FREE TO RESIDENTS

January 2023

DANBY NEWS



WINTER PLAY IN THE PARK

The WEATHER MIGHT BE GETTING COLDER but Dotson Park is still open for activities. It's a great place to get outside for a brisk stroll and winter bird watching. When it snows, it's the perfect spot to bring the family for sledding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Dotson Park is open everyday from dawn to dusk, so when you're feeling the need to stretch your legs and get some fresh air, the park will be right here waiting for you.

The Danby Community Park Association (DCPA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. If you'd like to make a donation to support the Park this giving season, you can now

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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New Numbers Every Second $\ldots \overline{O}$
Calendar 8

do so online or by mail. All donations are tax deductible. For online donations, go to [paypal.com] and then "Personal" > "Send Money". Use the address "dotsonpark@gmail.com" as the recipient and enter the amount you wish to donate as a gift. This site is secure! You can also send a check to Danby Community Park Association, c/o LAP, Inc., 309 Third Street, Ithaca NY 14850. **⋧**♠ (ap)

Red Cross Blood Drives

Bdirect way to give back to your community-at-large. It's quick and mostly ("just a little stick") painless. You can donate whole blood every 8 weeks.

It's possible to simply walk in and donate but most donors schedule an appointment at a convenient time by visiting [redcrossblood.org].

In addition to lots of other opportunities around the County, the Red Cross comes to Danby on a regular basis.

- January 20
- March 24
- May 19
- July 14

All of these blood drives are Noon-5pm in the Fire Department meeting room, 1780 Danby Road.

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Eyrees," there's nothing like a good pancake breakfast to start off your Sunday.

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company will be having a drivethru pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 15, 8-11am. The \$10 donation goes toward fundraising for the purchase of new portable extrication tools. Help us get the jaws of life!

Additional breakfasts are planned for February 19, March 19, and April 16. For more information, please check [danbyfiredept.org].



Danby News

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• January 2023 .

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

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• 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.

The Danby News (DN) is a publication of the Danby Community Council (DCC). All statements are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, sponsors, the DCC and its officers, or officials and employees of the Town of Danby. All works remain © of the contributors. Please provide a SASE if you wish to have materials returned. The DN and DCC are not responsible for typographic or other errors.

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JMJ Fund / Comm. Foundation Earl & Jo Ann Ekdahl Barbara Miller & Stuart Fox Kathleen Norkus "not official" Anonymous Polly A McClure "Anonymous friends in Danby" Anonymous Judith & L Patrick Caveney ...plus all those who have sent subscription-level donations

Shirley A Boykin Katherine Anderson & Max Pensky "Anonymous and admiring" Margaret J Moschak Anonymous Barry B Adams Susan Franklin Mark Gugino Cathy Darrow John & Susan Pfuntner

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.



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KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS: Mark Speiser & Danby Hardwoods

IN HIS QUIET WAY, Mark Speiser has been a part of Danby for a long time. Only a discreet sign on Hornbrook Road marks the home of Speiser and Danby Hardwoods.

For 45 years Speiser has developed *Danby Hardwoods* into a diverse and thriving business. He built his home here, got involved with the Danby Fire Department, and raised a family—some of whom are carrying on the woodworking tradition.

If you look through the archives of the Danby News [danbyny.org/DanbyNews], you can find an article (by

Ronda Roaring in the February 2018 issue) with some background of Mark and Danby Hardwoods. Back then, Mark had just gotten off a shift fighting a fire overnight. They talked about building his home in the 1980s and how he was expanding his wood working into artful bowls and cutting boards.

Today, he seems to be doing less of the fire fighting and more of the wood turning. As predicted in 2018, Mark's son Aaron Speiser has joined the business. "He's doing more of the large scale projects," Mark explained. There's even a 20-year-old grandson who is expressing interest in this family enterprise.

I asked Mark what drew him to woodworking? He laughed and told me about some of his early days, living on a commune in West Danby. "We were in this school house on Shaffer Road, and there was a lot of work that needed to be done." After teaching himself

basic building repair and cabinet making, Speiser worked in Ithaca as a carpenter for a number of years before building his own workshop and home here in Danby.

Speiser explained that there are really three parts to what he does. Danby Hardwoods sells hardwood lumber and also does custom architectural millwork.

