March 2024 FREE TO RESIDENTS



DANBY NEWS

THE ECLIPSE AND THE INFORMATIVE PRE-GAME SHOW!

Danby's Community Council is presenting two, once-in-a-lifetime events! Both are free and open to the public; one is even happens outdoors, in your backyard if you like.

On Monday, April 8, the shadow of

the Moon will travel from Texas to Maine. Danby will have only a partial eclipse, but the total eclipse of the Sun will be visible from a few miles northwest.

A week earlier, on Saturday, March 30, 2pm, in the Fellowship Hall of Danby's Community Church, Zoe Learner Ponterio, the Manager of Cornell's Spacecraft Planetary Image Facility (SPIF) will offer a presentation, *In The Shadows: The Wonder, Beauty, And Science Of Eclipses*.

Get ready for the April 8 total solar eclipse! What causes eclipses? Why are they so rare? Why are lunar eclipses more common than solar ones? Do other planets have eclipses?

Find out the answers to some common questions like these and get valuable tips on safe eclipse viewing. Zoe will dive even deeper, talking about how these phenomena help us explore the galaxy. She aims to give us an understanding of our place in the universe.

In The Shadows will be fun and informative for everyone of all

ages. Come with your whole family. Free, of course, and refreshments will be served.

PS: remember, safety is paramount when viewing the sun. Wear appropriate eye protection. We don't live in Texas, where blazing sun is far more likely, but skin protection is helpful on sunny days here, too.

(tc)



ME SHOW! SECURES NEEDED FUNDS A FTER A YEAR-AND-A-HALL ADanby Fire Departmen

AFTER A YEAR-AND-A-HALF LONG EFFORT, the Danby Fire Department successfully completed fundraising for the purchase of Extraction Equipment, also known as the, "Jaws of Life." These powerful devices are used to cut through a vehicle and quickly free those who are trapped inside quickly. The victims are released from danger

JAWS OF LIFE CAMPAIGN

and can get the medical care they need.

Members of the all-volunteer Danby and West Danby Fire Departments regularly respond to calls for everything from house fires to traffic accidents and other emergencies. The extrication equipment, carried in the side-panels of the Departments' fire trucks, is an important part of their life-saving arsenal.



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The Danby Fire Department wants to thank all those in the community who contributed directly to this fundraising effort and who attended our fundraising events—pancake breakfasts and other gatherings—to secure the necessary funds for this important purchase. We'd also like to give a very special shout out to the Triad Foundation for its \$5,000 gift in support of this project during 2023.

Following the success of this community fundraising effort, the Danby Fire District allocated resources for the purchase of the same equipment for the West Danby Fire Station. As a result, both of the District's departments now have these critically important life-saving devices.

March 2024

- Layout: Ted Crane
- Count-n-Label Crew:
- Ted and Pamela: others.
 - **Post Office Crew:**
- Ted

To contribute items:

- Danby Area News PO Box 6886
- Ithaca, NY 14851-6886
- Phone: 607.273.8678
- Email: [danbynews@danbycc.org]

Text submissions:

- Send text in the body of an unencoded, plain-text Email
- message (not as an attach-
- ment); 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 prior to publication date. 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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Are you interested in becoming a sponsor? Help the Danby News build community! For info, contact [danbynews@danbycc.org]



The Danby 100!

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Elizabeth Reimers Sharon Boda Jefferson Colman Anonymous **Bruce Richards** Deborah Benson Carl and Marge Seamon Tammy Polmanteer Margo & John Yntema Garry & Gay Huddle Mary Fisher & Stephen Ryan Beverly Rollins James Lassoie

Discovery Walk In Dotson Park

Intrepid explorers braved arctic chill to find birds, little plants, big trees, and exotic droppings on February 24.

Here, they're walking the plank to cross a wet (and not quite frozen) spot on the trail.



DANBY NEWS NOTES

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@danbycc.org] 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. (tc)

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS: KRISTEN LORIA, BUTTERMILK BEANS

There have always been farmers in Danby. Open land and access to markets (by road and by train) brought settlers here after the Revolutionary war. Today's new generation of farmers are building on historical tradition to make their own mark.

One of Danby's new farmers is focusing on one of the oldest staple crops in the Finger Lakes: beans. Kristen Loria started *Buttermilk Beans* in 2021. She farms *Lo Rida Farm* at White Hawk Ecovillage on NYS Rt.96B, growing dry beans, popcorn, and cover crops in a diverse rotation.

Kristen was not part of a farming family when she grew up in Ithaca. Her interest in agriculture started ten years ago when she worked for a non-profit that supported young farmers in the Hudson River Valley. She got involved with organic farmers, training on vegetable farms. "I became interested in staple

crops," she says. "We grew wheat, rye, and corn for milling."

