

DANBY NEWS

YOUTH PROGRAMS RESUME

THE DANBY COMMUNITY COUNCIL and the Rural Youth Services division of Cornell Cooperative of Extension Tompkins County are happy to introduce Danby's new Program Educator, Heidi Doggett! Heidi has provided a brief bio (below).

Danby's Youth Programs will resume soon. Please keep an eye out for a program menu in the Danby News, by visiting [danbycc.org/YouthPrograms], or by Emailing Heidi directly at [hd289@cornell.edu].

I love exchanging knowledge with others. You could say that learning new things and sharing them is my favorite hobby. Before coming to Rural Youth Services, I spent time volunteering with children's garden programs and teaching Kung Fu. I love science, ballroom, modern dance, theater, costuming, art of all kinds, and cooking. Candy and allergen-friendly baking are my specialties. For me, the best part of cooking is experimentation: try something new, write down your methods and results, make adjustments, and try again until it's just right. You might also find me wandering the woods looking very closely at plants and fungi. Botany and soil are my favorite science topics. If you're in the mood for discussion, we could start with agriculture and food justice. I feel like these are the most important topics in the world, and I'd love to know what you have to say. I'm looking forward to sharing what I love with Danby youth and learning from them as we go. ❧

ELECTION NIGHT DINNER

Submitted by Lynn Kingston-Harris

THE DANBY COMMUNITY CHURCH IS HOSTING an Election Night Dinner on 02-November-2021, 5-7pm, in its Fellowship Hall. Pork and chicken and all the side dishes!

The event is subject to cancellation, if need be. The fee? Donations. ❧

REMARKABLE HISTORICAL MARKER

Submitted by Katherine Anderson, Fire Commissioner

THE BRONZE PLAQUE affixed to the large stone on the grounds of the Danby Fire Station is worth a closer look. It commemorates "Indian" Chief Logan and the Sullivan Campaign that was responsible for the eradication of Native American villages and the forced removal of tribes indigenous to the Finger Lakes region following the Revolutionary War.



The sign, which depicts Chief Logan in relief, reads: *IN MEMORY OF CHIEF LOGAN, WHOSE AIM IN LIFE WAS TO ESTABLISH PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WHITE MAN • SULLIVAN SESQUICENTENIAL • 1779-1930 • ERECTED BY DANBY RED MEN AND THE STATE OF NEW YORK.*

Logan, c. 1723-1780—his natal name is disputed—was the son of Oneida Chief Shikellamy and his mother was said to be a member of the Cayuga tribe (an historic marker at Jennings Pond that states he was born nearby). Although Logan was a proponent of peace for much of his life and had close and good relationships with many white leaders, his life and legacy are far more complicated and fraught than the inscription implies.

He is most famous for *Logan's Lament*, a speech recorded by Thomas Jefferson. In his oration, Logan is mourning nothing less than the brutal murder of his entire family in the Yellow Creek Massacre. This tragedy occurred following his relocation to Ohio in the 1760s, where he became affiliated with an amalgamation of tribes

—continued on page 3 ➡

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- WD Water District Update . . . ③
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- CAC Update ⑤
- Black Maples ⑤
- Agricultural Education Series . . ⑥
- Legislature Update ⑥
- Seniors ⑦
- Community Library ⑦
- Yard Work and Snow Shoveling . ⑦
- Calendar ⑩

November 2021

Layout: Ted Crane
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Post Office Crew:
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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 [danbynyny.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-*

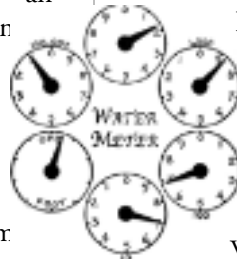
lines at the same web location. You'll learn what is, and isn't acceptable material for publication. If it's acceptable, we'll make an effort to include it; generally, we print everything we receive! You'll find hints about how to prepare a submission. Following these guidelines makes the editing and layout easier. A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page. ☺

➤ *Historical Plaque, con't from front page*

forced from their ancestral lands. The lament also makes clear his profound and bitter sense of betrayal as, "The friend of white men."

