

DANBY AREA NEWS

HIGHWAY SUP'T REFERENDUM

Submitted by Matt Ulinski, Councilperson

ON MONDAY AUGUST 20, 7PM, the Town Board of the Town of Danby will hold a Public Hearing to discuss enacting a local law that would change the Highway Superintendent's position from elected to appointed. All are invited to the hearing in the meeting room of Danby's Town Hall.

The Public Hearing will be followed immediately by a discussion and, potentially, a vote by the Town Board on the local law. If the Town Board votes in favor of the law, a permissive referendum must also be submitted to voters in the Town, to approve the law. A proposition would be added to the General Election ballot on November 6 for this purpose, and voters will be asked to approve this law.

A "Yes" vote on this proposition means the Town's Highway Superintendent will be changed from an elected position to one appointed by the Town Board. A "No" vote would keep the position as an elected one. If passed, the new law would take effect on January 1, 2020, at the end of the current term of the Highway Superintendent.

The Town Board feels that this change is a good idea because the Superintendent's position has become more technical in recent years and the pool of qualified candidates for Superintendent would be much larger if it was not restricted to residents of the Town itself. In addition to the public hearing, if the local law is approved by the Town Board there will be a public information session closer to the election and more information weighing the pros and cons of the measure will be distributed.

As always, thank you for participating in our Town's governing process. We look forward to seeing you at the public hearing. ❀

IT'S TIME TO PICNIC, WEST DANBY-STYLE

Submitted by the West Danby Community Association

Join your Danby neighbors for scrumptious food, lively music, and camaraderie at the annual West Danby summer picnic on Saturday, August 25, 4:30pm. We'll gather in the pavilion at the corner of Short and Brown Roads in West Danby.

We'll provide drinks and smoked, pulled pork prepared by West Danby's own Tod Sukontarak. Please bring a side or dessert for the dish-to-pass. West Danby's cooks, bakers, and gardeners are well-known for the abundance of delicious fare at the height of the season's bounty. Peter Fraissinet and friends keep toes tapping with a background of spirited old time music. All who dare are welcome to join the annual badminton contest.

This year the West Danby Community Association will honor long-time West Danby resident Wayne Myers. Wayne generously contributes to our sense of local history through talks, his book, and tours at his property. Our community is enriched by his diligent, comprehensive, and passionate efforts to preserve the history of Danby.

All are welcome, and the WDCA thanks pavilion owner Mike McLaughlin for the use of the site. Come join us as we celebrate Wayne and our lovely hamlet! ❀

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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- Calendar ⑧



Horsetail, see page 5

August 2018

Layout: Ted Crane

Count-n-Label Crew:

Diana Van DeBogart; Ted and Pamela; Katharine and Scott; Julie and her family; others.

Post Office Crew:

Julie Clougherty,
Katharine Hunter
Scott Davis

To contribute:

Danby Area News
PO Box 6886

Ithaca, NY 14851-6886

Phone: 607.273.8678

Email: [danbynews@tedcrane.com]

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 15th 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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For info, contact [danbynews@tedcrane.com].

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. ❁

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK'S DESKTOP

Submitted by Alex Pfeifer, Deputy Town Clerk

MY JOURNEY TO DEPUTY TOWN CLERK began when I went to Town Hall to check out *Danby's Hidden Treasure* from the Danby Community Library. While there, I met Dawn Parks, a doyenne of organization and dynamo of energy. Through her guidance, I became a Library Volunteer, and, eventually, with her urging, a Town Co-Historian with Town Archivist, Mary Ann Barr.

Through both of these positions, I came to feel familiar and comfortable in Town Hall, and was naturally curious about how a Town runs. I accepted the Deputy Clerk position not only because it sounded intriguing and because I had the endorsement of Sue and Pamela, but because, ultimately, it is all about helping the people of Danby and, by extension, Tompkins County.

