

DANBY NEWS

Danby Fire District Notice Of Regular Meetings

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 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 P.M. 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 Office Law of the State of New York.

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

VIRTUAL LOVE SONGS

Submitted by Ted Crane, Community Council

Valentine's Day Concert

WHAT'S MORE APPROPRIATE for today's distant socialization—the virtual meetings brought to us by Zoom—than a remote broadcast of romantic music on Valentine's Day?

Curl up on the couch with the whole family for a performance by guitarist Dennis Winge on Sunday, February 14, 3pm. To join in, visit the DCC's web page [danbycc.org]; you'll find the Zoom link at the top of the front page and also on the events page.

While your ears are tickled, you can feast your eyes on the roses and all your favorite snacks...that you'd care to provide.

A guitarist since his wee years, Dennis studied with some of the finest jazz and rock musicians around. He played his first bar gig at the barely-legal age of 16 and began leading bands soon after.

Dennis sings love songs you can feel good about...without being cheesy. Don't miss this special performance. ❁

RAPTOR WRAP-UP

Submitted by Ted Crane, Community Council

SEVERAL DOZEN BRAVE DANBY-SITES faced sharp beaks and talons in early January...and emerged well-schooled in the care and handling of raptors. The second half of the two-part series will take place on Sunday, February 7, 3pm, via Zoom.



Danby's Community Council is hosting visits with Cornell's Raptor program! To join in, visit the DCC's web page [danbycc.org]; you'll find the Zoom link at the top of the front page and also on the events page.

In January, we visited Raptor Facility, met Charlie and Fred (owls and goshawk)(and yes, we watched the owl's 360-degree head turns), saw the aviary, and cheered as Crystal (one of our guides) flew Fred the goshawk around the raptor facility's grounds.

So real, so close. You could practically touch the feathers! We expect to see even more—with more Danby-ites—on February 7. More info at [danbycc.org]. ❁

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FOOD PANTRY

When you need it, it's there.

The Danby Food Pantry, fronted by the inimitable Joan Barber and based at the Danby Community Church on Danby Road, has been offering monthly help to folks in need.

In these tough times of COVID, the pantry has expanded its program to include both 1st Wednesdays, 6-8pm, and 3rd Thursdays, 4-6pm. Both sessions are at the Church, 1859 Danby Road (a.k.a., NYS Rt.96B). ❁

February 2021

Layout: Ted Crane

Count-n-Label Crew:

Diana Van de Bogart; Ted and Pamela; Katharine Hunter; Julie and her family; others.

Post Office Crew:

Julie, Katharine, and Ted

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 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. ❁

TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

Submitted by Janice Adelman, Town Clerk

WELCOME TO 2021! We encountered a bumpy start following a rocky finish to 2020, but I am hopeful it will be smooth sailing (or at least somewhat smoother!) from here on out. More importantly, though, I want to apologize for any stress or inconvenience the late delivery of your property tax bills may have caused.

The bills arrived from County Assessment later than in typical years, followed by a deep dive into learning the ins and outs of tax bill preparation. Add in some envelopes melting through the printer and you have a winning combination for prompt delivery. Or not. In any case, by now you should have definitely received your bill(s) as they were mailed from the Ithaca Post Office on Thursday, January 7.

We still encourage contactless payment via postal mail or drop-off at Town Hall (in the mail slot in the Court

Entrance door). But if you need to pay in person, you must make an appointment by calling, emailing, or booking online at [calendly.com/danbytownclerk/taxes].

Please be aware that the deadline to pay without penalty is February 1. To date, there is no executive order that allows the Town of Danby to extend this deadline. Thus, if you do use the mail to deliver, your envelope should be postmarked by February 1. Any payments dropped into the mail slot at Town Hall that are retrieved before opening the office on 2 February will also be considered on time.

Please don't hesitate to call or Email the Clerk's office with any questions or concerns.

