

# DANBY AREA NEWS

## SONGS OF THE SEASON

Submitted by Alison Christie, West Danby Community Association

**A**DD YOUR VOICE to the annual West Danby winter singing event on Sunday, December 17, 3-5pm. Enjoy a respite from the holiday hustle and join your friends and neighbors at a friendly community sing.

We are delighted to gather again at Slow Lane, the home of Ted Crane and Pamela Goddard. We'll sing a wide range of seasonal favorites, including Christmas carols, Hanukah songs, Solstice or other favorites. Musical accompanists are welcome, too! We'll have keyboards for sure.

We'll enjoy some warm cocoa, cider, and seasonal treats. Bring something to share if you like. Thus family friendly gathering is down the long driveway at 888 Comfort Road. This event is sponsored by the West Danby Community Association. ❁

## WHEN JUPITER ALIGNS WITH MARS

Submitted by Ted Crane, Community Council

**A**STRONOMY CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS standing in a window at night and looking upward. Or you can go outside with binoculars. With a larger budget, you can sit at a telescope. If your budget is government sized, even if it's a small pittance by government standards, you can send your telescope completely outside our planet's atmosphere and right over to another planet or moon or asteroid.

Bringing home the pictures is what Cornell's Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility does, and SPIF is bringing its photo collection to Danby's Town Hall on Sunday, December 3, 3:30pm. It's a photographic tour of the Solar System. Note the time well, 3:30pm, so we'll be able to see the projected images clearly!

The presenter, Zoe Learner Ponterio, is a genuine scientist. She has worked on the

## SUBLIME JAZZ NOTES: SCARPULLA, ROBINSON, AND ACETO

**I**T'S A WHO'S WHO OF ITHACA'S JAZZ NOTABLES: Jim Scarpulla, keyboard master, Doug Robinson, guitar genius, and Harry Aceto, travelling guru of the upright bass. And they'll be in Danby's Town Hall at 3pm on Sunday, December 10.

Come hear jazz so cool, it'll make you shiver. Notes so notably blue, you'll tremble. Improvizations so unique, you'll never hear the like again. Licks so hot, you'll think it was summer.

Free and open to the public. The concert series is presented by the Danby Community Council with grant support from the **COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP** of Tompkins County and the Town of Danby...and helped along by your contributions to the non-profit Community Council. ❁

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missions to Mars (Spirit and Opportunity). She speaks from experience, and she's bringing lots of new info and images from Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and its moons, and Pluto.

This special event is for everyone: sky watchers and skywalkers, young scientists and mad scientists, artists who love pretty pictures and tourists who aren't quite ready to ride the thunder into the sky.

This program is part of Danby's Community Council's ongoing series of entertainment and informative events. It's free, open to the public, and offers out-of-this-world refreshments.

Be there. Get the latest scoop on all the planets! ❁

**December 2017**

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Text submissions:

Send text in the body of an 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 hard-copy graphics.

Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Materials may be accepted later if time allows. Submissions should generally not exceed one page. We cannot print political material or letters of opinion.

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**DANBY NEWS NOTES**

Submitted by Ted Crane

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

*Guidelines* and the *Submission Guidelines* at the same web location.

You’ll learn what is, and isn’t acceptable material for publication. If it’s acceptable, we’ll make an effort to include it; *generally, we print everything we receive!* You’ll find hints about how to prepare a submission. Following these guidelines makes the editing and layout easier.

A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page. ♣

## TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

### Year End Reflections

**D**ECEMBER IS THE MONTH for preparing for the end of year financial tasks (like, property tax collection in January). It also continues the time to reflect on reasons for gratitude. People of many religious faiths and traditions look to this time of year with a yearning toward increased light, warmth, awareness, and peace. I know that I can be grateful that, while there seems to be chaos and crisis around the globe, Danby has had a peaceful year.



My wish for the New Year: continued peace, collective neighborly support, that our town and region be safe and free from harm, whether by natural disaster, environmental damage, or human activity. May all live in safe housing, with enough heat and food. May all our pets, especially our dogs, be cared for well (including having their shots and licenses up to date). And may we all have the information we need to make appropriate and well considered choices

for our community. If there are ways that I can help, which are within the duties of my job as Town Clerk, please let me know.