Although I've only been in Sue McClellan's desk chair since the beginning of May, I feel as though I'm finally settling in and getting a feel for the Town Hall's ebbs and flows. Thankfully, with Sue and Pamela's guidance, the month of training (along with a steep learning curve)

turned into a smooth transition for all involved. After all, Sue left big shoes to fill!

As Deputy Clerk, I learn something new every day, which is both very and gratifying. So far, I've learned the finer details about dog licenses, accessibility hang tags, fishing and hunting licenses, and have answered (or tried to answer) many phone calls regarding taxes and general questions about Danby

I look forward to getting to know my Danby neighbors, either through phone calls or in person. Since I live just down the road from the Town Hall, on nice days I often walk to work. So, some days there may not always be a car in the parking lot. Danby's Town Hall is open 10am-5pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the Summer, so please come in. The door is open.

You can always reach us by phone, 607.277.4788 and by Email at [townclerk@townofdanby.org]. ☘



COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator

HERE IS A ROUNDUP of a few things the Tompkins County Legislature has been working on recently.

New York State has passed a law to phase out the practice of putting 16 and 17 year olds who commit crimes into the adult prison system. This requires additional facilities to be prepared or modified. Rather than each county building its own facility, there will be regional facilities. Not all the details are final, but it looks like the William George Agency in Freeville will house some of these people. Tompkins County will be receiving a small amount of money from NY State to fund a part-time position to help administer this program for the region.

We are expanding a law we already have on the books concerning loans for businesses who want to do energy efficiency work on their buildings. They will be able to receive a loan up front to do the work, and they will pay it off on their tax bills over time. This is really a win-win situation for everyone. Unfortunately, we are not allowed by NY State law to set up this program for homeowners.

We are getting a NY State grant to do some work with inmates in the Tompkins County Jail who have substance abuse issues. Not all the details are final, but the idea is to provide treatment by social workers, nurses, and psychiatrists. The majority of inmates have substance abuse issues, and those who do not receive treatment are more likely to return to jail in the future.

We voted to fund a project to reconfigure the intersections of Coddington Road, Burns Road, and East King Road. This is just outside the Danby town line, but many of you travel through this intersection and probably agree that it is a dangerous stretch of road. There have been 3 fatalities here in the last 14 years.

The construction bids for this highway project came in higher than anticipated. We are finding this to be true on many of our construction projects. We believe that there is so much construction going on that contractors are less hungry for work and therefore can bid higher.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me; [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582. ☘

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE SURVEY OF QUANTITY & QUALITY

Submitted by Ted Crane

RETURNS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE from the Water Survey included in the May *Danby News*. If you haven't filled ours out yet, now's a good time to do it.

The easiest way to take the survey is online, at [danbyny.org/WaterSurvey/]. That URL will take you to a form fill-out web site.

The survey mostly contains multiple-choice opinion questions like, "Is there always enough water in your well?" If you know details of your well, there are a few questions about its construction (depth, etc.).

It only takes a few minutes to answer all the questions, but the online survey contains useful information about residential water wells that might hold your attention for a bit longer.

If you don't have web access (yes, that happens in Danby) or the online form doesn't work for you, you can always find a paper copy at the Town Clerk's office, or a copy of last month's *Danby News* at [danbyny.org/DanbyNews/].

What's The End Result?

The value of the survey comes from being able to see the answers to the questions laid on a map. Where is the water with minerals? Are there neighborhoods where there are seasonal water issues? Neighborhoods where residents believe water is becoming scarce...and for what reason?

An online version of the survey is available at [danbyny.org/WaterSurvey/].

WEST DANBY WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak, Water Commissioner

WE WILL BE DOING the second of our twice-annual hydrant flushing on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 14 and 15. Flushing will begin around 9am each day. The district north of the fire station will be done on Tuesday and the district south of station on Wednesday.



