

DANBY NEWS

THE LATE DANBY NEWS

Submitted by Ted Crane

THE DANBY NEWS IS LATE, NOT GONE.

On January 19, 2022 the Danby Town Board passed a resolution eliminating its funding for the Danby News.

Preparing, printing, and distributing the Danby News is no small expense but the Danby Community Council feels that it is highly cost-effective. The DCC committed its own funds to continue the Danby News for, at least, a limited period of time.

The timing of these unprecedented events has resulted in delayed publication of the February, 2022 issue.

This isn't the time or place to discuss the justification offered by the Town Board for its action. Suffice to say that the DCC feels that the community-building and connections offered by a printed edition—delivered to every household in Danby—are far stronger than could be achieved by any other means.

A substantial number of residents read the Danby News from cover to cover. Even if some copies go straight into the recycle bin, many rely on it as a community heartbeat. Far fewer would go searching the web to find the similar information...that is, if they *could* go to the web in internet-starved Danby.

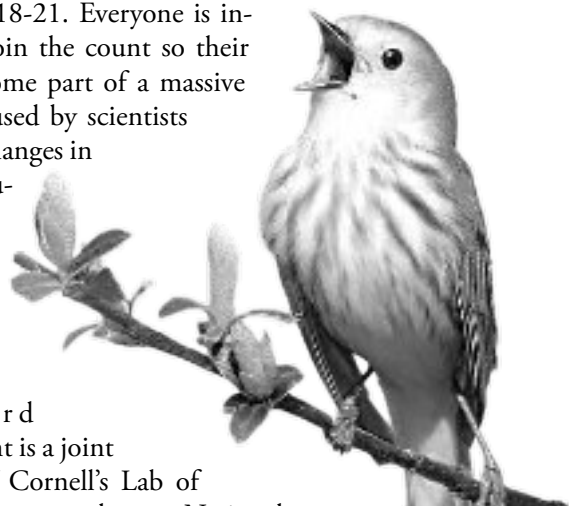
Finding new funding along with changes to content will be necessary. To make it work, the DCC may explore grants, more sponsorships, advertising, and asking those residents who are willing to help out by chipping in to cover the costs for themselves and everyone else. More discussion will follow. ❀

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Submitted by Cathy Darrow, DCC

FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, the annual Great Backyard Bird Count has been a bright spot for nature lovers. The 25th edition of the event is coming up February 18-21. Everyone is invited to join the count so their birds become part of a massive database used by scientists to track changes in bird populations over time.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of Cornell's Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada.



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Each participant counts birds for any length of time (but for at least fifteen minutes) and reports what they see online. It's easy for people of all skill levels. The 2021 count included a record number of participants. An estimated 300,000 people submitted checklists reporting 6,436 species!

To learn more about how to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, visit [birdcount.org]. Have time in advance? Join experts on Wednesday, February 16, 2-3pm to brush up on bird ID, unlock the mystery of bird songs, and practice counting birds no matter how large the flock or busy the feeder.

Register at [dl.allaboutbirds.org/gbbc22-fb-livestream]. ❀

February 2022

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Ted and Pamela; others.
Post Office Crew:
Ted

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PNG also works. Check with
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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 submit-
ting 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 accept-
able, we’ll make an effort to include it;
generally, we print everything we re-
ceive! You’ll find hints about how to pre-
pare 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. ❀

DCC UPDATE

Everything changes, everything stays the same
Submitted by Pamela Goddard, DCC President

DANBY’S **COMMUNITY COUNCIL** was founded more
than 25 years ago for the purpose of building com-
munity through youth development programs along
with educational programing and entertainment for
Danby residents (and the general public). The DCC’s
Corporate Bylaws were approved by New York State and
it was awarded 501(c)(3) (not-for-profit) status by the
IRS.

In recent years, we’ve expanded our program offerings
and we’re proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish
on a very limited budget.

Time passes; times change. Our Bylaws were last up-
dated more than a decade ago but, even then, mostly for
better organization. The last ten years have brought
amazing changes—imagine life before the internet—
and the aging Bylaws no longer reflect either useful—or
actual—operating practices. Another update was re-
quired to clarify procedures and meet current needs.

That process uncovered bigger problems. Unbeknownst
to small organizations like the DCC, New York State has
significantly changed its rules for non-profits. Danby’s
Town Board noted one particular problem: the Bylaws
make every resident of Danby a voting member and, in
the absence of specific directions in the Bylaws, NYS law
now requires 50 percent of the members to approve any
changes. There’s no way that 1,500 people are going to
inform themselves, attend a meeting, and vote.