Kristen returned to Ithaca and earned a Master's degree in Plant Breeding at Cornell. Kristen specializes in uniquely beautiful and delicious dry bean varieties, from heirlooms to entirely new varieties being developed on the farm. "I'm a nerd for the history of dried bean farming in NY State," she says. "There are good records at the Agriculture library. We used to grow more than we do now. Beans were a really familiar crop to our region."

Buttermilk Beans is a collective of young farmers, women and men, ranging from Danby to Penn Yan. It includes Half Hitch Farm, Hector, Tidings Farm, Trumansburg, Seneca Grain and Bean, Penn Yan, and DG Farms, Enfield.

Buttermilk Bean winter club beans are all organically grown in the Finger Lakes region. They are a "side dish" of the Full Plate Farm Collective, whose pick up location is on Nelson Road. Locally, 135 households are bean club members. Buttermilk Beans also has a Hudson Valley delivery and a mail order option, with 340 shares in total this year.

Beans that have been properly harvested and dried will keep their optimal flavor in your pantry for at least one year. This year's shares are all sold out. There may be a special one-time spring box offered. Visit [buttermilkbean.com] to find out more.

Kristen and her fellow farmers love sharing what they know about what they grow. As part of the bean share, "You will receive fun varietal lore and cooking tips via a bean dispatch with each share—we are serious bean nerds and love to swap bean stories and favorite recipes!"

The Buttermilk Bean farmers have strong connections to more established farmers. Oechsner Farms in Newfield is one of the principal suppliers of organic grain to Farmer Ground Flour in Trumansburg.

"The farmer mentor relationship has been pivotal," Kristen says. "One of the beautiful things about growing for a local marketplace is you see the food you grow go out into the

local community. There are not that many people farming on this small scale. Those who work at this scale are a nice community. I'm becoming more and more a part of that."

While land stewardship was initially a major reason to get into farming, the variety of the work

keeps Loria engaged. "I'm drawn to the interactive nature of it. There's a seasonal rhythm, and you need to be a jack of all trades. Learning about the soil, the plants which will grow best here," she says. "And, I like eating good food. This pairs well with that."

Why farm in Danby? When Kristen and her partner were looking to settle down, a place at White Hawk Eco-village was possible. And there was the opportunity to farm there. "It was too good a deal to pass up, she says."

On the Lo Rida Farm, crops are grown in an alley cropping system between rows of newly planted hazelnut trees. This reduces erosion and runoff from tilled areas and maximizes overall productivity and ecological niche diversity. Last year, Lo Rida grew several bean varieties, including Tiger's Eye, Orca, Flor de Mayo, Purple Stardust, and a farm-bred variety Kristen is calling, "Equinox."

When asked about the future of farming in Danby, Kristen says, "It's true that the land isn't as spectacular as that to the west side of the lake. What makes it work is having a group of people interested in making it work. I'm meeting more neighbors and getting to know the land. There's so much more to learn. I love learning from neighbors about different soils and where there might be good places to grow crops."



YOUR 2024 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

The County's Department of Assessment has released its 2024 Preliminary Assessment of properties in Danby. Individual property owners will be notified of changes in Mid-March but the information can be viewed online at [tompkinscountyny.gov/assessment] (click on "2024 Preliminary Assessment Roll").

The Department claims to be the only true Countywide Assessment unit in New York State. It is committed to ensuring that all properties are treated fairly and equitably. The Department welcomes and encourages the public to review the information it has about every property, and to notify it of any discrepancies.

When you receive (or look up) your preliminary assessment, it's important to remember that all of the properties in Danby were also reassessed, along with others in the County. According to the Department, on average, property values in Danby increased 17.0 percent while values in the County went up 19.8 percent.

A common misunderstanding is that your tax bill will go up in proportion to your changed assessment. In reality, your assessment only determines what part of the entire tax levy you must pay. If you own 0.1 percent of Danby, then you pay 0.1 percent of Danby's bills. If everyone's assessment goes up equally, and if your Town (County, School District, etc.) government does not change its tax levy, your tax bill will not change.

In other words, if your assessment goes up by 20 percent, that 20 percent is roughly equal to the County's average increase and slightly more than the average increase in Danby. As long as your taxing authority doesn't increase its levy your taxes won't change. Of course, levies tend to go up. According to the Department,

Year-to-year and two-decade tax levy increases				
Government	2022-2023	2023-2024	2004-2024	
Danby	+ 6.9 %	+ 3.3 %	+ 132.9 %	
County	;	+ 9.0 %	+ 104.4 %	
Ithaca School	+ 8.5 %	+ 4.0 %	?	

