

DANBY NEWS

CONCERTS ARE COMING!

OVER THE YEARS, the Danby Community Council has hosted many kinds of programs to bring our community together. Some of the most loved—and best attended—have been music concerts.

For more than two decades, the DCC has shared a broad range of musical styles with you: classical string quartets, toe-tapping Irish fiddle music, traditional American folk songs, jazz standards on piano and guitar, bluegrass, swing, and so much more. After a COVID break of three years, we're thrilled to let you know that live music is returning!

This year the DCC is partnering with the Danby Community Church and its performance venue. The Church's Fellowship hall (where turkey dinners, Seniors luncheons, and tag sales are held) is spacious, comfortable, easy to find, and has plenty of parking. Our first concert will be on Sunday, March 12 with Danby resident Dee Specker, a fiddle master and singer. Dee specializes in Bluegrass and Swing and her distinctive voice is not to be missed.

The DCC began presenting a concert series in 1999, thanks to the vision and energy of Robert Strichartz. He wrote that first grant to the Community Arts Partnership, to bring quality music to the somewhat rural Danby residents. CAP has agreed to support this program every year since.

Thanks to this grant support, and the support of additional DCC friends, all of our events are free. This is to entice you to

"take a chance" on types of music and performers you may not have heard before. Families with young children are welcome to come and have a taste of different types of music and experience the joy of seeing instruments played, "up close and personal." Keep your eye on the Danby News to see what delights are coming to Town this year. 🎵 (pg)

This Month Inside the Danby News:

- Know Your Neighbors: Jon Jensen . . . ③
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VALENTINES FOR THE *DANBY NEWS*

FEBRUARY HAS A WHOLE LOT OF GREAT DAYS to make up for its grubby weather: Groundhog Day (2/2), Valentine's Day (2/14), President's Day (2/20), and even Random Acts of Kindness Day (2/17).

If you're reading this, we know you appreciate the Danby News and what it brings to our community. Don't wait for the random day to do a planned act of kindness. Send a valentine to your loved ones and send a donation to the Danby News.

The cost of printing and mailing are supported by contributions and subscriptions (\$10-15 or more). We're asking those who can, to offer larger contributions 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.

By the way, you've already missed *Change Your Password Day* (2/1). 🗓️ (dcc)

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

THE DANBY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY will have a drive-thru pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 19, 8-11am. The \$10 donation will help it continue to raise funds for the purchase of new portable extrication tools. Help us get the jaws of life!

Please check our web site [danbyfiredept.org] or our Facebook page [[fb.com/DanbyVolunteerFireCompany](https://www.facebook.com/DanbyVolunteerFireCompany)] for info.

Additional breakfasts are planned for Sundays, March 19 and April 16. 🗓️ (dvfc)

FEBRUARY FIREHOUSE FLAPJACKS

DRIVE-THRU BREAKFAST

PANCAKES, FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE, SCRAMBLED EGGS, HOME FRIES



SUNDAY FEB 19TH 8-11 AM

HELP US GET NEW
JAWS OF LIFE!



February 2023

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 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 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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...plus all those who have sent subscription-level donations

**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 [danbynyn.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. γ

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS: JON JENSEN

“YOU’LL FIND A LOT OF ‘ACCIDENTAL’ in my life story,” says Jon Jensen. He describes much serendipity beginning with a 40-year career in philanthropy to how he came to live on Steam Mill Road.

A playful connection to people and the natural world seems to be a constant thread moving through his life. Jon told me that he earned a Master’s degree in animal behavior, “That made me wonderfully unemployable.” Yet he found a job with a small foundation that funded projects aimed at saving endangered species. This began a long and winding road, working for the Pew Charitable Trusts, the George Gund Foundation, and, eventually, twelve years as Executive Director of the Park Foundation in Ithaca.