This situation is known as a Catch-22. You have a prob-
lem and the problem prevents you from fixing the prob-
lem.

So, here’s where we are:
• the DCC postponed its 2022 General Meeting until a
time when we can, once again, meet and take action.
• the DCC is approaching legal counsel. The early word
is that the Bylaws will have to be substantially rewrit-
ten to meet current standards. For example, we will
have need a *whistleblower* policy; 25 years ago, the
term was associated with traffic cops and lifeguards,
not employee protection.
• of the seven Directors continuing or elected in 2021,
three were over term limits (the DCC is the only local
body with term limits; another Bylaw anomaly). The
remaining four are sufficient to continue business. The

Bylaws allow for the appointment of Directors to fill
empty seats.
• The Directors have committed to expeditiously resolv-
ing the problem, but recognize that neither the State
nor the IRS—nor the court system, if it comes to
that—are guaranteed to operate quickly.

We’re certainly looking for more involvement by Danby
residents. As our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion state-
ment says to all of our community, *We want to know who
you are and we want to include you in celebrating our
Town’s diversity. If you have an idea, we’d like to help make
it happen.*

Please bring us your ideas or bring us your volunteer
efforts to help make other’s ideas happen.

Meanwhile:
• Yes, the DCC Board will continue the Youth Pro-
grams.
• Yes, there will be a concert series; this year, it will
honor the efforts of Bob Strichartz, who guided it for
many years.
• Yes, other public educational and information pro-
grams will continue.
• Yes, the Danby News will continue but we will be
turning to Danby residents to help us with funding
(see separate article). ❀

FIRE DISTRICT REGULAR MEETINGS

Submitted by Sharon Gaden, Fire District Secretary

Please take notice that the Danby Fire
District of the Town of Danby, Tompkins
County, New York, will hold its regular
meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of
each month at 7pm. Meetings will be held
in the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby
Road, Town of Danby. All meetings of the
Danby Fire District are open to the pub-
lic.

This notice is being given in accordance
with the provisions of Section 104 of
the Public Officers Law of the State of
New York.

By order of the Danby Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners. January 25,
2022. ❀

SUPERVISOR’S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

Zoning Update Passed!

WE DIDN’T MAKE OUR SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE of year’s end, but the Town Board unanimously passed the zoning update during the first meeting of the new year on January 4. What was passed does not include the Transfer of Development Rights component because that will first need a Generic Environmental Impact Study and findings. I expect that to be done in the next couple of months, whereupon the TDR will be taken up by the Town Board. Passage and inclusion in our zoning law is not assured. The GEIS is important, as is the expressed opinion of the public.

There is a lot that is new and different in the new zoning law. The Planning Board will be on the front lines of the approval process for applications under the new rules. The January meeting of the PB focused on David West, our Town Planner, conducting something of a tutorial to get the group up to speed.

Tax Abatements Tied To Conservation Easements

Governor Hochul signed into law the authorization, passed in both the Assembly and Senate, allowing Danby

to reduce the taxes on land protected by conservation easements. We sought this enabling legislation because in its absence land is mandated by the State to be assessed at market value. While some can afford the taxes, for others the cost is a driver to subdivide and sell. This pressure from taxes was called out in the very first meeting of the Planning Group, two years ago, and resulted in a working group being formed that focused on how to get tax relief for those in need—who are primarily large landowners. The group coalesced around a proposal, discovered when researching options, to seek State authorization to do what four Towns in New York State had already done, using a Department of Environmental Conservation template—which is to reduce taxes on land protected by conservation easements. The model law provides for temporary easements, with the amount of the abatement tied to the length of the easement term as well as for the permanent easements we were already doing here in Danby. The fact that we already have a conservation easement program in Danby, administered by the Conservation Advisory Council, put us in a good position to take on the work the law would enable.

Now that we have been given the authorization, we need to pass a local law to implement it. During the January 4 TB meeting, the CAC was charged with working with our Town Planner to propose how this will work in Danby. A committee of the CAC was created at the January 11 meeting and has already met to kick-start this effort.

