October 2022 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

Harvest Festival Edition

Harvest Festival Returns!

Join the Danby Community Council for its 8th (recently, not quite annual) Harvest Festival. After an unwanted three-year break, this joyous, family-friendly event is back in Dotson Park on the afternoon of Sunday, October 16, 1-5pm. This is the biggest event of the Danby Community Council year, bringing together music, nature education, and fun activities for the entire family.

The DCC's last Harvest Festival was in the "before times" of Autumn 2019. After two years of needing to stay safe and apart, we are so pleased and excited to return to this outdoor gathering. The pavilion, natural playground, and open areas of Dotson Park make a perfect spot to enjoy the glories of an October day, chat with your neighbors, and have relaxed community-based fun.

Take 2: Hatchet & Knife Throwing

In the world of champion knife throwing, one does not get a "do over." Last month, the targets were ready, Paul Maccarone had his displays arranged, and he was all set to demonstrate his record-setting skills...but the weather had other plans. Luckily, we have a rain date; a "do over" for this popular program.

The Danby Community Council is excited to present an afternoon of Hatchet and Knife throwing with World Champion Paul Maccarone. Meet at Dotson Park (just past the pavilion) on Sunday afternoon, October 9, 2pm.

—continued on page 3 ➲

Celebrate the harvest with some of the produce vendors who have been bringing their goods to the monthly summer market in the park. We can't promise what you'll find, but hearty vegetables and fruits are likely. For those who prefer to see their vegetables flying through the sky, the air powered "potato launcher" gun will be on hand. It has also been known to launch socks, lemons, and laughter!

Once again, there will be a chance to get close to birds of prey! The Cornell Raptor Program is bringing its array of hunting birds. There are always several species present, including a mix of hawks, falcons, kestrels, and owls. Instead of watching them on the wing from below, you can see them up close at eye level!

The Program was established in 1993 to provide an opportunity for Cornell undergraduate students and other community members to become involved directly with efforts to promote conservation of birds of prey. Trained student presenters give presentations on biology and natural history..and answer your questions.

But wait, there's more! Families can enjoy the return of the hay wagon ride that'll tour the park. There's the natural playground for children of all ages to enjoy, Snacks and "cook your own" s'mores and hotdogs will be available over a small fire. And there will be music most of the afternoon. (see "Goats in the Woodshed") Come on out and see what other surprises there may be. After three years, it's time to celebrate together again! (dcc)

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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October 2022

Layout: Ted Crane
Count-n-Label Crew:
Ted and Pamela; others.
Post Office Crew:
Ted

To contribute items:
Danby Area News
PO Box 6886
Ithaca, NY 14851-6886
Phone: 607.273.8678
Email: [danbynews@danbycc.org]

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 Guidelines* at the same web location.

You'll learn what is, and isn't acceptable material for publication. If it's acceptable, we'll make an effort to include it; generally, we print everything we receive! You'll find hints about how to prepare a submission. Following these guidelines makes the editing and layout easier.

A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page. ϒ

➲ *Hatchets and Knives, con't from front page*

Watch and learn the mesmerizing, unique skills from this Danby resident and world champion knife thrower. Paul and his wife, Christine O'Brien, are all set to give us a tour of this little known international sport. Bring a chair, if you wish, and dress for the weather. The program is appropriate for the entire family.

Paul will demonstrate his lightning fast throws from distances ranging from 10 to 30 feet. Blades that weigh between 1/4 and 1/2 pounds zip through the air from 30-50 miles per hour. While Paul concentrates on the accuracy of his throws, Christine will share her own knowledge of what is happening and why.

The couple emphasizes that they are involved in knife throwing purely as a sport and for the love of competition. Used in their hands, these are not weapons but implements for target sport. To show the speed and accuracy of the sport, Paul may demonstrate the style of "Fast Draw" he has perfected, using playing cards as special targets.