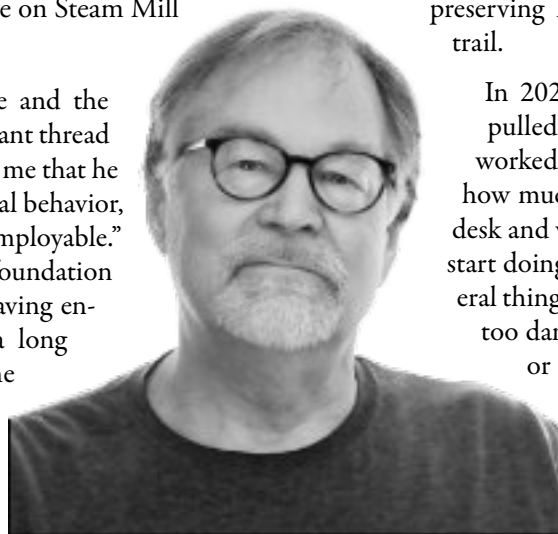
The Jensens found they had a fondness for University towns while Jon was directing a Pew scholars Program at the University of Michigan. That fondness eventually led them to Ithaca. Along the way, though, there were fourteen years Cleveland, OH, working with the George Gund Foundation. “That was probably the most creative portion of my career,” Jon remembers. “It was all interesting and good work. And, yeah it’s nicer to give money away than to have to raise it. But we have to say ‘no’ a lot as well. In this work you get to meet people who are really dedicated to their field.”

When an opportunity opened up at the Park Foundation in Ithaca, Jon and his wife, Mary Lee, decided to reestablish their appreciation of university towns. But, of all the places in Tompkins County, why Danby? Jon explained that it was accidental and serendipitous.

The Jensens arrived in 2007, just as the Fracking issue was building up. They were looking for land where they could build an environmentally friendly home. On the verge of buying acreage in Ellis Hollow, they learned that it had a gas lease and that a neighboring property was leased as a drilling site. Only days later, Mary Lee was driving

back roads...and found land for sale on Steam Mill Road. A week later, the place was theirs.

The Jensens found themselves in a close-knit neighborhood. They have built relationships through social gatherings. “We really supported each other through COVID and everything,” says Jon. And collectively they are preserving land and creating a shared walking trail.

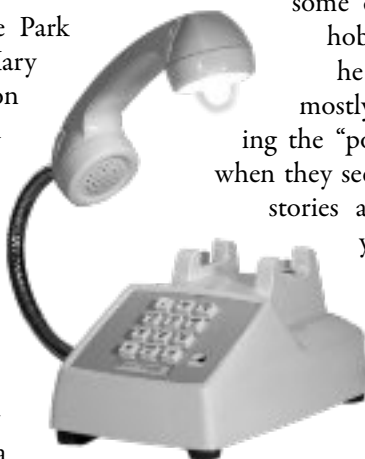


In 2020, Jon was ready for retirement. “I pulled the plug,” he says. “I had pretty much worked non-stop for 40 years.” Jon realized how much time he’d been spending behind a desk and working at a computer. It was time to start doing things with his hands. He tried several things. A class in welding proved too dirty, too dangerous. “And I would have to live in or near a junkyard, just for the materials,” says Jon. He built a playhouse out of reclaimed doors and a “flying saucer” parade float for the ReUse Center. These were fun to do, but not repeat

projects. Then, as a joke for his brother, Jensen started “upcycling” odd things into lamps. His very first lamp took inspiration from the movie “A Christmas Story.” It was a leg lamp, made from their father’s prosthetic leg, found after he died. Nearly 100 lamps later, Jon Jensen had found his creative passion.

Jensen explains that Upcycling odd things into lamps is fun in three ways: finding stuff, making stuff, and selling stuff. “I get to buy fun stuff I wouldn’t otherwise,” he says. He’s used (among others) a dinosaur toy, an antique camera, ABC blocks, a clarinet, and a saxophone. He’s had some commercial success, but mostly his lamp hobby is self-sustaining. He has to sell the lamps he makes before they overrun his home but, mostly, he gets a kick out of talking to people during the “pop-up” market sales. “People just light up when they see these. They get nostalgic and start telling stories about objects they had when they were younger. It’s interesting to see why people connect to a particular lamp.”