There are many questions that need to be addressed. Do we have to adhere strictly to the provisions in the enabling legislation, or can we do something less? “Less” could be having fewer categories of abatement (the legislative authorization has four) or granting less of a reduction (the committee agrees that the difference between a permanent easement’s reduction of 90 percent and the 85 percent for a 50-75 year commitment is smaller than desired). No point in even thinking about it if we have to implement exactly as written. It is already clear that the Town can pick and choose which properties are allowed to participate based on the perceived public benefit, so developing criteria for

—continued on page 6 ➔

WHERE THINGS REALLY COME FROM

IRON COMES FROM A HARDWARE STORE.

IRONS COME FROM A HOME GOODS STORE.

MILK COMES FROM A GROCERY STORE.

COTTON WOOL DOESN’T COME FROM A PLANT OR A SHEEP.

IT COMES FROM THE PHARMACY SECTION OF A SUPERMARKET.

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

DANBY EARLY BIRDERS

2022 Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by Wes Blauvelt

WITH TEMPERATURES approaching 50 degrees F, the Cayuga Bird Club’s annual Christmas Bird Count took place on January 1, 2022 in unseasonably balmy weather. This year’s count was the 60th consecutive count by the bird club and 122nd sponsored by the National Audubon Society.

The Ithaca count circle is divided into 10 areas, radiating 15 miles from a central location approximately at the intersection of Mt. Pleasant and Turkey Hill Roads. The Danby area has boundaries extending from the Cayuga Inlet behind the Wegmans parking lot, south to Lick Brook and up over Sandbank Road to the southern most point in the Ithaca count circle at Dotson Park. Along the way, several birding hotspots are included, among them Upper and Lower Buttermilk Falls, Sweedler and Thayer Preserves, Kingsbury Woods and the campus of Ithaca College.

The count effort is an important part of the Audubon national survey. Nineteen Danby area residents participated in the count.

They covered sixteen designated hotspots along with several backyard bird feeders. Cumulatively, the Danby surveyors spent more than 50 hours counting birds, covering 32 miles on foot and over 100 miles by car.

But what about the birds? Several early birders started surveying for owls at 5am. The bird count picked up steam when additional surveyors entered the field at sunrise, and continued until sundown. During this 12-hour period, 41 species were found in Danby. This was one species short of the 2021 result of 42 species. Within the Ithaca count circle, 81 species were identified, down from a 10-year average of 93 species and well below the all-time high of 101 species recorded in 2018.

New high count records were established in the Ithaca count circle for 8 species that may best be described as migration procrastinators: Turkey Vultures (89), Double-crested Cormorant (14), Belted Kingfisher (18), Red-bellied Woodpecker (339), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (9), Blue Jay (1424), Winter Wren (11) and Carolina Wren (213). There were no record low counts for an individual species within the Ithaca count circle this year.

The early birder counters were able to identify bird song from four Great Horned Owls whose *who-hoo-hoo, who* calls could be heard near the village and along Rt. 96. Wrens and woodpeckers were abundant in the Danby area as well as the Ithaca count circle. For example, Red-bellied Woodpecker (46), Downy Woodpecker (63), Pileated Woodpecker (11) White-breasted (41) and Red-breasted Nuthatch (10) each had a strong showing in Danby with year over year counts exceeding 2021. Winter Wrens, an uncommon winter resident, were present in the Danby count along with Carolina Wrens (24) whose numbers continued to trend upward in Danby. In the Danby area, Ruffed Grouse, Great Blue Heron and Brown Creeper were observed in 2022 but not 2021, while Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Red Crossbill and Common Redpoll found in 2021 were not seen this year.

The Danby count participants are an enthusiastic group and their dedication helped make the 2022 Christmas Bird Count a success. If you are interested in joining the *Danby Early Birders* for next year’s Christmas Bird Count, mark your calendars...we will be doing it all over again on Sunday, January 1, 2023. Thank you and good birding in 2022. ❀

IMBOLC 2022

Submitted by Claire Forest

Not just snowed in, iced in. My Celtic heart savors this dreaming silence.

Grateful to Silent Bowman for fixing woodstove &
Neighbor Mike for plowing.

Yet it’s daunting shovel from porch to gate. Stay home.
Eat from pantry.

Burrowed into sound sleep.
Awakened by attic mouse. I hoot. Mouse scurries out.
Barred owl replies from near pond. Silence glistens.

[Imbolc, also known as St.Brigid’s Day, is celebrated on February 1. Along with Bealtaine, Lughnasadh, and Samhain, it is one of the four pagan, seasonal, Gaelic festivals. Starting in 2023, it will be a recognized public holiday in the Republic of Ireland. -editor]

COUNTY LEGISLATURE REPORT

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator

THERE IS A FEDERAL AND STATE redistricting process going on right now. This article is about just the Tompkins County redistricting process. The district that I represent on the Tompkins County Legislature, District 7, includes Danby, Caroline, and a small section of the Town of Ithaca (south of East King Road).

