

# DANBY NEWS

## DANBY FIRE DISTRICT NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Election of the Danby Fire District will take place on December 8, 2020 between the hours of 5pm and 9pm in the Danby Volunteer Fire Company, 1780 Danby Road, Town of Danby, New York for the purposes of electing the following Fire District officers:

*One Fire Commissioner for a five (5) year term, commencing January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2025.*

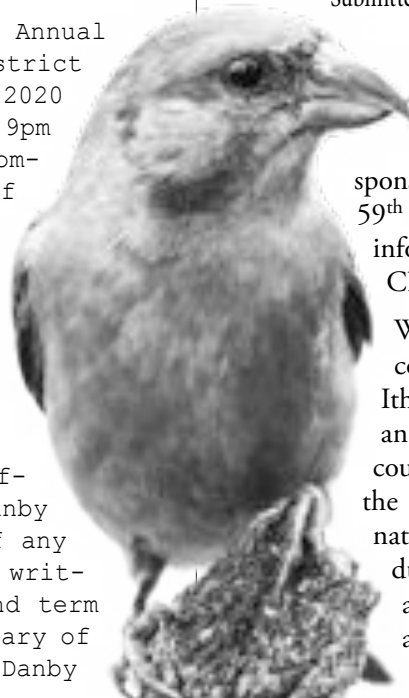
All candidates for a District Office shall be residents of the Danby Fire District, not convicted of any degree of arson and shall file in writing their name, the position and term they are seeking with the Secretary of the Danby Fire District, at 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, New York 14850 and must be actually received by the Fire District Secretary on or before 5pm on November 18, 2020.

Any elector of the Danby Fire District who shall be registered voter with the Tompkins County Board of Elections on or prior to November 16, 2020 and who shall have resided in the Danby Fire District for at least thirty days preceding such election shall be qualified to vote. ❄

*[Names of candidates can be obtained from the Fire District, or when you vote. -editor]*

## 2021 DANBY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Submitted by Wes Blauvelt



**T**HE 121<sup>ST</sup> AUDUBON Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is scheduled in the Ithaca area for Friday, January 1, 2021. Locally, the Cayuga Bird Club sponsors the CBC and this year it will be the 59<sup>th</sup> annual count by the Bird Club. For more information about the Cayuga Bird Club CBC, visit [[cayugabirdclub.org](http://cayugabirdclub.org)].

Wes Blauvelt, a Danby resident, will be coordinating the Danby section of the Ithaca count this year. In previous years an informational meeting —prior to the count—has been hosted in Town Hall by the Danby Community Council. Unfortunately, this year we will not be able to meet due to the COVID pandemic. However, arrangements are being made to conduct a Zoom session to replace the informational meeting. Please contact Bill Evans, [[wevans@danbycc.org](mailto:wevans@danbycc.org)] for more information about the Zoom event.

Last year, more than over a dozen Danby residents participated in the CBC. This included surveys at numerous hotspot locations in the Town, backyard feeder counts, and incidental observations. Thirty-six species were identified in Danby, highlighted by a Bald Eagle, a Winter Wren and Golden-crowned Kinglets. This fall we are experiencing an irruption of winter finches, among which are the Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill (photo), Redpoll and Pine Siskins. With these rarities in the area, this year's Christmas Bird Count should be a lot of fun! For more information about participating in the Danby CBC on January 1, 2021—including how to submit your feeder sightings—contact me at [[ravenbarnconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:ravenbarnconsulting@gmail.com)]. ❄

### This Month Inside the Danby News:

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**December 2020**

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Text submissions:

Send text in the body of an unencoded, plain-text Email message (**not** as an attachment); or mail typewritten copy, double-spaced on white paper. Short handwritten submissions accepted; please write legibly.

Graphics: JPEG preferred for photos, GIF for line graphics. PNG also works. Check with editor before sending hardcopy graphics.

Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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. ❁

## A HISTORY OF VOLUNTEERISM AND LEADERSHIP

Submitted by Katherine Anderson, Fire Commissioner

**S**EVERAL LOCAL FAMILIES have a long history of involvement with Danby's Fire District, including the forebears and extended family of Danby's Fire District chairman, Wayne Westmiller.