Although Town Hall remains locked during the day to keep us all safe, we are still at work for you. Given the recent uptick in COVID cases in Tompkins County, we encourage everyone to take care of as much Town business as you can from a distance without coming in to Town Hall. Property tax collection will be starting soon, but we will have secure methods in place for you to pay your bills online, over the phone, via postal mail, or via contactless drop-off. If you must do something face-to-face with us, please call, email, or visit [townofdanbyny.org] to get up-to-date information or make an appointment to come in.

Here's to a happy (and healthier) 2021! ❁

KNOX BOX: RIGHT FOR YOU?

Submitted by Katherine Anderson, Danby Fire Commissioner

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE OR EMERGENCY, Knox Boxes ensures quick access to a home, school or business, minimizing injuries to people and property when speed is of the essence.

Knox Boxes are literally boxes made of steel, mounted to your home or business, with a secured locking system on the front that holds a set of front door keys. If a fire or medical alarm system linked to 911 goes off or a neighbor spots a fire and calls 911 while you are away, a Knox Box allows our firefighters and EMS volunteers to gain rapid entry to your home without having to break through a door or window.

Each Knox Box corresponds to a box mounted in our fire engines that holds a master key. Whenever the master key is removed, who took it, when and for how long is documented and recorded.

Because a Knox Box can be a lifesaver and reduce the chance of property damage and injury, Danby Fire Chief John Gaden recommends that residents and businesses, particularly those with fire or medical alarm systems, consider purchasing and installing one.

To purchase a Knox Box or learn more go to [knoxbox.com] or contact Fire Chief John Gaden, [jjgaden@danbyfiredistrict.org] or 607.272.8144. ❁

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 • [dga@nycourts.gov]

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

All offices at Danby Town Hall except where noted.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon, Town of Danby Supervisor

PASSIVE SOLAR IS THE EASIEST WAY to include solar heat for our houses. All it requires is south-facing windows with a clear shot at the sun to work. Oh, and for the sun to be there, unobstructed by clouds. Not much solar gain this winter, so far. My heat has mostly come from stored solar, in the form of the cord wood I feed my wood stove. The upside of all this cloudiness is that it acts like a blanket, keeping our night-time temperatures from falling. Our lows have been way above normal. Blankets are a good thing in winter!

Planning Resumes in Earnest

Our new Town Planner, David West, gave a comprehensive review of the options for conserving open space during his presentation to the Planning Group on January 5, sparking a spirited discussion via Email in its wake. That presentation is available for your viewing on the Planning Group's page of Danby's web site, should you want to see what all the fuss is about. The Conservation Working Group, a subset of the Planning Group, will pick this theme up and explore what to use and how to use it, a process under way by the time you read this. Danby's web site calendar is the best place to see what groups are meeting and when, and anyone is welcome to show up at any time. The Hamlet Working Group, another subset of the Planning Group, will also meet and pick up where it left off back in mid-fall when the action paused while we got a new planner on board. David will pick up the reins where Jason Haremza set them down when he left us. He has quickly gotten immersed in the great diversity of roles that being a planner in a small town requires. We make best use of his time and talent by participating in the planning, and I can attest based on experience that the most effective input is early in the game. A bonus is that you get to meet some of your neighbors, all from the comfort of your home. We have an excellent crew already on board. I encourage you to join in.

More on Lights

I recently reported that the Town has contracted with NYSEG to convert our street lights (all 22 of them) to LEDs, the most efficient light source available. During the January 4 meeting, the Town Board authorized the same conversion to LEDs of Town Hall's exterior lights. Sarah Schnabel, Town Board member, is an electrician and volunteered to help with this. Where we can, we will re-lamp with LEDs (i.e. change the light bulbs). Some fixtures can be converted without re-wiring—I already did that. Some can be re-wired, and some will be cheaper to replace than mess with. Sarah will work with me to make the switch—once the weather warms up. It isn't costing us a great deal to delay since half of the lights are burned out anyway and

there is no night-time use of Town Hall until we resume in-person meetings (later this year, I hope!).

