December 2023 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

Holiday Wreath and Centerpiece Party

Danby's Community Council invites you to a holiday wreath and table centerpiece making party on Saturday, December 9, 2-4pm in Danby's Community Church.

Get into the holidays with fellow Danbyites and let your creative spirit flow! There will be a variety of style and material options. Materials will be provided but feel free to bring your own, including greens. Bring your black plastic take-out trays for table centerpiece bases.

Intimidated by free-style crafts? Don't worry, there will be instructions for those who don't want to have to come up with ideas on their own. The event is free, but donations will be most welcome to offset the cost of materials.

Julie Clougherty will lead the event, with many thanks to the Danby Community Church for offering its community venue. We will be limited to 20 participants, and RSVPs are requested for planning purposes. Please RSVP to [okalee.farm@gmail.com] by Friday evening, 8pm, December 8. Hope to see you there! (jc)

Singing Seasonal Songs

What could be better, this time of year, than getting together for simple seasonal cheer? Gathering with friends and neighbors. Sharing hot cocoa or cider, and maybe some cookies or cake. And singing songs of Wonder and Light.

Danby folks have a great opportunity to sing seasonal songs on Saturday, December 16, 2pm in Danby's Community Church, right on NYS Rt.96B...with plenty of parking. It's free, open to everyone, and family friendly.

For many years the Danby Community Council and the West Danby Community Association have teamed up to host a holiday-time gathering featuring carols and other seasonal songs. Folks from all across Danby gathered at various locations. After a COVID-borne break with 2020 and 2021, the Community Church offered its excellent space for the event in 2022.

Danby's Community Council and Community Church are again partnering for an afternoon of songs for the winter holidays. Songs and carols from Hanukah, Winter Solstice, and Christmas will make the hall ring. People will come from all across Danby to join together in song and cheer.

Song sheets will be on hand, and anyone is welcome to take a turn leading or requesting a tune. There's always a core of strong singers to keep us going and all voices are welcome. Some people bring an instrument to accompany the songs.

We'll hear such favorites as "Go Tell it on the Mountain," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen", "Jingle Bells", "Hanukah Oh Hanukah", "Away in a Manger", "Joy to the World" and the "Twelve Days of Christmas." We may sing about Santa Claus, Red-nosed Reindeer, and Winter Wonderlands filled with snow, roasted chestnuts, and wassail. We will certainly Deck the Halls! Saturday afternoon, 2pm in Danby's Community Church. (pg)

Warm Pancakes!

The cold weather is here and Danby Volunteer Fire Company will be selling warm Pancake breakfast! Drive-thru or stop in for a plate of Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, and Home Fries, all for $12.

Join us Sunday, December 3, 8-11am for breakfast to support our Jaws of Life fundraiser! Cash and Card payments are accepted. Future pancake Sundays are planned for January 14, February 11, March 10, and April 14.

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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

A Spruce In Snowy Dotson Park, Haloed With Star Trails.

The total exposure was only about twenty minutes—about as long as my freezing feet would stand.
All the web tutorials recommended against a single exposure, so I used an intervalometer built into the camera's software with 15-second exposures. 30-second exposures would have reduced the post-processing burden. (jl)

Danby News Notes

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@danbycc.org] 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. (tc)

Goldenrod Depot

Goldenrod Depot is not a station where you can catch the next train out to a place of your choosing. In fact, it is even something more interesting. For me that is saying a lot because I love train rides!

Goldenrod Depot is a newly opened gift shop in the Danby Gathery building, 1774 Danby Road. If you like to shop for vintage and new items in the same space, this is the place for you!

Taking a step back, I would like to say what a big renovation project Nancy Medsker and Tom Seaney undertook when they bought the old Danby Market building in 2014. They worked for 18 months to change it into the Danby Gathery. Outside and inside, the change is remarkable, turning out to be such a nice addition to the middle of our little Danby community.

After making a few wonderful purchases the first time I visited the Goldenrod Depot, I went back and asked owner and 33-year Danby resident Elana Maragni if she would be interested in my interviewing her for the Danby News. I felt readers would be interested in knowing about her shop. Elana said yes!