Danby and Caroline have been grouped together in one County Legislature district for many decades. I consider it a positive that neither Danby nor Caroline is split into separate districts, like many of the municipalities in Tompkins County are (City and Town of Ithaca, Enfield, Dryden, Lansing).

Tompkins County established an Independent Redistricting Commission after the last census, ten years ago—the only such one in NY State. Since then, we have amended the County Charter—kind of the constitution for the County—to mandate an independent redistricting process going forward.

The County's Independent Redistricting Commission will be looking at the census data and making a recommendation of how County Legislature district lines should be drawn for the next decade. There are many factors they will take into account. If you want input into their process, you can give that input at any time (search for *tompkins redistricting*). Also, there will be a session on Tuesday February 22, 5:30pm, for the Redistricting Commission to hear input specifically from our district and some of the surrounding districts. The meeting is by Zoom, and you have to register in advance if

➤ Supervisor, continued from page 4

making those judgments will certainly figure in. The Town Attorney is being consulted to understand what can and cannot be done.

Another consideration is the participation of other taxing entities within the Town. The enabling legislation allows for School Districts to also exempt from school taxes participating properties. Ditto for the Fire District and the County. These additional taxing jurisdictions have generally agreed to opt into the program in the other Towns that have adopted this approach. Opting in would be revenue-neutral for them, not affecting their budgets or the amount of taxes they can levy. It will reduce the tax base from

you want to attend that meeting. Or you can watch it on the Tompkins County YouTube channel.

The only input I plan to offer is a) most importantly, I hope that neither Danby nor Caroline gets split into separate districts, and b) keeping Danby and Caroline in one district seems to work well.

My reasons for saying that Danby and Caroline are good partners in one legislative district:

- Danby and Caroline both have a strong sense of place.
- Danby's and Caroline's topography and population density are similar. Our issues concerning broadband internet and cell phone reception are similar because of this.
- Danby and Caroline are contiguous. No strangely-drawn tentacle shapes are necessary for this district.
- Both Danby and Caroline have good community newsletters. I'm not sure any other municipality has an all-town newsletter, and Danby is the last Town in the county with a newsletter that is mailed to all residents. It makes it easy for the County Legislator to communicate with most residents of the district. By contrast, I have no easy way to communicate with the Town of Ithaca residents in my district.

To participate in the Redistricting Commission meeting via Zoom, contact the Clerk of the Legislature at least a day in advance at ccouvert@tompkins-co.org. To view the meeting live or to find the recording, search Youtube for *tompkins county redistricting*.

You can contact me at [\[danbydan@hotmail.com\]](mailto:danbydan@hotmail.com) or my home phone number, 607.272.7582. ☘

which the taxes are raised, though, so that the remaining properties in the taxing jurisdiction will have to make up the difference. The additional cost would be small. How small? That is another question the committee will investigate. A meeting with Jay Franklin, the head of the Tompkins County Assessment Department, is another early step for this committee.

State Broadband Survey

As I mentioned last month, the Town has contracted to have the Town surveyed to determine who has access to wired internet and who does not. The results are expected in February and will inform our strategy for how to ad-

—continued on page 8 ➤

FIRE DISTRICT HOLDS ORG MTG

Submitted by Katherine Anderson, Fire Commissioner

EVERY JANUARY, FIRE DISTRICTS in New York State are required to hold an Organizational Meeting to confirm the election of line officers and any new commissioners, and appoint a Secretary and Treasurer and any deputies. The chairperson and an alternate chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners is made official as well.

The meeting is also an opportunity to distribute committee assignments among the commissioners and Fire Department representatives. The Danby Fire District committees include: Audit, Buildings & Grounds, Budget, Grants, Insurance, Long Range Plan, Policy, Tech, Purchasing, Records, Town Board, Trucks, and Membership and Training.

The following line officers were elected for the Danby and West Danby Fire Department on December 16, 2021 and slated for approval at the district's organizational meeting on January 25, 2022.