More on Community Choice Aggregation

Terry Carroll, a Cornell Cooperative Extension educator focused on energy efficiency, was scheduled to address the Town Board during its January 20 meeting about Community Choice Aggregation. While relatively simple in concept (consumer accounts are pooled to enable lower prices and easier access to renewable energy), the options for how to do that are several and the possibility of expanding the scope quickly adds complexity. This presentation was aimed at bringing the Town Board all up to speed. A committee of the Tompkins County Council of Governments is working to define the scope of the inter-municipal venture—one that Danby has indicated a desire to participate in. You should be able to access the audio recording of the January 20 Town Board meeting if you would like to listen to what Terry had to say.

Grant Update

The Town Board requested an update on the status of the several grants we have gotten and that was on the agenda for the January 20 meeting as well. One big one is for stream bank stabilization on Brown Road in West Danby. This nearly half-million dollar project is supported by a \$435,000 clean water grant from the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation. Work began this last fall and has stopped for the winter. We are about 1/3 of the way done with it, and it will resume in the spring. Before and after pictures of the work thus far was shared with the Town Board and can be seen on the Highway Department page of Danby's web site. Another large grant (from the NYSERDA, the NY State Energy Research and Development Authority) is for energy efficiency improvements at the Highway building. It paid for new insulated garage doors, which have been installed. Improvements to tighten up the building envelope and improve insulation levels is soon to begin, and installing heat pumps for building heat (and cooling of the offices in the summer) will follow when a shortage of available equipment abates. The pandemic has slowed this work considerably as supply shortages have delayed implementation and contractors have had to deal with staffing constraints as well. Board members Matt Ulinski and Jim Holahan have been working to move this forward; both will be very relieved when it finally draws to a close. Another grant (a "Bridge NY" grant) will replace three of the culverts at stream crossings on Town roads, and a planning grant from Tompkins County will help us explore options to enable compact development by addressing ways to do shared wastewater systems.

Management Plans for Town Conservation Land

The Town has a couple of properties that can reasonably be called conservation properties. One contains the well,

—continued on page 5 ➔

PICKLED IN DANBY

Submitted by Ted Crane

I LIKE PICKLES. No, not those moments in life hard choices, enemies, and dangers are all around. I'm talking about half-sour, kosher dill, bread-and-butter, gherkin, wallys, and even polish and german varieties. I'll happily go for lime pickles (especially the intense Indian kind) and other fermented vegetables like sauerkraut and kimchi.



I've never had Kool-Aid pickles.

Some of my well-pickled, early memories of growing up in New York City include the times we packed the family car for a visit to the Lower East Side. Amongst the wholesale shops and social clubs populating the "Little" ethnic neighborhoods, we'd find wooden barrels standing outside cool, dark storefronts. The proprietor would reach into the barrel with tongs (or with the occasional arm; things were less formal in those days) and haul out glistening, spicy...pickles. Or gobbets of sauerkraut.

Today's pickles grow on supermarket shelves.

There's a bunch of brand names and even more store brands. Name no names, but many manufacturers sell pickles packed in what appears to be neon-green-colored salt water. They don't taste bad, but they don't taste like pickles.

Our current favorites are Dills by Claussen. Not the least expensive but the best. The brine is pale yellow-green and the particles (and pebbles) of pickling spice are evident. The large, rectangular container (available at Wegman's) is most cost-effective.

Don't laugh 'til you've tried it: pickle chunks decorating almost any tomato-based sauce. Hey, if every burger joint in the world mixes ketchup and pickles, why not? Smaller pickle bits are a great addition to salads (tuna, potato, mediterranean), meatloaves, and more.

For the science of glowing pickles, google "WRL-TN-13". Seriously. The fun really begins when the pickled fruit (yes, cucumbers are fruits) are finished.