The next Water District meeting will be held on Wednesday August 8, 5:30pm in the West Danby Fire Station conference room. ❧

All of this depends on knowing the location of the well, so it's important for responses to include this information. If you provide contact information (name, phone, Email), it will not be distributed unless you give permission. It would, however, be useful to help clear up any questions about the information on your survey.

The results will be available to Danby residents and, of course, to the Town for planning purposes.

Thinking About Having Work Done On Your Well? Low Interest Loans Are Available!

Thanks to a grant from the US Department of Agriculture, the Water Well Trust is providing low-interest loans for the rehabilitation of an old well, or the drilling of a new one.

The WWT is a non-profit based in North Carolina, dedicated to ensuring that people have access to safe drinking water. Tompkins County is included in the current project area of the Water Well Trust.

The Water Well Trust is currently accepting applications from Tompkins County until September 30, 2018. More information and the application can be found at [waterwelltrust.org/how-to-apply/]. Priority is given to households where health risks are imminent, to those with minorities, elderly, children, or disabled persons, including disabled veterans. Additionally, the resident must own the home and property.

More information about the Water Well Trust program is also available from the Tompkins County Health Department. ❧

Town Office Info

Town Clerk • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 10am-5pm

Highway Department • [highway@townofdanbyny.org]

93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169

Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

Code Enforcement Office • [code@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

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

Town Court • [courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Ric Dietrich, Town of Danby Supervisor

JOHAN, A NEIGHBOR, STOPPED BY the other day as he is inclined to do. He seemed upset, agitated, so I asked him what was bothering him. He replied by showing me an extremely old fossilized Horsetail, a plant that can still be found in Danby embedded in a rock.

So Horsetail is kinda old and I could understand his excitement but apparently I was missing the point. *Equisetaceae* is the only surviving family of the *Equisetales*, a group with many fossils of large tree-like plants that possessed ribbed stems similar to modern horsetails. *Pseudobornia* is the oldest known relative of *Equisetum*; it grew in the late Devonian, about 375 million years ago, and is assigned to its own order. So, what's the point? The ancestors of horsetails, he went on to say.

All living horsetails are placed in the genus *Equisetum*. But there are some fossil species that are not assignable to the modern genus. *Equisetites* is a "wastebin taxon" uniting all sorts of large horsetails from the Mesozoic; it is almost certainly paraphyletic and would probably warrant being subsumed in *Equisetum*. But while some of the species placed there are likely to be ancestral to the modern horsetails, there have been reports of secondary growth in other *Equisetites*, and these probably represent a distinct and now-extinct horsetail lineage. *Equicalastrobus* is the name given to fossil horsetail strobili, which probably mostly or completely belong to the (sterile) plants placed in *Equisetites*.

I guess he did a Google search.

This plant, some say, is the oldest plant in the world, and the mother of modern day Horsetails. In that context, I became aware that the destruction of these ancient beings, located in the way of his neighbors logging, was the cause for his concern.

So, on the one hand, logging, like farming, is a big business in Danby, and the Town is looking to regulate it. On the other hand, are botanists who fear for our downtrodden friends.

Another concern involved several different takes on expanding the South Hill Trail, where trail advocates are pushing to expand the trail system through Danby and, they hope, onward to connect to Dryden and Ulisses trail buildouts. It might give residents recreation and pleasure, and offer have a viable alternative when headed North, toward Ithaca.

The major roadblock has been landowner's feeling that it will alter their present quality of life, infringe on their property rights, and the laws that cover rights of way.

Both issues are on our Town Board's agenda in coming months. If these issues are important to you, please get involved in the process.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at supervisor@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!

West Danby Community Association

West Danby Picnic: Saturday, August 25, 4:30pm, the old Hatch Pavilion, corner of Short and Brown.

The Gathery

Kundalini Yoga with Jai Hari, Thursdays, August 2-9-16, 9-10:15am. Register at 607.760.5386 or [\[jai@thisinspiredlife.today\]](mailto:jai@thisinspiredlife.today).

