June 2023 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

Summer Market Begins June 16

Ahhh...it's that time of year. The Danby Summer Market will be gathering once again, on the third Fridays of June, July, August, and September. The first market is Friday, June 16, 4:30-6:30pm. This year the market moves to the covered pavilion outside the Danby Fire Station. The shelter opens the market to new and different vendors. There's plenty of parking in the lot on Gunderman Road. Please don't park in front of the fire station.

For the third year, Elana Maragni is organizing this joyful way to gather as a community and enjoy the fruits (and flowers, and veggies) of the land. The Danby Summer Market features some of our very local farmers, along with herbalists, artists, and crafts makers. You will find Shagbark Gardens, Finca La Abundancia, Steinhaus Farm, Pica Flor Farm, Whiskey Cane Production, Karlee Creations, photography by Linda Wyatt and Ted Crane. And more!

Danby farmer John Whitmore, of Shagbark Gardens, will be back again this year. We look forward every month to seeing what delicious treasures he's bringing to the market and having a friendly chat. John started his small organic vegetable farm and CSA on Steam Mill Road four years ago. It produces an array of vegetables on a single acre, using intensive and regenerative practices.

Abundacia Farm, located on Hill Road, will bring quail eggs, veggies, and more! Eduardo and Hannah Rae are small farmers focused on agroforestry and regenerative farming. They raise sheep, quail and

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Debra Cowan in Concert

Debra Cowan, renowned singer of traditional songs and ballads, will give a Danby concert on Saturday, June 17, 3pm. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear an extraordinary singer. The concert is hosted by Danby's Community Council and will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Danby's Community Church. Thanks to support from two agencies, CAP and MPTF, this community concert is available to all with no charge.

Debra Cowan was once asked what kind of songs she writes. Her reply? "Bad ones; but there are so many good songs out there written by others and they should be sung."

"Stunning" is a word that is often used to describe Debra's vocals. She performs unaccompanied and with guitar, interpreting a wide range of traditional and contemporary folk songs.

Debra's performances impress listeners with her clarity, warmth, agility, all the while encouraging the audience to enthusiastically sing along on choruses and refrains. Her four recordings have been met with high praise worldwide and, in June 2015, she was featured in the UK folk music magazine, Living Tradition.

Debra is deeply rooted in the folk tradition, and can interpret the old songs as well as anyone. She's also very much a modern singer, and she brings the power of the tradition to her interpretations of contemporary songs.

- Si Kahn, Songwriter, Activist, Organizer

Danby's Community Council concert series is bringing a variety of music along with musicians of great skill and diversity to our rural community. We offer afternoon concerts in order to be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

This program is made possible in part with funds from the Statewide Community Regrants program from the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support

—continued on page 7 ➲

June 2023

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

To contribute items:
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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.

The Danby News (DN) is a publication of the Danby Community Council (DCC). All statements are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, sponsors, the DCC and its officers, or officials and employees of the Town of Danby. All works remain © of the contributors. Please provide a SASE if you wish to have materials returned. The DN and DCC are not responsible for typographic or other errors.

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...plus all those who have sent subscription-level donations

Springtime, and the garden is growing!
photo by Ted Crane

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.

Candidate Profile: Town Clerk

The only active candidate for Town Clerk is Janice Adelman, the incumbent Town Clerk. We asked her a few short questions, so readers can get to know her better.

Describe your involvement in Danby
I arrived in Danby in March 2020 with my spouse and our two young children. I was appointed by the Town Board in September 2020 to complete Alex Pfeifer's term after her resignation. I can't think of a better way to become fully invested in my new community and to get to know my neighbors than through the Clerk's office.

What prompted your interest in being Town Clerk? What skills do you bring to the position?
I was looking for an opportunity to serve people on a local level. When the Town Board announced they were seeking to appoint an interim clerk, I was intrigued. I bring a lot of experience and skills from many other industries and positions: an adjunct lecturer in psychology, a researcher, a technical writer, and a computer repair technician. I have many transferable skills that have helped me serve Danby well as Town Clerk.

