January 2023 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

Bickford and Ball in Concert

The next event in the DCC concert season will be songs and tunes from rural Ireland and America, featuring Tompkins County musicians Mark Bickford and Tim Ball. They will perform these things—and more—on Saturday afternoon, April 15, 3pm. Refreshments will be served in a relaxed coffeehouse setting, in the Fellowship Hall of Danby's Community Church, 1859 Danby Road (NYS Rt. 96B opposite Bald Hill Road).

This duo met at the Ithaca Irish music sessions. They share a love for fast moving jigs and reels as well as sweet airs and old time waltzes.

Mark Bickford plays guitar, banjo, mandolin, accordion, concertina, and kora. He's also well known for his masterful singing of traditional songs.

"Like every singer," he says, "I search for songs that can become 'mine.' Whether I've sung the song for over forty years, or only the last five years, these songs are part of me."

Tim Ball is a skilled and highly sought-after musician on fiddle and guitar. Tim does far more than simple backing of Mark's songs; he adds wide ranging musical interest.

The concert is suitable for all ages. There is plenty of parking and plenty of room for everyone. Being vaccinated and wearing a mask is strongly encouraged.

This is a free concert, thanks to CAP Grants for Art Programs support. Donations to cover refreshments and other incidentals are always welcome. We can also use volunteer assistance in setting up and cleaning up the hall on concert afternoons. Contact me at 607.342.4110, if you are able to help.

This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrants program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the offices of the Governor, the NYS Legislature, and Tompkins County, administered by the Community ARTS Partnership of Tompkins County. (pg)

Earth Day Road Cleanup

The 53rd Earth Day is coming up! You can take part in the celebration right here in Danby! Join the not-quite-annual Earth Day Road Cleanup of NYS Rt.96B on Saturday, 22-Apr-2023, 10:30am. Rain date is Sunday, April 23.

Bring the whole family! This activity is a great way to give to your community. It's a good excuse to get out and about on a warm (hopefully!) spring day. It's social and it's healthy low-impact exercise, too.

Cleanup mostly recovers small, well-weathered trash items. You'd be amazed how many such small items are tossed out along the road! Small items are bagged up; the bags (and larger items) are left by the side of the road for pick up by the NYS Dep't of Transportation.

Ted, Pamela, and Danby's Community Council are coordinating a group pickup on the 2.2-mile stretch of downtown Danby they tend, year-round. Flashy orange is the color of the day—safety vests are available and heavy-duty bags will be supplied—to volunteers.

We'll meet at 10:30am in the Park-and-Ride lot of Dotson Park, across from Danby's Town Hall.

We'd love to have RSVPs if you plan to attend but there will be plenty of supplies for everyone who shows up: bags, safety equipment, and trash!

For more info, contact us at 607.319.3319 or [danbycleanup@tedcrane.com].

Pick-up walks can be social and they're outdoors, but COVID-consciousness is still a good idea. (tc/pg)

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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Calendar . . . . . ⑧

April 2023

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Text submissions:
Send text in the body of an unencoded, plain-text Email message (**not** as an attachment); or mail typewritten copy, double-spaced on white paper. Short handwritten submissions accepted; please write legibly.

Graphics: JPEG preferred for photos, GIF for line graphics. PNG also works. Check with editor before sending hardcopy graphics.

Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication date. Materials may be accepted later if time allows. Submissions should generally not exceed 250-350 words (one column). We cannot print political material or letters of opinion.

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Danby News Notes

Submitted by Ted Crane

Submission Guidelines: Before submitting an item for the Danby News, please have a look at the *Submission Guidelines*. You can request them by Email from the editor at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or find them at [danbyny.org/DanbyNews]. If you're thinking of sending something for publication in the Danby News, there's two documents to read: the *Guidelines* and the *Submission 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.

Upcycled Lamps Pop-Up Again

Jonathan Jensen (Meet Your Neighbors, February 2023) is back in the news! His Upcycled Lamps are featured again in a here-today-gone-tomorrow Pop-Up store, just off the Ithaca Commons.

On Friday evening, April 7 (Gallery Night) and Saturday, April 8 (Noon-6pm), the State Theater Box Office will fill with more than 50 of his whimsical and functional lamps made from stuff you could only find at a yard sale.

10 percent of all sales benefit the State Theatre. You can see many of his unusual creations online at **[upcycledlamps.gallery]**.

Burn Ban In Effect

The annual statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning runs from March 16 through May 14. The NYS DEC enforces the ban to prevent wildfires and reduce air pollution.

The risk of wildfires is greatest during the Spring, and this winter was warmer and drier than most. Think about safety first, before starting a potentially dangerous fire.

Open burning of debris is the single-largest cause of spring wildfires in New York State. Local fire departments, many of which are staffed by volunteers, all too often have to leave their jobs and families to respond to wildfires caused by illegal debris fires.

