

DANBY AREA NEWS

THE THING ON THE CARPET

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

A FRIEND OF MINE CALLED and said he had this “thing” on his living room carpet. He wasn’t sure that it was, but he thought it might be some kind of bug that had come in on his shoe. Would I come over and look at it? So I did.

Mind you, I don’t do this for everyone. He helps me a lot and even helped me after I took my toilet off and replaced the gaskets and couldn’t get it back on again. So, there was this brown thing on his carpet. “It’s a firefly larva!” He was happy to know that and put it outside.

Firefly larvae “hibernate” over the winter. I found one asleep on a log on my wood pile this spring. They wake in April as soon as the weather starts to warm up. They wander around looking for a place to pupate (that is, turn into a winged firefly). They go into friable soil or under leaves and bark on the ground and sometimes between pieces of bark on the trees. So watch out for them when you’re digging in your garden.

The fireflies emerge in June to mate and lay eggs that spend the rest of the summer and early fall growing in long grass and other low vegetation. You can see the larva on YouTube by searching for “ever seen firefly larvae” (include the quotes). Watch the whole thing so you see the head come out.

I saw my first firefly of the year on May 13, crawling on my deck. If you had looked at it, you might have said, “Wow, that insect looks a lot like a firefly, but it can’t be as it’s out during the day and not luminescing.” Well, it just so happens that we do have a diurnal, non-luminescing firefly in the

—cont’d on page 5 ➔

TAX POLICY TO PRESERVE DANBY’S QUALITY OF LIFE

Submitted by Ted Crane

WHEN WE LOOK OUT OUR WINDOWS or when we walk or drive around Danby, we see why we live here. Greenery in Summer and clean snow in winter are both easy on the eye. That’s Danby’s rural character. Danby even has a policy that encourages preservation of open space and rural character!

All the residents of Danby appreciate and benefit from the natural beauty and rural character provided by open space, yet the cost of providing this benefit falls disproportionately on the owners of the large, open properties.

The problem is that NYS assessment guidelines have changed in recent years, shifting the long-accepted balance between the value of housing and the value of the land the houses sit on. Rapidly rising property tax on land puts ever-increasing pressure on landowners to subdivide into smaller parcels and to develop. This, in turn, threatens preservation of open space in our Town.

Some owners have seen the assessed value of an acre rise from \$1,000 (in recent memory) to \$2,500 or more. This change doesn’t do much to the tax on Danby’s average \$175,000 *house-and-a-few-acres*, but make that 10 or 20 acres, or even 100 or 200 acres, and pretty soon you’re talking real money (and crushing taxes).

Conservation Easements protect open space but are not accompanied by significant relief from property taxes (Federal: none, State: limited). Many landowners are hesitant to restrict the use and value of their land without compensation. Even landowners who want to preserve open space may be uncomfortable with a permanent conservation easement.

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June 2020

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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. 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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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. ❀

DURING COVID - 19

Submitted by Steve Cortright, Code Enforcement Officer

WE STILL FIND OURSELVES in the midst of the COVID crisis but there is some positive news for some. If all goes as planned, by the time you are reading this article, portions of the NYS PAUSE will have been lifted for construction and industry.

This will not mean business as usual for contractors, large or small. There will be requirements in place set forth by New York State that will have to be met in order to work on job sites, such as a return-to-work plan posted at the job site outlining mask use and social distancing practices as well as cleaning of tools and other infection control measures to help stem the spread of the virus and cause further outbreaks. As the Town Code Enforcement Officer I will be checking for these postings and requiring compliance as part of my inspection process.

With the summer weather approaching some of the more popular projects that happen early in the season are decks, storage buildings and swimming pools. I would just like to remind the residents of the Town that these all require a building permit (storage buildings with more than 144 sq. ft. floor area, even pre-built shed transported to your site and installed).

Building permit applications can be found on the Town web site [townofdanbyny]. If you request one by Email (below) I will send you a building permit application packet. Any projects being done by the homeowner at their own home or being done by a one person contractor crew will not need a back-to-work plan.