Wayne's grandfather, Fred Button, and uncle Percy Button, were among those who established the Danby Fire District and West Danby Department in 1946.

The Danby Fire District had its genesis in the Grange, which, along with the church, was the locus for civic involvement and social gatherings in the community. The Buttons were farmers active in the local Grange.

Wayne's mother, Elaine Button, married into a family that included several fire department members. Wayne's late father, Ashley Westmiller, was a life member of the West Danby Department and his uncle, Mel Westmiller, is still active as a firefighter in West Danby.

Wayne notes that it was a natural fit: many of the Westmiller men drove heavy equipment and, "had the know-how to operate fire trucks and other apparatus."

Wayne joined the West Danby Fire Department as a firefighter in the mid-80s, right out of high school. After an eight-year stint in the Navy, he returned to Danby and volunteered as an interior firefighter. For the last nine years, Wayne has served as a Danby Fire District Commissioner.

Over the years, Wayne has seen a number of changes in the district. "There aren't as many community-minded volunteers as there used to be and fewer people have the skills gained through outdoor work, farming and operating trucks. Society is more isolated and computers and other forms of entertainment keep people at home more." Though he is quick to add that many of the District's popular fundraisers—Danby Fun Days, BBQs and pancake breakfasts—still draw a crowd and all those who do volunteer are greatly appreciated.

Looking back, Wayne believes that what got his family involved in the first place and kept them active with the district across generations is pretty straightforward. "We all enjoyed the training and operating the equipment, and just being helpful. If you have the ability to help, you want to do so." ❁



Venus at dawn, photographed with a spruce tree in Danby's Dotson Park.  
-Jim Long

## Town Office Info

**Town Clerk** • [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.4788 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Fri, 2-6pm, by appointment only.

**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).

**Code Enforcement Office** • [code@townofdanbyny.org]

Phone: 277.0799 • Fax: 277.0559

Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm

**Town Court** • [dgair@nycourts.gov]

Phone: 277.0095 • Fax: 277.0031 • Tue, 9am

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

## MOVING HEAT IS CHEAPER THAN MAKING HEAT—WHY PAY MORE?

Submitted by Ted Crane, CCE Energy Navigator

**S**INCE LIGHTNING FIRST MADE FIRE, humans have kept warm in winter by making heat. First open fires, then fireplaces, then wood stoves, then hot water radiators fed by boilers, then electric baseboard heaters, quartz heaters, propane heaters, kerosene heaters, and a gazillion other devices.

All of these heating devices are expensive to run, some because much of the heat escapes up a chimney, and others because they rely on purchased energy.

In the 1740s, William Cullen—a Scotsman interested in preserving food at lower temperatures—showed how the rapid heating of liquid to a gas can result in cooling. He never created a practical refrigerator, and probably never even thought about how his principle could be used to heat homes!

Commercial refrigerators began to appear in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Until 1929—the year of the Great Stock Market Crash—many designs relied on explosive coolants. In 1930, no less distinguished a person than Albert Einstein (and Leo Szilard, who later helped create the first working atomic reactor) patented the *Einstein Refrigerator*, which had no moving parts and merely required a heat source. Fast forward a few years and here we are today, with ice water and crushed ice in the doors of our home fridge.

The thing is, refrigerators do more than cool their their own insides. They heat the outsides! Most of us consider this end of the bargain, at best, an annoyance.

Robert Webber, an American inventor, came up with the idea for a heat pump in the 1940s. He burnt his hands, accidentally, by touching the hot outlet pipes of a large cooling system. His key idea: if a freezer makes waste heat, could he heat his house with it?

Webber built the first full-scale *heat pump* by burying copper tubing outside his house—lots and lots of copper tubing—and set about cooling the grounds of his property while enjoying the side-effect: the waste heat kept his house warm all winter.

—continued on page 9 ⇨

## SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, Town of Danby Supervisor

**A**S WE ENTER a naturally reflective part of the year, I wish all of you health, happiness, and peace. We live in a beautiful part of the world. That beauty is grounded in the natural setting but includes the built environment, the institutions that enable us to thrive, and, importantly, the people who make Danby and Tompkins County extraordinary. I am grateful for all of that and hope you share that appreciation.

### New Planner

David West is the new Town of Danby Planner, half-time in December and full-time come January. The half-time is to help his current employer—Tompkins County—find a replacement for him and ease the transition.