The DEC has a Fire Danger Map online at **[dec.ny.gov/lands/68329.html]**.

Backyard fire pits and campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width, or diameter are permitted.

The Art of Dying Well: Planning Ahead

Angela Mennitto is a death midwife who works to organize community education events to promote death literacy—the practical know-how needed to plan well for the end of life—and to help normalize conversations about death and dying.

On Sunday, April 30, 3pm, in the Fellowship Hall of Danby's Community Church, Angela will talk about advance directives and medical documents like a health care proxy, a living will, a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order, and a MOLST (Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) form.

She will also touch on a bit of legal planning beyond basic estate planning, including digital details, pets, and creative work. Finally, she will discuss how planning funeral arrangements can save money, ensure you have what you want, and save your family from stressful decisions at a difficult time. (cd)

Call For Fire Volunteers

As part of the annual *RecruitNY* statewide initiative, the Danby Volunteer Fire Company will hold an open house on Sunday, April 23, 1-4pm in the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby Road.

Danby firefighters and EMTs will conduct tours of the station and apparatus, demonstrate life-saving CPR skills, provide information, and answer your questions about volunteering. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, including families with children.

Like most rural communities, fire protection in Danby is provided exclusively by volunteers. Nationwide, volunteer fire services face a decline in membership. Like most, the Danby Volunteer Fire Company needs more members to ensure adequate staffing for emergency response and to provide administrative & logistic support. Almost everyone joins with no prior experience. All training and equipment is provided at no cost to the volunteer. The first step is showing up. (sw)

What The Town Didn't Tell You

Providing information that's not available elsewhere

A local elected official has bemoaned, several times, the shrinking availability (absence, perhaps?) of local news sources.

That concern is well founded. A recent article by Joshua Benton of NeimanLab described Gannett (publisher of the Ithaca Journal) as, "...not a mustache-twirling a villain as Alden Global Capital, but its enormous scale has meant enormous losses for local journalism."

Alden, says Benton, is, "...dedicated to nothing but cost-cutting and cashflow-draining." It is anything but transparent, "Its corporate web site contains a total of 21 words, 9 of which are, 'Alden,' 'Global,' or 'Capital.'" Gannett, "...is a least a *newspaper company*...rarely considered a particularly *good* one [with] a reputation for cheapness and cookie-cutter products...."

When Alden attempted—and failed at—a hostile takeover of Gannett in 2019 it wasn't likely that any good would come of it. Gannett merged with GateHouse Media, forming the largest newspaper publisher in the US, and Gannett executives were replaced by GateHouse's management.

GateHouse has been operated by Fortress Investments (a private equity firm) which, in turn, is owned by SoftBank, a Japanese tech firm. One might say that the Ithaca Journal is a Japanese-owned company. SoftBank, sometimes in partnership with Saudi Arabian investors, is also heavily invested in Uber, DoorDash, Alibaba, and WeWork (see: scandals).

Back to Gannett. During the four years after the GateHouse merger, Gannett eliminated at least half of its jobs in the United States. The Ithaca Journal has little or no remaining presence in Ithaca; it is published, mostly with out-of-town content, from Binghamton. In a eerie parallel, Benton talks about the *Daily Advertiser* of Lafayette, Louisiana. During the seven years leading up to 2022, its circulation dropped from about 27,000 to 4,000. The *Advertiser* went from 17 newsroom employees in 2020 to exactly 1 this year.

Benton's documents that—during the same time period and for reasons we might be familiar with—Gannett saw a 66.8 percent drop in its circulation. That's *two thirds* lost. To be sure, other metropolitan newspapers also saw circulation drops, but only about 25 percent. Benton suggests that Gannett's gutting of its editorial products has been a driving force. Our local elected official is correct about the lack of local news. Yet, in conversation, he suggests that the *Danby News* should not be covering, in essence, Danby news. He bemoans the publication of information that, otherwise, is not available from any source. Where else can the vast majority of Danby's residents, who do not attend Town meetings, learn about the Town?

Certainly not from the government's house organ, the *Danby Town [Board] News*; it covers some of the official achievements but none of the problems.

That official concludes that the *intent* of *Danby News* coverage, by cherry-picking problems, is to make the Town look bad. Quite the opposite is true. The *Town [Board] News*, paid for by tax dollars, does its best to make the Town look good.

[From past Board meetings, we know that NYS Town Law 116(13) and 64(14) limit the Town to publication of reports (etc.) or articles advertising the advantages of the Town.]

Repeating that same, self-selected material in the *Danby News* would not be cost effective or informative. Ignoring other information wouldn't be helpful.

There's so much else the public needs to know, and there is no other source of information. (tc)

New Noise Law Proposal

During its March 22, 2023 meeting, Danby's Town Board discussed a newly proposed Noise Law. The new proposal was described as "subjective"; that is, noise levels are not explicitly specified and the judgement about whether a sound is a noise is at the discretion of the enforcement officer.