Do you think the Clerk should be elected or appointed, and why?
I believe the Town Clerk should remain as an elected position. I have wondered why the position is elected. The clerk has no decision-making powers that would affect the residents. In fact, the Town Clerk serves more of a nonpartisan information and records role.

The reason why the Town Clerk is an elected position becomes clear when you consider that the Town Clerk is charged with keeping an accurate record of Town Board business. The Town Clerk needs to have the independence to remain a neutral party, to act in a way that best serves the interests of the residents, not an employer.

How do you feel about working with the public?
This is actually my favorite part of the job. Putting names to faces and feeling a part of the Danby community is very fulfilling. I particularly love celebrating with couples who come to get their marriage licenses! We welcome residents, 11am-6pm, Monday thru Thursday, and 11am-5om on Fridays, to stop by for any licensing and permitting needs. We keep the candy bowl full, have stickers for little people, and offer dog treats for the pups. I look forward to seeing you in Town Hall!

See *Town Clerks, What Do They Do* on Page 4

June Democratic Primary

Danby News readers may not be aware that there is a Democratic Primary for Town Clerk on June 27. All the other Democratic races for Town office (Supervisor, Councilpersons, Highway Superintendent, and Justices) are uncontested. On the other hand, once the Democratic candidate for Clerk is chosen during the primary, the November General Election will have several contested races for Town offices. More info to come.

This Democratic Primary for Clerk is somewhat unusual. There will be two candidate names on the primary ballot but only one, Janice Adelman, is seeking the office.

According to Mariah Dillon, "I have withdrawn my candidacy for Town Clerk." Steve DeWitt, the Tompkins County Election Commissioner, noted that once a candidate has accepted a place on the ballot, it is difficult (e.g., leave the county or die) to remove their name.

Readers may have heard a rumor that a third person considered a campaign as a write-in candidate. However, that potential candidate has decided to pull back.

So, we have one candidate on the ballot who wants the job, another who does not, and a third who isn't on the ballot at all. Nevertheless, voting is good. The *Danby News* urges all Democratic voters to visit their polling place and vote for the active candidate...or for a write-in of your own choosing!

➲ ***Danby Summer Market, con't from front page***

chickens, and honeybees, and they steward a diversified small orchard with fruits, a wide variety of nuts, and edible perennials. Their sheep are raised in a silvopasture system, which uses rotational grazing under trees as a way to provide tree forage and fodder, shade the animals, and return fertility to the land.

There will be music each month at the Market. The Community Council (with thanks to funding from a CAP GAP grant) is pleased to provide support funding for the musicians. Each month will be something different: June, *Aria Dawn*; July, *Six Mile Craic*; August, *Pamela Goddard*; and September is *TBA*.

June 16 features local singer, songwriter Aria Dawn. Her lyrics can be described as, "expressive, heart-felt, deep, and meaningful." Aria says about herself, "I am a song catcher. I have always loved singing and find myself still on the path of freeing my voice, both my singing voice and my unique inner voice. I feel most at home when I am lost somewhere between a strum and a phrase, gazing out at the trees dancing in the wind." (pg)

Town Clerks, What do they do?

There's little chance of a municipal Town Clerk getting bored, given their varied duties and responsibilities. A Town Clerk is, at different moments, a legal secretary, a historian, a librarian, a financial officer and tax collector, and a public information officer and community resource. As one of the few living, previous Danby Town Clerks, I thought I would open a window to the mysteries of the office.

The position of Town Clerk was created centuries ago. Its primary function was to attend official town meetings and create the legal and historical record of all actions. NYS law requires the clerk to prepare accurate minutes of Town Board meetings, to have them available to the public in a timely way, and to preserve them for the future. At a bare minimum the official minutes must include the attendance of members, the full language of resolutions and motions, and the roll call vote on each action.

Clerks are elected separately from other officials, and are solely responsible for keeping the minutes as a public record. Other elected officials cannot require changes, and the Town Board does not need to approve the minutes. This frees the Clerk to prepare an impartial record.

