



DANBY NEWS

GREAT DANBY ROAD CLEANUP

THE FIRST EARTH DAY WAS CELEBRATED on April 22, 1970. 55 years later, celebrations continue. One way to take local action is to join the Roadside Cleanup.

Danby Community and Park is once again organizing a crew for the 2-mile stretch of NYS Rt.96B thru Central Danby. We have all of the needed materials and safety gear: orange vests and orange trash bags.

Meet at the entrance to Dotson Park on Saturday April 19, 10:30am. (Rain date, Sunday April 20, 10:30am). Individuals and families are welcome. It's helpful to let our crew chief, Ted Crane, [danbycleanup@tedcrane.com] or 607.319.3319, know in advance that you plan to take part. We'll divide the road into easily walkable sections for teams of two or three people.



Earth Day began in response to a disaster off the California coast in 1969. More than 3 million gallons of crude oil spilled, killing more than 10,000 seabirds, dolphins, seals, and sea lions. Five decades after the first "teach-in" and celebration, over 1 billion people in 193 countries participate worldwide.

Danby Community and Park encourages our friends and neighbors to preserve and protect our precious land, whether it be via roadside cleanup, conservation easement, or simply enjoying a walk thru Dotson Park! 🐾 (dcap)

CONCERT COMING SOON!

SAVE THE DATE: Danby's Community Concert Series goes Klezmer on Saturday, May 17, 3pm, in Fellowship Hall of Danby's Community Church.

Actually, the concert will be more than klezmer, with the duo *Mel and Sol* performing original songs along with klezmer and jazz standards. David Frumkin and Will

Fudeman have been playing music together for more than 20 years.

Look for more details in May's *Danby News*.

Once again, *Danby Community and Park* is grateful for the Church's hospitality and to the Community Arts Partnership, whose award of a 2025 grant for these music programs brings local and traveling artists to our rural community. 🐾 (pg)

SPRING SONGS IN THE PARK

AS I WRITE THIS IN MARCH, snow drops are blooming in Danby and daffodils have opened up in sheltered places in Ithaca. It's been a long winter. I don't know about you, but I'm itching to get outside and enjoy sunlight and fresh air...and make some music with friends and neighbors.

Let's celebrate our collective Spring Fever with a musical gathering in Dotson Park on Sunday, April 20, 2pm. As we've done before, we will gather on the benches and picnic tables near the Park's Hypar Pavilion. We'll hope for seasonally pleasant weather and there is no rain date. Play a tune, sing a song, or just listen. Who knows? Maybe the birds will join us in song.

All musical styles are welcome. We tend to folk music and old time tunes but that's mostly the result of who has shown up in the past. Do you like to sing show tunes? They are welcome, as are jazz licks and the blues. Write your own music? We'd love to hear it. All voices and instruments are welcome (note: no electricity).

We'll be celebrating Earth Day and Easter Sunday along with the Spring. If Saturday's road cleanup gets rained out, come a bit early and pick up a few hundred feet of Danby's biggest byway. Bringing our voices together in the natural beauty of Dotson Park is a wonderful way to celebrate all of the gifts of new life rising.

The open, free music session is sponsored by *Danby Community and Park*. Contributions to support the Park are welcome. Light snacks will be provided and folks are welcome to bring something to share. Sing, play, or listen. No need to register, just show up. Bring your friends. This can be fun for the whole family. 🐾 (pg)

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Erika's Journey	⑦
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April 2025

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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Winter is behind us now.
 Plan ahead for next year!

Dotson Park has lots of trails for snowshoeing or skiing and a great hill for sledding.

The snow melts in the Spring and, by summer, the trails are good for hiking, the disc golf course is open, and the hill offers a vista for family picnic-ing.

Photo by Ted Crane

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 [danbynyny.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)

RURAL CEMETERY MEETING

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S TIME for the annual meeting of the Danby Rural Cemetery Association on Saturday, April 26, 9am, in Danby's Community Church.

This past year was not kind to the cemetery; our equipment shed was crushed by a falling spruce tree. Other trees on the grounds were also damaged.

The association mourns the passing of trustee Linda Howe. Our officers and trustees are another year older and desperately need some younger folks to work alongside in administration and maintenance, keeping the cemetery to the standard we have been proud of in the past.