Yoga Brunch, Sunday, August 12, 9:30am-Noon. Join Rachel VerValin of Heart Thread Yoga for a morning flow yoga class, suitable for all levels, followed by a catered mimosa brunch. Tickets at [\[danbygathery.com\]](http://danbygathery.com).

Creative Conjuring with Color for Women, Saturday, August 4, 10am-2pm. Lisa Baechtle, Artist will guide you in a watercolor painting process. No art experience necessary. You are creative, trust that! Info: [\[lisbae333@gmail.com\]](mailto:lisbae333@gmail.com). Tickets, \$50, [\[danbygathery.com\]](http://danbygathery.com).

The Great Room at Slow Lane

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

Danby Community Church

Tai Chi Classes: Continue on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am. Check it out, if you've never heard of it.

Sundaes on Wednesdays: August 1: *Under Construction* and August 8, *Dean Goble Band*. Sundaes are free, Hot Dogs and Hamburgers for sale. Food 'round 6:30, music at 7pm. ❧

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark and Nancy Gould

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING of the Danby Seniors won't be until October! It will be on Thursday, October 4, Noon, in the Danby Community Church. All seniors 55 and over are welcomed to join us for a dish to share luncheon.

We generally have no meeting in August and our September trip falls on our meeting day. So, rather than a meeting, on September 6, we'll have a bus trip to the Cortland Repertory Theater to see "The Rat Pack" followed by dinner at the Sherman House. Contact Pat Phelps, 607.539.6477 for more information.

Our BBQ on July 5 at the American Legion was very well attended by 80 seniors. We thank Jon Mosher, Dan Clements, John VanDeMark, and Dave VanDeMark for cooking up the delicious chicken! We have a full bus going to Steamtown in Scranton on July 26; there's a wait list for the bus; sounds like a fun day! ❀

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! ❀

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 every other week 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. ❀

2ND ANNUAL DANBY BIG PUMPKIN CONTEST

By Bill Evans, Community Council

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL IS AGAIN sponsoring a contest for the largest pumpkin grown in Danby. A competing pumpkin must be grown in Danby and cared for by the contestant or their family.

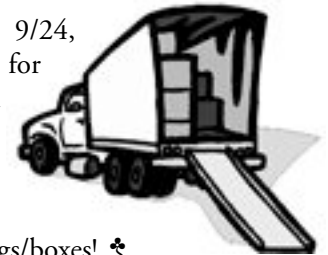
If it looks like a pumpkin, we will call it a pumpkin (no gourds allowed!). Only one pumpkin can be submitted per contestant (multiple contestants per family okay). Weight in pounds and girth in inches will be used to determine the largest pumpkin. The weigh-in & measurements will be made during the Danby Harvest Festival in mid-October.

A limited supply of seedlings from last year's winner (a nearly 100 pounder!) are available, contact Bill Evans at [wevans@danbycc.org]. ❀

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

UPCOMING DATES: 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, 11/26. This is for anyone needing food. Noon at the Danby Community Church, from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.



Be sure to bring your own bags/boxes! ❀

NEW DANBY GATHERY

Submitted by Trisha Williams

THE DANBY GATHERY IS AN EVENT SPACE and community classroom, located within the former Danby Market building. The mission of Danby Gathery is to foster connection and enrichment within our local community by offering classes and events as well as a meeting and gathering space.

We are currently seeking instructors for coming classes! If you, or someone you know, has a skill to share, or would like to expand upon their business by offering a class, lecture or workshop, please contact [info@danbygathery.com]. ❀

Community Council Summer Youth Programs

Hello Danby youth and parents!
Here is the list of programs that I will be offering. All Danby youth entering grades 4 thru 9 are welcome to participate.

The programs are free, but the Community Council will happily accept donations to cover costs.