The Town Board agreed to take public input—not a Public Hearing, but an opportunity for the public to weigh in—during its meeting on April 19.

This is described in the *Town [Board] News* but no specific reference is provided so the public can read the proposed law. As of this writing, the proposed text is buried within the Agenda for the 22-Mar meeting on Danby's web site.

If this omission isn't cleared up, you can find the text at `[danbyny.org/Documents/TownBoard_Law_Noise2023.pdf]` (not the Town web site).

Is loss redeemed by memory? Or does memory merely swell the sense of loss, becoming the enemy?
—Ian "Rebus" Rankin

Reminiscing #9

Congratulations go out to our long-time friend and neighbor on Gunderman Road, Joe Freedman. He received a Quilt of Valor for his service in the Air Force, in Vietnam, 1968-1969. Joe was honored during a ceremony on March 24 at the Vietnam War Museum in Elmira.

Joe's name was submitted by his friend, Joe Giammichele of Horseheads, who served with him in Vietnam. They lost touch after their military service but recently, unexpectedly, found each other again. They did not realize they lived within just a short distance from each other! I was so pleased to write up that heartwarming story in my former *Southern Tompkins Town Talk* column.

According to its website, the motto of the Quilts of Valor is, "to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."

The Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. While founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq, "I had a dream that was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts=Healing."

For more information on the Quilts of Valor Foundation, visit its web site, `[qovf.org]`. (gh)

This Issue's Writers

- cd.... Cathy Darrow
- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- mak Mary Ann Kozak
- mv .. Margie VanDeMark
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- sw ... Simon Wyatt
- tc .... Ted Crane

Danby News Welcomes New Readers; Help Keep It Alive!

A review of new dwellings in Danby has added another dozen households to the *Danby News* mailing list. We're always looking to extend its reach, aiming for a copy in every mailbox.

Of course, this comes at a price. It's so sad to bring up a mundane thing like paying the bill...but we have to pay the bills and that means we have to keep asking for your help.

As the calm voice says on Public Radio, "Just imagine how many strings and red tape would tie us up, if we relied on government support."

Enjoy community news and cheers and share it with your neighbors by paying for your—and maybe their—subscription ($10-15 or more per household). If you can, offer larger contributions to support our community-building efforts. Join the **Danby 100**!

Please make checks payable to *Danby Community Council*, note *Danby News* in the memo, and mail to P.O.Box 6886, Ithaca, NY 14851-6886. (dcc)

West Danby Will Walk To Vote

Exercising the right to vote is important to many Danby residents and, now, it'll be a lot easier for West Danby residents.

Since the last redistricting, about ten years ago, some residents of West Danby (Brown Road, Station Road, etc.) have had to travel miles and hundreds of feet uphill to vote in the Central Danby hamlet. Oddly enough, during the same ten years, the polling place in the West Danby Fire Station served the fewest voters in tompkins County.

For most of that time and, more recently, several times a month, I've lobbied the County Election Commissioners to revise the district boundaries so they follow Danby's hilly geography. In March, I got word that the lines will be redrawn, returning West Danby to...West Danby.

The change may be completed in time for the June, 2023 primary election. A few dozen voters will save travel time and cost and, maybe, that'll be incentive to vote early and often (but, please, only once per election).

West Danby's polling place, though, will still have the most exclusive clientele in Tompkins County. (tc)

Blood Drive In Danby

The American Red Cross is currently experiencing its most critical shortage of blood during the last ten years. Please consider donating blood.

An extra blood drive has been scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 9am-1pm, in the Danby Fire Station. Make an appointment at **[redcrossblood.org]**.

After that, the regularly schedule blood drive is on Friday, May 19, Noon-5pm, also in the Danby Fire Station.

A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into a blood drive. The nurse asks the rabbit, "What's your blood type?" "I'm probably a Type O"" replies the rabbit.

Seniors Update

The next meeting of Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, April 6, Noon, in the Danby Community Church for a dish to share luncheon. Pat Phelps has arranged for storyteller Regi Carpenter to present, Where there's smoke there's dinner.

On May 4, we'll have Rick Rogers of Spencer speak to us. He's a writer and illustrator of children's books. This was arranged by Gay Huddle.

Our speaker from the *Honor Flight* in March was excellent! Big thanks to Cindy Cerrache for making that happen, and for fund raising—to the tune of $6000—with her shoe drive for the Honor Flight. (mv)

Recycling and Waste News

Solid Waste Annual Fee
The Solid Waste Annual Fee on your tax bill funds the cost of Tompkins County's recycling and waste reduction programs. It also pays for closed landfill maintenance and monitoring. The fees are based on a rate per unit for single-family houses, two-family residences, mobile homes, and apartments. Non-residential properties are billed on a square footage basis. The Solid Waste Annual Fee for 2023 is $80 per household.