Aaron is doing custom cabinetry and some furniture making. Some recent projects, found on the Danby Hardwoods Facebook page, include a "floating desk" with pull-



out drawers made of elm wood, knotty ash shelves, and cabinetry to hold a farmhouse style sink. Aaron posts that this is a good time to plan spring projects.

The third part is an offshoot that Mark calls *Bowled-Over Woodturning*. "I wanted a cute and catchy name, something to set this apart from the lumber work we do." Mark

> explains. "I love making these wooden bowls to be used for food or perhaps just for display purposes. These are the natural colors of the woods, no stains are used. They are fun to use and easy to care for."

Mark uses the [bowledoverwood.com] web site as a sort of product brochure. The bowls pictured there are probably sold by now. "You can order a very similar one or visit me at one of the craft shows I will be attending,"

he says. Bowled-Over products are often at the Ithaca Festival, the Summer Artists Market (at Steamboat Landing), and other regional shows. His salad tongs are quite popular, with repeat customers giving them as gifts.

Danby Hardwoods carries a wide range of species of wood, including exotics from as far away as Africa and South America and common local types like red oak, maple, and walnut. The local wood is often cut from Mark's property on Hornbrook Road and milled with the help of a portable saw mill. The wood they carry gets used by fine craftsmen, home hobbyists, and professional car-

penters.

I asked how many homes in Danby, Danby Hardwood products have become a part of. "Oh, I'm not sure," Mark says. "Fifty at least." *[I can say that ours is one of them. It feels good to have local products in our Danby home.* -author]

Mark will do some salvage work around town as well. We remember when a large red oak came down on Lieb Road a few years ago. Mark helped remove it; he took the largest pieces to mill into boards, and left us a bunch of woodstove-length rounds that we split and burned.

Mark and Aaron are happy to show folks what they do. "People are welcome to come up and visit, if they're interested in woodworking. Call ahead, 607.272.8561 to make sure one of us is there." •

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REMINISCING #5

TWENT BACK to my January, 2007 Ithaca Journal column to check out a few things going on at that time.

The West Danby Community Association was holding its annual meeting with a mid-winter dish-to-share in the West Danby Fire Hall. After dinner and some Association business, Kathy Clements and Wayne Myers presented a program about the former neighborhood of Bald Hill, which was annihilated when the State created the Danby State Forest during the 1930s. Wayne is still putting together his calendars featuring the beautiful grounds around his home and, although Kathy has passed, she left behind a legacy of historical memories, as she worked along with Wayne, Ross Cortright, Robert Johnson, and Robert Snyder on the book, *Bald Hill, The Lost Community*.

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION RESULTS

DElection on Tuesday, December 13. It was a small surprise—although it should have been clear to any devotee of Fire District goings-on—to learn that two (not the usual one) positions were up for a vote: one for a full five-year term and another to fill the remaining year of the term of a previous commissioner who resigned.



The contested 5-year seat was held by the inc u m b e n t , Kevin Faehndrich, 20-6, over Derek Dougherty. There were no previously announced can-

didates for the other seat, but incumbent Charlotte "Twinkle" Griggs came out ahead with 15 write-in votes. In all, 29 of Danby's almost 2,700 registered voters cast their ballots. Unfortunately, 8 of the total 58 votes cast were judged "void".

The true secret of happiness lies in taking a genuine interest in all the details of daily life. —William Morris The true secret of good government is taxpayers taking a genuine interest in its operation. —Danby Equivalent On South Hill, just down the road a bit from Danby, Garry and I checked out the Ithaca Elks Lodge in its new home, the former Coddington Restaurant at 124 Coddington Road. We were very impressed with the renovations! The Lodge continues to offer up delicious food (open to the public), and it continues to support worthy causes—military personnel, and scholarships to area students, just to name two of its many ongoing "giving back to the community" efforts. You can call the Elks at 607.273.3172 for information about becoming a member and/or about public events going on at the Lodge. It's also a great place to hold an event that you are planning.

There is an old Mexican proverb that wisely states, "A good resolution is like an old horse which is often saddled but rarely ridden." I hope 2023 is a good year, happy and healthy, whether you are venturing out on a resolution or not.

Now is a Good Moment to Support The *Danby News*

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL knows that you've enjoyed its projects over the years: concerts, information programs, community events (including the recent Knife and Hatchet demo and the Harvest Festival), and, of course, the Danby News.