Another piece of information that some people may not be aware of: once a building permit has been issued it is required to be displayed in a location that is viewable from the public way.

As always, if you have any code enforcement or building permit questions, please contact me and I will do my best to answer your question: [code@townofdanbyny.org] or 607.277.0799. ✂

ONLINE MAPPING WEBINAR

Submitted by Jason Haremza

I HOSTED AN INFORMAL WEBINAR during May to go over some of the extensive online mapping features that Tompkins County provides. If you weren't able to attend, it will be repeated on Thursday, June 18, 4pm.

To explore Tompkins County mapping on your own, visit [geo.tompkins-co.org]. The webinar will mainly look at *Property Viewer*, *Natural Resources*, and *Environmental Health*. ✂

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Submitted by Jason Haremza

AS COVID-RELATED PHYSICAL DISTANCING continues, the Town of Danby continues to hold its meetings via Zoom video conferencing. If you have a good internet connection and would like to participate in meetings, please visit the calendar on the Town's web site, [townofdanbyny.org]. In the calendar, you can click on a link to join a meeting.

Zoom has a dial-in option,. Call 646.876.9923 or 312.626.6799 and enter the MeetingID and Password.

For more information on how to access Town Board meetings, contact the Town Clerk, [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org] or 607.277.4788. For all other meetings, contact the Town Planner, [planner@townofdanbyny.org] or 607.592.0417. ✂

Meeting	Date	ID	Pword
Planning Group	June 2	674 959 701	307602
Town Board	June 8	378 373 301	945487
CAC	June 9	942 0097 3077	444635
Planning Board	June 16	944 5323 6119	203910
Town Board	June 17	965 3413 5079	197079
Zoning Appeals	June 23	966 3833 8335	419658
Planning Group	July 7	970 9053 7813	198168

Town Office Info

Town Clerk • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]
 Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559
 Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri, 8:30am-4pm, **ONLINE**
 Saturday, 10am-Noon.

Highway Department • [highway@townofdanbyny.org]
 93 Hornbrook Road • Phone: 272.9169
 Mon-Thu, 6am-4:30pm

Planning Office • [planner@townofdanbyny.org]
 Phone: 592.0417 • Fax: 277.0559
 Mon-Thu, 9am-5:30pm
 Appointments encouraged (or call or Email ahead). **ONLINE, EMAIL, OR PHONE**

Code Enforcement Office • [code@townofdanbyny.org]
 Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559
 Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm

Town Court • [courtclerk@townofdanbyny.org]
 Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031 • Tue, 9am **CLOSED**

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, Town of Danby Supervisor

AS I WRITE THIS, this part of New York State is entering phase one of the great reopening. By the time you read this, we may be moving into phase two—provided phase one goes well. It will, if we are careful to work and play safely. Social distancing needs to be a normal part of our interaction, coupled with mask wearing and staying home if we don't feel well. Testing is now much more available, so recognizing hotspots and dealing with them is easier. Construction is among the business activities that are cleared to resume—with safe operating procedures in place. Our Code Official, Steve Cortright, has more on that in his article this month.

If you need masks, there is now enough of a supply that the state has made some available to distribute to those who need them. Ours can be found in the food “pods” or cabinets (which also have free food for those in need). Those pods are on Maple Avenue in West Danby, at the Danby Community Church, and at the Gathery. There is one at the Coddington Road Community Center as well, serving part of Danby as well as Caroline, in which it is located.

At last account, participation in the national census was just over 50 percent in NY. Being counted is important for a number of reasons. For one, it determines our representation in Congress. Also, federal funding is often linked to population, so the closer we are to including everyone in the count, the better. If you haven't yet participated and can access the web, visit [my2020census.gov]. If you do not have web access or don't get to it, the next round will be by mail. If you still don't respond, there will be actual enumerators reaching out. Each step is more time consuming and expensive than the preceding one. Give our public servants a break—get yourself counted sooner than later!