Elana had been interested in opening a shop for a while. The Gathery space, at about 1,000 square feet with plenty of free parking in downtown Danby, was exactly what Elana had been looking for. The Goldenrod Depot got its name from the feeling that Elana had about giving the shop a rural, natural, welcoming vibe. The shop officially opened for business in September.

Elana says, "I enjoy treasure hunting for second hand and handmade products that are unique, practical, and interesting from a variety of sources. I am inspired by the creativity of local artists and makers." She buys directly, and accepts donations of, vintage goods.

Some of the vintage items in the shop have lovingly been handed down to her from her grandmother, 99-year old Penny Peterson, a former Danby resident who now resides in a New York City assisted living facility. Vintage items in the Goldenrod Depot range from shoes, purses, dishes, linens, quilts, scarves, and wall hangings, to locally-made new jewelry, candles, soaps, and more.

You can even find comfortable Flax clothing from Angelheart Designs, formerly of Danby. Elana told me that items of all kinds are coming in all the time and she pledges to keep all prices affordable. The shop hours are Thursday-Saturday, Noon-6pm, and Sunday Noon-4pm.

Local crafters interested in selling their items at the Goldenrod Depot, should contact Elana at [goldenroddepot@gmail.com] or 607.342.3084 to discuss terms.

After the holidays Elana has plans to open a craft station in the shop where folks can make their own sun catchers, earrings, bracelets and more. For right now, space can be made available for those who would like to teach craft classes.

Elana and her husband, Jon, have known each other since they were kids. They married in 2012 and are parents to Lila, age 7, and Ellis, age 2.

Check out the Goldenrod Depot. I think you will enjoy the shopping experience! (gh)

An Election In December

December 12 features the least-well-known election of the year, where you can vote for a Danby Fire Commissioner.

There are five Commissioners governing the Danby Fire District; each serves a 5-year term.

The District is a political subdivision of the State of New York. It provides fire and EMS protection to the district thru the Danby Volunteer Fire Company and the West Danby Volunteer Fire Company.

The Commissioners determine the District budget that is incorporated without revision into the Town budget. At almost $600,000, the Fire levy is about 20 percent of the combined Fire and Town levy, but the Fire levy has grown more slowly than the Town levy.

Vote at the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby Road, 6–9pm on Tuesday, December 12. (tc)

Lifelong Has Scholarships For Seniors

Lifelong has set aside funds to assist older adults for whom cost is a barrier to participation, to pay for programs offered by Lifelong. As long as funds are available, eligible individuals may use up to $250 a year towards Lifelong membership, semester-based classes, Health & Wellness or Creative Arts Activities, Special Events, or Day Trips. Some programs do not qualify for scholarship funds, such as extended travel and AARP classes, etc.

Who is eligible?
Tompkins County residents age 50 and older can qualify for scholarships with a total monthly income (from all sources) of $1823/month or less for a single person and $2465/month or less for a couple. In addition to meeting the monthly income guidelines, eligibility is also based on very limited assets and limited disposable income.

How do I apply?
Call Lifelong's front office at 607.273.1511 or stop by at 119 West Court Street in Ithaca for more info!

Census Bureau Factoids: Who Lives With Their Parents?

Newly released estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's annual America's Families and Living Arrangements show that living with two parents was more common for children at younger ages than older ages.

In 2023, 75 percent of children under the age of 6 lived with two parents, compared to 68 percent of children between the ages of 12 and 17 who lived with two parents.

Among children who lived with two parents, the majority lived with married parents. However, about 3.2 million children under age 18 lived with cohabiting parents in 2023, a significant increase from the 2.2 million children who lived with cohabiting parents in 2007.

These statistics are from the 2023 *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement*, which has collected statistics on families for more than 60 years. The data show characteristics of households, living arrangements, married/unmarried couples, and children.