Since we have John Czamanske acting very capably as Interim Planner, we are in a position to enable this gradual transition. It might seem strange that we found whom we were looking for right here in our own backyard, but David was a stand-out in a field of nineteen applicants. He has experience as a consultant (partnered with former Town of Danby Planner CJ Randall and otherwise), as a visiting lecturer for several years in Cornell's Department of City and Regional Planning, and as a planner with Tompkins County. It was because he wanted the boots on the ground work of a community planner that we attracted his

application, however. As someone who has engaged with people on every side of most issues he has the experience and perspective that should serve him and the Town of Danby well. He jumps right in on his first day with a meeting of the Planning Group to get oriented and take stock of what has been accomplished so far. I invite you to Zoom in for that December 1 meeting (link on Town web site calendar). Take a look at Alyssa de Villier's minutes of the previous meeting (also on the web site) as preparation and you will feel immediately at home.

—continued on next page ⇨

**Refrigerators move heat from the inside of the box to the outside. The inside gets cold, while the outside gets warmer. The outside is much bigger than the inside, so the effect is much more noticeable on the inside.**

**A environmental heat pump moves heat from outdoors to the inside of a home. The "great" outdoors gets a little colder while the "small" home gets a lot warmer.**

**No new heat is generated... the heat is simply moved from one place to another.**

## W.D. WATER DISTRICT UPDATE

Submitted by Tod Sukontarak



**T**HE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS met on Wednesday, November 4 via Zoom. The minutes are posted on Danby's web site. The next meeting will also be via zoom on Wednesday December 2. Directions for virtual attendance can also be found on the Town web site.

To illustrate the need for customers in the district to monitor their water consumption, I will describe

a situation that was only recently remedied by turning off the water to a toilet—and the intent to replace the toilet's insides.

One of our customers who has a rental unit and pays the water utility bill. He found that his October water bill was approximately \$200. The residence never had a water bill

anywhere near that high in the past, so the owner asked Marge about the bill. We read the meter again in November and, yes, almost 76,000 gallons were consumed in the month and a half since the previous read.

The landlord did not find any water leaking anywhere and didn't understand how it could be that the house was using that much water. While looking at the meter and plumbing a second time, the tenant mentioned that one of the toilets in the house had been running for a long time.

I will be monitoring the situation to see if consumption is reduced once the gizzards of the toilet are replaced but I am confident that will be the cause.

The upshot of the story is to be aware of those sorts of leaks and how much water they can leak. As the District is looking at how water rates will be restructured, those sorts of conservation issues could become more of a direct cost to the homeowner. ❁

### ➤ *Supervisor's Update, cont'd from page 4*

#### Open positions

In every board and committee there is always at least one person coming to the end of their term at the end of the year. Many choose to apply to be reappointed. That is the case this year for the Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, Conservation Advisory Council, and West Danby Board of Water Commissioners. Incumbency is not a guarantor of reappointment, however, so if you have an interest in any of these do not hesitate to apply. At a minimum your expression of interest will put you on the radar in the event of a vacancy. The Conservation Advisory Council has room for two more members besides the ones reapplying. They do excellent work advocating for the environment and helping conserve it. The application form is available on the Town's web site and from the Town Clerk either at [townclerk@townofdanbyny.org] or in person by appointment. Applications are due by December 9.

#### Other stuff

As of this writing, the budget has yet to be passed. That will happen during the Town Board meeting on November 18. While last-minute changes are still possible, they are unlikely to materially affect the outcome. The Board has opted to fully fund most programs at the level of previous years. Elected officials will forego salary increases (with the exception of our new Town Clerk)

and the Deputy Supervisor Matt Ulinski volunteered to forego any salary at all for serving in that capacity—all as a gesture of solidarity with those among us who are suffering as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. We are staying under the NYS tax cap, opting to appropriate savings to balance the budget. The increase from last year is \$10.90/\$100,000 in assessed value for properties outside of the West Danby Water District. Because of the major decrease in the levy for the Water District, there will be a \$148/\$100,000 decrease, year over year, for properties in that district.

The Board opted to ponder the comments made at the public hearing on November 9 on the proposed local law to expand the pool of those eligible to run for Highway superintendent rather than vote on the proposal that night. A vote is likely on the November 18, but that is too late to make this month's submission. I will let you know next month how it turned out.