John Gaden, Danby Chief

Daniel Saracino, Danby 1st Asst. Chief

Peter Goodman, Danby 2nd Asst. Chief

(vacant), Danby 3rd Asst. Chief

Simon Wyatt, Danby Lieutenant

Scott Wendt, West Danby Chief

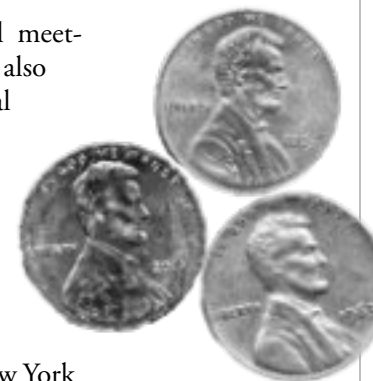
Ken VanEtten, W. Danby 1st Asst. Chief

Samantha VanEtten, W. Danby 2nd Asst. Chief

Robert McCray, W. Danby 3rd Asst. Chief

During the organizational meeting, the Commissioners also designate the Official Newspaper of the Danby Fire District—the Ithaca Journal—and affirm the district's bank/s, attorney, and membership in relevant organizations, such as the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York and Tompkins County Chiefs Association.

The Organizational Meeting is one of many ways in which the Danby Fire District Commissioners undertake their duty to comply with New York State Fire District regulations and policies—all with the aim of keeping our fire departments well-trained and equipped so that they can keep all of us safe. ☘



CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Margaret Corbit, Conservation Advisory Council

THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) met on January 11 via Zoom.

The Council set up a subcommittee to work on the proposed Town law providing tax abatement for Conservation Easement donors. The subcommittee went straight to work on January 14, meeting with David West.

Jonathan Zisk gave updates on the Conservation Easement signs, which are being very carefully installed in a way that allows for the trees on which they are posted to grow and thrive. He reported on the ongoing annual monitoring of existing easements. Monitoring requires CAC volunteers to inspect the properties and submit reports that ensure the terms of the easement are being followed.

Many people attended the third in the series of Danby Agricultural Education Presentations hosted by Betsy Keokosky on the evening of Thursday, January 14. Eloquent experts discussed ideas ranging from the highly detailed and practical to the cultural aspects of farming, in our area and beyond. The speakers gave a whirlwind overview of their perspectives on maintaining and revitalizing farming practices. They also shared several very useful web sites that provide resources for governmental and academic direction and assistance.

Brittany Lagaly, a member of the Conservation Advisory Council and terrestrial plant specialist for the Finger Lakes Institute, will give a presentation titled *Gardening with Native Plants* on Thursday, February 10, 7pm, via Zoom. Topics to be covered include the ecological benefits of using native plants in your garden, alternatives to invasive horticultural plants, pollinator-plant interactions, and sourcing native plants and seeds.

We began the New Year by welcoming Katharine Hunter back to the Council.

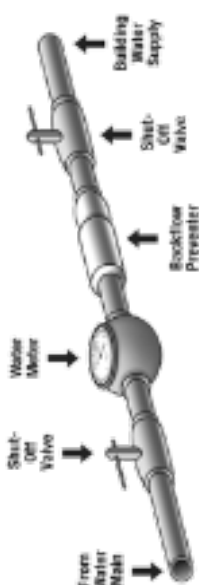
We encourage you to join our meetings using the link posted on the Town Calendar. We want your input on issues currently under discussion.

The CAC meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held (via Zoom) on Tuesday, March 8, 7pm. ☘

**WORRYING IS ONLY FOR IMPORTANT STUFF.
FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, JUST COMPLAIN.**

➤ Supervisor, continued from page 6

dress unmet need. Some measure of public subsidy of line extensions is likely to follow. Funding will, of course, be an issue. The good news is that there is now broad agreement that universal high-speed internet access is a modern-day necessity, even for very rural residents. State and Federal money is increasingly being made available. The need and cost of extending service to everyone is huge, though, and our ability to compete for funding is enhanced by documenting how existing service is inadequate. You can help by participating in a survey being conducted by the New York State ConnectALL Office (CAO). The brief survey enables you to report your actual on-the-ground broadband availability and experience, which may help direct future funding. All are encouraged to participate, even if you already have some degree of internet service. If you have access to the web, visit New York State Broadband Assessment Project for info on how to participate in the survey. If you don't have access or would rather fill out a paper survey, call 855.692.2627.



Water District Operator Sought

Tod Sukontarak, the principal operator of the West Danby Water District, has stepped down from that position and Scott Wendt, the assistant operator, has taken over the lead position. Tod is now the assistant. Because he intends to travel in his retirement, he will be away for weeks at a time, leaving only one operator available. We need another operator for back-up, someone who will replace Tod as he transitions into full retirement. Might that be you?