The *Danby News* contains community-oriented information: events, people, news, and articles of general interest. Its contents come from the Danby public; those and the editing, layout, and legwork are all offered by volunteers.

The cost of printing and mailing, however, are supported by contributions and subscriptions. Your subscriptions (\$10-15 or more) are appreciated. Because some cannot afford a subscription, we're asking those who can, to offer larger contributions—enough for themselves and their neighbors—to support our community-building efforts.

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.

There is no dark side of the moon, really. In truth, it's all dark. —Werner Von Braun

"Right" and "wrong" continuously adapts to the flow of fluid moral standards. —Wiley, cartoonist

WHAT THE TOWN DIDN'T TELL YOU

Getting Documents and Protecting Your Privacy on the Town of Danby Web Site

NUMBER OF DANBY RESIDENTS have experienced intermittent difficulties getting information from the Town web site, [danby.ny.gov]. Even Town Board members have commented on this during public meetings. This article will describe ways that residents can work around some issues...if they encounter them.

1) The Spinning Arrow Problem

Many, if not most, web sites provide documents using low- or no-impact tools—PDF files, for example, are easily handled by all web browsers. Danby's vendor-ofchoice, as directed by Danby's web site, uses a resource-intensive method to display documents. It may require downloading and running 100s of 1000s of bytes of Javascript code to your computer before your browser can even begin to read and display the document. Depending on your internet connection, this might take a while.

The solution is easy: have patience. Although it is often complete within a few seconds or a minute, it sometimes takes long enough to make lunch and maybe have a postprandial snooze. If you don't see the document within, say, half an hour, check problem 2, below.

2) The Third-Party Cookie Requirement

This problem appeared in late 2022. It's apparently the result of a change made by the Town's vendor-of-choice, Zoho. If this problem affects your computer, you will be unable to see many documents on the web site; in particular, meeting agendas, minutes, etc. Instead you will see a spinning, circular arrow...forever (see problem 1, above).

The software change involved the use of *Third Party Cookies*. These creatures leave hidden crumbs on your computer, generally for the purpose of tracking your web activity. To be sure, pretty much all web sites use (or could use) First Party Cookies. In this case, though, the cookies are being deposited and tracked by a web site you did not visit!

Many well-respected sources consider third party cookies to be somewhere between a security risk and a privacy vi-

This Issue's Writers	○ dvfc Danby Fire Dep't ○ gh Gay Huddle
○ ap Amanda Piha	○ mvMargie VanDeMark
○ cp Cindy Parlett	○ pg Pamela Goddard
○ dcc Comm. Council	○ tc Ted Crane

olation. Google's *Chrome* browser, which holds about 65 percent of the market for browsers (*Edge* is *Chrome* with a different visual appearance), will block the use of third-party cookies in the future.

If you allow third party cookies (the default in some browsers), your web activities can be tracked by pretty much anyone who wants to *but if you block them* you cannot see the Danby documents. The solution, to protect you while allowing useful visits to Danby's web site, is to enable them only for Danby's site. Instructions can be found on the web; google "how to disable third party cookies" and then google "how to enable third party cookies for one web site". Be aware that both Danby and Zoho could be collecting info about your web activity.

3) The Expired Security Certificate

This is the most technically challenging problem. The solution may not be appropriate for everyone. In a nutshell, the secure communication protocol used by the web site relies on a public "certificate" issued to the registrar of the Town's new domain name, [danby.ny.gov]. Most operating systems (MacOS, Windows, etc) provide this certificate *but* the certificate supplied by older software expired in October 2021 (and therefore, Danby's web site became unusable).

If your copy of the certificate has expired, it's possible to add a new version to your computer. The process takes only a minute or three but it is not for the faint of heart. If you want to try, start by googling, "x1.i.lencr.org" and/or "ISRG Root X1.der".

Opinion

In my decades of experience with software development, I've learned that using the "latest and greatest bells and whistles" is usually appropriate only in cutting-edge or profit-making environments: academic research would be one such environment; selling software intended to make money by forcing the customer to update other software is another.

Providing public information should not require technical wizardry from the intended users. The goal should be to provide service that works well for everyone *including* users with older and even out-of-date computers.