The pickle brine makes a fine, tangy addition to many soups, to cooking water for pasta, rice, and quinoa. This year, we added it to the brining liquid for the Holiday Turkey...and it was our best Bird, eh-ver. Or, slice up some cukes, throw 'em in the brine and wait a while. Voila! More pickles. These less-intense second- and third-picklings might even be more to your taste. (n.b. recycled Claussen's brine works; neon-green salt water, not so much).

There's more life left when the pickles are gone and the brine is exhausted. The large-size container can easily be cleaned and used for storage of small things, like cookies and candies, nuts, or nuts and bolts, or all those tiny parts that are pickling on your kitchen and shop tables.

Pickle blessings: low calorie; dangers: high sodium. ❀

➔ Supervisor's Update, cont'd from page 4

pump house, and storage tank for the West Danby Water District; the other is on Deputron Hollow Road. Management plans for these properties have been prepared by the Conservation Advisory Council and are under review by the Town Board. Before adoption, there is an opportunity for public comment and a public hearing is scheduled for February 17, 7pm. The plans should be available with the meeting materials (found under "minutes and agendas" for the Town Board). Both plans propose minimal disturbance, rather than active management. A more active management (to remove invasive species, for example) could be undertaken instead if you wanted that, so input from the public is 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. ❀

AFFORDABLE HOME OPPORTUNITY

Submitted by Liz Warner

LOOKING FOR SOME GOOD NEWS to kick off 2021? How about an affordable home building and purchase opportunity? Tompkins County Habitat For Humanity is taking applications until April 15.

The approved homebuyer family will partner with Habitat and White Hawk Ecovillage Community, Inc., in Danby to build a modest, efficient, and ecologically minded home. The family will work alongside TCHFH's staff and volunteers, including White Hawk members, to build their home.

Questions? Call me at 607.844.3529 or [liz@tchabitat.com].

COUNTY LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Submitted by Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislator

ONE OF THE LESSONS that I took from the Trump era is that "institutions" matter and should not be taken for granted. One way to realize the importance of something is to have it threatened.

Some of the institutions President Trump attacked include judges who disagreed with him, national security agencies, the post office, the press, and a number of science-based agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, where a scientist was removed from his position because he contradicted the president's assertion that Hurricane Dorian was headed for Alabama.

I don't spend my days thinking about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I take it for granted that the Federal weather agency is taking care of business. During the Trump era, suddenly we could no longer take things like that for granted.

I spend a large part of my time in County government trying to pay attention to the details of how our local institutions work, and to make sure they have the resources they need to do a robust job of helping maintain our local quality of life.

One of the things I pay attention to are the rules and bylaws and charters and procedures of local government. There is a saying among fans of this corner of government (and I admit, it's a small club): "Bylaws don't matter—until they do." The idea is that you want

systems and institutions to be strong even when nothing strange is going on so that when the difficult moment arises—as it eventually will—you are not playing catch-up. Maintenance is better than repair.

Institutions such as the judicial system and the electoral system are things people pay more attention to, and their vulnerabilities are more widely understood. President Trump attacked these institutions in a way that no one else had, and it came to a crisis point in the aftermath of the last election. But these institutions held. Republican and Democratic judges and elections officials alike declared that the election was fair, and nothing less than democracy itself was saved because of it.

Boards of Elections are a function of County government, all across the country.

Institutions are not perfect, but they are necessary. I am renewed in my belief that details matter, that small things that are dealt with now decrease the chances of them becoming problems later, that maintenance is better than repair, that bylaws and procedures are important, and that robust boards of elections are a part of what local government is for and does best. Although much of the inner workings of these institutions usually goes unnoticed, maintenance and attention to detail is vital.

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

HEAT PUMP VS. NOT HEAT PUMP

Submitted by Ted Crane, Energy Navigator

HEAT PUMPS—house-sized units that, like refrigerators, move heat from one place to another—can usually be described as either Ground Source or Air Source (GSHP and ASHP).