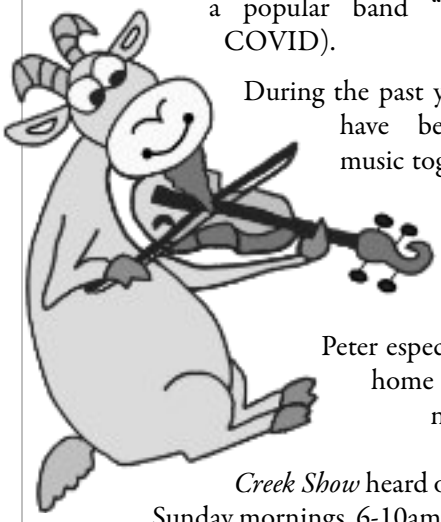
Safety is paramount for this sport. "When done responsibly, this is a very safe sport," Maccarone assures us. The biggest danger is from bounce backs off the target. With that in mind, the throwing area will be roped off so that no one accidentally is in danger. This will be fun, interesting, and safe for the entire family. (dcc)

I lack socks
So they never get dirty
But someone besides me says
Your feet are cold.
Are cold, real cold, right now.
(to the tune of Black Socks*)*

Goats in the Woodshed

Nope, not a potential barn yard disaster. Goats in the Woodshed is the band name used by a few great Tompkins County musicians playing energetic Old Time music. The Goats will be the centerpiece music for the 8th Annual DCC Harvest Festival on October 16, 1-5pm in Dotson Park. Toes will tap and face will grin as they hear the joyous sounds of fiddles, guitar, banjo, and bass ringing through the laughter of our first community gathering since 2019. Catch them, 2-4pm.

Goats in the Woodshed is a new band rooted in the Ithaca area old-time music scene. Laura Taylor and Scott Nissenson have been hosting a music jam for many years. Nancy Spero and Peter Fraissinet were part of *Mad Goat* a popular band "before times" (pre-COVID).



During the past year, the four of them have been "woodshedding" music together—learning what tunes they have in common and finding their mutual groove.

Peter especially brings the music home for his West Danby neighbors. Peter is one of the hosts of the *Salt Creek Show* heard on WVBR 93.5FM on Sunday mornings, 6-10am. Years of broadcasting a mix of Old-Time, Bluegrass, and Country music (with a sprinkling of Cajun, Blues, and Gospel) has informed his own fiddle and banjo playing. Peter regularly pulls together a set of old-time musicians for the annual West Danby Picnic in August. It will be a pleasure to have him up in "Central Danby" for the Harvest Fest.

If folks are inclined, there is the potential for an open music jam and/or song swap to close out the Harvest Festival around the cook fire. Make your own s'mores and other treats. If you've got a guitar or mandolin—or something—in the closet ready for playing, bring it out and we'll make music together. (pg)

You can fool some of the people some of the time.
Focus on those people.
- P.T.Barnum, had he lived today

Reminiscing #2

Ended my October 14, 2005 Town Talk column with this thought: "You are only young once. After that, you have to think up another excuse." Author anonymous.

I might have been thinking about myself at that time but, when I read it now, I am thinking about my two granddaughters, Marci (25) and Maddi (20). Life as young adults is very different for them from what it was for myself and my generation. It does, however, remain good advice for everyone to follow!

In my October 14, 2005 column, I wrote about the passing of John Nardi, a longtime friend included in our wedding party in 1966 as an usher.

I wrote about fall educational programs being planned for Danby kids and even now, in 2020, dedicated individuals continue to work to provide fun stuff for neighborhood youngsters.

Two fundraisers were being planned, one at the Common Ground (now just an empty field across from the Danby Road American Legion) and one at the Danby Fire Station. They were intended to help with medical costs for our friends, the owners of what was then the Danby Market and is now the Danby Gathery. Toni and Judy were dealing with Toni's cancer struggle, which she lost after a brave battle.