Followup To December Article About Audits

The January issue of Danby Town Board News contained kind, but interesting words regarding the Comptrollers audits of the Town. It suggested—as this column did last month— that you read them...but didn't note where you can find them! Try [danbyny.org/2022M-08] (Clerk) and [danbyny.org/2022M-127] (Town Board). •

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BEATING THE WINTER BLUES

THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER and the sparkly decorations are gone (see Tree Drop Off on this page). While you may think you ate too much in December, and maybe you overindulged on New Year's Eve, planning meals without festivities seems unexciting. Your family drives you crazy but, at the same time, you miss them. And the cold and dark seem to go on and on.

In the cold and dark of winter, many of us are brought low and SAD (a.k.a., Seasonal Affective Disorder). Here are a few ways to fight the Winter Blues...with a local twist.

• Get outside. Go for a walk. Sunny days are best, but moving around on a cloudy day works, too. If the weather is right, play in the snow—ski, snowshoe, make a snowman, or sled on a hill. We're lucky to have many parks and nature preserves here in Danby. Winter can be a beautiful time to check out Dotson Park, Jennings Pond, or the Lindsay Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. If you're lucky, you might find animal tracks. Just connecting to the beauty of the natural world can lift your spirits and help you feel grounded.

2 Is the weather just too frightful? Check out some light reading from the Danby Community Library in Danby's Town Hall. See schedule of open hours on the back page. Maybe, take home a DVD for the entire family to watch.

3 Aching for something a bit more social? Head over to South Hill Cidery for some food and live music. They've got a fun, and tasty, series of events all winter long. See [southhillcider.com/events].

[4] In the depth of winter, reminders of spring can be a big help. Treat yourself to some fresh flowers from any number of shops in Ithaca. And then start to make plans for your own garden, dreaming while reading seed catalogs and looking forward to the annual Danby Plant Exchange in May.

[5] Lastly, there may be no better way to feel better about yourself than to help someone else. Reach out to your neighbors and see who needs some help. Volunteer with a community organization: the Food Pantry, Fire and Rescue, Park Association, Library, or the Community Council. When we all work together then we grow our community stronger. ☆ (pg)

How many efficiency experts does it take to change a light bulb? None. Efficiency experts only change dark bulbs.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TIDBITS

Danby Tax Bills

If you haven't received yours yet, contact the Town Clerk. Full payment is due by the end of January; fees and/or interest are charged after then.

Real Property Tax Exemption Renewals

The TC Assessment Department has mailed its yearly renewal applications for those exemptions that must be renewed each year: Low-Income Senior and Disability exemptions, the Livings Quarters for Parent/Grandparent exemption, the Housing Trust exemption, the Clergy Exemption, the Agricultural Land Exemption, among others.

Most of the renewal applications are due back in the Department of Assessment by March 1. Agricultural Land Exemption *renewals* are due by April 1 (but new Agricultural Land applications are due March 1).

Holiday Tree Drop-Off

Holiday trees can be dropped at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC), 160 Commercial Avenue (off NYS Rt.13), Monday through Saturday 7am-3:30pm until January 31 at no cost. No permit is required. All decorations, lights, etc. must be removed from trees prior to drop off. Synthetic trees will not be accepted.

Please stop at the Scale House upon arrival to get a Holiday Tree Recycling Ticket and give this ticket to the attendant at the Yard Waste Area before unloading.

SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED

THE TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE for the Aging maintains a list of individuals who would be willing to do snow shoveling/plowing for older adults. Many older adults in our community are not able to remove the snow from their driveways and sidewalks without assistance. Deep snow and icy sidewalks are dangerous for everyone but especially for those who may have mobility difficulties.

The office is constantly updating its list and needs more workers, especially those willing to work in places in rural areas. If you are interested in assisting older adults by shoveling or plowing—on either a paid or volunteer basis please call the Tompkins County Office for the Aging, 607.274.5482. If your name was listed last year, and you would like to be listed again, please notify us.

It's not a job, it's a health insurance policy.

ADVISING THE AGING

THE TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE for the Aging (COFA) is the go-to place to find services for the aging in Tompkins County. It provides objective and unbiased information regarding what's available for older adults and their caregivers. Its mission is to assist older adults and persons with long term care needs to live independently in their homes and communities...with quality of life and dignity.

The COFA Advisory Board is an important part of the Office's operation. Right now, it is looking for enthusiastic and culturally diverse older citizen volunteers to fill vacancies. Members represent the interests of older adults in their communities. They review and comment on policies, programs, and actions.

