April 2024 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

The Great Danby Road Cleanup

The 54th Earth Day is coming up! You can take part in the celebration right in Danby. On Saturday, 20-Apr-2023, 10:30am, join the not-quite-annual Earth Day Road Cleanup on NYS Rt.96B. Rain date on Sunday, April 21.

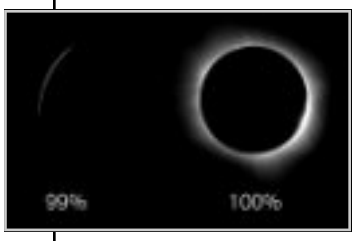
Bring the whole family! This activity is a great way to give to your community. It's a good excuse to get out and about on a warm (hopefully!) spring day. It's social and it's healthy low-impact exercise, too.

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 information, contact us at 607.319.3319 or [danbycleanup@tedcrane.com]. Pick-up walks are social, good outdoor exposure, and fun for everyone. Dress appropriately for the weather. (tc/pg)

The Eclipse of 2024

Don't forget the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, beginning about 2pm and ending at about 4:30pm. Standing in Danby at 3:23:04pm, you will only see a 98.93% eclipse.



Be sure to wear certified eclipse glasses when viewing the sun. There's a big difference between a 98.93% eclipse and a total solar eclipse. Even with only 1% of the solar glare visible, you can't take off your eclipse glasses. The sun is still shining.

You'd have to travel just beyond Ovid, NY, to Sampson State Park, to view the total eclipse. In that park, you could view the Sun's corona for about 51 seconds around 3:22:41pm.

Based on average weather patterns, it's a 40 percent chance of clear sky around cloudy Danby. (tc)

Classical Concert: Expressive Schubert

Danby's Community Council is thrilled to present the classical music string *Quartett Masuno*, for an all Schubert program featuring the *Death and the Maiden* String Quartet in D minor and the *Cello Quintet* in C major.

The concert will take place on Saturday, April 27, 3pm in the sanctuary of Danby's Community Church. Refreshments—along with an opportunity to interact with the musicians—will follow in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Quartett Masuno features two residents of rural West Danby: Christine Lowe-Diemecke (cello) and Augusto Diemecke (violin). Their music and musical connections span central NY and the world. These are neighbors worth getting to know, not only as performers but also as Suzuki teachers affiliated with Ithaca Talent Education.

Augusto and Christine have been Danby-ites since 1993. During those 30 years they have had full and rich musical lives, teaching violin and cello students through Ithaca Talent Education and performing with the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Tri-Cities Opera, and others. Augusto is concertmaster for the OSFL; Christine is its assistant principal cellist.

The story of what brought them to West Danby winds its way from Western NY to Mexico, Houston, TX and then back to Central NY.

Augusto began his musical career in Mexico City, where he was granted first prize in solo performance by the Concurso Nacional de Violin. As an active performer, Augusto toured in Mexico, Peru, the United States, and across Europe. He has also been concertmaster in orchestras across New York and in France and Portugal.

Christine Lowe-Diemecke

—continued on page 3 ➲

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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Chicken, Biscuits / Coffee, Donuts ⑦
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Apr 2024

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

Spring is coming Soon!
—Photo by Anne Becker

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)

➲ ***Expressive Schubert, con't from front page***

first connected with the Suzuki method as a 9-year old cello student. Her studies brought her to various teachers and then to SUNY Buffalo and the University of Connecticut. A position playing in the Mexico City Philharmonic expanded her musical career and teaching life. As an active chamber musician in Houston, she became a sought-after teacher, mentoring 40 students.

In the *Quartett Masuno*, Augusto and Christine are joined by New York musicians Debrah Devine (violin) and Joanne Lowe (viola). Devine and Lowe studied musical performance through the SUNY system (Fredonia and Buffalo). They currently perform with regional orchestras and maintain private teaching studios. The quartet is joined by Mr. S.Shade Zajac on cello for the String Quintet. Zajac has performed and conducted widely, and is an active conductor in Central NY.

The afternoon program highlights the dynamic range of Franz Schubert's compositions. In less than 20 years, he composed nearly 1000 pieces! In this concert, we will hear the haunting, dark quartet known as *Death of a Maiden*, followed by the expressive *Cello Quintet* that evokes Hungarian Gypsy music. (pg)

Danby's Community Council is pleased to present these exciting gems as part of its ongoing concert series. The series brings a variety of music—and musicians of great skill and diversity—to our rural community. Afternoon concerts are offered in order to be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

These programs are made possible in part with funds from the Statewide Community Regrants program from the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the office of the Governor and NYS Legislature, and from Tompkins County, administered by the Community ARTS Partnership of Tompkins County.