May the holidays be a time of fruitful contemplation and renewal for all of us. See you in the New Year! Your comments are welcome. Always feel free to contact me about any of the above or to share your thoughts on anything else: [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org] or 607.227.4440. ❁

## PARTICIPATING IN TOWN MEETINGS A BRIEF ZOOM TUTORIAL

Submitted by Ted Crane

**S**INCE THIS SPRING, Town Government has been happening largely by videoconferencing using Zoom. Here's how to join a meeting *in the comfort of your own Home*.

- ① If you don't have internet, you can dial in with any touchtone phone. It's a lot better with video, though.
- ② If joining with video, download Zoom from [zoom.us]. It's free. Run the program; you don't need to establish an account, but it can be convenient to do so. Most default settings are acceptable. It is worthwhile to check for updates every month or so.
- ③ If the Zoom MeetingID and PassCode aren't in the *Danby News*, try going to the Town web site calendar. Click on the event. There's usually a link there that'll run Zoom and get you into the meeting. Phone callers, you'll also find the MeetingID and PassCode on that page, along with a phone number to dial.
- ④ Turn on your audio and/or video. It's polite to keep your audio muted until you have something to say (and

to wait to be recognized). It's also useful to set your *screen name*, although you don't have to.

⑤ The Town Board has recently chosen to disable Zoom's chat function. Side conversations between members of the public are still possible using text messaging (display your phone number?) and other programs outside Zoom.

⑥ Similarly, Zoom recording is not permitted by default, and you must use a third-party program to record the meeting. Screenshots work, though.

⑦ Most computers, these days, have a built-in mic. It works fine...but *any* dedicated microphone is bound to help you sound better, if that matters to you.

⑧ Video participants, the control to raise your hand is located in the *Participants* panel (show it by clicking on the like-named control at the bottom). Phone callers, you can mute/unmute yourself by dialing "\*6" and you can raise/lower your hand with "\*9". Meeting chairs often miss raised hands so, and only as a last resort, speak up and ask to be recognized.

☑ In general, meetings have two opportunities for you to speak your mind. Almost all meetings have *Privilege of the Floor* at the beginning; three minutes to speak on *any* subject. *Public Hearings* are held specifically for you to speak on a proposed action. There may (or may not) be a time limit. ❧



Space aliens masquerading as a cow; seen at the Sczepanski Farm on East Miller Road.

-photo by Betsy Keokosky

## DCC OFFERS CCC WRITING EXPOSITION

Submitted by Julie Clougherty, Community Council

Driving through Danby on an exceptionally fine autumn day during November, I found myself passing the home of the woman, Cynthia Carson Colman, who inspired the idea of the Community Council's writing exposition.

I remember Cynthia from our shared time on the Danby Community Park Association Board and, although I never knew her well, I admired her from the get-go. From her painstakingly handwritten meeting minutes (those were long meetings), to her good cheer and friendliness, she was special and unique. I loved the fact that she wore a bandanna on her head, something I also do, and her sense of humor, self-confidence, and modesty. Driving past the house, I saw Gould's car in the driveway and thought about him, too—another person I deeply admire—and re-

membered him telling me the story of how he came to purchase the piece of Danby land that he lives on. That story, and the way he told it one day as we drove together to the Cornell Archive, was captivating. Like Gould and Cynthia, it's special and unique.

Alas, that fascinating story is not mine to tell, but as I drove through our beautiful part of this beautiful planet, thinking about those two long-time Danbyites, I started to think about all the other people living in all the other houses I was passing, all with stories to tell.

You are those people! When I drive past your houses, my neighbors and fellow Danbyites, I sometimes enjoy imagining you preparing dinner, opening your mail, feeding your cats, raking leaves or sweeping the kitchen, and I hope that you are doing well. I wonder

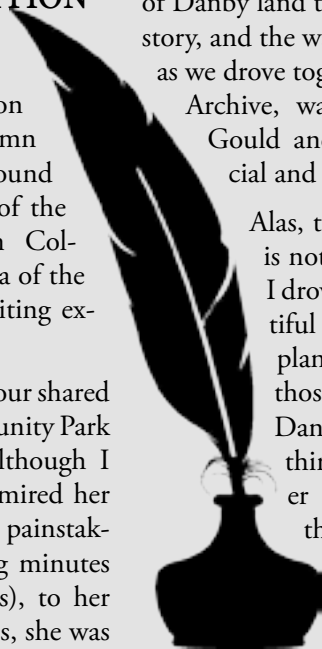
how you came to live here in our town, and I wonder what unique stories you have to tell about living here.