In my October 28, 2004 column I wrote about the Halloween party in the Danby Fire Station. It was a favorite community event for many years. I also wrote about the well-attended Election Night dinner held in the Danby Federated Church (now the Danby Community Church). I ended this "almost Halloween column" with this Halloween hint: "For an eerie glow, put green bulbs in your porch lights." (gh)

How easy it is for those who play no part in public affairs to sneer at the compromises required of those who do.
- Cicero, Roman politician (106-43BC)(assassinated)

This Issue's Writers

- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- cmc Comm. Church
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- mv .. Margie VanDeMark
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- rr..... Ronda Roaring
- tc .... Ted Crane

Healthy Homes, Healthy Us

The Healthy Homes, Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) in Tompkins County wants to help your family stay well, and they have *lots* of things to share with you. Not only information, but also a wide range of products and valuable expertise. We think that this is so important, we're bringing the Healthy Neighborhoods Program back to your attention.

Back in August, Diana and Pat, representatives of the HNP, gave an in-depth program for Danby residents. Unfortunately, it was on Tuesday, the Primary Election day in New York, and not many people were able to attend. The good news is that, since this was presented by Zoom, it was recorded and is available for viewing at your convenience. Visit **[danbycc.org/events/past-events]**, then click on the Healthy Neighborhoods program link to YouTube.

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) is part of the Health Promotion Program at the Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD), and is funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Health. The program promotes healthy homes including, preventing Indoor Air Pollution and Asthma Hospitalizations, Preventing Residential Fire Deaths, Lead Poisoning, and Pest control.

Through the program, HNP staff visits Tompkins County homes (using a mixture of phone calls, Zoom, and in-person visits) to introduce ideas which promote a healthy home. They offer educational materials to help the resident determine what is best for their situation. Staff may identify safety hazards or areas of concern, and follow-up with information and recommendations for improvement.

The program can also provide products (subject to available supply) to help the resident meet the goals. These helpful items include smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, replacement batteries, radon test kits, fire extinguishers, asthma management tools, green cleaning items, child safety products, and Injury Prevention products.

This is an incredible resource for our community. Don't miss out! For more information contact Diana Crouch at the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, 607.274.6702 or **[dcrouch@tompkins-co.org]**. (pg)

A room without books is like a body without a soul.
- Cicero, Roman orator and author (106-43BC)

Seniors Update

The Danby Seniors' October meeting—a dish to share luncheon—will be on Thursday, October 6, Noon, in the Danby Community Church.

Thank you to Bill and Judy Cuyle for setting up for the September meeting!

We're still working on our December luncheon location but are targeting December 15 since we will have our trip to Penn's Peak, PA on November 30, and December 1 would be too close.

Here's the info on the November trip. Penn's Peak is a great venue in the mountains. On November 30, leave Danby at 9am. The cost of $60 per person ($65 for non members) includes lunch, the Elvis Christmas Show with Ryan Pelton, bus, and driver tip. We should be home by 5:30pm. Contact Pat Phelps, [patriciaphelps2.0@gmail.com] or 607.227.6478 for info or to sign up. (mv)

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Free Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts Fridays, once a month, 7:30-9:30am, for the rest of the year. That's 10/21, 11/18, and 12/16...all 3rd Fridays. Open to the public! 1859 Danby Road, 607.272.1687, [danbychurch.org].

They're in need of volunteers to help, 7-10am, with prep and cleanup. (cmc)

Free Gadabout Rides!

The County Office for the Aging is making available up to 20 free Gadabout tickets for rides to medical appointments, shopping, etc. There are no income guidelines, but you have to be at least 60 years old. For more information, call 607.274.5482 or visit [tompkinscountyny.gov/cofa] (click on "services", then "transportation").

Free Gadabout rides are also available for veterans, sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans. For information, contact Tom Eddy, DAV, 607.227.4975. (rr)

Free Phone Or Internet

Are you on SNAP or HEAP? If so, then you qualify for Lifeline. This is a federal program that will provide you with either free phone service or a discount on broadband, you choose. To learn more about the program, visit [lifelinesupport.org]. To apply for the free phone service you must go through Safelink, a subsidiary of T-Mobile, [safelinkwireless.com].