If you're interested in signing up for any of these offerings, please contact me, [mas759@cornell.edu] or 585.236.6304, or find the full flier at [danbycc.org/YouthPrograms]. Please stay posted for possible additional programming during the first and last weeks of August. I look forward to hearing from you! —Melis, Danby Youth Program Manager

Fishing & Canoeing

Tuesday-Wednesday, August 7-8, 9am-3pm
Jennings Pond

Fish, swim, and canoe on Danby's own pond! Lifegaurds will be on duty for swimming time in the afternoon.

Baking & Breadmaking

Thursday-Friday, August 9-10, 9am-3pm
location TBA

Learn how to bake bread, pizza, and sweet things, too! On Friday we will take a fieldtrip to a local bakery.

Outdoor Cooking

Tuesday-Wednesday, August 14-15, 9am-3pm
Danby State Forest

Hike in the Danby State forest while learning to feed yourself in the great outdoors.

Book-Making

Thursday -Friday, August 16-17, 9am-3pm
location TBA

Learn a variety of book-binding techniques while creating plain notebooks or stories of your own.

Finger Lakes National Forest Overnight

Monday-Wednesday, August 20-22
drop-off (8am) and pick-up (2pm): Coop Extension

Join youth from around Tompkins County on a 2-day overnight trek. ❁

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 September 15 for programs beginning (or with payment deadlines) in October thru December (but funds for summer activities may still be available, please ask).

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. ❁

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

DID YOU KNOW THAT the Danby Community Library has approximately 300 registered patrons?

DID YOU KNOW THAT there are over 500 DVD's and 3500 books to choose from?

DID YOU KNOW THAT you could request the purchase of a book or DVD?

Librarian suggestions for a good read are: *Lilac Girls* and *Before We Were Yours*. New DVD purchases include *The Ragnavok*, *Coco*, *Sing*, *Wonder*, *The Stray* and *The Survivor*.

Whenever the Town Hall is open the library is available for use with self-checkout of items. The parking is free, no waiting in lines and some comfy chairs to sit in while you relax and read. ❁

SWIMMING AT JENNINGS POND

JENNINGS POND IS A BEAUTIFUL POND and wildlife area that is part of Buttermilk State Park. It is situated right off Bald Hill Road in Danby.

People fish, kayak, and canoe on the 40-acre Pond. The Town of Danby funds lifeguards for swimming in the summer. These are Danby area lifeguards serving our community. Come swim at Jennings Pond all summer when lifeguards are on duty. ❁

Danby
Youth Flyer

DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Aug 1 • Wed

6:30pm 🏛️ Danby Comm. Church
Sundaes on Wednesday: Under Construction

Aug 2 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Aug 4 • Sat

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

Aug 8 • Wed

5:30pm 🏛️ WDFire Department • **Water District Mtg**
6:30pm 🏛️ Danby Comm. Church
Sundaes on Wednesday: The Dean Goble Band

Aug 13 • 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**

Aug 14 • Tue

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

Aug 16 • Thu

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

Aug 20 • Mon

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Public Hearing: H'way Sup't**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**

Aug 21 • Tue

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

Aug 25 • Sat

4:30pm 🏛️ Old Hatch Pavilion, corner of Short & Brown
West Danby Picnic

Aug 27 • Mon

Noon 🏛️ Danby Comm. Church • **Mobile Food Truck**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Sep 1 • Sat

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

Sep 6 • Thu

7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Sep 10 • 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**

Sep 11 • Tue

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

Sep 17 • Mon

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

Sep 18 • Tue

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

Sep 20 • Thu

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

Sep 24 • Mon

Noon 🏛️ Danby Comm. Church • **Mobile Food Truck**
7pm 🏛️ Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

ONGOING EVENTS

Danby Community Library Open 🏛️ Town Hall
Tuesdays and Fridays, 1:30-3:30pm,
and when the **Open** sign is out!

Food Scrap Recycling 🏛️ Town Hall ♻️
Saturdays, 9am-Noon

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

Tai Chi Classes 🏛️ Danby Community Church
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am.

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 Drive, off Rt.34/96

🏛️ **Danby Community Church** • 1859 Danby Road

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