The Improved Order of Red Men that, along with New York State, created the plaque to mark the 150th anniversary of the Sullivan Campaign, was founded in 1765. Their (all-white) organizational structure was modeled on the democratic decision-making of tribes and often dressed up in their idea of Native American garb for events and parades. Although the originally secretive order still exists today, the membership has shrunk considerably from its peak in the 1920s. In addition to Danby's plaque, there are dozens of monuments and parks that commemorate this remarkable Iroquois leader, many of them created in the same era.

Over time, Chief Logan, who spent the remainder of his life avenging the loss of his family, was reduced to a romanticized view of Native Americans, an embodiment of the reductive myth of the Noble Savage, that has long lived uncomfortably alongside the reality of racism, conquest, removal and erasure. ❁



WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak

WE HAVE CONTINUING BROWN WATER COMPLAINTS from several residents, from the same area in the district. It seems flushing this fall has not alleviated the problem.

I know that other residents in the area have shown their whole house water filtration system to at least one of the residents who has the brown water issue. Several others use the same filtration system and have no issues with brown water.

We are due for our 5 year tank cleaning in 2022 and the Water District Advisory Committee voted to schedule it for the spring and depending on the condition of the sediment in the tank go to a more frequent cleaning schedule. We had our first tank cleaning at three years and at the time there was so little sediment we decided to go to a 5 year schedule. Perhaps five years is too long. Unfortunately, it is too late in the year to have it done in 2021.

Several district residents offered to serve as advisory committee members in place of those that are leaving. Thank you to them. I encourage anyone interested to participate in the monthly water advisory committee meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. They are now still zoom meetings per COVID precautions and the attendance information can be found on the Town web site. ❁



John Smith's photos of Road Work In West Danby illustrate the amazing machines that make the process "easy". More photos on page 7. (photos by John Smith)

Town Office Info

Offices in Danby's Town Hall except where noted
Town Hall, 1830 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Town of Danby Web Site: [danby.ny.gov]

Town Clerk • [townclerk@danby.ny.gov]

Phone: 607.277.4788 • Fax: 607.277.0559

Hours: Mon,Wed: Noon-2pm, 4-6pm;

Tue,Thu: 9am-2pm, Fri: Noon-5pm

Highway Dep't • [highway@danby.ny.gov]

93 Hornbrook Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone: 607.272.9169 • Fax: 607.275.3264

Hours: Mon-Fri: 6am-2:30pm

Planning • [planner@danby.ny.gov]

Phone: 607.592.0417 • Fax: 607.277.0559

Hours: Mon-Thu: 9am-5:30pm

Code Enforcement • [code@danby.ny.gov]

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

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

Budget Progress

WE PASS A LAW EACH YEAR to enable us to exceed the tax cap set by the State. The Town Board is expected to do that on October 20. This year we are very likely to exceed the cap. We stayed under it in 2020 by spending down our fund balance, but that cannot go on forever. We had to pull money out of the fund balance several times during the year as well, an unmistakable sign that we budgeted too tightly. The Highway Department's snow removal budget is very tight. Let's hope we don't need much snow removal until the new year. Highway has also had several expensive repairs, exhausting the repair budget. More will be added for both of these in next year's budget.

On the general fund side of the budget (which includes everything but Highway, and even includes some Highway in it), I am proposing that we add some staff time to support the Town Planner and Town Clerk. The Clerk has taken on more of a role in positioning the Town to take advantage of technology and adding more time for the Deputy will help process and integrate the initiatives she has spearheaded—a new Email system, a new web site, and a new internet-based phone system.

If the Town Board agrees to include it, I have also proposed that we extend to our part-time workers a proportional contribution toward their health care insurance costs. I think one of the more unjust features of part-time labor is that those who engage in it are rarely extended the benefits that full-time employees have. The savings for employers are large and constitute an incentive to employ part-timers. Family plan coverage for our full-time employees costs the town around \$24,000 a year, and all but two full-timers are on the family plan. I will seek to reduce the Town's health insurance costs, but at the same time I would like to extend the benefits to all. You might wonder how that could work. I would be happy to explain more fully if you would like to speak to me about it (607.227.4440).

Planning Update

The "stress test" or "crack the code" exercise on October 4 went well, based on the response from the participants. The Town Board will weigh suggestions made and probably make additional changes. We hope to have something to formally propose and seek public hearing input on in November. That will allow just enough time to pass a revised version in December. What gets passed

then is apt to be less than a comprehensive revision of zoning, but it will likely accomplish the rezoning of the current low density zone into several new zones. We will send out an Email blast to alert you to the public hearing opportunity. To get it, you have to be signed up for the email list. Subscribe using the link toward the bottom of the web site.