The meeting is open to everyone and we especially encourage plot owners to attend. Many hands make light work. Questions? Contact me, 607.273.8241. 🐾 (sb)

BREAKFAST THANKS YOU!

THE MEMBERS of the Danby Volunteer Fire Company extend their deepest gratitude for the Danby community's awesome and humbling show of support for our pancake breakfasts this season.



Thanks to the enthusiasm from our amazing community members, we have raised enough funds to purchase much needed replacement for our medical rescue basket (*Stokes Basket*). Stay tuned for public demonstrations of the new rescue equipment this summer!

More amazing than your generous support for life-saving equipment is the community spirit on display inside our little station and out in the drive thru. The Danby Fire Pancake Breakfast has brought together both old friends and new faces for community building during the cold days of winter. As we move into spring and summer, we look forward to providing exceptional service and safety to our community throughout the year.

As always, please feel free to join us any Monday night, 7pm, to see how we train/learn/grow. We welcome anyone to visit or join regardless of background or experience. 🐾

Some things you should let go of
Others you shouldn't
Views differ as to which

—Emily Berry

WALK TO THE OLD OAK

I AM A CARETAKER for a portion of the Finger Lakes Trail, from the corner of Townline and Layen Roads, south to Bruce Hill Road.

It is a wonderful walk of 1.6 miles. Along the way is a view of Spencer Valley, an unusual gorge, and a few White Oak trees of good size and beauty.

One such oak was lost last year to age and wind. I estimate this tree was a seedling some time after the Civil War. Surrounding this tree are many younger White Oaks that are doing well. The death of the older tree gives them more space and light so they can thrive.



If you would like to see this tree, you can park at the corner of Layen and Townline and walk south for ¼ mile or so. It will be on your right. 🐾 (gj)

[Past Bruce Hill Road, you'll walk the section of trail passing thru Slow Lane. It emerges at the northern end of the Fairy-tale Forest section of Comfort Road. On the way, you'll be treated to delights like the huge pebble and a historic, miniature quarry used by early settlers. One of the quarry's old stones is now a perron outside our Great Room door. -editor]

TRANSPORTATION HUB SURVEY

THE CENTER for Community Transportation is conducting a survey to see whether Multimodal Mobility Hubs will work. MMHs help make first and last mile connections between the City of Ithaca and the surrounding areas. In other words...how do you get to (and from) the bus stop?

MMHs connect different types of transportation give residents a variety of options for getting to their final destination. For example, bicycles (personal and shared), car sharing vehicles, designated pickup/dropoff areas for ride sharing. MMHs make those options more accessible, so travelers become less reliant on personal automotive vehicles.

The survey takes 3-5 minutes. Completed surveys enter you in a drawing for a \$25 gift card from the Downtown Ithaca Alliance, valid at over 100+ local businesses and eateries. Prize drawings will occur once a week for 8 weeks.

There will be a public discussion on Tuesday April 22, 5pm, (location TBA). For info and the survey, visit [the-cct.org] or [forms.gle/BgKkC54ZVR1zyJi89]. 🐾

ROCKY'S HALF-CENTURY

BACK IN THE DAY, working for Cornell Cinema, I attended many more screenings than even the most assiduous student in Don Frederickson's *Film Appreciation* courses. Literally, 4 to 7 movies a week.

One evening in 1975 stands out: a special Midnight showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. The theater in Uris Hall was packed, and packed with a most unusual crowd. Why was everyone was wearing tuxedos? Maybe it was a fraternity/sorority thing? Rowdy, too. Just a few minutes into the film, we were showered with rice. And that was only the appetizer.



The Rocky Horror Picture Show celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. Originally a small-theater stage show—a flop—the film ver-

sion was initially received with critical derision. Roger Ebert (one of the two “thumb” guys) offered that it was, “...ignored by pretty much everyone, including the future fanatics who would eventually count the hundreds of times they’d seen it.” Me, I didn’t know what to make of it. It was weird.

Skipping ahead some decades, Rocky Horror is a cult classic and, truth be told, it’s a favorite film, albeit one that doesn’t bear watching too often. The performances are spot-on, the photography is excellent, the dialog is snappy, and it has the kind of music and songs that you remember forever (move over, Taylor Swift).