Ideally (per recommendations of the NYS Town Clerks association), the minutes should also include a record of the discussions relating to the actions taken. In this way, future researchers will have a better understanding of the intent and purpose of resolutions and local laws.

Ah, yes, Local Laws. The Clerk has many responsibilities in this area: publishing legal notice of the required public hearing, recording the vote and entire local language of the law in the minutes, filing the local law with the NYS Secretary of State, and keeping an active file of all municipal laws secure in the Clerk's office. All such records need to be available to the public, and maintained on the municipal web site as well. It doesn't hurt to proofread the text before it is passed, too.

While the Clerk may not be (and often is not) the Secretary of other municipal boards, such as the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, they are still responsible for gathering, maintaining, and preserving the minutes and records of those boards and agencies. The same is true of records from the Planning and Code Enforcement officer.

Clerks have responsibility for financial records, as well. They work with the bookkeeper or financial officer to present monthly invoices and bills to the Board for approval. But the Clerk's largest, and most complex financial task is Town and County property tax collection. The actual bills are prepared by the County's Assessment Department, but the Clerk has copies. Millions of dollars are collected each year. Visiting Town Hall once a year—usually in January—to pay property tax bills, is often the only contact between Town residents and the Town.

The Clerk also collects other revenue from license sales: dog licenses, marriage licenses, and sporting (hunting and fishing) licenses. I remember the day a couple came to the clerk's office, asking for licenses. I asked, "Which kind?" They said, "All of them." Yup, they renewed their dog's license (as required annually by NYS), got their hunting licenses, and also filled out the paperwork for a marriage license. One stop shopping.

There are also licenses for "games of chance" such as the bell jar at the American Legion. A small part of Motor Vehicle permitting is also added into the Clerk's work. While the DMV handles most such paperwork, handicap hang tags—and recordkeeping—are managed by Clerks. Why? I'm not sure. But it's true.

Each of these functions have been added into the Clerk's job description over time, and each has its own particular procedures. Suffice it to say, there are a lot of threads to keep straight. Interesting fact to know, marriage licenses are the most secure and private of the Clerk's records—as private as medical records.

In a smaller Town, the Clerk is often the Public Information Officer. It's more than being an "Information Booth" for residents and the public. The Clerk can be the contact and spokesperson during emergencies. The Clerk answers the Town Hall phone.

Through the information gathered in various ways, the Clerk is the link between residents and government and between the past and the future. A complex, often rewarding, and always interesting job. (pg)

According to the National Park Service, some invasive animals can completely reorganize an ecosystem. In 2018, the top invasive animals reported by national parks spanned a wide variety of species.
1. European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)
2. Feral cat (Felis catus)
3. Rock pigeon (Columba livia)
4. House sparrow (Passer domesticus)
5. Emerald ash borer (Agrilus planipennis)
...seen one lately?

Reminiscing #10

I went back to my June, 2010 columns to gather stories to share in the June Danby News.

I wrote that on a recent visit to Candor, a friendly man approached me to ask, "Don't you write about Danby in the Ithaca Journal?" Turns out I was meeting for the first time our friend Sharon Gaden's Dad, Gordon "Red" McNeil. Sharon's husband, John Gaden, serves (then and now) as Danby Fire Chief. It was with sadness that we learned of Mr. McNeil's recent passing. Sharon says of her parents, "They left us with a sense of family and I know they are together forever, for their love was a once in a life time love."

Jenna Stein from East Miller Road, daughter of Mary and Steven Stein, received the Gold Award in Girl Scouts at a recent ceremony for Young Women of Distinction at Cornell's Statler Hotel. This award is given to young women who have made a difference in their communities. Jenna started with clay and completed the process of making ceramic bowls to give to Burmese refugees in Ithaca.

The music line-up for Danby Fun Day 2010 included *The New West Danby Henry Ford Spring Throttlers*, The Hogben Family's *Crane Hill Trio*, Sim Redmond and Jen Middaugh, and Mary Brett Lorson and the Soubrettes. This event was dedicated to Danby friend Joey Salino, who unexpectedly passed away in March. It included food, vendors, games for all ages, a chicken barbecue, raffles and more. The day kicked off with a spectacular parade.