Donations to help 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.

Take a Harp Journey

On Saturday May 4, Grace Scarpino-Stoutenburg brings her musical harp tour to Danby! This concert will take advantage of the special acoustics of the Sanctuary of Danby's Community Church. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship hall. Along with the other concerts in the Community Council's concert series, this concert is especially good for the whole family.

Grace will present a program she calls, *The Evolution Of The Harp In Western Music*. This mesmerizing journey includes everything from arrangements of medieval chants to music of the most modern era. We'll learn about the origins of the harp in the ancient world and how it continues to be a vibrant instrument today.

Expect to hear harp solo selections spanning more than four hundred years, from 1550-1990. During that timespan, the harp has evolved from a simple troubadour's accompaniment to a grand pillar of elegance and sonic range. There will be time for audience members to engage in questions and answers.

Given the nature of the instrument, and the acoustics of the sanctuary, we can promise that the sound will be ethereal and lovely.

Grace Scarpino-Stoutenburg is a near neighbor to Danby. She currently lives with her husband and two young children at the Spencer end of Michigan Hollow Road. Her Master of Arts degree in musicology from the Penn State School of Music complements her Bachelor of Music degree from the Crane School of Music, where she specialized in harp performance and musicology.

During the last decade, Grace has had the honor of performing with orchestras and wind ensembles at Cornell University, Ithaca College, and Mansfield University. She regularly performs as a soloist throughout Central NY, for both public and private events. Her passion for teaching is evident from her work with students of all ages and abilities. (pg)

Notice Is Hereby Given that the fiscal affairs of the Danby Fire District for the period beginning on January 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2023, have been examined by an independent public accountant, Stokes, Visca, Hucko & Barone, LLC, that the report of external audit by the independent public accountant has been filed in my office where it is available as a public record for inspection by all interested persons. Pursuant to Section 181-b of the Town Law, the governing board of the Danby Fire District shall, if necessary, prepare a written response and corrective action plan to the report of external audit of the independent public account and file any such response and corrective action plan in my office as a public record for inspection by all interested persons not later than 90 days from the date hereof.

Dated: March 13, 2024

Sharon Gaden, Secretary

Mowing Proposals Sought

The Danby Fire District is soliciting proposals for lawn mowing at the Danby and West Danby Fire Stations for the 2024 season. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal should contact the Danby Fire District, 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, 607.319-4721, or **[danbyfiredistrict.org]** for a list of requirements.

Proposals need to be submitted to the Secretary by 5pm, April 8, 2024, by mailing proposal to Danby Fire District, Attn: Secretary, 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, New York 14850,or to **[secretary@danbyfiredistrict.org]**. Proposals will be considered during the April 9, 2024, 7pm meeting of the Danby Fire District. (sg)

Town Board Considering Special Events Law

Who would ever have thought that middle-of-nowhere Danby could become a haven for large concerts and gatherings? How do you tell the difference between those events and, say, weddings, parties, fundraisers, and community events?

Although initial drafts of the law were not in the public eye, a draft was made available to the public during March. It tries to thread the needle between ordinary gatherings and problematic ones.

Does it affect you? Review the document online, or ask for a copy from the Town Clerk. (tc)

Spring 2024 Bioblitz

Celebrate spring and the reawakening of so much life! Join the Cayuga Nature Center in its Spring 2024 East Finger Lakes BioBlitz, April 26-29, 2024.

A BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists, and volunteers conduct an intensive field study over a continuous time period.

Calling all nature observers to photograph plants and animals in your neighborhood using iNaturalist **[inaturalist.org]**. Using that app, you photograph wild things (or record their sounds) and upload the results. If you don't know what you're seeing, no worries; the app will help identify the organisms.

All ages, experience, and locations are welcome. For more info, contact Ingrid Zabel at **[zabel@priweb.org]**. (rr)

Installing a Mailbox?

Cornell's Local Roads Program offers some advice about mailbox installation:

Height of mailbox
The bottom of your mailbox should be 41-45 inches from the road surface. snow plow wing is 40 inches. Having a mailbox at 42 inches is a risky minimum and does not consider buildup of snow, ice, and gravel.

How far off the road should a mailbox be placed?
Your mailbox should be placed 6-8 inches back from the curb or shoulder. Snowplows are generally about 15 feet wide. NYS Traffic Law prohibits a snowplow from crossing the centerline of the road. Therefore, anything closer than 15 feet from the centerline will get hit.