Community Library

Our children's section now has a new table with chairs for the little ones and our holiday books are on display. Be sure to choose some for the winter break. Here are a few to get you in the holiday spirit:

Children's:
- A Christmas Tale.....Geronimo Stilton
- Click, Clack, Ho Ho Ho! .....Doreen Cronin
- Thomas' Snowsuit.....Robert Munsch
- Jolly Christmas Postman .....Janet Ahlberg
- The Little Polar Bear .....Hans DeBeer
- The Wild Christmas Reindeer ...Jan Brett
- Christmas Witch.....Steven Kellogg
- The Little Snowplow.....Lora Koehler

Adult Fiction:
- Escape Clause.....John Sandford
- 12 Clues of Christman.....Rhys Bowen
- Silent Night.....Robert Parker
- All Through the Night.....Mary Higgins Clark
- The Christmas Thief.....Mary Higgins Clark
- A Christmas Visitor .....Anne Perry
- The Christmas Ange.....Jane Maas
- There's Something About Christmas .....Debbie Macomber
- Shrouds of Holly.....Kate Kingsbury
- Merry Christmas, Alex Cross .....James Patterson
- Sleigh Bells .....Kate Kingsbury
- Promise Me .....Richard Paul Evans

(cp)

Tweeze Denied

Many Danby News readers are familiar with another version of this poem. Last century. Ron Hardin programmed (not A.I.) a computer to produce this classic.

Even if you've seen it before, you may enjoy carefully—and with good diction—reading it to your family or a friend. You may find it a tongue twister but your audience will begin howling with laughter by the end of the first verse.

(Some verses omitted due to space constraints)

Tweeze denied beef worker isthmus, winnow Trudy how's,
Knot agreed juries during, gnaw Tiffany moss.
This talking swear unbided Gemini wit cairn
Hint opus scenic (alas!) sinewy dare.

Unjelled runner nozzle tools smuggling deer butts
Well fissions unshoe kerplunks thence endear huts.
Anemometer cur chiffon dyeing mayhap,
Adjust subtle warp reins fairy loin winger snap.
...

"Node azure! No Dunce era! No France urine fixing!
Uncommit! And cubit! Andante ran vexing!
Toady tipoff deport chew detypify well!
Gnaw dish aweigh, dish aweigh, dish aweigh awl!"
...

Ant tending at weakling - why hurt honor roof?
A brain sinning Boeing effete shiney huff.
Aside ruin mayhap untwist darning neuron
Bounding gym knee-scent knick (alas!) game winning pound.

Iwis tressed woolen furze promise etuis food,
Anus closed whorled varnished wood asses in suits.
Abound olived oils (egad!) flunk honor speck,
Any luck lockup addler chest (hope?) nimbus peck.
...

Distempered ape pie pea yelled tiding is steed,
Undies mocha answer cul de sac lackey reed.
Egad! Abroad fastener litter hound bully
Achoo! quaintly left, lacking bull feeling jolly.
...

Ease poke naught award, Beduoin strayed duets orc,
Infield eldest tuggings; interned witty chert,
End lioness fanger a sight office gnus,
Ant gibbon unknot, upon chimpanzee rows.

Hasp Rangoon is lay, due esteem guava wistful,
Ending weight day elf loo, lacking town ova tassle;
Buddy herding explain air hedge rowboat design,
"Hopping rich musty woolen due awl incondite!"

Gov't Info: How Does The D.A.'s Office Work?

The District Attorney's Office works with local law enforcement agencies in order to prosecute crimes committed in Tompkins County.

The general process starts with a call to the police, typically by an individual calling 911. The police respond and conduct an investigation. They speak to the people involved, collect evidence, take photographs, canvass for other witnesses or video surveillance. Based upon their investigation, the police determine whether to make an arrest and for what charges.

At that point, the paperwork is submitted to the District Attorney's Office. Sometimes the DA's Office will ask the police to follow up with more investigation or to collect more evidence. The DA's Office will review the evidence and make a determination of how to prosecute the case. The determination is based upon many factors, including the specific crimes committed, the injury or damage caused to the victim, the history of the person under arrest, public safety, the potential risk to the community, and the strength of the evidence.