Household Hazardous Waste Events
In 2022, the HHW program diverted 54.4 tons of hazardous materials from landfills and waterways. The next few dates for HHW drop off (at the Transfer Station) are:

- April 29
- May 20
- July 15
- August 19

Learn more online at **[recycletompkins.org/HHW]**.

Surviving Without Kitchen Trash Bags
For those who are used to using plastic grocery bags to line trash bins, the NY Bag Waste Reduction Law has limited access to these convenient kitchen trash liners.

Before buying bags to line a bin, consider this: most wet stuff that ends up in trash is actually compostable material like food scraps, paper towels, and napkins.

When possible, first reduce food waste, then compost what is left—either at home or at a Drop Spot. This will make trash bins less messy; you might not even need a plastic liner? Visit **[recycletompkins.org/drop spots]** to learn more .

Free Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on April 17. Open to the public! 1859 Danby Road, 607.272.1687, [danbychurch.org].

They're in need of prep and cleanup volunteers.

Chicken and Biscuits

Come to the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner at Danby's Community Church on April 14, 5-7pm (address above). Bird and biscuit with al the trimmings, beverage and dessert. By donation.

Free Tax Preparation

Lifelong is again offering free tax preparation, and there's still time to sign up for it.

The service is available by appointment until April 14. Schedule appointments now by calling 607.216.7862, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. Visit [tclifelong.org] for more information.

Securities offered through NEXT Financial Group Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC.

Hunting for an Egg Hunt?

As the Easter Bunny embarks on its seasonal egg delivery route, young folks are gearing up to finding the ovoid treasures.

West Danby is taking a pass on its annual egg hunt event, but you can join one on Saturday, April 8, 10am at La Tourelle, just north of Danby on NYS Rt.96B. Happy Hopping!

Swimming in Danby? Need Lifeguards!

Our beautiful Jennings Pond Recreational Area offers fishing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking trails and scenic views. Jennings Pond is at the headwaters of the Buttermilk Falls watershed and is part of Buttermilk State Park.

The Jennings Pond Swim Program needs lifeguards during July and August! Now is the time for any good swimmer over 16 to enroll in the YMCA lifeguard training program. The Jennings Pond Swim Program will reimburse prospective lifeguards for any expenses incurred for lifeguard training. For more information, contact me at 607.342.7969. (mak)

Community Library

Our puzzle shelf has 300- and 500-piece puzzles. They are available to borrow, keep, or exchange. The smaller sizes fit on our puzzle table, so we prefer those when you bring an exchange. Each month a different puzzle is set up for assembly. Stop in and help put the puzzle together!

Mystery books from TCPL have arrived. (cp)

Research is a stupid nuisance that takes all the fun out of stuff you think is probably right.
—Wiley "Danae" Miller

Apr 2023

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Danby News
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Danby News: Event Calendar

Apr 1 • Sat
Day of the Fool!
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Apr 2 • Sun • Concert cancelled, the pianist broke her wrist
Apr 4 • Tue • 404 Day: Awareness/censoring of the Internet
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Public Hearings: 1 Amend Zoning for Cannabis Sales and 2 Create Beardsley Lane drainage district
Apr 6 • Thu • Passover (begins the night before)
Noon Community Church • **Seniors Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Apr 8 • Sat
9am DVFC Station • **Red Cross Blood Drive**
Apr 9 • Sun • Easter
Apr 10 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Apr 11 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**
Apr 13• Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**
Apr 14 • Fri
5-7pm Community Church • **Chik'n 'n Biscuits**
Apr 15 • Sat • Take A Wild Guess Day, also Tax Day
3pm Community Church ←don't be a day late!
Community Council Concert: Bickford and Ball
Apr 16 • Sun
8-11am DVFC Station • **Pancake Breakfast**

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Apr 4	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Apr 11	972 1566 0090	423584
Youth Commission	Apr 13	See Town web site	
Planning Board	Apr 18	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Apr 19	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	Apr 25	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Apr 17 • Mon
8am Community Church • **Coffee and Donuts**
Apr 18 • Tue
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**
Apr 19 • Wed
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Public Input: Proposed Noise Law
Apr 20 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
Apr 22 • Sat
10:30am Dotson Park • **Great Danby Road Cleanup**
Apr 23 • Sun
1pm DVFC Station • **Recruit NY Open House**
Apr 25 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**
April 30 • Sun •Walpurgis Night
3pm Community Church
Community Council: Angela Mennitto, End-of-life Plan
May 1 • Mon • May Day
May 2 • Tue
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
May 3 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
May 4 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
May 6 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
May 11 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**

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
Books can be returned via the outdoor drop box.
Food Scrap Recycling Town Hall
Saturdays, 9am-Noon