A commonly-used, but confusing name, *Geothermal Heating*, doesn't have anything to do with Heat Pumps. If you lived in, say, Iceland or Yellowstone Park, you might be talking about Geothermal: heat energy within the earth arising from the Earth's core or from volcanic activity. It isn't necessary to have a Heat Pump to use this energy. It's easily obtainable from hot springs and can be used directly for, say, bathing (since prehistory) and space heating (since Roman times).

Cornell University's *Lake Source Cooling* could be described as Geothermal Cooling: cold water from Ca-

yuga Lake directly chills a closed loop of water that is circulated through Ithaca High School and Cornell. The pumps pump the water, not the heat.

In modern, not-so-careful Heat Pump terminology, *Geothermal* is often used to mean *Ground Source*. It might be more accurate to call it *GeoExchange*.

Because they only move heat around, Heat Pumps do not require the source temperature to be hot (for heating) or cold (for cooling). Heat can be extracted from cold air and cold ground but—common sense, here—the colder the source, the harder it is to extract the heat. Modern ASHPs can work with air below 0°F, but quickly become less efficient. On the other hand, because GSHPs extract ground heat from below the frost line, where the year-round temperature approaches a balmy 50°F, even arctic climates do not affect their efficiency. ❁

PARTICIPATING IN TOWN MEETINGS A BRIEF ZOOM TUTORIAL

Submitted by Ted Crane

SINCE 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. ❁

HEAT PUMP SUCCESS

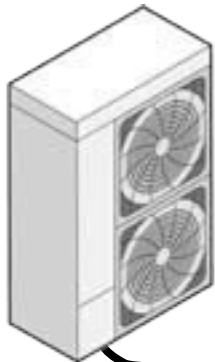
Submitted by Betsy Keokosky

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR a cleaner, greener energy source to heat (and possibly cool) your home, the time has come to look at heat pumps. New York State is offering great incentives for both, along with grants low-to-moderate-income households.

Heat pumps use electricity but are much more efficient than traditional electric heaters. Some heat pump systems can also be used to cool a home in the summer.

Our home has been heated with wood for many years but we were looking for something to supplement the woodstove on really cold days. We also thought it would be nice not to worry about leaving for vacations (when COVID allows such things again).

I looked into heat pumps and found that a modestly sized (3 tons or 36,000 BTU) Air Source Heat Pump

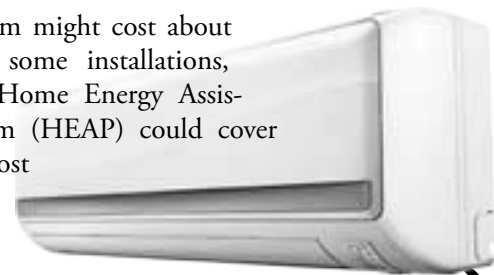


(ASHP) system might cost about \$5,000. For some installations, New York's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) could cover the entire cost

(does not require home ownership; rentals are OK

if your landlord agrees). Had I considered a Ground Source Heat Pump, (GSHP; more expensive to install, but less costly to operate) there is a 26 percent Federal tax credit available as well.

A good place to start learning—and to apply for financial assistance—is the Tompkins County HeatSmart website, [solartompkins.com]. Click on the "Heat Pump Study" button. If you follow through, you'll probably end up talking to the program director, Lisa Marshall, who is informal and very helpful. ❁



BIRD COUNT 2021: NEW RECORDS!

Submitted by Wes Blauvelt

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC) has concluded and this year several count records were tied or broken.

The 59th Ithaca area CBC, and 121st CBC completed by the Audubon Society, took place on January 1, 2021. The Ithaca area turn out exceeded the all time high, with 181 individuals participating in the count. The previous record occurred in 2017 with 165 participants.