We have been lucky to have had West Danby residents willing to serve as operators so far in the life of the district, and the ideal person to fill the need would be available on quick notice. That means they need to live or work nearby and be willing and able to drop whatever else they are doing to deal with a sudden need (like a water line break or critical system component failure). They need not be a district resident, but they will need to ei-

—continued on page 10 ➤

VOLUNTEER FOR THE DANBY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Submitted by Cathy Darrow

INTERESTED IN GIVING BACK to your community for a few hours a month? Get acquainted with the Danby Community Council by volunteering to help produce an event...or to come up with an event and ask the DCC to help you make it happen.



The non-political DCC organizes concerts, community events, and informative presentations, supervises Danby's youth programs, offers grants for youth attending other programs, and more. It publishes the Danby News to keep us all connected to Town affairs and events.

The DCC welcomes volunteers of all kinds, but much of the planning falls to the Board of Directors. Directors meet once or twice a month (the regular meeting is on the first Thursday of the month, 7pm, via Zoom; there may be additional committee meetings).

Anyone can volunteer to help with programs or even bring a program idea to the DCC for its support!

Help us support every corner of Danby. A few hours a month of your time would really help us deliver great local activities. For more information, check out [danbycc.org] or contact [ContactUs@danbycc.org]. ✂

iMACS: WANTED AND WANT GONE

Submitted by Ted Crane

DO YOU HAVE an unused iMac...or do you need an inexpensive computer?

If you have an iMac lying around, I can fix it up and pass it on to someone who needs one. If you need one, I can help you turn a used gem from Craigslist or FB Marketplace into a useful household tool. No fee, just for fun.

Email me at [box.888@danbyny.org]. ✂

danbycc.org ONLINE

The Community Council web page [danbycc.org] is full of useful files and links!

- Descriptions and Recordings of past concerts and events. We try to offer attendance via both Zoom and YouTube live stream. You can watch your favorite program any time on YouTube.
- Links to Youth Program schedules (what will happen) and reports (what did happen).
- Info about our Youth Grants, financial assistance offered to Danby Youth to attend special programs of their choice.
- Info about Summer Youth Employment opportunities.
- Financial Reports, Meeting Agendas, and Meeting Minutes.
- And, of course, contact info! ✂



SNOW ON THE ROOF

Submitted by Susan Franklin

SNOW ON THE ROOF is often used to refer to elderly people, but not this time. We're talking about the huge masses of white stuff on top of your vehicle! It can weigh many pounds. It cuts your gas mileage and stresses your engine.

Early on Wednesday, December 29, there was little—but very wet—snow on the ground and on every vehicle that was parked outdoors. Nothing to worry about, really. As the day warmed up, the snow on the roofs started to melt and slip off. I was following a huge snow float uphill on NYS Rt.13 when it went, “slide, splat,” and my car went, “ka-thumpity, thump,” when it hit the small mountain of snow on the road.

As the winter progresses, the snow will not be so wet. More vehicles will have light fluffy snow blowing

off, momentarily blinding the driver of the next vehicle ...just long enough to miss a curve, or a slowing vehicle, or even an upcoming turn.

To prevent mistakes, accidents, or worse, clean your vehicle's roof before you drive. That's winter safety for you and every driver. ✂

INTERNET ACCESS IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Tompkins County Urges Residents to Complete Broadband Assessment Survey

TOMPKINS COUNTY IS URGING RESIDENTS and local businesses to fill out a survey from New York State to help map broadband internet infrastructure and access. Results from the survey will inform the New York State's Department of Public Service and future efforts to improve broadband access, reliability, and affordability.

The survey takes 5–7 minutes to complete and will assist the agency's effort to more accurately report where high speed broadband is available and where it is not. Visit [empirestatebroadband.com] by March 18 to take the survey digitally or call the toll-free broadband assessment line, 855.NYBBMAP (855.692.2627) to receive a paper copy in the mail.

WHEN A CLOWN MOVES INTO A PALACE,
THE CLOWN DOESN'T BECOME A KING.
THE PALACE BECOMES A CIRCUS.

IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO FIND JOY IN THE SNOW,
YOU WILL HAVE LESS JOY IN YOUR LIFE
BUT STILL THE SAME AMOUNT OF SNOW.