Solar Farm

The Town Board held a public hearing on a solar farm proposed for an area north and west of Bald Hill and Lieb Roads near the center of Danby on October 11. Several people spoke in favor of the project, preferring it to residential development otherwise likely in the same area. One spoke of the adverse impact from removing 33 acres of trees and another asked for mitigation in the form of offsetting plantings of trees elsewhere. The Town Board, in its role as lead agency in environmental review, will review the material submitted (hundreds of pages—you can see them all by clicking the link on the Planning and Zoning page of the web site)—and consider whether the scope of impacts identified is complete enough and the suggested mitigations sufficient to avoid a finding of significant environmental impact. A positive declaration would trigger a full environmental impact study. That decision may have been made by the time you receive next month's Danby News. I will keep you posted.

Broadband Survey

Town Board member Matt Ulinski, acting on the Board's behalf, reached out to internet service providers (ISPs) to assess how willing they would be to extend service to the underserved and unserved. Service extension looks to be the fastest route to internet access for those lacking it. The County is planning to do a windshield survey to determine where the cables and fiber lines currently go, but it might be a while before they get to it. In response to Matt's initiative, Chuck Bartosch (of Clarity Connect) proposed conducting such a survey for the Town at a cost of \$4000. The Board approved the expenditure, which can be paid for using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The information from that survey can then be used to identify the closest providers and negotiate line extensions with them. This approach has already been done for a part of Newfield, where there are even more unserved than in Danby. ARPA

—continued on next page ➞

➔ *Supervisor, continued from previous page*

money can be used to subsidize the extensions of service as well. This mechanism is very attractive to ISPs. The public pays for the extensions, but the ISPs own the result. The alternative would be a public fiber network that ISPs would pay to use, creating a competitive environment. We may invest in such a network in the future—it would add speed and reliability as well—but for the moment service extensions are the fastest way to get service to those who need it.

Water, Trees, and Leaks

The West Danby water District pumps 15-20 percent more water than gets billed for. The difference disappears during distribution. Sometimes leaks are obvious and big, but that 15 percent is persistent and hidden. There are companies that can evaluate the lines to identify where the leaks are. The Water District Advisory Committee recommended that one such company be hired to do a leak detection for the District and the Town Board agreed.

The Board also agreed to have the District pay \$500 toward the cost of removing a tree on West Danby Cemetery land that poses a threat to one of the Water District's fire hydrants. The tree is hollow, but otherwise healthy. It leans in the direction of and is directly over the hydrant. Were it to fall, the probability of falling on the hydrant is very high. The damage might not be limited to the hydrant either. It could include the main to which it is attached. It is far cheaper to anticipate this and remove the tree than wait for the preventable to transpire.

Positions to Fill

This is the time of year when the Town Board looks to January appointments and reappointments to many boards and committees. Not all incumbents have been asked whether they want to be reappointed, but I can say at this point that there are actual vacancies on CAC, BZA, and Water District Advisory Committee. If you would be willing to serve on any of these, now is a good time to submit an application. Those should be available on the website or from the Town Clerk. I will have a more complete listing next month.

As always, please feel free to contact me, [supervisor@danby.ny.gov] or 607.227.4440. About any of these matters or anything else on your mind. ❧

CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Margaret Corbit, CAC

THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) met on October 12 via Zoom. Joel Gagnon informed us that the Town Board has approved the updated version of the Conservation Easement Template. Look for this version on the CAC page of the Town web site, [danby.ny.gov]. The CAC web page is in the updating process for the Town site. We are working on adding resources and updating information. Since the entire Town site is migrating, please bear with us.

We encourage you to join our meetings using the link posted on the Town's Event Calendar. At the beginning of each meeting, you will be welcomed and given an opportunity to address the Council (during Privilege of the Floor). This month, Ronda Roaring urged the Council to look into the concept of Tree Banking, a way to balance the loss of trees in developments by planning to plant trees in other locations. In addition, we had a conservationist from Hawaii visit. She is researching how communities around the country work toward conservation.

Betsy Keokosky gave an update for the planned Regenerative Agriculture webinar program. See her article for more details and plan to join and hear from local farmers and experts.