### Property Tax Collection

Taxes, the manner of distributing the tax burden, and impacts of taxes on individuals and households has been much in the news the past month. Here in Danby, and thanks to years of conservative spending and responsible saving, the Town Board has passed its first zero-percent increase budget in memory. For most of us, this will mean a reduction in our Town property tax bill.

Please be aware that it is not possible for us to collect Town and county property tax prior to January 2, 2018. (Yes, some people actually want to pay early.) We won't even know the amount due for your taxes until mid-December at the earliest. Tax bills will be mailed shortly after the Christmas holiday. Remember: if your property taxes are paid by a mortgage or escrow account, you will not get a tax bill in the mail. Those bills go directly to the agency making payment. If you would like a duplicate copy of your tax bill, let us know. We can print out a copy and at mail it to you.

As a reminder, the Town Clerk's office only collects Town and County property taxes. We do not collect

School District taxes or have any information about school taxes. Contact the school district related to your address for information about those. (Did you know that Danby is covered by at least four school districts?)

### Holiday Calendar

Danby's Town Hall will be closed for the holidays, December 23-26 and on January 1. For the rest of December, the Town Clerk's office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10am-5pm, and Saturday mornings, 10am-Noon. Saturday hours will increase to 10am-1pm during the month of January. We are closed on Sundays and Thursdays. The first day for tax collection is Tuesday January 2. You can always reach us by phone, 607.277.4788 and by Email at [[townclerk@townofdanbyny.org](mailto:townclerk@townofdanbyny.org)]. And yes, the chocolate bowl still is kept full (it is the holidays, after all) but we cannot Email sweets to you. ❁

## SCIENCENTER: FREE ADMISSION

**O**N SUNDAY, December 10, Noon-5pm, admission to the Sciencenter is free for all. Catch the final month of Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China, and all the other wonderful exhibits! ❁

## WDCA FUNDRAISING DINNER THANKS

Submitted by Alison Christie, West Danby Community Association

**T**HE WEST DANBY Community Association thanks its sponsors of the Appreciation Dinner and Fundraiser for the Danby and West Danby First Responders on Saturday, November 4.

We are grateful to pastor Bruce Scott and the First Baptist Church of West Danby for the use of its community room and kitchen. We also thank our main sponsor, Tioga State Bank, for its generous support. Jay-Z Auto Repair, Wegman's, Farmer Ground Flour, Green-Star, and Eddydale also made valuable contributions to our event. We are fortunate to have such community-minded businesses!

Finally we are grateful for the first responders, their families, and the community members who gathered together for a delicious meal with wonderful music from The Hilltoppers. We are pleased to have provided a special evening to our volunteers and their families. ❁

## WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

### Informational Meeting and Quarterly Meeting

THERE WILL BE A WATER information meeting held at the West Danby Fire Station on Wednesday, December 13, starting at 5:30pm.

Representatives of the Community Science Institute and the Tompkins County Health Department will be available to answer basic questions about water quality and testing. It's aimed mostly towards people who have private wells on their property and want information or have problems.

The informational meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the West Danby Water District commissioners at 5pm, also at the Fire Station. ❀



## BOARD VACANCIES

Submitted by Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk

THE TOWN BOARD of the Town of Danby invites residents to apply now for volunteer municipal boards seats starting January 2018. Your involvement is welcome and needed.

Each year, one seat opens on each of the Planning Board (7-year term) and the Board of Zoning Appeals (5-year term). The Planning Board meets monthly (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) to review subdivision and development applications, and to review and revise the Town Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The Board of Zoning Appeals meets as needed (usually 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday) to hear and decide variance requests related to the Zoning Ordinance. Copies of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance are available on the Code/Planning page of the Danby web site and in the Town Clerk's office.

There are several open seats on the Conservation Advisory Council (2-year term). The CAC advises the Board in the development, management, and protection of the Town's natural resources. The full charge of the CAC, is available in the Town Clerk's office.

