Danby Food Pantry** 🏠 Danby Community Church
 3rd Thursday, 4-6pm
- Food Scrap Recycling** 🏠 Town Hall 🔄🔄🔄🔄
 Saturdays, 9am-Noon
- 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
- 🏠 **DVFC Station** • 1780 Danby Road
- 🏠 **WDFD Station** • 47 Sylvan Drive, off Rt.34/96
- 🏠 **Danby Community Church** • 1859 Danby Road
- 🏠 **American Legion Post 221** • 1231 Danby Road

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Planning Cmtes	Thu/Fri	970 8279 1227	???
Town Board	Sept 13	980 8515 9868	754633
CAC	Sept 14	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	August 17	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	August 18	971 0723 2988	535713
Zoning Appeals	None	986 3534 5196	281804
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			