Free Ramps

Are you disabled and need a ramp to access your home? Leave a message for Brian of the Finger Lakes Independence Center, 607.342.5193, to see if you qualify for a free ramp.

S-VE Food Cupboard

Are you in the Spencer-Van Etten school district? If so, then you automatically qualify for the S-VE Food Cupboard. They're a great resource and meet twice a month. Visit [facebook.com/svefoodcupboard] to learn more.

Recycling News

Household Hazardous Waste Events
October 15 and November 19.

danbycc.org Online

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

- Upcoming Events!
- 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.
- Financial Reports, Meeting Agendas, and Meeting Minutes.
- And, of course, contact info! (dcc)

Centering Your Population... Geographically

The U.S. Census is more than just a powerhouse collector of numbers and household information. It also has a very active mission to open up its data to the public.

Recently, I received an eMail inviting me to learn how the geographic center of the U.S. population has moved over the years. Based on the decennial censuses from 1790 (the first) to 2020 (the most recent), the illustration at the bottom of this page documents this change.

The 2020 Census center of population is in Wright County, Missouri, approximately 14.6 miles northeast of Hartville, Missouri. It is located at 37.415725°N, 92.346525°W.

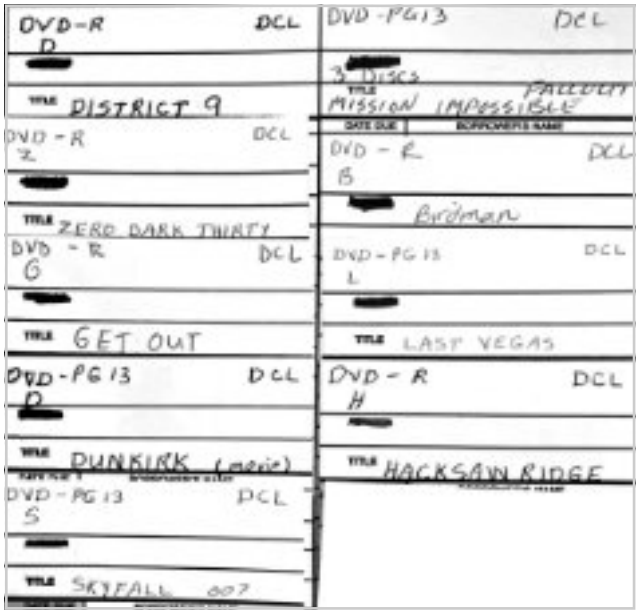
But the census didn't stop there!

The center of New York's population is at 41.471783°N, -74.590827°W, or somewhere west of Middletown in Orange County (see illustration on next page).

Community Library

A new selection of mystery books from the TCPL has arrived. The Friends of the Library Sale starts the weekend of October 8 and we will be adding to our collections.

A number of DVDs were taken but none of the cards were signed so we aren't sure who may have borrowed them. Please return if you have them so others may enjoy the movies as well. (cp)



Tompkins County? It's population center is in the middle of a wooded lot, about 250 feet northwest of Cornell's "A" parking lot, at 42.469298°N, -76.474028°W.

We don't need the U.S.Census to tell us that Danby is at the center of the universe. (tc)

Paying vs Giving... Some Things You Can *Choose*

The Danby Community Council will not be asking the Town of Danby for funding to support its 2023 activities.

Traditionally, the DCC has enjoyed a warm and supportive relationship with the Town. It has always been financially prudent and has frequently returned unused funds to the Town at the end of its fiscal year. Recently, though, the Town Hall environment has changed. Some might say that it has become more insular and less collaborative. Some think that restrictive meeting rules have reduced public participation in the governing process.

The Danby Community Council is doing its bit to help manage your tax burden. During 2022, the Town quietly increased its tax levy by 7.1 percent. The DCC was offered a draconian funding cut to only $2500, about $^{1}/_{1000^{th}}$ of the Town's budget. This cut was accepted by the DCC as it began a transition to self-sufficiency; the DCC does not expect to bill the Town for the full amount.