I have no doubt that you've got some doozies, and I'd love to hear them! I know that many others would, too.

The Danby Community Council invites you to share your stories of life in Danby for the Cynthia Carson Colman Creative Writing Exposition. Stories will be available as a treasury to the community in paper or digital format.

Stories should be set in or involve the Town of Danby, NY—past, present, or future—and be community friendly. They could be a poem, a single page reflection, or a less than 5000 word story (fiction or nonfiction). Writing can be signed or anonymous using a pen name. Editing help available upon request. If you want to dictate, we'll transcribe it.

Send submissions or questions to [colman-cwe@danbycc.org](mailto:colman-cwe@danbycc.org). ✨



## WRITER NEEDS SPACE

**D**ANBY RESIDENT (mother/writer/student) looking for a small space to be used for writing and study.



Accessible from outdoors due to COVID. A bathroom is not necessary but electricity is required for light (and a small heater if space is unheated).

I'm open to out-of-the-box ideas: (hunting camps, house-sitting, empty houses on the market whose owners might appreciate a small income, outbuildings not being used).

Please Email Rebecca, [rebeccamirish@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccamirish@gmail.com). ✨

## DONATE DOLLARS...FOR FREE

Submitted by Ted Crane

**A**RE YOU HOUSE-BOUND? Are you ordering *even* more from Amazon? Take advantage of the *AmazonSmile* program to benefit Danby's community organizations.

It costs you nothing beyond the minutes required to sign up. You visit [\[smile.amazon.com\]](https://smile.amazon.com), search for a local organization (enter "Danby" in the search box), select one...and done! Amazon will now donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases when you shop.

Remember to start your Amazon purchase at *AmazonSmile* but, once there, everything works as you already expect.

You're not limited to my favorites, the Danby Community Council and the Danby Community Park Association...but it sure is nice to use this free program to support in-town groups and their free concerts, informational programs, festivals, and more. ✨

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator

**T**HE TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE has just finished up its busiest time of year: budget season.

By the time the budget was ready to be voted on, it had ballooned to a 5.5 percent increase in the tax levy. I proposed to use our fund balance, our rainy-day fund, to bring the tax levy increase back to zero.

Almost every year, the County takes in more money than it spends. It's ok to take in a little more than you spend, because running a deficit is not sustainable. However, we have been taking in a lot more than we have been spending. Since I joined the legislature seven years ago, the rainy-day fund has increased from about \$16 million, to over \$46 million.

I proposed we use \$2.8 million of that rainy-day fund to bring the tax levy increase to zero. After a vigorous debate, my proposal failed, 6 to 8.

In the end, we reached a compromise. We brought the tax levy increase down to 2.2 percent.

That doesn't mean your taxes will go up 2.2 percent. The tax rate decreased slightly, so if your home's assessment did not go up this year, your County tax bill will actually decrease slightly.

We reduced the number of employees working for County government by about 6 percent. There were no layoffs. A few employees were required to shift into dif-

ferent positions. I know this is not ideal, but I have to think that having to switch jobs is better than having no job.

We added a Sustainability Coordinator position.

We added one deputy to the Sheriff's Department.

We added one nurse to the County Health Department to help with contact tracing for Covid.

We funded a broadband internet study that I co-sponsored. The total cost of the study is \$80,000. The Towns of Danby, Caroline, Newfield, Enfield, and Lansing will each contribute \$5,000 towards the study. The study will take about eight months, map out where there is no and low coverage, and provide a roadmap of how to bring broadband to everyone in the County through a municipal and private partnership. I would say that if everything works out ideally, we might be 2 years away from universal coverage.

In a separate action, the County Legislature is ready to set our own salaries. This is a phenomenon unique to elected officials. I have proposed that we receive a zero percent salary increase for the next 2 years. We will not be voting on this proposal until December, but I predict it will pass.