Eleven Danby residents joined in this year, surveying all corners of the Danby CBC area within the Ithaca count circle. They identified birds in Upper and Lower Buttermilk Falls State Park, Lick Brook, Dotson Park, stretches of Gunderman, East Miller, Jersey Hill, and Sandbank Roads, and the Ithaca College and Longview campuses. Danby residents found 42 different bird species! They covered 24 miles by foot and 30 miles by car while accumulating over 300+ hours of surveying.

Several birds identified in Danby were considered rarities for the time of the year, including Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wren and four Hermit Thrush. A small flock of Red Crossbills and two Common Redpolls were observed as part of this winter's finch irruption. Several pair of courting Great Horned Owls were also heard calling in the early morning hours of the count and the Ithaca area's only Gray Catbird was seen at a feeder on Gunderman Road.

Eighty-eight species were identified in the Ithaca count circle, with an additional nine species identified during count week (i.e. December 28-January 4). One species, a Gyrfalcon, was entirely new to the count. Gyrfalcons breed in the tundra from Alaska to Greenland and rarely extend their range south into our area. There were also fifteen new high count records for individual species, including Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebirds, and Common Ravens; but no record lows or missed species.

Thanks to all of the Danby residents who participated in the Christmas Bird Count. Your efforts contributed to a very successful Ithaca count and a good showing for the Danby area. ❀

CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Clare Fewtrell, Conservation Advisory Council

New *Restricted Forest Use Zone* for Easements

DURING ITS MEETING ON JANUARY 12, the Conservation Advisory Council approved adding an additional zone, the *Restricted Forest Use Zone*, to our Conservation Easement Program. This zone expands donors' options and is designed to promote old-growth forest and allow only minimal-impact activities. It will protect against commercial logging but will allow such things as trail maintenance, salvage logging, and cutting firewood for personal use.

At present we have three zones: Residential and Active Use, the least restrictive; Agricultural and Forest Management, which allows logging, including clear-cutting where appropriate; and Environmental Protection, the most restrictive and that must also have, "exceptional values." Once the wording for this new zone is approved by the Town's attorney, it will be incorporated

into the Conservation Easement Template (downloadable from the CAC page of the Town of Danby's web site, [townofdanbynny.org/cac]).

In discussing our goals for this year, we reaffirmed our commitment to encouraging more Danby landowners to donate conservation easements on their properties. The COVID pandemic has made it difficult to approach people, but we are currently working on two easements and have prospects for several more. Information on easements is available on the CAC web page (see above). We hope to make this more accessible with a separate page on easements. We are also planning a webinar in which we will describe the Danby Conservation Easement Program, how to donate an easement, and will answer any questions you may have. The date and time will be announced soon.

In other business, George Adams reported that he now has a preliminary draft of the proposed guidelines and requirements for landowners who want to harvest timber on their properties; these would allow the Town some oversight of logging activities. We also welcomed our new and reappointed members. Our newest members are Brittany Lagaly, who joined the CAC in November, and Margaret Corbit who was appointed in January.

The CAC meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held (via Zoom) on February 9, 7pm. ❀

"Among plants and trees, those with large leaves have a muffled sound; those with dry leaves have a sorrowful sound; those with frail leaves have a weak and unmelodic sound. For this reason, nothing is better suited to wind than the pine.

"Listening to it can relieve anxiety and humiliation, wash away confusion and impurity, expand the spirit and lighten the heart, make one feel peaceful and contemplative, cause one to wander free and easy through the skies and travel along with the force of Creation."

—Liu Chi, 12th century Chinese scholar

Thanks to Ronda Roaring

Community Council Youth Programs

February programs are in full swing! Middle-schoolers are learning cooking skills through *What's For Dinner?*, an on-line program where youth make dinner for their families while following a live cooking demonstration. This age group has also been meeting once per week at Dotson Park, where we are currently learning how to carve spoons using the help of both coals and knives.

The younger crew has also been spending time at Dotson Park.