## HOLIDAY HISTORY

Submitted by Mary Ann Barr, Town Co-Historian

AS I LOOKED THROUGH documents in the Town Hall vault, I was reminded that Holiday time is fast approaching.

I came across an Agenda for an unspecified meeting. What caught my eye was the date: December 14, 1981. Nothing like an old document to make me wonder what was going on "back then." Then a piece of paper attached to the back of the agenda caught my attention.

It was a copy of a beautifully lettered quote signed by Henry Van Dyke. It read, *"I am thinking of you today because it is Christmas, and I wish you happiness. And tomorrow, because it will be the day after Christmas, I shall still wish you happiness...my thoughts and my wishes will be with you always. Whatever joy comes to you will make me glad. All through the year...I wish you the spirit of Christmas."*

Was this quote attached so it could be read at the meeting? Was it a reminder to whoever conducted the meeting to mention holiday events? Delving into history often produces bits and pieces that tell only part of the whole story. We have to fill in gaps to bring the facts alive. Then there are pieces that are interesting in their own right. That was what I thought of this document I came across in the vault and I felt as though I had looked through a small window at a moment of Danby history with real people.

It seemed appropriate to share this little bit of holiday history—and to add that whatever our individual culture, religion or belief, all Danbyites will have a happy and safe holiday season this year. ❀

The West Danby Water Commissioners, have at least one and possibly two vacancies. Contact the Town Clerk or Tod Sukontarak for more information.

An appointment application is available through the Town Clerk's office. This simple form includes contact information for the applicant and three simple questions: any experience (professional, educational, etc.) that would assist in the position, a brief description of why you would like to be considered, and what you would hope to accomplish in this position.

If interested, or for more information on these positions, contact Town Clerk Pamela Goddard at [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org] or 607.277.4788. ❀

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

RECENTLY, SOMEONE gave me a book about Alexander Von Humboldt. He was the guy who started all this climate change discussion in the early 1800s. Apparently, his work described in the book, "The Invention Of Nature", predicts human-induced climate change.

So I guess this topic has been around for a while and, though we have forgotten the man, his ideas and radical change in thinking are resurfacing in our collective consciousness.

My read of the book is...everything is connected to and effects everything. The Town has set some priorities that share this thinking.

A large part of our work plan in the coming year will be focused on water. It took the Town almost four years to complete a study of its water resources and our aquifers. The mapping of our underground water resources and recharge areas helps with development planning.

Now, we will be researching water running *away* from Danby, to both the north and south. Another name for this is "stream setbacks," and the idea is to address storm water and erosion controls. We want to keep much of what comes out of Danby...in Danby.

From the Town's point of view, we're also finding solutions to one of the Town's problems. The increasing frequency and intensity of rain events has led to greater amounts of runoff. Our older infrastructure systems were never designed to handle this much water. Although they were designed to solve a problem, they are now contributing to a problem.

Our biggest threat to the The Town budget is catastrophic loss of our infrastructure. To protect those resources, we will need an engineer to study and make recommendations. From the small study of Brown Road that we have already done, the projected costs of a Town-wide best-practices upgrade, will be cost prohibitive. So, we will be seeking other municipalities, other counties beside our own to join us in a collective bid to secure funds to address this problem.

Other topics that the Town will have on its agenda will be discussed during a meeting (November 28, 7pm, Town Hall) later in November. I will share what they are in next month's Danby News.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at [[supervisor@townofdanby.ny.org](mailto:supervisor@townofdanby.ny.org)]. ❧

## PANCAKE BKFST SEASON IS HERE!

Submitted by the Breakfast Committee

THE FIRST PANCAKE BREAKFAST of the season is almost here! During a recent meeting at the Danby Volunteer Fire Company, 1780 Danby Road (NYS Rt.96B), the recipe lists were checked, the eggs were counted, and the bacon trimmed and shaped. The tables are ready to go. Chairs await your bottoms. Let the fearless firefighters take your order. They deliver burning hot delicacies and rapidly cooling liquid relief.