If you have questions or comments, you can contact me at [[danbydan@hotmail.com](mailto:danbydan@hotmail.com)] or my home phone number, 607.272.7582. ❁

## PIEBALD DEER

Submitted by Jody Scriber

**A**PIEBALD—with patches or spots—deer and her fawn have been spotted in the vicinity of Gunderman Road. The mother and a fawn have been behind our house and across the road behind our neighbors.

We haven't seen either of them seen for a couple of months. Has anyone else seen them, and where? Please contact me at [[jodyscriber@gmail.com](mailto:jodyscriber@gmail.com)]. ❁



Piebald deer vs usual coloring.



## SOUTHERN TOMPKINS TOWN TALK

Submitted by Gay Huddle, Ithaca Journal Columnist

**P**LEASE 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](mailto:gayhuddle@hotmail.com)] or 607.273.6530. ❁



## CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Clare Fewtrell, Conservation Advisory Council

**T**HE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL had a marathon but productive meeting on October 13.

In spite of hopes that we would at last finalize the Management Plans for the Town's Sylvan Lane and Deputron Hollow Road properties, this was not to be. Jonathan Zisk had patiently incorporated suggestions from other CAC members but it was agreed that a final edit—to make the plans easier to follow—would be useful before they were sent to the Town Board and made available to the public for comment.

Elizabeth Keokosky and Don Schaufler were congratulated on the excellent forestry workshop they organized and presented via Zoom in October. It was designed to educate landowners on the value of their trees and the importance of getting guidance from a forester and was given by Jay Harris. If you missed the workshop or would like to watch it again, it is available under "Links" on the CAC page of the Town web site. George Adams and Don Schaufler from the logging ordinance subcommittee have been working hard to draft a logging ordinance, or what they suggest calling *Harvesting Guidelines*, for the Town and hope to present a preliminary draft at our next meeting.

In discussions with several people interested in granting easements on their properties, we have found that the three "Use Zones" (1. Residential and Active Use, 2. Agricultural and Forest Management and 3. Environmental Protection) in our Easement Template do not provide an appropriate zone for protecting their forest land. Zone 3 is too restrictive, while Zone 2 doesn't protect from harvesting of forested areas or conversion to agricultural land. We discussed making Zone 3 less restrictive but decided that a better solution would be to add a new zone. This Restricted Forest Zone would protect against wholesale logging but would allow such things as trail maintenance and selective logging for forest health and firewood for personal use. Several members volunteered to draft rules to cover this proposed new zone.

Ruth Sherman reported that in addition to the three easements that had already been inspected, another has now been inspected and we are hoping that the last one will be soon. We plan to ask easement holders if they would like to display the sign that Camille Doucet designed for us and George Adams is determining the cost of making these easement signs.

The CAC meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8, 7pm. ❁

### ➤ Heat Pumps, cont'd from page 4

Without going into the nitty-gritty numbers, Webber's project also demonstrated the miracle of heat pumps: *Depending on the technology and operating conditions, the energy required to create heat is between 3 and 5 times the energy required to move the same heat from one place to another.*

Consider a nearly-100-percent-efficient heat source: electric baseboard heat. You put one unit of electricity in, you get one unit of heat out. When you put one unit of energy into a heat pump to move heat from outdoors to indoors, your living space gets 3 to 5 units of heat in your living space. This heat is a lot less expensive than the electric baseboard heat.

The same is true for oil heat, gas heat, and wood heat, except that while fossil fuels are often less expensive than electricity, the heating mechanism is a lot less than 100 percent efficient.

Modern heat pumps come in two "flavors": ground source and air source. And—another miracle—they can be reversed in summertime to cool your home!

Item	Refrigerator	Air Source	Ground Source
Cost and Usage	<u>Cheap</u> One or more in every house?	<u>Lower Cost</u> Mini-splits are popular	<u>Higher Cost</u> Not so many installed
Noise	Not much	Yes, but outdoors	Yes, but can be mitigated
Temp. Limits	Works poorly in cool spaces	Less efficient below 10°F	None No moving parts outdoors
Options	Ice Maker Built-in TV	Multiple Interior Units	Vertical (in well) or Horizontal (under grass)

Heat Pumps can be retrofitted in existing homes (to replace a boiler or furnace) and installed in new construction. Next month, I'll write about the process of improving your home's heating systems and how to pay for it. ❁

## DANBY SENIORS UPDATE

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

**WE SURE HAVE MISSED** our monthly gatherings and trips this year! Hopefully you all are healthy and following guidelines for masks and distancing, or maybe enjoying lots of home time (cleaning? downsizing? watching movies?). Let's hope and pray that the New Year brings us to a better place. Please stay safe!