There are several seats open on that Committee, including one seat representing Danby (also Enfield, Ithaca, Ulysses, and Brooktondale seats) as well as at-large seats open to all Tompkins County residents.

COFA is open Monday thru Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm, at 214 West State Street. Contact COFA at 607.274.5482 or online at [tompkinscountyny.gov/cofa].



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COMMUNITY LIBRARY

O UR BOOK SELECTIONS are ever expanding and we needed more space to display everything. We'd like to thank George Parks for our new

made-to-order bookshelves!

New books

- *Mother Daughter Traitor Spy* by Susan Elia MacNeal
- *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner
- *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave
- The Magnolia Palace by Fiona Davis
- *Cilka's Journey* by Heather Morris (book two of the 3book series, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*)

New DVD

Top Gun: Maverick

🐲 (cp)

New Numbers Every Second

SOUR NATION WAS RINGING in the new year, the U.S. Census Bureau projected the United States population to be 334,233,854 on Jan. 1, 2023. This represents an increase of 1,571,393, or 0.47 percent, from New Year's Day 2022, and 2,784,573, or 0.84 percent since Census Day (April 1) 2020.

There's a fascinating, dynamic web page devoted to the exploration of population data: [census.gov/popclock/].

In January 2023, the U.S. is expected to experience 1 birth every 9 seconds and 1 death every 10 seconds. Meanwhile, net international migration is expected to add 1 person to the U.S. population every 32 seconds. The combination of births, deaths and net international migration increases the U.S. population by 1 person every 27 seconds. $\Re (tc)$

SENIORS UPDATE

The DANBY SENIORS had a wonderful holiday luncheon at the Lakewatch Inn on December, 15 with good music provided by Bob and Dee. Ten poinsettias were the door prizes.

On November 30, a full bus of folks joined our trip to Penn's Peak, PA. They enjoyed a lovely lunch and an Elvis tribute show.

Remember, there's no meeting in January but plan for our dish to share lunch on Thursday, February 2, at Noon in the Danby Community Church.





Danby Community Council **Danby News** PO Box 6625 Ithaca, NY 14851-6625



DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Jan 3 • Tue

6pm 🙀 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting Public Hearing: Authority to enforce Building Code 2023 Organizing Meeting Jan 4 • Wed 5pm 🙀 WD Fire Station • West Danby Water District Jan 5 • Thu Noon 🙀 Community Church • NO Seniors Meeting 7pm 🙀 Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg Jan 7 • Sat 9am 🙀 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting Jan 9 • Mon 7pm 🙀 DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting 7pm 🙀 West Danby Fire Station • WD Fire Dep't Mtg Jan 10 • Tue 7pm 🙀 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting 7pm 🙀 Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council Jan 15 • Sun 8-11am 🙀 DVFC Station • Pancake Breakfast Jan 17 • Tue 7pm 🙀 Town Hall+Zoom • Planning Board Meeting Jan 18 • Wed 6pm 🙀 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting Jan 19 • Thu 4pm 🙀 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry Jan 20 • Fri Noon-5pm 🙀 DVFC Station • Blood Drive Jan 24 • Tue 7pm 🙀 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting Meeting Date Zoom MtgID Passcode Town Board 962 1625 1190 071939 Ian 3 CAC Jan 10 972 1566 0090 423584 Planning Board Jan 17 958 0817 5336 245871 Town Board Ian 18 990 7294 9108 569826 953 8273 3938 Zoning Appeals None, yet None?

To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Feb 1 • Wed

5pm 🙀 WD Fire Station • West Danby Water District Feb 2 • Thu Noon 🕰 Community Church • Seniors Meeting 7pm 🙀 Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg Feb 4 • Sat 9am 🙀 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting Feb 7 • Tue 6pm 🙀 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting Feb 13 • Mon 7pm 🙀 DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting 7pm 🙀 West Danby Fire Station • WD Fire Dep't Mtg Feb 14 • Tue 7pm 🙀 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting 7pm 🙀 Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council Feb 15 • Wed 6pm 🙀 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting Feb 16 • Thu 4pm 🙀 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry Feb 19 • Sun 8-11am 🙀 DVFC Station • Pancake Breakfast

Ongoing Events

Seniors Strength Class 🙀 via 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 Curbside pickup available; can return in drop box. Food Scrap Recycling → Town Hall C←←⇔ Saturdays, 9am-Noon AA Meeting 🙀 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