Happy June to everyone! Those hazy, crazy, lazy days of summer are upon us! (gh)

Danby News Funding Promo

That's what it is, folks, we can't deny it

If you're looking for more than sanitized announcements from official sources, the Danby News is the place to go. Of course, this comes at a price. We have to pay the bills and we have to keep asking for your help.

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)

What The Town Didn't Tell You

Providing information that's not available elsewhere

• You may have noticed an update about the "Noise Issue" in a Town publication. What it didn't mention, is that the public information session on April 19 attracted a big crowd, both in the room and on Zoom, with almost everyone frustrated by the way to Town Board was pushing ahead in spite of negative feedback. One might gather, from subsequent comments, that it was a debacle.

• The Town Supervisor wrote about reasons why Clerks and Highway Superintendents should be appointed rather than elected. Yet, during a Town Board meeting, he undermined his own case by saying:

❶ With only one candidate running, voters have little choice in who they elect, anyway.

❷ Voters chose the Town Board to make decisions.

What he didn't realize is that—by his own logic—with only one candidate running, voters seldom actually get to select Town Board members, either! (tc)

To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize.

—Elon Musk, quoting Voltaire

Enjoy Spring in Dotson Park

If you're looking for a place to stretch your legs, breathe in some fresh air, and enjoy this spring sunshine then look no further than Dotson Park. The Park is open to everyone and has a natural playground, an 18-hole disc golf course, a hypar-style pavilion, picnic benches, and a trail system.

The Park has woods and wetlands so the trails tend to be muddy most of the year, especially the spring. We suggest you choose waterproof boots for your hike for maximum enjoyment on the trails. The natural playground includes a rock scramble, a slide, and a stage. Picnic tables and a portable restroom make the Park a perfect place to enjoy a picnic lunch or dinner.

Looking to get involved with the Park? Volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated. As a volunteer run, not-for-profit organization, volunteers are essential for keeping the park going strong. During the spring and summer months, we can always use volunteers who are interested in helping to maintain the grounds. If you'd like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please email us at **[ContactUs@dotsonpark.org]**.

For more information, visit **[dotsonpark.org]**

The Dotson Park Hypar and Benches
photo by Amanda Piha

Upcoming Entertainment!

The Danby Community Church's *Sundaes on Wednesdays* returns at the end of July. Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Arrive early for free Ice Cream Sundaes!
July 26 – Ithaca Concert Band
August 2 – TBA
August 9 – TBA

At the bottom of the big hill, on NYS Rt.13 just north of Buttermilk Park, Visions Federal Credit Union is offering free programs on its stage during the summer!
Sunday, June 11, 7:30am – *Sunrise Yoga* (bring your mat)
Thursday, July 27, 7pm – *Comedy Show* (bring a chair)
Saturday, August 5, 9am – *Sing Me A Story* w/ John Simon and Cal Walker.

Tap the Keg Fundraiser

Supporting Jaws of Life Fund

Join the Danby Volunteer Fire Company's Tap the Keg event on June 10, 2-8pm. This fundraiser aims to generate funds for DVFC's essential Jaws of Life Fund, dedicated to saving lives during vehicle and other emergencies. Proceeds from every beer purchased from the donated keg will go directly to the Fund, supporting the maintenance and upgrading of life-saving equipment.

The Rhine House, 632 West Seneca Street, is generously donating a keg and sponsoring the space.

The event promises an enjoyable day for all, with delicious food, a raffle featuring prizes from local businesses, and a kid-friendly atmosphere. Children will have a blast participating in water can games and receiving fun, educational handouts such as fire helmets and safety pamphlets. DVFC seeks to promote fire safety awareness among families while providing an enjoyable experience for everyone. Socialized and friendly dogs are also welcome!