The CAC meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held (via Zoom) on November 9, 7pm. ❧

DO YOU HAVE BLACK MAPLES?

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

IHAD NEVER HEARD OF THE BLACK MAPLE until recently. Yes, black maples are native to this area. They are closely related to the sugar maple and are now botanically listed as a subspecies. They can also hybridize with the sugar maple. Here's the best web page I've found for telling the two apart: [bplant.org/compare/93-215].

Sugar maple and black maple are difficult to distinguish and were once considered varieties of the same species. They are also able to hybridize and form intergrades, so not all individuals will be able to be identified as one or the other. Many trees, however, can be definitively identified by characteristics of their leaves. (from that web page). ❧

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SERIES

Submitted by Betsy Keokosky

Regenerative Agriculture: Soil Health and Climate Change

A PRESENTATION ENTITLED Local Partners and Common Misperceptions on November 18 will continue the agricultural discussion started in October. If you are wondering what the new buzzword regenerative agriculture is and how it can affect your farm or garden, and how it is being used in and around Danby, then this is the Zoom for you.

The new Regenerative Agriculture may seem similar in many ways to the old alternative agriculture. It uses many of the same concepts and methods introduced earlier by biodynamic gardening, organic gardening, permaculture, and other types of agriculture.

This is not surprising since these alternatives similarly rose in response to earlier manifestations of industrialized agriculture. Since then, the problems have multiplied with what have become transnational corporations influencing agriculture all over the world, encouraging production with chemical pesticides and fertilizers that do not replace the biomass that such production removes from the soil. Since then, the UN has estimated that 33 percent of the Earth's soils are already degraded and rates of soil erosion on arable or intensively grazed lands have become extremely accelerated.

This presentation talks about how regenerative agriculture can rebuild soils, and how it uses the new biology of symbiosis to emphasize collaboration and mutualism with the soil/plant micro-biome. Find out how it not only increases production, but also provides ecosystem services, like increased water and carbon retention, and how government is looking for ways to encourage people to become involved.

Speakers for this second presentation will be Graham Savio from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Jonathan Bates from Food Forest Farm [foodforestfarm.com] and Joshua Stone from Web of Life: Regenerative Land Care [weboflifelandcare.com].

On November 18, 7pm, find the Zoom link to the presentation on the Danby Event Calendar. Pre-registration is required (this can be done last minute, so don't be put off).

The third presentation, *Importance of Preserving Farmland and Transitioning It To New Farmers* will be in January 2022. ❁

COUNTY LEGISLATURE REPORT

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator

I HAVE WRITTEN SEVERAL TIMES about a broadband internet study the County was conducting. Unfortunately, the County's effort took an unexpected turn last month—a wrong turn in my opinion.

The study was mapping out the logistics and cost of building internet fiber to the unserved pockets of the County, many of which are in Danby. The cost of building that fiber network would be very high. However, there is a lot of state and federal grant money out there for broadband, and possibly more on the way. Apparently though, this high price tag spooked some members of the legislature, and the vote was 9 to 5 to discontinue the study.

Instead, we will be doing a physical survey, literally paying someone to drive around and map out which houses do not have wires in front of them. This will be valuable information, and I supported doing both this and the original study. The problem with only doing the physical survey is that a map is not a plan. The hope is that private internet service providers will use that map to expand into the unserved areas. I hope that turns out to be correct, but if not, there is no Plan B.

That was the legislature development that I was most disappointed in. The best legislative development that happened last month started when I proposed using \$1.6 million of our \$41 million fund balance to lower the tax levy increase to zero. It took 6 separate votes—4 failed amendments and 2 successful amendments—spread out over 3 meetings. In the end, the action we took was the same as the original proposal I made. The tax levy increase will be zero this year, the first time I am aware of the County Legislature achieving that milestone. The tax rate will decrease by 1.8 percent. The amount of tax you actually owe has to do with your individual assessment.

All this parliamentary procedure was about as thrilling as legislative work gets. I feel personally proud for having made the case that returning money to the taxpayers was not going to harm the County's finances. But the real winner in this is the taxpayer. We demand a high level of service here in Tompkins County, and for the most part we get it. It costs a lot of money to do that. But we also need to remember that what is good for the taxpayer is also good for the county as a whole. If you have questions or comments, you can contact me at [danbydan@hotmail.com] or my home phone number, 607.272.7582. ❁

DANBY SENIORS!