➤ Supervisor, continued from page 8

ther already have the needed training in system operation or be willing to take the training to be certified. The district will pay for the training, if it is needed. The required apprenticeship can also be satisfied by working with the operators. This is a very part-time salaried position (\$3,932/year) that carries a lot of responsibility. If you are interested, give me a call, 607.227.4440.

We did not opt out of Cannabis

The Town Board put forth a local law to opt out of Cannabis Consumption sites so that the public could speak to the question at the associated public hearing. There was very little comment from the public, though. A motion to vote on the law failed for want of a second, so we are opting in to both the possibility of sales and consumption. This despite the lack of relevant information from the State about what either sales or consumption sites would look like or how they would function. We will still have some measure of control for either of these should they be proposed for Danby, given the requirements of our Zoning Law.

New Trucks for Highway

Along with the loader, our plow/dump trucks are key pieces of equipment for the Highway Department. We have three 10-year-old trucks that are becoming expensive to maintain. While we take good care of them, salt is even harder on them than it is on your car or truck. The Town Board committed to buying three new trucks (at \$250,000 each!). The delivery time for these vehicles is even more stretched than for autos. We don't expect that they can be delivered for at least 18 months (which is when we really want them). By ordering now we locked in the current price. We will pay for them in installments. Because the trucks being replaced will not be junkyard ready, we can get some of the needed funds by auctioning them off. Since they will be paid off, we have the money that we have been putting in the budget for their installment purchase to apply to the new trucks. There will be more needed, of course, but we can plan ahead and budget for it. The result will be an increase if the tax levy in one year, but not a big increase.

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. ❄

THE IMPACT OF A PUN
IS MEASURED WITH A SIGHSMOGRAPH;
ITS LONGEVITY
IS TIMED WITH A GROANOMETER.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

THIS SINGLE DIGIT WEATHER makes it nice to justify staying home and curling up on the couch with a good book! We had 20 Adult Fiction Books from TCPL delivered this week to add to more of our newly purchased items:

Adult Fiction

- *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell
- *Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam
- *Oh William!* by Elizabeth Strout
- *Something Wild* by Hanna Halperin
- *Sunflower Sisters* by Martha Hall Kelly
- *The Book of Magic* by Alice Hoffman
- *The Children's Blizzard* by Melanie Benjamin
- *i* by Tracey Lange

Children's Books

- *Childhood Rhymes for Modern Times* by Lynn Garthwaite
- *Little Critter's Snowball Soup* by Mercer Mayer

Adult Nonfiction

- *On Wave and Wing: The 100 year Quest to Perfect the Aircraft Carrier* by Barrett Tillman

The library is open on Tuesdays, 1-3 pm; Thursdays and Saturdays 10am-Noon. ❄

NASA INTERNSHIPS FOR AUTISTIC HIGH SCHOOLERS

Submitted by Zoe Learner Ponterio, SPIF

DO YOU KNOW AN AUTISTIC HIGH SCHOOLER who is interested in STEM and working with NASA? NASA's Neurodiversity Network (N3) is offering several summer internships for high school students, 16 years of age or older, who identify as autistic and have completed algebra and at least one year of a physical science course.

The details are at [n3.sonoma.edu/resources/]. The application deadline is in early March. ❄

A BOOKISH PROBLEM:

Thinking about the
characters long after
you've finished a book...
and wondering
what's become of
them.

Danby Youth Flyer

Danby Community Council Winter Youth Programs

Sock Puppets in the Wild (grades 4-5)

Mondays, 2-5pm, 2/14, 2/28, 3/7

South Hill Business Campus Like Wild Kratts, but with puppets. Youth will learn puppetry basics, make a sock puppet with stick-controlled arms, write simple short scripts, and produce their own puppet-narrated nature shows. We may also have a weekend filming session at another location.

Games and Game-Building (grades 6-8)

Tuesdays, 4-6pm, 2/15, 3/1

South Hill Business Campus What's more fun than playing games? Creating your own! Youth may choose to use this time to run their own table-top role-playing game, play board games, or work together to invent their own worlds and game systems. Incorporating movement and time outdoors will be encouraged.

Make Stuff, Do Things (grades 4-5)

Wednesdays, 2-5pm, 2/16, 3/2

South Hill Business Campus Try something new every week with our grab bag of crafts and games. Explore LEDs by making a light-up card. Create a resin gem. Make a patchwork pouch using old scarves and sweaters. Stitch together some cozy fleece slipper socks or a set of microwave hand warmers to keep in your coat pockets. Then, sample some games: maybe Throw, Throw Burrito or Qwirkle, or maybe you have something to teach the rest of us!