Each case is evaluated individually. When an individual is charged with a crime and is struggling with substance abuse, mental health, poverty or homelessness, those factors are strongly considered in determining the possible outcomes for the charges. The harm caused to the victims of a crime is the first consideration and priority in the evaluation of a case.

A case may be resolved by a plea or by a trial. If there is a conviction, either by plea or by verdict, the case is normally adjourned for a pre-sentence investigation by the Probation Department. Unless there is an agreed-upon sentence, it is up to the judge to determine the appropriate sentence.

**Nostalgia is a disease
and it's slowly eating away at us.**

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Along time ago, I found a gull incrusted in ice at Stewart Park. After I hacked him out of the ice, I took him to the Lab of Ornithology and was told to take the bird home and feed him smelt.

After several weeks indoors, many pounds of smelt, and swimming in the bathtub, he was returned to the park in good condition. But things aren't always that simple. Some wildlife need veterinary care.

We're fortunate to now have the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center associated with Cornell. It treats more than 800 wild animals per year. This is where I took a goose I recently found at Jennings Pond and where I have taken many other animals—a fawn, a gray squirrel, a turkey, a raccoon—over the years. (The Center doesn't take adult deer or adult bears.)

The Wildlife Center is located at 131 Swanson Drive, the first driveway on the right along Hungerford Hill Road, off Snyder Hill Road. You will learn a lot about all the human-created threats to wildlife in the photo gallery on their website, `[vet.cornell.edu/hospitals]` (click on the dropdown below "Hospitals" in the menu).

Never leave injured wildlife lying in the road. Always carry gloves, a towel, and a carrying bag in your vehicle. (rr)

Reminiscing #16

For my December 23, 2004 Ithaca Journal column I wrote about:

The Danby Community Quilters, who met every Friday at the home of Mary Oltz; Janet and Tom Gray, who enlarged and improved their Highland Farms dog boarding facility and were working on a Grand Opening in the spring of 2005; Nancy Law and Eileen Wright, who volunteered for years on the Danby Area Newsletter; the Danby Fire Company, who was sponsoring a sale of address number signs for the community; and the two sets of twins at the Danby Elementary School at one time, Connie and Betsy Lust and Barbie and Billy (Will) Howe. I was reminded of this when I received our annual family photo Christmas card from the Lust family!

No matter how you celebrate the holidays in 2023, I hope they are happy and healthy celebrations! (gh)

Seniors Update

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be our holiday luncheon at LaTourelle. Signups were required by November 22.

We'll gather again for a dish to share luncheons on January 4 and February 1, always the first Thursday of the month at Noon in Danby's Community Church.

Thanks go to Louise Patterson for setting up for our November meeting. We enjoyed soothing harp music and song by Pamela Goddard.

In January we will elect officers for the new year. The proposed slate is: Pat Phelps, President; Pat Sawyer, VP; Theresa Klinger, Secretary; Cindy Cerrache, Treasurer. Let Pat P. know if you have interest in serving as well.

Tammy Lopez has created a Facebook page for Danby Seniors. Check it out if you haven't already! (mv)

The Dish with One Spoon

In 1701, the Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy and the neighboring Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy met in Montreal to engage in what they called the Great Peace of Montreal.

A wampum belt, now being housed at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, was made to mark their alliance. Called the Dish with One Spoon, it is mostly made of white shells. In its center is a series of purple shells to symbolize the dish and nine white shells to symbolize the spoon.

The belt represents their joint belief that Mother Earth on Turtle Island fills this dish and that the people have an obligation to keep the dish (the land, sky, and water) full and clean. Not only is it an obligation to take care of the land but to share it and all it has to offer.

Next year, the Town of Danby will be reviewing its Comprehensive Plan. Whether you believe in the Great Creator or something else, we all live together in Danby, our own small version of Turtle Island. We really do have only one dish and one spoon.