Come chat with friends and family and All breakfasts are 8-11am on Sundays: December 10, January 14, February 11, and March 4. ❧

## Town Office Info

**Town Clerk** • [[townclerk@townofdanby.ny.org](mailto:townclerk@townofdanby.ny.org)]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm; Saturday, 10am-Noon

**Highway Department** • [[highway@townofdanby.ny.org](mailto:highway@townofdanby.ny.org)]

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

**Code Enforcement Office** • [[code@townofdanby.ny.org](mailto:code@townofdanby.ny.org)]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Wed, 9am-5pm; Thu, 12:30-5:30pm

**Town Court** • [[courtclerk@townofdanby.ny.org](mailto:courtclerk@townofdanby.ny.org)]

Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031 • Tue, 7pm

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

## COMMUNITY EASEMENTS WORK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Submitted by Matt Ulinsky, Conservation Advisory Council

IMAGINE WALKING AROUND your neighborhood in ten years and feeling crowded in by all the new homes. Now imagine if you and your neighbors had gotten together to preserve several or more of your properties. You could preserve the wild or open space characteristics of your neighborhoods, creating larger tracts of land that would provide homes for animals and birds that would last forever. It would prevent the development density that takes these things away.

A conservation easement can be made more powerful by banding your neighbors together to preserve larger tracts of land.

How an easement works: a conservation easement is a voluntary, legally binding agreement that limits the types of use allowed on a property. Danby Town Easements are perpetual--but the property remains in your hands. You work with the Danby Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) to determine the scope and nature of the conservation values you want to preserve. These can include recreational, farming or even certain development aspects (i.e. reserving a spot for a new building).

The Danby CAC is at your service to help with creating easements--and also to help groups get together to preserve their neighborhoods. Contact us to meet with one of our members, or get your neighbors together for a group meeting.

Contact the CAC through Danby's Town Clerk, [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org], or me, [mulinski@townofdanbyny.org]. ❧



## EVENTS 'ROUND TOWN

*This column appears monthly, featuring brief descriptions of events—current and upcoming months—around Danby. If you have a non-profit event that the general public is invited to...send a notice to the Danby News!*

### Community Council:

*Tour of the Solar System:* December 3, 3:30pm Town Hall. Photos and more, from the Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility. Hang on to your hats!

*Concert:* Sunday, December 10, 3pm, Town Hall. Lovely Jazz with *Jim Scarpulla, Doug Robinson, and Harry Aceto.*

### The Great Room at Slow Lane

*Contra Dancing:* Most Fridays, 8pm. Beginners welcome, no partner needed, dances taught. Info: 607.273.8678.

*Scandinavian Dancing:* music by Steffan Ohlström and Stephen Ellner. Sunday, January 7, 2pm. Also February 11, call for info 607.273.8678.

### West Danby Community Association

*Seasonal Songs and Caroling* Sunday, December 17, 3-5pm, in the Great Room of Slow Lane (888 Comfort Road). Bring your voice and/or your instrument and a comfy pair of slippers! ❧



The crowd filled the room for Middle Eastern music on Nov.12, but couldn't finish the mounds of Turkish food prepared by Danby's Youth!

## OUR NEIGHBORS: LISA BENEDETTO

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

**T**HIS MONTH'S NEIGHBOR is Lisa Benedetto, who really is my neighbor on South Danby Road. She lives with her husband, Andrew Taylor, a drug and alcohol counselor.

Lisa was born in Syracuse. "We relocated back to Upstate New York from Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 2012 for my new job as a Certified Nurse-Midwife. My family and I were originally attracted to Danby due to its location in proximity to Ithaca and the beautiful rural landscape. We searched for a private property to rent that would be comfortable for our family, which included our teenage daughter, two dogs, and a cat. We found a lovely home on 15 acres that bordered the Danby State Forest and a local Christmas tree farm. After living there for two years we purchased the property and still laugh today about how we found our home by answering an ad on Craigslist titled 'Hot Tub in the Garden.' The hot tub in the garden is still one of our very favorite things about our home."



I asked Lisa to explain what a midwife does. "Midwives provide health care services to women of all ages. Midwives not only provide pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum care, but also provide general health services, annual checkups, contraception, and menopausal care."