If you want a bit of whimsy for a winter afternoon, view Jon’s *Upcycled Lamps* at [fb.com/upcycledlampsbyjonjensen] or check them out when he has another “pop-up store” in the spring. 🐾 (pg)



REMINISCING #6

From my February, 2005, Ithaca Journal column:

IWROTE THAT THE DANBY COMMUNITY COUNCIL was sponsoring an afternoon of diverse waltz music/lessons in the Danby Town Hall. Live music was provided by Kitchen Chair, a duo made up of Gail Blake on guitar and Jennifer Dotson on fiddle. Music would range from tango to jazz to contemporary, lessons would be offered, and it was all for free. I bet it was a fun event!

I wrote about how many of our friends had become snowbirds in their retirement years. I shared a thought that life happens, and changes are inevitable. I quoted author and commentator, Sydney J. Harris, who said, "Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time. What we really want is for things to remain the same but get better." I know how that is how I feel!

Joan Barber was featured on the front page of the February issue of the Senior Circle. As long as I've known her,

Joanie has been a tireless volunteer, putting her energy and compassion for others into her numerous projects.

A chicken and biscuit supper was planned at the Danby Church (now named the Danby Community Church). They were always delicious and I miss them now. Maybe this might be something the church will start up again!

Wayne Reynolds passed away. Wayne coached an Over-30 Men's slowball team from Danby. If memory serves me this bunch may have not been the best team in the league, but we sure did have fun!

Our daughter, Kasey, was born on Groundhog's Day, February 2. I was born on Valentine's Day, February 14, making it very easy for Garry to remember my birthday!

February can be a brutal month, weather-wise, but it's a short month and getting through it gets us one step closer to Spring! ☘ (gh)

WHAT THE TOWN DIDN'T TELL YOU

Lawsuits against the Town

DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS, the Town of Danby has been sued twice by residents. Truth in reporting, right up front, the Town did not lose either case in court.

The catch is, the Town has already lost as soon as a suit is filed, even if it never has to pay damages to the plaintiff. The cost of defending a lawsuit can be significant, and not only in terms of money:

- Legal fees for outside counsel
- Staff time spent on the case
- Productivity loss due to the distraction of the lawsuit
- Damage to the town's reputation
- Loss of public trust
- Increased insurance premiums

These costs can have long-lasting effects on a town's finances and reputation. Additionally, even if the town prevails in court, it may be viewed as a loser in the eyes of the public, which can have negative consequences for future elections and initiatives.

Neither suit was discussed publicly during Town Board or Planning Board meetings, and the Town did not report details about them to the public.

In simple terms, both lawsuits were about improper procedure. The first claimed that proper notice of a public

hearing had not been given. The second asserted that the Town had failed to do a complete environmental assessment of the impact of cutting approximately 30 acres of trees, before approving a 100+ acre development project.

The first case required significant time to prepare depositions for much of the staff in Town Hall. Oddly enough, it seems as though the depositions were all second-hand, saying that a former Clerk must have taken an action, but there didn't appear to be any first-hand deposition to the fact and there was no written record that the action was taken. The resident claimed that the proper notice was never received.

In the second case, a resident stated that the Town Planner made a determination of no environmental impact without any study by qualified experts. The resident—working without legal help—cited at least one other similar case where the determination was rejected by a court. A legal scholar might know better, but a layperson could easily have thought the resident had a slam-dunk argument.

That case was dismissed, not on its merits, but because the court decided that the resident didn't have standing to sue. The irony is that the environmental study—no matter how expensive—wouldn't have cost the Town anything; it would have been paid for by the developer.

It's hard to fault a resident who feels that the Town is so uncooperative, that there is no other solution but to go to court. Yet, in the end, Danby's taxpayers have to foot the bill for the Town's perceived intransigence. ☘ (tc)

DANBY FIRE DISTRICT 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 7pm. 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. 🐾 (sg)

Three kinds of people are important to your life:

- idols, who inspire you
- parents, who try to teach you
- really nice strangers, who just want to help

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. 🐾

The three “F”s of responding to danger: flee, fight, freeze.