Melis (see Youth Flyer) is being very creative in devising on-line programming for our youth to participate in, making up in part for the inability to do in-person activity. Group gatherings of any sort will be one of the last things to resume. If there are no spikes in infections that could be as soon as late summer. Until a vaccine becomes widely available (or most of us have contracted the infection and gotten over it—or not), the risk associated with crowds will remain. The Jennings Pond summer swimming program is a casualty of that reality, at least for this year.

Videoconference meetings are the order of the day for some time to come, and they have their advantages. No commute to get to them, for one. A good group

of people have joined in for the grand planning effort, with upwards of 35 engaged so far. Email exchanges between meetings have explored some subjects in depth, giving us a sense of what it is we all like and seek to preserve and enhance. As Jason mentions in his article, one initiative has already been endorsed by the Planning Group and made its way to the Town Board for consideration. That proposal, if it is adopted locally (and it first needs state enabling legislation for that to happen) would give landowners a break on their property taxes in exchange for a commitment not to develop their land. The magnitude of the tax relief would be in proportion to the length of the commitment. This proposal was prompted by the concern around rising assessments on undeveloped land. For large landowners especially, the tax burden is making it hard to hang on. Since there is very little chance of legislation of any kind happening in Albany in this highly unusual year, we have ample time to carefully consider what any proposal we want to ask the state to let us do should look like.

Don't forget that the ticks didn't take a break and our protective measures for COVID-19 don't do anything to deter them. So, be on the watch for them as we spend more time basking in the warmth. It has been a long winter!

Feel free to contact me about any of this and anything else, 607.564.7647, 607.227.4440, or [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org]. ❁

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS DANBY FIRE DISTRICT

Submitted by Sharon Gaden, Secretary

Please take notice that the Danby Fire District of the Town of Danby, Tompkins County, New York, will hold its regular meetings on the 2nd and the 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7pm effective May 26, 2020. Meetings will be held at the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby Road, Town of Danby. All meetings of the Danby Fire District are open to the public. This notice is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 104 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York.

By order of the Danby Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners.

May 12, 2020 ❁

NAMES IN HISTORY?

Submitted by M.A. Barr, Town Historian

AS OF THIS WRITING, it looks as though we are beginning to best the Covid-19 pandemic. Hopefully that will still be trending when you read this. What a journey it has been.

One aspect of the journey that stands out is the concept of what and who the heroes are; all the people who are putting their lives on the line every day to serve the public. These people should be noted as a significant part of this piece of American history.

Danby has a Veterans' memorial in front of Town Hall. The names carved in the monument create a record, for history, of people from Danby who risked their lives protecting our country and everyone who lives in it.

A list of the 2020 Pandemic Heroes of Danby might be appropriate; a list that can go on record in the Town Historian's file. If you know someone who should be on the list, send the person's name and the job they do to [doc.manager@townofdanbyny.org] or call 607.277.4788 when the offices are once again open. ❀

CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Clare Fawcett, Conservation Advisory Council

THE DANBY CAC (Conservation Advisory Council) met recently, as it does on the second Tuesday of every month. The main item on our agenda was a review of the Danby Conservation Easement Program, *How It Came to Be and How It Works* by CAC member Joel Gagnon. Joel was a member of the group that worked hard to establish Danby's easement program soon after the formation of the CAC ten years ago.

An exciting development is a proposal by the recently-constituted Planning Group to ask New York State to allow the Town to grant significant local tax relief to landowners that take out Danby Conservation Easements. This proposal is described in more detail elsewhere in this issue.

If you are interested in Danby conservation issues, please join us (via Zoom) at our next CAC meeting on June 9, 7pm. Items on the agenda will include this new tax proposal and management plans for the Town's Deputron Hollow and Sylvan Lane properties.

See separate article for Zoom meeting info. ❀

W.D. WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak

WE COMPLETED THE FIRST of our twice annual hydrant flushings of the distribution system for 2020 on May 11 and 12.

Due to concern for Covid-19 spread, we skipped our April Commissioner meeting. We expect to meet again on Wednesday, June 10, 5pm, via a Zoom conference; meeting details will be on the Town's web site. ❀

FLAG DAY

Submitted by Ronda Roaring

JUNE 14 OF EVERY YEAR is Flag Day. It's a day during which Americans are asked to be patriotic and to display the flag in some way.