"So, what's the difference between a midwife and an obstetrician, when it comes to delivering babies?" I asked. "In short," she responded, "midwives are trained and specialize in normal physiologic birth. Midwives strive to care for both the emotional and physical transitions that occur during the delicate birth process, all the while incorporating the mother's family and support team as a whole."

I asked Lisa if she gets called out on snowy nights a lot. (Since Lisa's driveway is across the road from me, I had my suspicions already.) "Yes," she replied, "you certainly have to be prepared to get called out to a birth at any time of the day or night, during any type of weather. You always have to be ready for a baby to come!"

"For the past five years, I've been employed by a private obstetric and gynecologic office in Ithaca. My role as

a midwife there has included providing well-woman care in the clinical setting, as well as caring for pregnant women and attending births at Cayuga Medical. I'm currently transitioning from that job to working for a local non-profit organization, providing comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care in a clinical setting. I'm temporarily stepping away from attending births in order to catch up on some much needed sleep and focus on a future outreach program to improve access to care for special populations."

I asked Lisa what she likes to do in her free time. "I enjoy spending time with family and friends, tending to my many gardens, traveling to majestic places, and, of course, soaking in my hot tub!"

Thinking ahead to the next 20 years of life in Danby, Lisa said, "We love living in rural Danby for many reasons similar to our neighbors. We enjoy the peace of the forest, the magnificent wildlife, the flowing waters. It is of great importance to us to preserve the future rural landscape of our town and the environment as a whole."

*If you would like to suggest someone to be interviewed, feel free to contact me at [rondaroaring@hotmail.com].* ❁

## ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

**D**O YOU WANT TO MAKE a positive difference for the children in your community? Then please, take a moment to consider joining and spreading the word about our Tompkins County Department of Social Services monthly meetings; we can discuss how you can become a certified adoptive, foster or respite parent.

We have significant need for safe homes for children of all ages and sibling groups.

Our next meeting will be held on December 19, Noon-1pm, in the Human Services Building, 320 State/West Martin Luther King Jr. Street in Ithaca. If you need more information, please call 607.274.5266. We can also arrange a convenient time to meet with our Home Finder. ❁

## BIG PUMPKIN CONTEST RESULTS

Submitted by Susan Franklin, Community Council

THE WEIGHING IN of the pumpkin contestants was done using a big balance beam. On one end...the pumpkin. On the other end was weighed down by...children of different weights.

Three children, weighed in at 30, 40, and 47 pounds using two standard bathroom scales: one digital and one analog, spring-based device. On the balance beam, they stood still long enough to provide surprisingly accurate results!

The whole affair was witnessed by several people attending Harvest Fest, none of whom were directly associated with the pumpkins and, therefore, completely impartial.

Several attendees inquired about pumpkin seeds for

next year's contest. Yes, they will be available. And, yes, there's a rumor that seeds from this year's winner may be included!



Five entries presented for the contest took honors in the following categories:

- The Chunky: 95 pounds, circumference over 5 feet, grown by Bill Evans and his daughter.
- The Biggie, 65 pounds, circumference almost 5 feet, also from the Evans family.
- The Runner-Up, 55 pounds, circumference 4.5 feet, Ted Crane and Pamela Goddard.
- The Cutest, 45 pounds, circumference 4 feet, the Thurnheer-Hall family.
- The Orb, 40 pounds, circumference just over 4 feet, Tom Clougherty and family. ❀

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, , Tompkins County Legislator

IT MIGHT BE ACCURATE to say that the most important thing the Tompkins County Legislature does is to set the budget. The budget turns our priorities, goals, and services for the upcoming year into numbers. It also sets the tax rate.

The County passed its 2018 budget last month. The budget contains an increase in the tax levy, or the total amount of taxes collected, of 2.3 percent. However, since more people have moved into the county in the last year, and more buildings have been built, there are more people and businesses contributing towards that increased levy. Therefore, the tax rate is actually decreasing by 0.6 percent.