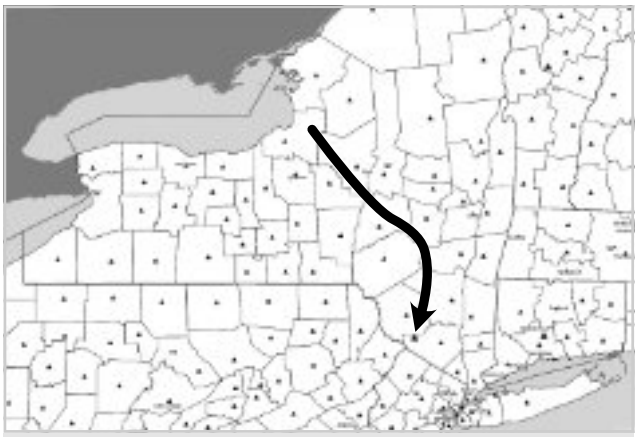
Town spending continues to increase. In a preliminary discussion about its 2023 budget, the Town Board cited a possible 8 percent increase in the tax levy; it could easily end up being larger. One Councilperson suggested (joking, we hope) that income from the recently permitted cannabis sales in Danby could offset the increase.

Here's an example of how Town spending increases. Quite a few Danby residents have asked us about the "two newsletter" situation. Claiming that it was not able to get its message out via the Danby News, the Town Board originally intended to publish items about its own business. Fact is, the Danby News has traditionally included all the items the Town submitted. So, go figure. The Town Board's newsletter expanded to include much more than its own news and (see tax increases, above) managed to do it in a way that—*contrary to a claim printed in its newsletter*—has an actual cost to taxpayers about 50 percent more than the equivalent Danby News.

The Community Council knows that you've enjoyed its projects over the years: concerts, information programs, community events (including the upcoming Hatchet and Knife Demo and the Harvest Festival), and, of course, the Danby News.

How can the DCC be self-sustaining? If every person in Danby contributed $5 toward the DCC's efforts, that'd do it. Alternately, if every household donated $10 or $15, that'd do it, too. Because some cannot afford even these token amounts, we're asking those who can to give generously--enough for themselves and their neighbors--to support the DCC's valuable community-building efforts.

Please give generously! Mail checks to DCC, PO Box 6886, Ithaca, NY 14851. (tc)



The population centers of the United States (left) from 1790 to 2020, New York in 2020 (above), and Tompkins County (right).

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Oct 2022

Danby News: Event Calendar

Oct 1 • Sat
9am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
5-7pm DVFC Station • **Spaghetti Dinner**
Oct 3 • Mon
6pm Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Public Hearing: Override the NYS Tax Cap
Oct 5 • Wed
5pm Zoom • **West Danby Water District**
Oct 6 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Oct 9 • Sun
2-5pm Dotson Park • **Community Council presents**
Knife and Hatchet Throwing w/ Paul Maccarone
Oct 10 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Oct 11 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**
Oct 16 • Sun
1-5pm Dotson Park • **Community Council presents**
The 8th Annual Danby Harvest Festival
Oct 18 • Tue
7pm Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**
Oct 19 • Wed
6pm Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Oct 3	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Oct 11	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	Oct 18	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Oct 19	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	None, yet	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Oct 20 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
Oct 25 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**

Nov 1 • Tue
6pm Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Nov 2 • Wed
5pm Zoom • **West Danby Water District**
Nov 3 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Nov 5 • Sat
9am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Nov 7 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Nov 8 • Tue
6am-9pm DVFC Station
General Election
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**

Ongoing Events

Seniors Strength Class via Zoom
Mondays and Thursdays, 9–10am
Contact [jmchurch@twcny.rr.com] for Zoom link
Danby Community Library Town Hall
Tuesday, 1–3pm; Thursday & Saturday, 10am–Noon
Curbside pickup available; can return in drop box.
Food Scrap Recycling Town Hall
Saturdays, 9am-Noon
AA Meeting via Zoom: [zoom.us/j/8209358263]
Wednesdays, 7pm

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