Your participation and support are greatly appreciated. The DVFC and the community work hand-in-hand to ensure the safety and well-being of Danby residents and anyone needing help as they travel through our friendly little town.

For further event details or to contribute to DVFC's cause, please see us on the web at **[danbyfiredept.org]** or **[fb.com/DanbyVolunteerFireCompany]**..

Famous final words:
"I said, 'wife'!" **—Henny Youngman, comic**

This Issue's Writers

- ap.... Amanda Piha
- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- mv .. Margie VanDeMark
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- tc .... Ted Crane

Seniors Update

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, July 6. We'll gather at the American Legion at Noon for our annual chicken BBQ. Cost is $8 and signups are required so we know how much chicken to buy. Contact me at [margievan@live.com] or 607.273.8046 to sign up.

We do not meet in August but there's a great trip to Alexandria Bay in the Thousand Islands on August 9. Cost for the trip is $65 for members and $70 for non-members. Contact Nancy Gould, [ngould1@yahoo.com] or 607.273.8705, for more info or to sign up. (mv)

Community Library

Our trip to the Spring Friends of the Library Sale was successful. Here are some of the titles we were able to pick up.

Adult Titles

- *The Boys From Biloxi* - John Grisham
- *Dark Sacred Night*
  Fair Warning - Michael Connelly
- *One Step Too Far* - Lisa Gardner
- *The House of Kennedy* - James Patterson
- *Spare* - Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex
- *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* - Allison Pataki
- *Lucy by the Sea* - Elizabeth Strout
- *The Diamond Eye* - Kate Quinn
- *The Latecomer* - Jean Hanff Korelitz
- *Cloud Cuckoo Land* - Anthony Doerr
- *Something to Hide* - Elizabeth George

Youth Titles

- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* # 12,14,15,16 - Kinney
- *The Babysitters Club* # 1-9 - Martin & Telgmeier
- *Big Nate Lives it Up*
  Big Nate Blasts Off - Pierce (cp)

➲ ***Deb Cowan in Concert, con't from front page***

of the office of the Governor and NYS Legislature, and from Tompkins County, administered by the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County. This concert is also partially funded by a grant from the Music Performance Trust Fund, administered by the American Federation of Musicians Local Union 100.

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 Pamela Goddard, 607.342.4110, if you are able to help. (pg)

Mobile Home Improvement Help

A new program from Sustainable Finger Lakes will help 50 low-to-moderate income mobile home owners in Tompkins County upgrade their homes with high-efficiency heat pumps and electric panel upgrades.

These home energy improvements can provide income-qualified mobile home residents with year-round comfortable temperatures, healthier air quality, long-term affordability, and an alternative to fossil fuels.

For more information, contact Holly Hutchinson, the Project Coordinator, [holly@sustainablefingerlakes.org] or 607.272.1720. This project is funded in part by the Tompkins County Legislature via the Tompkins Community Recovery Fund.

Free Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on June 19, July 17, and August 21. Open to the public! 1859 Danby Road, 607.272.1687, [danbychurch.org].

They're in need of prep and cleanup volunteers.

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

Jun 2023

Danby Community Council
Danby News
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Danby News: Event Calendar

Jun 1 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Jun 3 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Jun 6 • Tue
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Jun 7 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
Jun 8 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**
Jun 10 • Sat
2pm The Rhine House • Tap The Keg Fundraiser
Jun 12 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Jun 13 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**
Jun 15 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
Jun 17 • Sat
3pm Community Church
Community Council Concert: Deb Cowan
Jun 19 • Mon
8am Community Church • **Coffee and Donuts**
Jun 20 • Tue
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Jun 6	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Jun 13	972 1566 0090	423584
Youth Commission	Jun 8	See Town web site	
Planning Board	Jun 20	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Jun 21	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	Jun 27	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Jun 21 • Wed
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Jun 27 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Jul 1 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Jul 4 • Tue
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Jul 5 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
Jul 6 • Thu
Noon American Legion Post 221 • **Seniors BBQ**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Jun 8 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**
Jul 10 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Jul 11 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**

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
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