Few of the performers are (now) familiar names. Tim Curry (the lead, Dr. Frank-N-Furter) has had small-ish roles in many films (for example, doctor “You’ll receive the Order of Lenin for this” in *Hunt For Red October*), but you’ve heard his voice acting many times in many, many contexts. Rocky Horror was one of Susan Sarandon’s (Janet, damn it) first roles; she has gone on to win an Academy award. Little Nell and Meat Loaf also appear; music lovers will surely recognize those names.

The plot? You wouldn’t believe me if I compared it—well, a part of it—to Shakespeare’s *Merry Wives of Windsor*.

This movie is worth watching, at least once. Some will find the material unusual or even offensive—some at first, some forever. After a second watching you can appreciate and even antici....pate the superb and comic timing. For those who have never experienced a showing, the DVD version has an alternate track that mixes “live” video with the movie. It’ll leave you ready to Time-Warp over to good ol’ sweet Trans-ylvania. 🐼 (tc)

VERY EXPENSIVE PAINT

LIKE THE PROPOSED WASTEWATER SYSTEMS for Danby, this project hasn’t yet cost any money, just a lot of discussion between elected and salaried Town officials.

The plan: to mark a pedestrian crosswalk across NYS Rt.96B between Danby’s Town Hall and the entrance to Dotson Park. It really doesn’t sound like a bad idea, though it might not benefit a lot of Danby residents...and only then when the occasional vehicle is speeding by. After all, how much can paint cost, even if it is street marking paint for highways?

Danby’s Town Board discussed it at length and commissioned a proposal to the NYS Department of Transportation. DOT eventually approved it and provided detailed specifications for the job: paint, perhaps some signs, and landings for either end. Danby asked an engineering firm to review the specifications and visit the site.

Subsequent discussion during a Town Board meeting went something like this: “We stood at the crosswalk site with the engineer. We suggested an impossibly high price, hoping it would set an upper limit. Could we do it for \$10,000?” The engineer replied, “Oh, no, not \$10,000. More like \$50,000.”

Ten grand (somewhat less than \$10 for every taxable property in Danby) is no small sum. \$50,000 is a whole different ballpark. Taxpayers are lucky that the Highway Department’s purchases of hammers and toilet seats don’t work like this.

In a related discussion, the Town Board reviewed a highway safety study for the stretch of NYS Rt.96B between Michigan Hollow and Miller Roads. The study, prepared by *Safe Streets/Roads Tompkins*, recommended the installation of 4 electronic speed feedback (radar) signs, 5 hi-visibility crosswalks and sidewalk paving, and 14 advanced warning and supplemental signage units. All of these are considered, “low-cost countermeasures.” Developing a “downtown” Danby may not be an easy—or inexpensive—project. 🐼 (tc)



This Issue's Writers

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ○ gj.....Gary Johnson | ○ pg.....Pamela Goddard |
| ○ cp.....Cindy Parlett | ○ pp.....Pat Phelps |
| ○ dcap .Danby Comm/Park | ○ sb.....Sharon Boda |
| ○ gh.....Gay Huddle | ○ tcTed Crane |

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

SCANNING THE DANBY/SOUTH HILL Facebook group postings can be a good way to see what's on our neighbors' minds. There's people seeking recommendations for home repairs, looking for lost animals, and announcing all sorts of events. Of course, not everyone uses Facebook and some of the local buzz goes under the radar.

One of the topics on people's minds is how to build a resilient community. Last year's weather, along with this year's unprecedented uncertainty in Washington DC, has got folks thinking about ways we can work together. How can we prepare for—and handle—power outages, supply chain disruptions, and extreme weather? There are many things to think about: Accessing water without electric power, heat backup, food storage and supply. Awareness of our vulnerable neighbors and keeping communication going is important.

There seems to be more talk and some action concerning resilience planning. Regular, informal gatherings discussing these topics are taking place at *Danby Food and Drink* on Saturdays, 1-3pm. The *Danby Volunteer Fire Company* has emergency services and community care as a primary part of its mission. *Danby Community and Park* will be hosting a series of programs and workshops on well-being. Several neighborhood groups have already formed for increased social resilience and sharing resources.