Incidentally, the Department estimates that, while it does its best to determine accurate assessments, at the time when properties are actually sold, the average assessment in Danby is only about 80 percent of the sale price (this is more than Groton, but less than all other municipalities in Tompkins County). The 2024 preliminary assessment brings values more into line, at about 102 percent of sale price.

There is a schedule and roadmap for challenging your revised assessment. In Danby,

Feb.23 2024 Preliminary Assessment Roll Posted (reflects value as of July 1,2023)

Mar.15 Notice of change mailed to property owners

Mar.25 First available appointment for informal assessment review

Apr.5 Last available appointment date

Apr.12 Last day to submit a review request

May 1 Tentative Assessment Roll filed

May 28 Grievance Day

The notices mailed on March 15 will include information both about your changed assessment and about its impact. The impact analysis assumes that your government's tax levy has not changed since 2023, and estimates your future tax bill based on your new assessment.

According to the Assessment Department, If you are concerned about the tax levy, please contact your Town Board, County Legislature, ... and your School Board (and don't forget to vote in the School Budget vote on May 21).

What's An Informal Assessment Review?

The informal assessment review period is an opportunity for a property owner to provide the Department of Assessment with relevant information about the market value of their property so that a member of our professional appraisal staff can re-review the assessment.

You can update information about your property: is it described incorrectly? Has its condition changed? Has maintenance been deferred? Have you had a recent appraisal done?

How To File A Review

You can call the Department of Assessment, 607.274.5516 between March 15 and April 4 to request an appointment for a 10-minute phone call. Send documentation to [assessment@tompkins-co.org], before or after the meeting.

You can file an online application and upload supporting documentation. A third option is on the back of the Notice you receive: a paper application that can be returned to the Department. In all cases, one of the Department's professional appraisal staff will review the documentation you provide.

Grievance Day

If all else fails, you can meet with the Grievance Board. It includes one or two local community members and your County Legislator. Only a few taxpayers take advantage of this annual option (this year: May.28), but it's there if you want it.

BURN BAN IN EFFECT

The annual statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning runs from March 16 through May 14. The NYS DEC enforces the ban to prevent wildfires and reduce air pollution.

The risk of wildfires is greatest during the Spring, and this winter was warmer and drier than most. Think about safety first, before starting a potentially dangerous fire.

Open burning of debris is the single-largest cause of spring wildfires in New York State. Local fire departments, many of which are staffed by volunteers, all too often have to leave their jobs and families to respond to wildfires caused by illegal debris fires.

The DEC has an online Fire Danger Map at [dec.ny.gov/lands/68329.html].

Backyard fire pits and campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width, or diameter are permitted.

A GOOD MOMENT TO SPRING FOR THE *DANBY NEWS*

Join the Burgeoning ranks of of your neighbors who are helping to support the *Danby News*. The Community Council thanks all the readers who have offered support in the form of paid subscriptions and generous donations.

When you want information beyond official, sanitized announcements in expensive, tax-dollar-funded publications, the *Danby News* is the place to go.

We work on a tight budget; a fraction of what taxpayers provide for a government publication. We have to keep asking for your help. Subscribers and supporters, time to re-up. Paid subscriptions (\$15 or more per household) help. Larger contributions support our community-building efforts. Join the **Danby 100**!

Business owners, please consider the benefits of helping out with either with text-based or display advertising.

Please make checks payable to *Danby Community Council*, note *Danby News* in the memo, and mail to P.O.Box 6886, Ithaca, NY 14851-6886.

Dream of a better world Where chickens cross the road Without having motives questioned

THE GREAT DANBY ROAD CLEANUP

CAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 20.

The 54th Earth Day is coming up! You can take part in the celebration right in Danby. On Saturday, 20-Apr-2023, 10:30am, join the not-quite-annual Earth Day Road Cleanup on NYS Rt.96B. Rain date on Sunday, April 21.



Bring the whole family! This activity is a great way to give to your community. It's a good excuse to get out and about

on a warm (hopefully!) spring day. It's social and it's healthy low-impact exercise, too.

We'd love to have RSVPs if you plan to attend but there will be plenty of supplies for everyone who shows up: bags, safety equipment, and trash!

For more information, contact us at 607.319.3319 or [danbycleanup@tedcrane.com]. Pick-up walks are social, good outdoor exposure, and fun for everyone. Dress appropriately for the weather.

WATCH THE BLINKIN' LIGHTS THE GREEN ONES!