On Tuesdays, we focus on fire-making skills. We have learned how to identify several plants in the winter landscape that are critical for making fire and are working towards achieving the elusive matchless fire, aided by the mastery of the bow drill. On Thursdays, we have been meeting to play games, sled, and have fun together.

Danby's youth programs are open to all youth in grades 4-8 who reside in Danby. If you would like more information, feel free to reach out.

If you would like to sign your youth up for programs, or if you have any questions, visit [www.danbycc.org/YouthPrograms] or contact me, 585.236.6304 or [mas759@cornell.edu].

—Melis Schildkraut



What's for Dinner? - Grades 6-8

Mondays, 4:30-6:30pm: 2/1, 2/8, 2/22

Meet on Zoom

Join me for a guided cooking experience as we make dinner together! Recipes will be primarily vegetarian and will be provided several days in advance to allow time for families to gather ingredients. This program is a collaboration with Beth Bannister of JYC, and material drop-offs will be made available upon request.

Crafting in the Woods - Grades 6 - 8

Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30pm: 2/3, 2/10

Dotson Park

Although winter brings the earth into a period of hibernation, the woods still have much to offer us! This program will focus on the use of hand tools, fire, & materials found in our environment at Dotson Park to create usable crafts. Projects will include burnout spoons & wooden mallets.

February Break Programs

To Be Announced



DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

WE HAVE CREATED AN ONLINE SURVEY in an effort to receive some feedback/suggestions/ideas from the community about the library and how to increase its use. If you could take a minute or two and share your thoughts we would appreciate it.

[danbylibrary.wufoo.com/forms/danby-community-library]

Robert Lieberman is another author in our community and has kindly donated several of his books:

Baby: a baby is born in a field outside Ithaca to a 60-year old woman

The Lost Boy: child disappears from a daycare in Ithaca

Perfect People: a futuristic detective discovers the genetic engineering of "perfect people"

Neighbors: Main character clashes with his neighborhood



The Boys of Truxton: A Syracuse detective imprisons a teenager for the murder of a child

Paradise Rezoned: Man vs. developers takes a college campus by storm

Goobersville Breakdown: A funny book criticizing the social mores of our times.

Is anyone interested in puzzles? We have several puzzles of different sizes and would be willing to share. Let us know the number of pieces you prefer. When you're finished you can keep it, return it or donate another one.



DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Feb 2 • Tue
7pm Zoom • **Planning Group Meeting**
- Feb 3 • Wed
5:30pm Zoom • **WD Water Board Meeting**
6pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
- Feb 4 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors (cancelled)**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Feb 6 • Sat
9am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Feb 7 • Sun
3pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council presents At Home With The Raptors (part 2)**
- Feb 8 • Mon
7pm Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
7pm Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Hall • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**
- Feb 9 • Tue
7pm Danby Fire Hall/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**
- Feb 14 • Sun
3pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council presents Virtual Love Songs w/ Dennis Winge**

- Feb 16 • Tue
7pm Zoom • **Planning Board Mtg**
7pm Danby Fire Hall/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
- Feb 17 • Wed
7pm Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
- Feb 18 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
- Feb 23 • Tue
7pm Danby Fire Hall/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
- Mar 2 • Tue
7pm Zoom • **Planning Group Meeting**
- Mar 3 • Wed
6pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
- Mar 4 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors (cancelled)**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Mar 6 • Sat
9am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Mar 8 • Mon
7pm Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
7pm Danby Fire Hall • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Hall • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**

Meeting	Date	Zoom Mtg ID	Pcode
Planning Group	Feb 2	954 0523 2483	064352
Town Board	Feb 8	980 8515 9868	754633
CAC	Feb 9	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	Feb 16	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Feb 17	971 0723 2988	535713
Zoning Appeals	None	986 3534 5196	281804
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

ONGOING EVENTS

- Danby Community Library** Town Hall
Books available via curbside pickup.
Can be returned in drop box.
- Danby Food Pantry** Danby Community Church
1st Wednesday, 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.