I always enjoy going to villages like Fairport and Aurora because they take Flag Day seriously. There are flags and banners hanging from every porch, and for houses that don't have porches, people have large pots of colorful plants with a small flag stuck in the middle. I once saw a house with a nice porch set way back from the road. Evidently the owner thought the distance from the road was a problem and decided to put near the road a round ash post through which was drilled a hole. Through the hole was wooden pole the size of the hole from which hung a lovely flag.

You can keep your flag up for only the day, but I like to keep mine up from Memorial Day all the way through Veteran's Day (November 11). I love to hear the noise it makes when it flaps in the wind. Please consider joining me in this patriotic gesture. Thank you. ❀

➤ Fireflies, cont'd from front page—

area. Look for it crawling around, and read about firefly bioluminescence at [flit.org] (search for "firefly").

Best of all, the Xerces Society has just released a fantastic video on everything about fireflies titled, *Fireflies: Getting to Know the Jewels of the Night*. Search for that name on YouTube! It's appropriate for teenagers and adults, but children may need an adult to slow down the video and explain some of the vocabulary. It has a lot of interesting info and pictures.

Here's hoping we have a great firefly season. Assignment: Watch the fireflies in your backyard or at Dotson Park and then write a short poem inspired by what you see...and send it to the Danby News. ❀

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator

AS I FEEL NECESSARY TO SAY each month, the deadline for the Danby News is more than two weeks before its publication date. Since many aspects of the current situation change quickly, this is not the place to get up-to-the-minute updates. The best place for that is the Tompkins County Health Department website. For those without internet access, call 211.

The County Legislature held its first budget meeting of 2020. Normally we start the budget process in late April for the following year. However, this budget meeting was entirely about how we are going to deal with the big hole in the 2020 budget. The size of the budget gap is very difficult to predict because we don't know yet if the college students will be returning in the Fall, we don't know if there will be another federal stimulus bill aimed at state and local governments, and because this year's NY State budget contained a provision for the Governor to change the amount of money allocated to local government and school districts throughout the year.

We are taking a number of steps to cut down on expenses. We have furloughed approximately 90 employees. We are leaving about 30 vacant positions unfilled. We are considering early retirement to certain employees. We are cutting back on some capital projects. We are looking at ways to save in health insurance costs.

All I can say about the 2020 budget is to stay tuned.

Due to the large amount of uncertainty, we have delayed beginning the 2021 budget process until August.

On a completely different topic, the County legislature is considering adjusting the length of terms legislators serve, at least temporarily. It is not our choice to take up this topic now, but the election calendar requires it.

The basic issue is that the census data will not be ready in time for redistricting for the 2021 election, when all the Tompkins County Legislature seats will be on the ballot. The decision we have to make is do we A) do nothing, leave the terms at four years as they are now, with the result being that the districts will not match census data until the election of 2025, or B) adjust the length of the term in some way to shorten the amount of time that the districts are out of alignment with census data.

If we decide to adjust the length of the term in some way, we must make that decision by early July.

The issue is a little complicated to explain further without writing a lot of words, so if you want more information about this or any other topic, feel free to contact me at [danbydan@hotmail.com] or 607.272.7582.

And finally, another request/reminder to fill out your census data if you have not done so already. Stay safe and healthy. ♣

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Andrea Hazard

I JUST SIGNED ON TO WRITE news articles for the Danby Fire District, on behalf of the fire commissioners. My first question: what, exactly is a fire commissioner?

Fortunately, I had to look no further than the Danby News to find the answer. Former commissioner Ed Kokkelenberg wrote that fire commissioners are responsible for overseeing fire department expenditures, writing grants, and preparing the budget.

Think about it: a fire department has a complex infrastructure, including a building, trucks, and equipment that must be maintained, and purchases, large and small, to make to ensure our safety. The fire commissioners, who, like fire department members, serve on a volunteer basis, ensure that all this gets done at minimal taxpayer expense.