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

OUR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON WILL HAPPEN on Thursday, December 2, Noon, at LaTourelle! Together again!

We have planned a plated meal with a choice of either beef tips or chicken marsala including veggie sides. Harpist Ted Davenport will entertain us at 1pm and we very much look forward to hearing him again!

Please sign up with me, 607.273.8046 or [margievan@live.com] by November 15. Please indicate your choice of entree. Cost will be \$15 per person and our treasury will pick up the rest. ❁



The size of the machines is amazing; three such trucks heat, melt, and break up the existing asphalt. The huge flat burners underneath the trailer body are propane heaters, using 100s of gallons a day, and then stiff forks scrape the road to loosen it. Of course, all this requires continuous maintenance. Would you climb under there? (photos by John Smith)

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS! Fifty eight new items from the Friends of the Library Sale and seventy five items from TCPL. We have been busy re-stocking the shelves with all our newly acquired items so come and check them out.

We'd like to pay tribute to Ed Sutter, one of our most dedicated patrons. He lived each day to read a book. He passed away last month and will be truly missed.

Library hours are Tuesday, 1-3pm; Thursday and Saturday, 10am-Noon. You can contact us by Email at [library@danby.ny.gov]. ❁

**Why must I work?
It just gets in the way
of reading!** 📖

of reading! 📖
If just gets in the way
Why must I work?

YARD WORK AND SNOW SHOVELING

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging maintains a list of individuals who would be willing to do fall yard work and snow shoveling for older adults.

The leaves are starting to fall, and snow will soon follow. Many older adults are not able to remove the leaves and snow from their yards and sidewalks without assistance. Wet slippery leaves, deep snow and icy sidewalks are dangerous for everyone but especially for people with mobility difficulties.

The office is currently updating its list and is in need of more workers. We are especially in need of people who are willing to work in places outside of the City of Ithaca and in rural areas.

If you are interested in assisting older adults with yard work or by shoveling or plowing, on either a paid or volunteer basis, please call the Tompkins County Office for the Aging, 607.274.5482. If your name was listed last year, and you would like to be listed again, please notify us. ❁

Nov 2021

DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Nov 2 • Tue
6am-9pm 📍 Fire Stations • General Election Voting
- Nov 3 • Wed
5pm 📍 Zoom • West Danby Water District Mtg
- Nov 4 • Thu
7pm 📍 Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg
- Nov 6 • Sat
9am 📍 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting
- Nov 8 • Mon
7pm 📍 Zoom • Town Board Meeting
7pm 📍 DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting
7pm 📍 West Danby Fire Station • WD Fire Dep't Mtg
- Nov 9 • Tue
7pm 📍 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting
7pm 📍 Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg
- Nov 15 • Mon
7pm 📍 Zoom • Town Board Meeting: Zoning
- Nov 16 • Tue
7pm 📍 Zoom • Planning Board Mtg
- Nov 17 • Wed
7pm 📍 Zoom • Town Board Meeting
- Nov 18 • Thu
4pm 📍 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry
7pm 📍 Zoom • Regenerative Agruculture Presentation
- Nov 23 • Tue
7pm 📍 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting

- Dec 1 • Wed
5pm 📍 Zoom • West Danby Water District Mtg
- Dec 2 • Thu
Noon 📍 La Tourelle • Danby Seniors Holiday Luncheon
7pm 📍 Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg
- Dec 4 • Sat
9am 📍 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting
- Dec 13 • Mon
7pm 📍 Zoom • Town Board Meeting
7pm 📍 DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting
7pm 📍 West Danby Fire Station • WD Fire Dep't Mtg
- Dec 14 • Tue
7pm 📍 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting
7pm 📍 Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg
- Dec 16 • Thu
4pm 📍 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry

Ongoing Events

- Seniors Strength Class 📍 Danby Community Church
Mondays and Thursdays, 9-10am
Contact [jmchurch@tweny.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

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Planning Group	None	970 8279 1227	???
Town Board	Nov 8	980 8515 9868	754633
CAC	Nov 9	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	Nov 16	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Nov 17	971 0723 2988	535713
Zoning Appeals	None	986 3534 5196	281804
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

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