If this is on your mind, there are many ways to get involved. 🐾 (pg)

SUPPORT THE *DANBY NEWS*

IF YOU WANT INFORMATION beyond official, sanitized announcements in expensive, tax-dollar-funded publications, the *Danby News* is the place to go.

Celebrate the March toward transparency by supporting the *Danby News*.

Put a nice Spring-flowery contribution seed into the mail and watch it bloom into a bed of useful information and community building.

If the early bird gets the worm,
why do good things come to those who wait?

We now know that memories are not fixed or frozen.
They are transformed, disassembled, reassembled,
and recategorized with every act of recollection.

—Oliver Sacks

BE AT THE BIG BOOK SALE

IT'S BOOK SALE TIME AGAIN! Opening on Saturday, May 3, the Spring Sale run across three long weekends at 509 Esty St, Ithaca. Specific dates and hours can be found at [booksale.org] or call 607.272.2223.



The Spring Book Sale offers up to 250,000 gently used books, DVDs, CDs, comics and graphic novels, puzzles, games, and other items, organized into 70+ subject categories for easy shopping. The large Children's Section, also organized by subject, includes more than 30,000 items.

This sale has a special selection of new and like-new books. They make great gifts for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions.

Proceeds from the Book Sales fund annual grants supporting the Tompkins County Public Library, Finger Lakes Library System, and other libraries in the Finger Lakes region, as well as local non-profit organizations for literacy and reading projects, and scholarships for library science students. 🐾

When you drop your soap on the floor...
does the soap get dirty
or does the floor get clean?

If you get out of the shower clean
Why does your towel get dirty?

Help us by covering the cost of your issues! 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.

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. 🐾

A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus Crashed, losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralyzed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed.

SYMA'S CABBAGE SOUP

IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON to see something simmering on the back of Syma's stove. That something was often cabbage soup. Every meal started with a soup and a salad...unless it also had an appetizer. This sweet and sour preparation, typical of a certain part of northeastern Europe, was a household favorite. Syma made it regularly and what didn't get eaten right away was frozen for later use as a first course.

Collecting recipes in the field is a little like playing Blind Man's Bluff. When I asked for the recipe, I was ready to wait. With her limited eyesight, a written recipe was no use; likewise measuring spoons and cups. She worked by feel, intuition, and memory.

The conversation with Syma went something like this:

Me: So, we start with a cabbage?

Syma: Of course! What else for cabbage soup?
That's really about it.

Me: How much cabbage?

Syma: A small one. Slice it very, very thin.

Me: And what else?

Syma: (emphatically) A good size apple, chopped up.

Me: How does it get its warm color?

Syma: A small can of tomato sauce. Not too much.

Me: Do I see some raisins in there?

Syma: Quite a bit.

Me: Anything else?

Syma: Sour salt.

Me: How much?

Syma: Enough.

There was no need to ask about the dollop of sour cream added to each plate before serving. Some things are simply understood.

I had watched Syma shred the ingredients and stir that slowly cooking pot many times. As she entered the ninth

decade of her life, I recognized a tradition that needed to continue, and remembered the amazingly satisfying taste of the dish.

The last instruction, and the most important, "Cook it a lonnnng time over a small fire." That was it. That, plus the memory of the taste. It was up to me to recreate Syma's Cabbage Soup as best I could.

Over the years, I've probably made a few changes and, yet, it remains a household family favorite. At the end of winter, last summer's cabbages are still good and we need to make room for the ripening vegetables of spring, summer and fall.

Ingredients

1 cabbage, small or ½ of a larger one,
shredded/sliced as thin as possible

1 cooking apple, peeled, cored, and chopped.
It will dissolve into the soup

1 cup crushed tomato

1 tsp sour salt a.k.a. citric acid

This flavoring has so many uses!

A Lot raisins (I use about two handfuls, about 1 cup)

Enough water to cover; vegetable or beef broth works

Some sugar, added while cooking, to your taste

Method

Step 1 Combine ingredients.

Step 2 Cook for several hours on a very small fire.

Step 3 Let sit. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until ready.

Step 4 Serve. Don't forget the dollop of sour cream!