Mailbox installation
A 4"x4" wood support or a 2" diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe, buried no more than 24" deep, is recommended by the Federal Highway Administration.

Safety
The best mailbox supports are stable, but bend or fall away when hit. (tc)

zapato: shoe, in Spanish
zapateria: shoe business (sales or repair)
Zapateria Heel Quick: shoe repair shop in Viejo (Old) San Juan, Puerto Rico

Burn Ban Still 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.

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

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

A Good Moment To Spring For The *Danby News*

When you want information beyond official, sanitized announcements in expensive, tax-dollar-funded publications, the Danby News is the place to go.

Subscribers and supporters, time to re-up!

We work on a tight budget; a fraction of what taxpayers shell out for a government publication. We have to keep asking for your help and you've been responding.

Paid subscriptions ($15 or more per household) are appreciated. If you can afford it, help keep your neighbors in touch with our community; larger contributions support our community-building efforts. Join the **Danby 100**!

Business owners, please consider the benefits of helping out with either with text-based or display advertising.

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)

Some people, you have to pay to be good.
Not me. I'm good for nothing.

Make A Difference!

Yes, we *can* make a difference. Be a Mentor! A volunteer opportunity that will change your life.

Be a 1-on-1 Mentor with a student needing support in middle school. Meet with your same student twice a week (but not Fridays).

We plan to match each mentor with individual students, so you will have time to work together for this current school year. A college degree is not needed. For more details call or text Susie Kossack, 607.275.6250 or [GIACmskossack@yahoo.com] by April 5. (sk)

Did You Win A Law Suit?

I am no tax accountant, but this may help you. The IRS says that, if it's income, it's taxable. There are a few exceptions dealing with law suits but, if your income comes from airbag or data breach settlement payments, they go on Schedule 1, line 8z. (rr)

Transportation Survey

The Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC) is looking for your participation in an online survey. It is gathering information to update of the Long-Range Transportation Plan for Tompkins County. The plan covers the next 20 years, through 2045.

The plan addresses all forms of surface transportation: cars, freight, transit, inter-city buses, bicycles, walking, shared transportation (bike share, car share) and rail. Air transport is not covered.

ITCTC would like to hear from you about ideas and issues related to transportation in our community. What works for you? What doesn't? What ideas do you have to make things better?

Survey results will be used to develop policies and ideas.

The online survey and other information on the Plan update can be found on the ITCTC web site: [tompkinscountyny.gov/itctc]. Public comments will be accepted through October 2024. (tc)

Did you hear about the guy who
connected a whole bunch of watches into a belt?
It was a waist of time.

Reminiscing #20

I went back to my Ithaca Journal Town Talk column from April 22, 2010, to share with you in this April, 2024, Danby Newsletter.

I wrote about a declaration from the Danby Fire Department that stated that the 2010 Danby Fun Day would honor Joey Salino, a beloved community member and businessman who died unexpectedly on March 31. Joey had contributed to the Fire Company throughout the years, from hamburgers to cooler space, gift certificates, and sauce for spaghetti dinner fundraisers. In addition to his thoughtful generosity with the Fire Company, Joey served on the Danby Town Board for four years and was always known for being good-humored and approachable. So much in Danby is accomplished by volunteers and supportive community members like Joey Salino.

I wrote about nature walks at Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve, an Open House and Book Sale at the Danby Library in Town Hall (with entertainment provided by Harold Bush and his Harmonic Music Program), and the Tompkins County 4-H Duck and 5K Race on April 25 (more than 3,000 yellow rubber duckies took the plunge over the Cascadilla Creek).

I included thoughts about the passing of Dolly Hailstork and George Clarkson. Mr. Clarkson will be remembered for his dedication to the Danby Fire Department through the years, as well as for the gardening and yard work he did at his family home on Nelson Road, lovingly called the Ash Grove.

On a personal note, I have so many lovely memories of good times at the Danby Elementary School. It was a sad day when the school was closed down. Two weeks ago I contacted Mr. Dan Breiman at the Ithaca School District to voice my concerns about the current conditions of the building and grounds.

Even without a neighborhood school, we still pay school taxes and I strongly object to the Ithaca School District allowing the grounds to be used as its dumping area. I asked Mr. Breiman to contact me after he has done an inspection. As of this writing (March 17, 2024), I have not yet heard back from him. I think it would be a great idea for others in this community to voice their concerns, also, and thank you. Mr. Breiman can be reached at 607.379.2370. (gh)

Anyone can cook
but only the fearless can be great
—Auguste Gusteau, *Ratatouille*

Free Tax Filing!