Those of us who receive the Senior Circle/from Lifelong saw the nice focus article on our own Joan Barber, entitled *A Lifetime of Giving*. Joan serves as coordinator of the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard downtown and 31 years ago she and her husband Ken helped form the Danby Food Pantry. See the separate item in this month's *Danby News* about the Food Pantry. ❀

## SENIOR STRENGTH—ONLINE!

Submitted by Joanne Church

**BEFORE THE ONSET** of our endless isolation, also known as *the pandemic*, Senior Strength classes met on Mondays and Thursdays in the Danby Community Church.

When everything closed down, I contacted all the participants I could reach and invited them to join me on Zoom to continue our exercising. We presently have 4-6 attendees via Zoom, including my out-of-town sister and her husband.

We're thinking that there may be folks who would like to join us, and we want our fellow pre-COVID participants to know that we miss them. When circumstances permit, we will be setting up in-person sessions in the Church again. Until then, please contact me, 607.277.3574 or [jmchurch@twcny.rr.com], to learn how to join us on Zoom. ❀



## DANBY FOOD PANTRY EXPANDS HOURS

Information provided by Charlene Testut

**TO MEET A NEED** for additional food distribution, Danby's Food Pantry is expanding its hours!

The Food Pantry has traditionally set up its larder in the Danby Community Church on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 4-6pm (this month, that's Thursday, December 17).

It will now also be open every Wednesday, 6-8pm, also in the Danby Community Church. In addition, those in need at other times can call Joan Barber, 607.280.4776, for an appointment. ❀

## DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

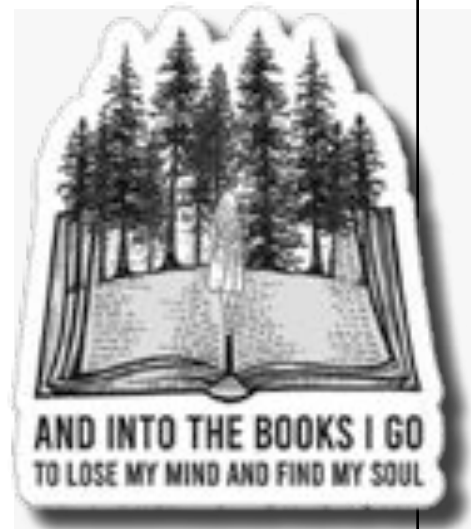
**MORE BOOKS** from the *Friends of the Library Book Sale!*

### Children's Books

- *Five Little Ducks*
- *Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons*
- *Lola Reads to Leo*
- *Brave Little Fox*
- *Chrysanthemum*
- *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*

### Fiction

- *The House of Secrets* by Brad Meltzer
- *The Last Surgeon* by Michael Palmer
- *Tails Spin* by Catherine Coulter
- *Looking for Yesterday* by Marcia Muller
- *The Black Box* by Michael Connelly
- *Small Town* by Lawrence Sanders
- *Mercy* by Julie Garwood



Outdoor pick up for all library items available Thursday and Saturday. Go to the Danby web page and click on the Community Library link to view our full collection of books and DVDs. ❀

## Community Council Youth Programs

Happy holidays! I am wishing everyone a safe and sound December. We're all doing our best to responsibly navigate this season of family gatherings amidst the pandemic.

I'm glad to report that Danby's first ever youth-planned Halloween event was a resounding success. Youth spent several weeks planning a number of attractions for their family members. The families gathered at Jennings's Pond on a crisp, fall evening to enjoy the results. The event included a costume contest, two "haunted" walks, lights, and a fire. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make it possible.

I'm also happy to share that for the first time ever, Danby Youth Programs has a classroom of its own! The South Hill Business Campus has kindly offered us the use of a room in its building. It's so great to have a spot we can call our own, get dirty (and clean up), and hang out in together.