If your assessment has gone up for 2018, then you may see a small increase in your taxes. If your assessment has not gone up, you will see a decrease in your County tax bill.

Something that people are often surprised to hear is that about 5 percent of assessments actually go down each year.

What will the County be doing with the extra 2.3 percent it will be collecting in 2018? First, there will be

no decrease in any of the services that the County currently provides: the library, recycling, social services, weights and measures, the airport, the Health Department, highway maintenance, and much more.

There are several areas where new resources and programs will be brought to bear. Most of these new initiatives fall under the categories of the jail and housing. I have written about both of these before, and will again. What I will say briefly about the jail is that New York State is requiring Tompkins County to either build a bigger jail or reduce the number of inmates. We have decided to put resources into reducing the number of inmates for social justice and economic reasons. Concerning housing, the demand for housing far exceeds the supply, and this has effects on the cost of both renting and buying, on employment, on transportation and traffic, on diversity, and more.

We view putting money towards the jail population and towards housing as investments that will pay dividends for all of us in the future.

Tax levy, tax rate, assessment, budgeting, County taxes, Town taxes, School District taxes—I know it can all get confusing. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns that I can help you with; [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582. ❀



## TIME TO COUNT BIRDS

Submitted by Bill Evans, Community Council

THE 118<sup>TH</sup> AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC) is fast approaching and the Ithaca area count will be on January 1 as usual.

Danby resident Asher Hockett coordinates the Danby section of the Ithaca CBC and the Danby Community Council will be hosting an informational meeting to prepare for the count in Danby's Town Hall on Saturday, December 16, 2-3pm.

We'll welcome newcomers, review the species we've found in past years, and begin planning for the January 1, 2018 count. All are encouraged to birdwatch around Danby before the meeting and share their sightings. Hot beverages and homemade apple fritters will be served!

For more information about the December 16 event, contact Bill Evans, [wevans@danbycc.org]. For more information about participating in our January 1 count, contact Asher at [asherhockett@hotmail.com]. ❧

## DANBY BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Janice Beal

THE DANBY BOOK CLUB meets on the third or fourth Sunday of each month, 4pm, at one of our homes.

We read mostly non-fiction and are very focused on discussing the book. Refreshments are served.

Please join us! New members are always welcome. Questions? Contact me, 607.279.1480 or [beal.janice.e@gmail.com]. ❧

## SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Columnist

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND your stories to me for the Southern Tompkins Town Talk column that appears weekly in the Ithaca Journal.

I cover the neighborhoods of Danby, West Danby, Brooktondale, Newfield, and Upper South Hill. Pictures (in JPEG format) are always welcome.

Please contact me at [gayhuddle@hotmail.com] or 607.273.6530. ❧

## HOLIDAY POTTERY SALE BENEFITS *HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL*

Submitted by Renata Wadsworth

IT'S A TWO-DAY EVENT, Wednesday December 13, 5-8pm, and Saturday, December 16, 11am-2pm in my studio, 326 Gunderman Road, in Danby. Need more info? Visit [renatawadsworth.com] or call 607.227.4272. All you need to do is show up to enter to win a fabulous door prize!

Healthy Food For All subsidizes CSA (vegetable) shares for low income families in Tompkins County, making organic, locally grown produce available to families in need while supporting local farms!

This may be the best place to do your Holiday shopping in Danby! Beautiful and one-of-a-kind pottery seconds as low as \$1; 'firsts' discounted up to 75 percent. In addition, there will be holiday cards, jewelry, and holiday ornaments for sale. ❧



## WOMEN'S FICTION

Submitted by Joanne Farbman

THE WOMEN'S FICTION BOOK CLUB of Danby is currently meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. Since it's a pretty new group, this schedule could change.

So, anyone interested in this new group should contact me at 607.280.3069 or [jsfarbman@gmail.com]. We'd love to have you! ❧



Seniors Out and About: Frannie Mason and Eloise Phinney at the Merry-Go-Round Theater on October 10. Photo by Margie VanDeMark

## DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, January 4, at Noon in the Danby Community Church. All seniors 55 and older are welcomed to come for a dish to share luncheon.

