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Grange Hall, 15 North Road,  
Danbury  
[www.blazingstargrange.org](http://www.blazingstargrange.org)  
info Donna @ 768-5579

# Blazing Star Grange Kicks Off Its Ninth Year of Winter Markets

Starts November 7 for seven months

**Press release**

The ninth season of the Danbury Winter Farmers Market begins on November 7 with the first of seven monthly markets held on the first Saturday of the month at the notable Blazing Star Grange Hall. A blend of farms, artisans, and specialty food producers convene rain (snow?) or shine to market their products in a town that revels community and camaraderie.

The Blazing Star Grange's original intent for the market was to support local farms and businesses. This year, the market coordinators also hope to educate and assist the consumer as they navigate the road of local buying. With a monthly market, the most satisfied and committed market goer does some planning. Perhaps they have some hankerings for some comfort foods or are armed with a grocery list to restock their pantries. Yet, this process doesn't come naturally to all buyers, especially those new to the "buy local" movement.

The challenges that exist for both buyers and sellers were discussed last season at meetings following each of the winter markets. These discussions were key to building a stronger market this

season- one built on mutual respect and understanding by both the buyers and the sellers. Volunteers from Danbury Grows, a group that formed as a result of previous meetings, will be on hand to provide information on local food production and Danbury's heritage of self-sufficiency. With navigation help, the customer can reap the most from their market experience while saving farms, supporting the local economy, and feeding themselves.

While at the market, check out the dining nook known as the Blazing Star Bistro where breakfast sandwiches and a hot lunch are served to help defray market expenses. The market operates the first Saturday of every month, November through May from 9 to 1 PM. To help you create a New Hampshire grown holiday, the December market will have a high proportion of crafts with extended hours from 9 to 2 PM. The Grange Hall is located at 15 North Road in Danbury.

During the January through May markets, there is the opportunity for businesses, speakers and groups to hold presentations or workshops. The Grange is open to topics that will educate or aid businesses and consumers in their efforts to live sustainability. For more information, call Donna at 768-5579 or [BlazingStarGrange.org](http://BlazingStarGrange.org).



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**Citizens from page 19**

Hampshire and New England has a devoted following here in Danbury and beyond.

He and Carl Hultberg have transformed the Danbury Transfer Station into a live music venue during the warm months, continuing with winter jam sessions and sock hops at the Grange and the South Danbury church. Dudley Laufman invites Tom to play concerts with him, including one held at the Grange earlier this year.

**Kathy Neustadt**

Kathy is Danbury's Hostess with the Mostest, opening her home and heart for Easter sunrise breakfasts in front of a blazing fire, for the Grange Curtains Committee meetings when the Grange Hall was too cold, for summer lunches on the lawn for the Danbury Historical Society farm and garden tours, and for Danbury Grows picnics as sunset claims Mount Kearsarge. She is also the initiator and instigator of the food and flower gardens and the mini-bistro at the Danbury Transfer Station ... surely something unique to Danbury.

Kathy is a culinary writer and world traveler. Among her books is Clambake, published by the University of Massachusetts Press for the American

Folklore Society. As a professional folklorist, she was an organizer and presenter of the New Hampshire Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington DC, in 1999 and in New Hampshire in 2000, and she was involved in the Boston Cultural Heritage Festival.

She has had a notable career and exhibits as an assemblage artist, transforming cast-off and neglected everyday objects into art with a capital "A." Kathy has also found time for oral history and writing and grant-writing projects in New Hampshire and elsewhere.

All of these various elements of her life and work have coalesced with her creation, presentation, and promotion of the South Danbury Church Speaker Series, sharing Danbury and the wider world with each other, now in its third year and gathering enthusiastic audiences from Danbury and far beyond. But there's more: Kathy is also the impresario of the South Danbury Church Fair and the church's famous Christmas Pageant.

Even though Tom and Kathy are distinct (and distinctive) individuals, in Danbury they are also Tom 'n' Kathy, constantly encouraging and supporting each other and the community to learn, share, and help as "Danbury Grows."

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