We need to be thinking about what we will do with the Comprehensive Plan and how we will move forward to preserve and share Danby for the benefit of future generations. Between now and then, please take the time to read the current Comprehensive Plan. It says that the Town will work to preserve the Town's rural character. What does this mean to you? What sorts of things would you like to see Town government do to make Danby's dish fuller and cleaner? What can you personally do to make Danby's dish fuller and cleaner? (rr)

Election Results

There were few surprises when the votes were counted after the November 7 local election. The expected winners won and their opponents lost. If there was any surprise, it came from the margins of victory.

Local Proposition: Abolish the Elected Town Clerk
A mandatory referendum on this, or a similar, question has been held three times in recent years: twice about the Highway Superintendent and, this year, about the Town Clerk. The first time, with little or no information distributed to the public, the office remained elected by a 4-vote margin, 628-632, with 145 undervotes (no vote cast).

The second time, with more information available (the Town paid for a pro-abolish flier), the proposition went down to defeat by a larger, 85-vote margin, 803-888, with only 103 undervotes. You'd think this might've established a trend of the public disapproving in proportion to its knowledge of the issue.

This year, with considerable information available—both in favor and against—the measure failed by an almost 3-to-1 margin, 288-808, with only 72 undervotes.

Danby's Clerk remains elected for the foreseeable future.

Clerk Race
In the Clerk race itself, the only candidate on the ballot, as expected, came out ahead. The incumbent, however, mounted a write-in campaign—normally an unsatisfying effort—and gathered about 300 votes. Combined with 173 undervotes (presumably, voters who were confused about the months-long drama of a withdrawn candidate and then a write-in) it was surprisingly close: 688 voters checked the Dillon box while 480 did not.

Contested Races
The Town Board races (Supervisor and two Councilpersons), with two candidates for each position on the ballot, were even closer than the Clerk race. In each case, the incumbent won: Gagnon over Feeney, 654-479, and Connors and Hansen over Medina and Nitchman, 699-674-466-380.

Uncontested Races
Shipman (959 votes), Huddle, and Klinger (799 and 786) were reelected as Highway Superintendent and Judges, each with hundreds of undervotes.

Comment
Our election commissioner has observed that, generally, opposition candidates run because they are dissatisfied with officials or with decisions. In a town like Danby, where almost 60 percent of voters are from the incumbent party and about 20 percent are not affiliated with any party, it is significant indicator that more than 40 percent of voters selected opposition candidates. (tc)

Free Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts on Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on December 18 (and Jan.15, Feb.19, Mar.18). Open to the public!

The Church is at 1859 Danby Road. Call 607.272.1687 or visit **[danbychurch.org]** for more information.

PS: They're in need of prep and cleanup volunteers.

I'm only interested in the future.
I'm going to spend the rest of my life there.
—Rupert Murdoch

This Issue's Writers

- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- jc..... Julie Clougherty
- jl..... Jim Long
- mv .. Margie VanDeMark
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- rr..... Ronda Roaring
- tc .... Ted Crane

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Dec 2023

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Danby News
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Danby News: Event Calendar

Dec 2 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Dec 5 • Tue
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Dec 6 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
Dec 7 • Thu
Noon La Tourelle • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Dec 9 • Sat
2pm Community Church
Community Council: Wreath Workshop
Dec 11 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Dec 12 • Tue
6-9pm DVFC Station
Fire Commissioner Election
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**
Dec 14 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**
Dec 16 • Sat
2pm Community Church
Community Council: Seasonal Song Singing
Dec 18 • Mon
8am Community Church • **Coffee and Donuts**
Dec 19 • Tue
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**
Dec 20 • Wed
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Dec 21 Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
Dec 25 • Mon
Christmas
Dec 26 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**
Dec 31 • Sun
New Year's Eve

Jan 1 • Mon
New Year's Day
Jan 2 • Tue
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Jan 3 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
Jan 4 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Jan 6 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Jan 8 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Jan 9 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Dec 5	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Dec 12	972 1566 0090	423584
Youth Commission	Dec 14	See Town web site	
Planning Board	Dec 19	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Dec 20	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	Dec 26	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

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]