We thank our November hosts, Connie & Ted Merritt and Sharon & Rollie Boda. Our December holiday lunch at LaTourelle will be attended by about 70 folks; signups are now closed.

We have a great trip to Syracuse on December 12 to see *Lights on the Lake* and have dinner at the *Spaghetti Warehouse*. The bus is nearly full, but call Nancy Gould 607.273.8705 to see if there's room, or to be waited list in case of any cancellations. ❁

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

THE HOLIDAYS AT UPON US so stop in to see our new displays and holiday book/DVD selections.

We have a nice collection of books by local authors. They are worth checking out. Niki Alling's children's books are quite popular; for Young Adults, Gail Mazourek's, *Samantha Series*, and for Adults, *The Mighty Queens of Freeville*, by Amy Dickinson; *The Envelope*, by Gary Price, and *Bald Hill*, *The Lost Community*, by Wayne Myers.

Who knew we had such great talent right in our community? ❁

**Librarian on Duty • New Hours**  
**Tuesdays 1-3:30pm**  
**Saturdays 10am-Noon**

## AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Submitted by Marvin Eastman, Post Manager



WELL HERE WE ARE, another year about to go by. It's time to think of the future, and not dwell on the past. We need to remember the past, the good times and the bad, the fun we had as well as the sorrow. But as the snow flies, its time to come inside and stay warm.

So don't forget that we still have our dinners here at the Ithaca American Legion, snow or shine. All dinners are open to the public, so come on in and meet old friends or meet some new ones.

On December 2, we will be having a Steak Dinner: 12oz Prime Rib cut steak cooked to order, salad bar, choice of baked potato, onion rings, or french fries, and homemade desserts. All for just \$12.

On December 15, its a Fish Dinner. Fish either baked or fried, salad bar, choice of french fries, baked potato, or onion rings, dinner roll, and homemade desserts. Again, only \$12.

December 23, Adult Christmas Party, 6-10pm. Snacks served, DJ, stop by and say, "Hi!" and enjoy the evening. Post Closed Christmas Day.

Remember, if you are looking for that special place for a holiday party or just a small get together with family and friends and the garage is too cold or the house just isn't big enough, give us a call. We have room for a gathering as small as 10 people or as large as 100. Call 607.272.1129 for details.

I hope you all got out to one of the Veterans Day Celebrations in the area. It was a little overcast for the parade, but it was nice to see a lot of familiar faces as we marched. Remember, freedom is not free—Thank a Vet. ❁

## Community Council Autumn Youth Programs

AS FALL COMES TO AN END and we move into Winter, I am reflecting upon a season of getting to know your community and your youth. I've had a lot of fun making books and candles at the Danby Community Church, playing board games at Boynton Middle School, and completing fire challenges in Dotson Park. Not only have I met a group of awesome kids, but I've also met a number of outstanding parents. I'd like to thank everyone who helped to cook and serve Turkish food during the Middle Eastern music concert in Town Hall in November. It was really special for me to have the chance to share a little bit of my culture and background with all of you.

Moving towards the end of the year, I will be finishing up a cooking program at the Danby Community Church, a board game design program at Boynton, and Primitive Pursuits in Dotson Park. Additionally, I am excited to announce that I am organizing a low-cost family field trip for Danby youth and their parents. By the time this goes out, the official registration will have passed, but please feel free to check in with me to see if any spots are available.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season!

### YOUTH GRANTS

Submitted by Susan Franklin, DCC Youth Grant Coordinator

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD going to camp or participating in another program during the next few months? Financial assistance is available for Danby youth up to age 21, in the form of grants of up to \$100 per youth per year.

Grants are awarded quarterly for lessons, after-school programs, and more. The deadline is December 15 for programs beginning (or with payment deadlines) in January thru March (but funds for October-December activities may still be available).

Funding is provided by the United Way and the Town of Danby. Families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch are especially encouraged to apply.