Fire commissioners are elected, and each serves a five-year term. Elections are held every December, so there is always a mixture of experienced and newly elected commissioners.

Fire Department COVID Response

I also want to address a timely subject: how the fire department has adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to DVFC ("uphill") Fire Chief John Gaden, his department has increased its use of personal protective equipment (PPE). This is particularly true for EMTs, who now wear not only gloves but also face shields and gowns.

It's a good thing the department has adopted these precautionary measures, as it has already responded to several calls, including a car accident, involving potentially COVID-positive persons. For now, the department has enough PPE, but supplies are limited and may be hard to get in coming months.

What should you do if you think you might have COVID? Gaden says to call 2-1-1 for information, and head up to the Ithaca Mall to get tested. "Don't hesitate, don't wait. Go and get tested as soon as you can." In the meantime, you might want to take extra precautions. ♣

➤ **Tax Policy, cont'd from front page—**

To preserve open space, the Town needs to address this inequity. An incentive is needed, to encourage land-owners not to turn to development to make their properties tax-affordable. Without rebalancing the tax burden, the Town risks having its open space sold, either to ongoing development or to the wealthy few who can afford the taxes. The result would be a great change to the rural character of our Town.

The Tax Working Committee of Danby's Planning Group thinks it has found a way to reconcile Danby's emphasis on rural character with the unfortunate consequences of Property Tax policy set by New York State.

The Committee investigated NY State Tax Law and found other NY Towns with similar concerns. These Towns turned to the NY State Legislature, which approved tax relief for land preservation by incorporating special exceptions into NY's Real Property Tax Law. These "Section 491" exceptions provide for the creation of tax exemptions—50 to 90 percent—tied to Conservation Easements.

With Section 491 relief from the State Legislature, the Assessment Department can rebalance the tax burden away from larger parcels that enter into conservation easements. This will encourage open space preservation. The Planning Group endorsed this recommendation and the Town Board is considering action.

Now, the hot-button question: how much does this cost? For the Town (and the County, School Districts, and others, if they choose) it's revenue-neutral. They don't need to make changes to their tax levy.

Based on data provided by the Assessment Department, the 50 largest taxable properties in Danby—18 percent of its land—are assessed for about 3.5 percent of Danby's total taxable value. The other 1900-odd parcels are another 20 percent of the total; the remaining 75+ percent of the value is in housing.

Even if all 50 properties were covered by easements (impossible, since some are commercial) and were awarded full exemptions (unlikely without perpetual easements) and that change happened overnight (more likely, over a period of years), that 3.5 percent would be spread among Danby's 1,900-odd other parcels. In this worst-case example, the average \$175,000 property, which currently gives Danby about \$1,150 annually, would see a roughly \$40 increase.

More realistically, the increase would be smaller. The committee and the Planning Group agree that this is a small cost compared to the value of preserving the open space that provides Danby's residents with highly-valued rural character.

[This article is based on the document prepared by the Tax Working Committee.] ❧



MAP OF THE MONTH CLUB

Submitted by Ted Crane

THIS MONTH'S MAP IS A *CHOROPLETH* heat map, a visualization of the density of assessed price per acre in Danby. The coloring represents "dollars per acre", that is, *both* the price and the density of properties.

The lowest price density is light gray, with increasing value thru dark gray into white. For example, White Hawk EcoVillage's cooperative structure (modestly-priced, but tiny properties, very close together), displays as a "circle" of high density of dollars per acre. Buttermilk and Beardsley have a similar coloring; a lot less modestly priced but farther apart.

Price density tends to follow roads while the undeveloped space between roads is less dense. The lowest density tends to be open space because the high value of larger parcels is spread across many acres.

If you'd like to see the original, more detailed version, please Email me, [danbynews@tedcrane.com]. ❧

PLANNING GROUP UPDATE

Submitted by Jason Haremza. Town Planner

AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS DANBY NEWS, the town has embarked on a wide-ranging planning effort. In January, the Town Board authorized the formation of the Danby Planning Group, an advisory body made up of representatives from the Town Board, Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, the Conservation Advisory Council, augmented by any and all interested in Danby's future. New members are always welcome!