New York State is one of the pilot states where residents are allowed to use the IRS' new online easy filing system. *Direct File* is a allows taxpayers to file their taxes quickly, easily, and for free.

What do I do?

- Visit **[directfile.irs.gov]** on your computer, tablet, or phone
- Check your eligibility
- If eligible, create an ID.me login account (ID.me ensures that your tax data is absolutely secure)
- Use the simple, interview-style tool to complete your federal taxes in under an hour
- Once you complete your federal taxes, you'll be taken to a free state filing system for your state. Information from the Federal return will be automatically transfer to the state forms

How long will this take?

- In most cases, not take you more than an hour
- If you can't finish all at once, you can save your progress and finish your return later.

What if I need help?

- When you use Direct File, you will have access to live chat support from IRS staff in English and Spanish. If needed, your live chat request can become a call with a representative for additional support.
- Visit **[directfile.irs.gov]**

Am I Eligible?

- You can use Direct File if your tax situation from 2023 was relatively simple and you want to claim common credits like the EITC and the CTC.
- If your income came primarily from W-2 employment, you're likely eligible. Direct File has a screener that will make sure it's the right tool for you!
- There are wage limits: not more than $200,000 ($160,200 if more than one employer, or more than $125,000 if "Married Filing Separately"

This Issue's Writers

- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- rb.... Rollie Boda
- rr..... Ronda Roaring
- sg .... Sharon Gaden
- sk.... Susie Kossack
- tc .... Ted Crane
- tk.... Theresa Klinger

Chicken and Biscuits

Come to the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner in Danby's Community Church on Friday, April 12, 5-7pm.

Bird and biscuit with all the trimmings, beverage and dessert. By donation.

The Church is at 1859 Danby Road. Ample parking available!

Community Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts on Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on April 15 (also May 20, Jun.17). 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.

Community Library

The Friends of the Library Sale is coming next month. If anyone has author/book requests, please let us know.

We continue to honor women in history. Librarian Dorothy Wightman is pictured here in the late 1920s.

The Tompkins County Public Library book truck was an initiative to facilitate access to books in the county's rural schools and communities. Rural areas had no libraries and roads were often impassable in wintertime.

An energetic and resourceful young woman, Miss Wightman traveled more than 4,000 miles per year, making hundreds of stops. (cp)

Seniors Update

We had such a large turnout at our March lunch, that we had to add additional tables. Gail Mazourek and her daughter read excerpts from their book which was well received.

Our next luncheons will be on April 4 and May 2, Noon, in Danby's Community Church, 1859 Danby Road. Bring a dish to share (with utensils to serve) and your own table service. Everyone 55 and over are invited.

Annual membership dues are $10 and can be sent to: Cindy Ceracche, 338 Gunderman Rd, Spencer, NY 14883; 607.339.9269. Those 80 and over are considered lifetime members and no longer need to pay dues, but can donate if they wish. (tk)

Rural Cemetery Meeting

The annual meeting of the Danby Rural Cemetery Association will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9am, in Danby's Community Church, 1859 Danby Road (NYS Rt.96B).

We welcome all plot owners and interested people to attend this informative meeting. The cemetery is located at 14 Curtis Road, just south of the village. For additional information contact **[sharonmboda@gmail.com]** or 607.273.8241. (rb)

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Apr 2024

Danby Community Council
Danby News
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Danby News: Event Calendar

Apr 1 • Mon
Day of the Fool
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**

Apr 2 • Tue
6am-9pm DVFC Station
2024 Presidential Primary

Apr 3 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**

Apr 4 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Apr 6 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

Apr 8 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**

Apr 9 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**

Apr 11 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**

Apr 12 • Fri
8am Community Church • **Chicken and Biscuits**

Apr 15 • Mon
8am Community Church • **Coffee and Donuts**
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Public Hearing: subject not listed as of 3/24

Apr 16 • Tue
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Apr 1	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Apr 9	972 1566 0090	423584
Youth Commission	Apr 11	See Town web site	
Planning Board	Apr 16	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Apr 15	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	Apr 23	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Apr 18 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**

Apr 20 • Sat
10:30am meet at Dotson Park
The Great Earth Day Danby Road Cleanup

Apr 23 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Apr 27 • Sat
9am Community Church • **Rural Cemetery Meeting**
3pm Community Church
Community Council Presents *Expressive Schubert*

May 1 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**

May 2 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

May 4 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
3pm Community Church
Community Council Presents *Harp Concert*

May 6 • Mon
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board 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
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