For more information and applications please contact [youthgrants@danbycc.org]. You can also find applications on the Town Hall bulletin board. ❧

### Teens Cook!

Mondays, 4-6pm, December 4, 11, and 18  
Danby Community Church

A season of cooking. This program began with a special focus on Turkish cooking, followed by a fieldtrip to a Turkish music concert in Danby. During the following weeks, we will focus on cooking cuisines from different places around the world.

### Get Your Game On!

Wednesdays, 3:25-5:30pm,  
December 6, 13, 20  
Boynton Middle School

Let the games begin! Youth will have the opportunity not only to play games, but to design them as well. Taking inspiration from popular games such as Magic The Gathering, Dungeons & Dragons, and Codenames, we will design board games of our own from start to finish.

### Danby Family Field Trip

Saturday, December 9, 9:30am-7:30pm

Ride a private, chartered bus from Danby to Syracuse, where we will explore the MOST--Syracuse's premier museum of science and technology--and see The Polar Express in IMAX. During the afternoon, we will eat an early dinner at The Mission Mexican restaurant, which is located in the basement of an old church that doubled as a stopping point on the Underground Railroad. The night begins with a tour of Lights on the Lake, and the bus will arrive back in Danby around 7:30pm. Cost is \$6/person or \$25/family. Scholarships will be provided if necessary. ❧



**Librarian on Duty • New Hours**  
**Tuesdays 1-3:30pm**  
**Saturdays 10am-Noon**

Postal Patron

## DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 27 • Mon

Noon-1pm 🏠 Danby Comm Church • **Mobile Food Truck**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Nov 28 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Joint Board Scoping Meeting**

Dec 2 • Sat

9am 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**  
5-7pm 🏠 American Legion • **Steak Dinner**

Dec 3 • Sun

3:30pm 🏠 Town Hall • **A Tour of the Solar System  
Photos and more from Planetary Imaging Facility**

Dec 7 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Danby Comm Church • **Seniors**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Dec 8 • Fri

5-7pm 🏠 Danby Comm Church • **Chicken & Biscuit Dinner**

Dec 10 • Sun

8-11am 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Pancake Breakfast**  
3pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Community Council Concert  
Jazz w/ Jim Scarpulla, Doug Robinson, Harry Aceto**

Dec 11 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Dep't Meeting**  
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**

Dec 12 • Tue

5-9pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall(s?) • **Fire District Election**  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Dec 13 • Wed

5pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **WD Water District Mtg**  
5:30pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **Water Info Mtg**

Dec 15 • Fri

5-7pm 🏠 American Legion • **Fish Dinner**

Dec 16 • Sat

2-3pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Bird Count Warmup Mtg**

Dec 17 • Sun

3pm 🏠 Slow Lane - 888 Comfort Road  
West Danby **Community Association—Seasonal Sing**

Dec 18 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**

Dec 19 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**

Dec 21 • Thu

3-6pm 🏠 Danby Comm. Church • **Food Pantry**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Planning Board Meeting**

Dec 25 • Mon

Noon-1pm 🏠 Danby Comm Church • **Mobile Food Truck**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Jan 4 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Danby Comm Church • **Seniors**  
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Jan 6 • Sat

9am 🏠 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

Jan 8 • Mon

7pm 🏠 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**  
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Dep't Meeting**  
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**

Jan 12 • Fri

5-7pm 🏠 Danby Comm Church • **Chicken & Biscuit Dinner**

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Danby Community Library Open** 🏠 Town Hall  
Tuesdays, 1-3:30pm, Saturdays, 10am-Noon,  
and when the **Open** sign is out!

**Seniors Strength Training Group** 🏠 Danby Community Church  
Mondays and Thursdays, 9am.

**AA Meeting** 🏠 Danby Community Church  
Wednesdays, 7pm.

**Danby Quilters Group** ☎ 607.273.2950  
Call for Info.

### WHERE THINGS HAPPEN

🏠 **Danby Town Hall** • 1830 Danby Road

🏠 **Danby Fire Hall** • 1780 Danby Road

🏠 **West Danby Fire Hall** • Sylvan Lane, off Rt.34/96

🏠 **Danby Community Church** • 1859 Danby Road

🏠 **American Legion Post 221** • 1231 Danby Road