The Planning Group has formed four working groups, each focusing on a different subject matter. These are:

Conservation Working Group—focusing on what areas of the town need protection from further development. This group is also discussing fundamental questions including what natural habitats are most important and how “rural character” is defined.

Hamlets Working Group—focusing on how to strengthen and revitalize the hamlets of Danby and West Danby and what areas of the hamlets can accommodate new development. This group is also discussing how to improve the hamlets and what would make them even more desirable places to live.

Tax Policy Working Group—focusing on how to provide tax relief for owners of large parcels of open space or wild land. These large undeveloped parcels are enjoyed

RURAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Sharon Boda

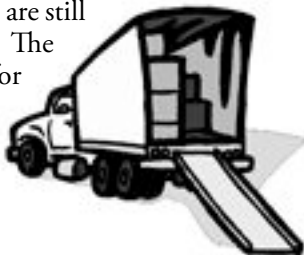
THE DANBY RURAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 13, 9am, in the Danby Community church, 1859 Danby Road.

All lot owners and interested people are welcome to attend. For more information, call 607.273.8241. ❀

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

Mobile Food Pantry trucks are still suspended at this time. The indoor Danby Food Pantry for Danby residents still happens on the third Thursday of each month; in June, that's June 18. ❀



by many people, not just the owners, for the natural landscapes and habitats they preserve and how these lands help define the “rural character” that many people in Danby really value. This group has progressed the fastest and has drafted a tax relief policy for landowners who agree to a conservation easement. This approach, which requires authorization from the NYS Legislature, is already being used by four other Towns.

Public Outreach Working Group—focusing on how to engage the larger Danby community with the work of the Planning Group. This is made more challenging during this period of physical distancing but the Town Planner has begun recording short video clips to highlight the activities of the Working Groups. Find the videos on the Planning Group page on the Town web site townofdanbyny.org then click on ‘Boards & Committees’ then ‘Planning Group’.

The work of the overall Planning Group, as well as the working groups, has successfully migrated to an online videoconferencing platform. Meetings are posted on the calendar of the Town web site and the next overall Planning Group meeting is June 2, 7pm. Also, there is much more information on the Planning Group page on the Town website townofdanbyny.org the click on of the Town web site.

Please help spread the word. Call or email Town Supervisor Joel Gagnon at 607-227-4440 or [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org]. You can also call, text, or email the Town Planner (see Town contact information on page 5). Get involved as much as you can! Even if you can't attend a regular meeting online, you can read the meeting summaries or minutes to get up to speed, and you can share your thoughts on Danby's future by telephone or email. ❀

DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

THE DANBY SENIORS will not be able to gather for a June meeting...large gatherings will still not be possible.

We had reserved the American Legion for our July BBQ but that will likely be put off, maybe until August? (Not sure how to meet and keep distanced yet.)

We do have LaTourelle reserved for a holiday luncheon on December 10. It is the 2nd Thursday in December since they were already booked for our usual first Thursday. We're hoping that can happen! Better days are ahead. ❀

Community Council Youth Programs

A few updates from your Youth Program manager, working diligently from home to provide the most fun, most fruitful online programming experiences for your kids, from the safety of your homes/

1) Mallard, Oztrooper, Desmond, Claudius, Ash, Venus, and Alastor forge on through the world of Dungeons & Dragons during our bi-weekly sessions. We're getting better at role-playing and coordinating with one another's talents to best fight monsters.

2) We're learning a lot during Homebound Adventures! This month, we engaged in a paper-boat floating competition, created watercolor paints out of plants from our backyards, watched birds, wrote Mother's Day cards, folded zines, and giggled over many, many "madlibs" stories.

3) #stayathome w/ Gaia Circle is off to a great start. Over the coming few weeks, we will facilitate a "plant drop" to bring vegetables, herbs, and flowers to participants to plant in their own gardens.