When the politicians complain that TV turns their proceedings into a circus, it should be made plain that the circus was already there and that TV has merely demonstrated that not all the performers are well trained.

—Edward R. Murrow

There are three kinds of people: those who see, those who see when they are shown, those who do not see.

—Leonardo da Vinci

This Issue's Writers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ○ cp.... Cindy Parlett | ○ gh ... Gay Huddle |
| ○ dcc.. Comm. Council | ○ mv .. Margie VanDeMark |
| ○ dvfc ... Danby Fire Dep't | ○ pg ... Pamela Goddard |
| | ○ sg Sharon Gaden |
| | ○ tc Ted Crane |

AN ODE TO DOTSON PARK

Winter in the park, a magical sight,
A blanket of snow covers the night,
The crunch of footsteps, the cold crisp air,
A time for joy, without a care.

A story walk awaits, with tales to be told,
A journey through nature, with stories to unfold,
Sledding down hills, so fast and so fun,
Laughing and screaming, until day is done.

Snowshoeing trails, a peaceful retreat,
A chance to escape, the city's concrete,
Cross-country skiing, a workout so bright,
A way to keep fit, and enjoy the light.

Building snowmen, a childhood delight,
A chance to create, and bring joy to sight,
Having a winter picnic, with friends or alone,
A time to reflect, and be at peace, unknown.

So come to the park, and embrace the snow,
A winter wonderland, for everyone to know,
A time for laughter, and making memories,
In this magical place, filled with winter reveries.

🐾 (ChatGPT)

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TIDBITS

Recycling on President's Day

Recycling and Materials Management Office will be closed on President's Day, February 20, but the Recycling Center will remain open and there will be no change to the curbside recycling collection schedule.

ERMA Want To Help

The Equitable Retention Mortgage Assistance Program (ERMA) is a mortgage foreclosure prevention program for seniors. It's been helping reverse mortgage holders since 2019.

In 2022, ERMA was expanded to also include traditional forward mortgage holders. As of January 2023, Tompkins County is participating in the program.

ERMA provides deferred, zero-interest junior mortgages to seniors (62 and over) who are at risk of foreclosure due to mortgage arrears, condo homeowner's association fees, co-op maintenance fees, property taxes, property insurance, or other charges stemming from a temporary inability to pay that can result in foreclosure.

To apply for ERMA please contact LawNY, 607.273.3667. For other information, call 607.274.5482 or visit [tompkinscountyny.gov/cofa/erma].

Emergency HEAP

The Emergency HEAP program opened on January 3. Seniors who are low on fuel or have a shut off notice can call to apply. Applications for Regular HEAP are also being accepted. Either way, call COFA, 607.274.5482 for information. 🐾

STEM FOR YOUTH!

THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) is now accepting applications for two summer opportunities: the Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy (AEA) and the Oak Ridge Summer STEM.

- [arc.gov/appalachian-entrepreneurship-academy]
- [arc.gov/arc-oak-ridge-summer-program]

Both programs are free intensive learning experiences specifically for high school and/or middle school students. For more information, contact Jen Gregory, 607.287.9536. 🐾 (gh)

There are three kinds of people: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those who move.

—Benjamin Franklin

PREVENTING FOOD WASTE

THIS WINTER, TRY SOME OF THESE TIPS to reduce food waste while saving money:

- Plan your meals—Use Save The Food's *Guestimator* [savethefood.com] can help right-size your menu.
- Use clear storage containers so you can quickly see what is in the fridge.
- Consider an "eat first" shelf in your refrigerator to ensure items are eaten before spoiling.
- Incorporate leftovers into new dishes—try these utilizer recipes: [savethefood.com/recipes].

A food system is many things, but ultimately, it's the path food travels to get to you and me. Our food system includes how we produce, supply, consume, and dispose of food in Tompkins County.