New NYS legislation, passed in 2022, requires that special lights must be visible on municipal vehicles used

for snow removal and similar activities. Specifically, green lights or alternating green and amber lights. Further, all drivers are required to exercise due care when approaching these hazard vehicles.



So, unlike flashing green traffic signals (extra credit: what do those mean?), flashing green vehicle lights tell you to exercise caution around snow and ice removal equipment. Be nice, they're trying to make the road safer for you.

A weasel walks into a bar. The bartender asks, "What can I get for you?" "Pop," goes the weasel.

REMINISCING #19

IWENT BACK to my March 2, 2006 column in the Ithaca Journal, when I asked Bobby Howe for information on the Danby Pirates' Club, located on Fisher Settlement Road in Danby. He graciously provided me with the following information, condensed here for the March, 2024 Danby Newsletter.

He wrote, "The Club is located on approximately 200 acres of land. It had its beginning five years after the end of World War II, and is reputed to be one of the oldest clubs of its type in New York State.

"The charter members first met for a game dinner at the old Country Inn on Danby Road, which was located just walking distance from the present-day Danby Gathery (the old Danby Market). They decided to purchase the old farmhouse (which had no modern facilities) and land from the Traver family and form a brotherhood dedicated to the principles of social interactions, preservation and propagation of game and fish, and a proper respect for the enforcement of game laws.

"The driving force for renovations consisted of three men, two carpenter brothers George and Roy Compton, and a local Barber, Roy Heath. Sam Miller provided a team of horses for plowing. For ten straight years, more than a thousand trees were planted per year.

"In the early years, access to the club during winter months was non-existent, so numerous meetings and events were held at the Coddington Restaurant (the present-day Elks Club).

"Through the years one of our most unique traits of success is that we are an unselfish brotherhood of hard work-

ers. Neither money nor professional status can buy into this club. Time honored events held include hunter safety courses, a fishing derby, work details with breakfast, a conservation camp for young adults and many more. Funding for improvements, repairs and maintenance was derived from turkey shoots, clambakes, raffles, private parties, and Christmas tree sales (my family remembers years of cutting down our Christmas tree on the land and then going inside for a great breakfast). The camaraderie and wealth of knowledge that I have gained from my fellow peers is priceless."

The West Danby Community Association held a "Dead of Winter Dessert" where a collection of historical photos and maps was displayed, including photos of the West Danby train station and of the houses that used to be line the abandoned part of Bald Hill Road before that area became State Forest land.

Present-day, I think that the Danby/West Danby area has lots of history. Perhaps interest could be generated in displaying another collection of old photos and other documents relating to this rich history. The Danby Gathery building could be a perfect place for a community historical display.

And FYI, Webster's Dictionary defines camaraderie as "good will among friends." This is a good word to know and an even better one to practice.

Department of Corrections: In my Reminisce for the February, 2024 Danby News, I mistakenly wrote that Rolly Manley retired from the Ithaca Police Department, when he actually retired from the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department. I apologize for that error.

SENIORS UPDATE

THE DANBY SENIORS MEET on the first Thursday of each month. Join us at Noon for a dish to share in the Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Road; the next two meetings are on March 7 and April 4. Bring your own table service and a utensil to serve your dish. Everyone over age 55 is invited.

Annual membership dues are \$10 and can be sent to: Cindy Ceracche, 338 Gunderman Road, Spencer, NY 14883; 607.339.9269. Lifetime members (80 or more years old) are exempt from dues but can donate if they wish.

Stay tuned—the travel committee is busy scheduling trips for the coming months. Join our Facebook page (Danby Seniors) to keep up to date.

COMMUNITY COFFEE AND DONUTS

DANBY'S COMMUNITY CHURCH is offering Free Coffee And Donuts on Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on March 18 (also Apr.15, May 20, Jun.17). Open to the public!

The Church is at 1859 Danby Road. Call 607.272.1687 or visit [danbychurch.org] for more information.

PS: They're in need of prep and cleanup volunteers.

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This Issue's Writers

- o ap.... Amanda Piha
- o cp.... Cindy Parlett
- o dcc.. Comm. Council
- ∘ gh ... Gay Huddle
- o ka.... Kat Anderson
- pg ... Pamela Goddard rr..... Ronda Roaring
- o tc Ted Crane
- o tk Theresa Klinger

CHICKEN AND BISCUITS

COME TO THE CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER in Danby's Community Church on Friday, March 8, 5-7pm (also April 12).

Bird and biscuit with all the trimmings, beverage and dessert. By donation.

The Church is at 1859 Danby Road. Ample parking available!