4) During the last week of May, I began a new program called "Chef's Corner". Each week will feature two chefs, who will broadcast cooking demonstrations from the safety of their homes.

5) Summer plans are still up in the air--but if programs are not allowed to take place in person, we will continue to meet online! As we all continue to build our internet savvy, working through this platform will surely become easier.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the kids and families who have participated in my programs so far. You've been such an important part of learning this tricky, new, COVID dance. It's been lovely to continue building relationships from afar, and I can't wait to see you all in person again.

Please reach out if you would like to sign up for ongoing programs, or if you would like me to add you to my email list. Please visit [www.danbycc.org/YouthPrograms] or contact me, 585.236.6304 or [mas759@cornell.edu], for the most up-to-date program schedules.

—Melis Schildkraut ☞

DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

THE LIBRARY WILL remain closed. ☞



Homebound Adventures - Grades 4 & 5

Fridays, 1-2:30pm

June 5, 12, 19

We may not be able to leave our homes, but we can still have fun together! Join me for the final weeks of this program to catch up with your friends and participate in new games and activities. Activities will include crafts, scavenger hunts, cooking demos, story-telling, games, and more.

Chef's Corner - Grades 4-8

Tuesdays, May 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23

Grades 4-5 meet 1-3pm

Grades 6-7-8 meet 4-6pm

Join me on Tuesday afternoons for a cooking show featuring you and your friends! Each week we will feature two chefs, who will be cooking demonstration from their home. During our first session, I will share my own cooking demonstration, go over expectations, answer questions, and help you sign up for your cooking slot. At the end of the program, everybody will receive a cookbook composed of all your recipes.

#stayathome w/ Gaia Circle

Dungeons & Dragons are currently full or not accepting new participants. ☞

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. ☞



DANBY AREA NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Jun 2 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Planning Group Meeting ^{ONLINE}
- Jun 4 • Thu
Noon 🏠 Community Church • Senior Meeting ^{CANCELED}
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Danby Community Council Meeting ^{ONLINE}
- Jun 6 • Sat
9am 🏠 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting ^{STAY TUNED}
- Jun 8 • Mon
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting ^{ONLINE}
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire Dep't Meeting
7pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • WD Fire Dep't Meeting
- Jun 9 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting ^{ONLINE}
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Conservation Advisory Council Meeting ^{ONLINE}
- Jun 10 • Wed
5pm 🏠 West Danby Fire Hall • WD Water District Meeting ^{ONLINE}
- Jun 16 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Planning Board Meeting ^{ONLINE}
- Jun 17 • Wed
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Town Board Meeting ^{ONLINE}
- Jun 18 • Thu
3-6pm 🏠 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry
4pm 🏠 Town Hall • Mapping Webinar ^{ONLINE}
- Jun 22 • Mon
Noon 🏠 Danby Comm. Church • Mobile Food Truck ^{CANCELED}
- Jun 23 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Danby Fire Hall • Fire District Meeting ^{ONLINE}
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Board of Zoning Appeals ^{ONLINE}

- Jul 2 • Thu
Noon 🏠 Community Church • Senior Meeting ^{CANCELED}
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Danby Community Council Meeting ^{ONLINE}
- Jul 4 • Sat
9am 🏠 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting ^{STAY TUNED}
- Jul 7 • Tue
7pm 🏠 Town Hall • Planning Group Meeting
- Jul 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

ONGOING EVENTS

- Danby Community Library 🏠 Town Hall
Open whenever Town Hall is open!
Librarian on duty when the **Open** flag 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 • 47 Sylvan Drive, off Rt.34/96
🏠 Danby Community Church • 1859 Danby Road
🏠 American Legion Post 221 • 1231 Danby Road



Bear Alert!

Several reports of bears on the prowl in Danby, in the Bald Hill Road and Heisey Road regions. Some damage to outdoor equipment and feeders.

These guys are not wearing porkpie hats and looking for, "pic-a-nic baskets." They don't answer to *Hey, hey, Boo-boo*, and the ranger isn't there to help you!

Photos by Scott Davis