Ongoing December programs are all full, but spaces remain in the Winter Break programs listed here. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or comments. Visit [[www.danbycc.org/YouthPrograms](http://www.danbycc.org/YouthPrograms)] or contact me, 585.236.6304 or [[mas759@cornell.edu](mailto:mas759@cornell.edu)], for the most up-to-date program schedules.

—Melis Schildkraut

# Danby Youth Flyer

### Hiking - Grades 4-8 Danby State Forest Monday, December 28, 10am-2pm

It's been a while since we've hiked through the Danby State Forest together! Come join us as we get our bodies moving, hang out, and observe how the forest has changed with the seasons.

### Scrapbooking and Collage - Grades 6-8

South Hill Business Campus  
Tuesday, December 29;  
10am-2pm

It's easy to document our lives digitally these days, but have you ever considered compiling those memories into a physical form? Come prepared with photos or other mementos, and I'll work with you to start putting together your own scrapbook.

### Big Day In! - Grades 4-5

South Hill Business Campus  
Wednesday, December 30, 10am-2pm

Join me for a day of rest and relaxation with your friends! Wear a comfy outfit, bring a book, and a blanket. We will watch a movie together, and youth will have free-choice to work on crafts, read quietly, or play games with their friends.

*Please note: All participants must pass a series of covid screening questions in order to attend programs, and must wear masks at all times. Contact me for more details.*

## YARD WORK AND SNOW SHOVELING

Submitted by the TC Office for the Aging

**T**HE TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE for the Aging maintains a list of individuals who are willing to do fall yard work and snow shoveling for older adults.

The office is currently updating its list and is in need of more workers. We are especially in need of people who are willing to work in places outside of the City of Ithaca and in rural areas.

If you are interested in assisting older adults with yard work or by shoveling or plowing, on either a paid or volunteer basis, please call us at 607.274.5482. If your name was listed last year, and you would like to be listed again, please notify us.

Visit the Tompkins County Office for the Aging web site, [[tompkinscountyny.gov/cofa](http://tompkinscountyny.gov/cofa)].

## YOUTH GRANTS

Submitted by Bill Evans, DCC Youth Grant Coordinator

**D**O 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 was December 15 for programs beginning (or with payment deadlines) in January, February, and March, but it's seldom too late to apply.

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](mailto:youthgrants@danbycc.org)]. You can also find applications on the Town Hall bulletin board.

**Dec 2020**

**DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR**

- Dec 1 • Tue  
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Planning Group Meeting**
- Dec 3 • Thu  
Noon 📺 Community Church • **Seniors (cancelled)**  
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Dec 5 • Sat  
9am 📺 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Dec 8 • Tue  
5-9pm 📺 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Election**  
7pm 📺 Danby Fire Hall • **Fire District Meeting**  
7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**
- Dec 14 • 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 15 • Tue  
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Planning Board Mtg**  
7pm 📺 YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
- Dec 17 • Thu  
4-6pm 📺 Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
- Dec 22 • Tue  
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**

- Dec 23 • Wed  
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Town Board Meeting (cancelled)**
- Jan 2 • Sat  
9am 📺 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Jan 5 • Tue  
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Planning Group Meeting**
- Jan 7 • Thu  
Noon 📺 Community Church • **Seniors (cancelled)**  
7pm 📺 Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Jan 11 • Mon  
7pm 📺 Zoom • **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  
Books available via curbside pickup.  
Can be returned in drop box.
- Danby Food Pantry** 📺 Danby Community Church  
Wednesdays, 6-8pm  
3rd Thursday, 4-6pm
- Food Scrap Recycling** 📺 Town Hall 🔄🔄🔄🔄  
Saturdays, 9am-Noon
- Seniors Strength Training Group** 📺 via Zoom  
Mondays and Thursdays, 9am  
Contact [jmchurch@twcny.rr.com] for info.
- 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

Meeting	Date	Zoom Mtg ID	Pcode
Planning Group	Dec 1	954 0523 2483	064352
Town Board	Dec 14	994 0317 5139	171603
CAC	Dec 8	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	Dec 15	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Dec 23	931 8776 1905	735426
Zoning Appeals	Dec 22	986 3534 5196	281804
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			