Making an Impossibook (grades 6-8)

Thursdays, 4-6pm, 2/17, 3/3, 3/10

South Hill Business Center Craft a cover worthy of your favorite story or bind your own book. Will you create a leather-bound tome with ancient brass fittings? Or barklike bindings decked with leaves and buds? We'll be using materials like paperclay to make 3D cover designs, creating glowing gems and flickering flames using LEDs

The winter session of Danby Youth Programs began on January 18. In addition to weekly programs, we'll be having a Saturday activity called Comfy Winter Cooking on February 19. It's scheduled online for now, with the possibility of switching to in-person depending on pandemic guidelines. Youth can also register for the scavenger hunt to end all scavenger hunts, taking place over February break. It's designed so that youth can work on it independently or with friends and family, with internet or without.

Information about current programs and registration forms can be found via the links at [danbycc.org/YouthPrograms].

If you have questions, please contact the youth program educator, Heidi Doggett, [hd289@cornell.edu] or 607.272.2292.x268. ❄

and copper tape, adding pop-out designs, and more. Try out different techniques before designing your final masterpiece.

Comfy Winter Cooking

Grades 4-5: Saturday 2/19, 11am-12:30pm

Grades 6-8: Saturday 2/19, 3:30-5:30pm

Online, pending pandemic guidelines

It's cold outside, so let's learn how to make something warm! Using a combination of ingredients provided by the program and staples from home, youth will work through recipes step by step with the program leader online. In-person adult supervision appropriate to their age and skill level is required. Youth input will determine the final menu, but think pot pie, chili, oven fries, and fruit crisp.

The Hunt for Winter's Heart (grades 4-8)

Monday 2/21-Sunday 2/27

Both online and in-person, mostly on your own schedule Join an epic week-long scavenger hunt to help Lady Rime find Winter's Heart, which has gone missing. Daily puzzles and challenges offer youth a chance to participate in a group effort remotely and on their own schedule. Youth do not have to complete every challenge, but for each completed challenge, they will gain a piece of Winter's Heart. Many activities will be available online or for pickup in print at Danby Town Hall. Activities range from crossword puzzles to an outdoor search using a treasure map at Dotson Park. They include opportunities to make crafts, identify plants, solve riddles at the Ithaca Commons, write stories round-robin, leave messages in a hidden book, and maybe even spot Lady Rime when she arrives to collect your clues at sunset. What happens once each piece of Winter's Heart has been found and returned to Lady Rime? You won't want to miss it! Plan to come in person for the finale challenge on Sunday, February 27, 3:30pm-5pm, exact location (in Danby) TBA.

Feb 2022

DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Feb 1 • Tue
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Town Board Meeting
- Feb 2 • Wed
 5pm 📺 Zoom • West Danby Water District Mtg
- Feb 3 • Thu
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg
- Feb 5 • Sat
 9am 📺 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting
- Feb 8 • Tue
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg
- Feb 10 • Thu
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Gardening w/ Native Plants
- Feb 14 • Mon
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting
 7pm 📺 West Danby Fire Station • WD Fire Dep't Mtg
- Feb 14 • Mon
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg
- Feb 15 • Tue
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Planning Board Mtg
- Feb 16 • Wed
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Town Board Meeting
- Feb 17 • Thu
 4pm 📺 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry
- Feb 18 • Fri-Mon
 All Day 📺 Everywhere • Backyard Bird Count
- Feb 22 • Tue
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Feb/Mar 1	980 8515 9868	754633
CAC	Feb/Mar 8	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	Feb/Mar 15	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Feb/Mar 16	971 0723 2988	535713
Zoning Appeals	None	986 3534 5196	281804

To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923

- Mar 1 • Tue
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Town Board Meeting
- Mar 2 • Wed
 5pm 📺 Zoom • West Danby Water District Mtg
- Mar 3 • Thu
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg
- Mar 5 • Sat
 9am 📺 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting
- Mar 8 • Tue
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting
 7pm 📺 Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council Mtg
- Mar 14 • Mon
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting
 7pm 📺 West Danby Fire Station • WD Fire Dep't Mtg

Ongoing Events

- Seniors Strength Class 📺 via Zoom
 Mondays, 9–10am: [zoom.us/j/84819023648]
 Thursdays, 9–10am: [zoom.us/j/87163913959]
 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 📺 via Zoom: [zoom.us/j/8209358263]
 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