Sign the Tompkins County Community Food System Pledge [tompkinsfoodfuture.org/pledge] to show your commitment to a resilient, equitable, and healthy food future. 🐾

Three Things That Really Matter:

- Pride in what you've done
- Interest in what you're doing
- Anticipation for what's ahead



Wintertime is when the naked trees reveal their inner structure. Stripped of leaves and highlighted by freshly fallen snow, the intertwined branches are like a map of its growth. The base of this big ol' ash tree is about 13' in diameter. -ted crane

ON ICE? HERE'S TIPS

WINTER WEATHER includes a number of hazards for pedestrians. Here's guidance on how to safely walk on icy surfaces. In short: appropriate footwear, slow movement, proper balance, and look ahead.

- Shoes with soles that give improved traction, such as those made with rubber or neoprene, can help prevent slips and falls. Wearing flat-soled shoes and avoiding shoes with heels is also recommended.
- Moving slowly and maintaining your center of gravity with each step can help prevent slips and falls.
- When needed, take short, shuffling steps. This will help prevent slips and falls.
- Look ahead while walking. It allows you to spot potential hazards and plan your steps accordingly. Travel along the edge of icy sidewalks.
- If you fall backward, bend your head and neck forward to avoid striking the ground with your head.

It's important to be aware of the surface you are walking on and to take the necessary precautions to prevent slips and falls. Avoid going out in icy conditions; sometimes it's better to stay home. 🐼 (ChatGPT)

(Based on info from Bangs Ambulance. —editor)

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SENIORS UPDATE

THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS of the Danby Seniors are on Thursdays, February 2 and March 2, at Noon in the Danby Community Church. The meetings feature dish to share luncheons. It's a great opportunity for the senior community to come together!

The Seniors' travel committee could use some new members! Contact Pat Phelps, 607.539.6477, or Nancy Gould, 607.273.8705 if you're interested. 🐼 (mv)

FREE TAX PREPARATION

LIFELONG is again offering free tax preparation. The service is available to seniors who are 60 years or older and their spouses of any age, to individuals with disabilities, and to families with incomes below \$60,000. However, it's worth noting that some complex returns may not qualify.

This is a great opportunity for seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families to get help with their taxes and ensure that they get the maximum refund they are entitled to.

The service is available by appointment from February 4 until April 14. Seniors and those whose returns were completed last year can schedule appointments now by calling 607.216.7862, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. Others who are eligible can start calling on March 1 to schedule appointments.

Check the website [tclifelong.org] for more information. 🐼 (ChatGPT)

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

New titles added:

- The Windsor—SJ Bennett
- Rage—Jonathan Kellerman
- Unfinished Business—JA Jance
- Not a Happy Family—Shari Lapena
- Burial Rites—Hannah Kent
- As the Wicked Watch—Tamron Hall
- A Reason to Lie—Emily Littlejohn
- The Art of Mending—Elizabeth Berg
- The Murder House—James Patterson & David Ellis
- The Silent Sister—Diane Chamberlain
- The Wife Between Us—G.Hendricks & S.Pekkaner.

Adult Fiction books from TCPL have arrived. 🐼 (cp)

Feb 2023

DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

Feb 1 • Wed

National Change Your Password Day

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

Public Hearing: Property Tax Exemptions

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 16 • Thu

4pm 🏠 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry

Feb 19 • Sun

8-11am 🏠 DVFC Station • Pancake Breakfast

Feb 21 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Town Hall+Zoom • Planning Board Meeting

Feb 22 • Wed

6pm 🏠 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting

Feb 28 • Tue

National Public Sleeping Day

7pm 🏠 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting

Mar 1 • Wed

World Compliment Day

5pm 🏠 WD Fire Station • West Danby Water District

Mar 2 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Community Church • Seniors Meeting

7pm 🏠 Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg

Mar 4 • Sat

9am 🏠 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Mar 7 • Tue

6pm 🏠 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting

Mar 12 • Sun

3pm 🏠 Community Church

Community Council Concert: Dee Specker

Mar 13 • Mon

7pm 🏠 DVFC Station • Fire Dep't Meeting

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

Mar 14 • Tue

7pm 🏠 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting

7pm 🏠 Zoom • Conservation Advisory Council

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 🔄🔄🔄🔄

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

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Feb 7	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Feb 14	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	Feb 21	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Feb 22	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	None, yet	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!