REFLECTING ON OURSELVES

RAMADAN BEGINS when the crescent moon first appears, during the ninth month of the Muslim lunar calendar. This year it starts on March 10. It's a monthlong celebration during which Muslims eat only when it's dark out and fast when it's light.

Ramadan is supposed to be a time to reflect on ourselves, be thankful, and help others. It ends on April 9 with a festival (an *Eid*) called *Eid al-Fitr* (literally, "Feast Of Breaking The Fast") where everyone eats sweets.

Even though you may not be Muslim, your children may have friends who are. It's important that your children understand why their friends are not eating lunch. A great children's book on the subject is *Ramadan* by Hannah Eliot and illustrated by Rashin; it's available at the Public Library.

ELECTION STICKER CONTEST

THE ELECTION STICKER Art contest has expanded! This year, Tompkins County's Board of Elections is soliciting entries for two stickers: the usual I Voted version and a new Future Voter tag.

Students in grades 6-12 can create and enter "I Voted", while those in grades K-5 can submit "Future Voter" designs. The winners of each contest will be used during the General Election in November, 2024.

Contest rules and the submission form can be found online at [tcgov.co/2024sticker]. The submission deadline is May 1.

Back in that other era, America was still America, for good or bad. Men such as Harry Truman or Dwight Eisenhower were president. We didn't have the daily arrival of the clown car.

- James Lee Burke



- Once Upon a Magic Book—L. Murray
- . The Lost Tree-E.Haworth-Booth
- The Bad See—J.John
- Strictly No Elephant—L.Mantchev
- Love Z—LSima
- Young Frank Architect—F.Viva
- Edward the Emu—S. Knowles
- · Are you a Cat?-C. Muir
- The Dot—P.Reynolds
- A Plan for Pops—H.Smith
- . I Know You Could-C.Dorfman
- The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot—A.Provensen
- Biggie (volumes 1 and 4)—Mo Willems





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DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 2 • Sat

9:15am A Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Mar 4 • Mon

6pm Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting

Mar 6 • Wed

5pm WD Fire Station • West Danby Water District

Mar 7 • Thu

Noon @ Community Church • Seniors

7pm Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg

Mar 8 • Fri

8am @ Community Church • Chicken and Biscuits

Mar 10 • Sun

8-11am @ DVFC Station • Pancake Breakfast

Mar 11 • Mon

7pm DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting

7pm 🕰 West Danby Fire Station • WD Fire Dep't Mtg

Mar 12 • Tue

7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting

7pm @ Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council

Mar 14 • Thu

7pm Zoom • Danby Youth Commission

Mar 18 • Mon

8am Community Church • Coffee and Donuts

6pm Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting

Mar 19 • Tue

7pm Town Hall+Zoom • Planning Board Meeting

Mar 21 • Thu

4pm (Community Church • Danby Food Pantry

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode		
Town Board	Mar 4	962 1625 1190	071939		
CAC	Mar 12	972 1566 0090	423584		
Youth Commission	Mar 14	Mar 14 See Town web site			
Planning Board	Mar 19	958 0817 5336	245871		
Town Board	Mar 18	990 7294 9108	569826		
Zoning Appeals	Mar 26	953 8273 3938	None?		
To join a meeting by	To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923				

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Mar 26 • Tue

7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting

7pm Appeals Town Hall+Zoom • Board of Zoning Appeals

Mar 30 • Sat

2pm @ Community Church

Community Council Presents In The Shadows

The Wonder, Beauty, And Science Of Eclipses

Apr 1 • Mon

Day of the Fool

6pm Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting

Apr 3 • Wed

5pm WD Fire Station • West Danby Water District

Apr 4 • Thu

Noon @ Community Church • Seniors

7pm Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg

Apr 6 • Sat

9:15am Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Apr 8 • Mon

7pm 🙀 DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting

7pm West Danby Fire Station • WD Fire Dep't Mtg

Apr 9 • Tue

7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting

7pm Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council

Ongoing Events

Seniors Strength Class wia Zoom

Mondays and Thursdays, 9-10am

Contact [jmchurch@twcny.rr.com] for Zoom link

Danby Community Library @ Town Hall

Tuesday, 1–3pm; Thursday & Saturday, 10am–Noon

Books can be returned via the outdoor drop box.

Saturdays, 9am-Noon

AA Meeting i via Zoom: [zoom.us/j/8209358263]

Wednesdays, 7pm

Where Things Happen

Danby Town Hall • 1830 Danby Road

- DVFC Station 1780 Danby Road
- WDFD Station 47 Sylvan Drive, off Rt.34/96
- Danby Community Church 1859 Danby Road
- American Legion Post 221 1231 Danby Road