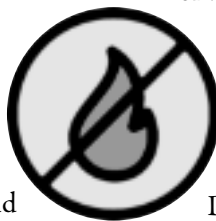
Really, several hours. This soup wants a full day to cook. The longer the better, it improves with each reheating. The soup is fine with plain water but a broth can be used; Syma usually added beef bones while cooking but removed them before serving to Americans. ☞ (pg)

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.

Backyard fire pits and campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width, or diameter are permitted. The online DEC Fire Danger Map, [dec.ny.gov/lands/68329.html], is frequently updated. ☞

**Soup is like experience.
It's better the next day.**

CHICKEN AND BISCUITS



COME TO THE CHICKEN and Biscuit Dinner in Danby's Community Church on Friday, April 11, 5-7pm. Meet your neighbors!

Bird and biscuit with all the trimmings, beverage and some mighty fine desserts.

The Church is at 1859 Danby Road. Ample parking available. By donation. 🍷

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Danby's Community Library Turns 35!

BOOKMOBILE SERVICES to Danby came to an end in 1989. Frank Proto, our County Representative, met with Donna Decker to discuss a reading center. Donna agreed and, subsequently, the Reading Center became an Eagle Scout project for her son, Matthew.

In November 1989, Danby's Town Board approved a Reading Center housed in Town Hall and maintained by community volunteers. \$400 was allotted to construct bookshelves; County funding via the Finger Lakes Library System (FLLS) covered the initial book collection.

Matthew met with the Director of the FLLS for contracts describing requirements, guidelines, and necessary services, and was tasked with building shelves for approximately 1500 books. His next step was to plan the shelves: measuring the room, drawing up a floor plan, listing and ordering the materials, and then cutting, sanding, and assembling.

With the help of his family and friends from his Scout troop, the shelving was completed and installed. The shelves were stocked in time for the grand opening of the Reading Center on April 7, 1990. Unfortunately, Matthew was unable to attend, but a photo of Frank Proto and Donna Decker at the event is part of our Town Historian's files.

We continue to be supported by the Town of Danby and the FLLS. The library would not have been successful without the help of community volunteers throughout the last 35 years! We can now boast over 2500 items and many more shelves. Come in to see all that we have to offer. 🍷 (cp)

COMMUNITY COFFEE AND DONUTS

DANBY'S COMMUNITY CHURCH offers Free Coffee And Donuts on Third Mondays, once a month, 8-10:30am. This month it's April 21 (also 5/19). Open to the public!

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

SENIORS UPDATE

THE NEXT MEETING of the Danby seniors will be on Thursday, April 3, at Noon in Danby's Community Church.

It's a dish-to-pass luncheon. Please bring a generous dish to pass, your own table service, and a utensil for serving your food. Entertainment is still TBA.

Sign-ups for the 2025 Danby Seniors bus trips will be available during the meeting. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 1. For more information, contact me via [patriciaphelps2.0@gmail.com]. 🍷 (pp)

DANBY TO MIAMI: ERIKA'S JOURNEY

ERIKA INMAN COLLINS, born and raised in Danby and Ithaca, has built a life and career shaped by a deep-rooted passion for real estate and a love for adventure.



Now proudly in her Miami home, she seamlessly blends her expertise in real estate with her talent as a writer, inspiring others to take charge of their lives and careers.

Coming from a family immersed in the real estate industry, Erika's path was clear from an early age. Her father, Ed Inman, once Danby's Supervisor (and a Navy veteran, carpenter, and property manager at Cornell University), and her mother, Donna

Inman, once Danby's Zoning Officer, instilled in her a drive for developing. She built her first home at just 23, setting the stage for a career dedicated to real estate research, investment, and development. Erika has a bachelor's degree in international business management and a master's degree in international real estate.

Beyond real estate, Erika is also making waves in the literary world. Her book, *Rise Up, Level Up*, is dedicated to empowering readers to elevate their mindset, overcome obstacles, and achieve their goals. Erika has kindly donated a copy of her book to Danby's Community Library.

When she's not closing deals or writing her next piece, Erika says, "I am embracing the great outdoors. Whether scuba diving in the ocean, paddle boarding along the coast, or hiking through breathtaking landscapes, I find balance and inspiration in nature." 🍷 (gh)

**When you hear hooves, you think of horses
...but you shouldn't discount zebras.**

