



DANBY NEWS

DEE SPECKER & BOB WALPOLE CONCERT

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S FIRST LIVE CONCERT of the 2023 season will take place on Sunday, March 12, 3pm in the Danby Community Church's Fellowship Hall, 1859 Danby Road (NYS Rt.96B opposite Bald Hill Road). It features Danby resident Dee Specker and her musical partner, Bob Walpole. Come out for a fun-filled afternoon of Pop, Swing, and Jazz favorites. You might even find yourself singing along on the choruses.



The DCC is pleased to have the Danby Church as a new community partner, and looks forward to a great season in such an accessible location.

Refreshments will be available, and the concert is suitable for all ages. There is no admission fee.

Dee Specker is an award-winning recording artist and Grammy nominee. Dee became well known as a singer and fiddler with *Cornerstone*, a nationally recognized bluegrass band. She can be found performing with such Ithaca area musicians as the Henrie Brothers, Patti Witten, Rick Manning, and John Simon. She plays a wide range of music: Bluegrass, Swing, Jazz, and beyond.

Bob Walpole has performed on both coasts, primarily as a solo

performer. Walpole and Specker have played more than 800 shows during their years together. Attendees can expect to hear covers of songs by the likes of James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, and Fleetwood Mac.

While COVID restrictions have been loosened by NY State, being vaccinated and wearing a mask are strongly encouraged. For the safety and protection of everyone,

CONCERT GRANT AWARD

THE DANBY COMMUNITY COUNCIL IS THRILLED to announce that we have been awarded a Grant for Arts Programs grant, through Tompkins County's Community Arts Partnership, to present a year-long series of concerts. These funds are dedicated to bringing a range of styles of quality music to our rural community.

The DCC began presenting its concert series in 1999, thanks to the vision and energy of Robert Strichartz, who wrote the first grant application to CAP. CAP has supported this program every year since then.

All DCC concerts are free and open to everyone. We aim for a variety of styles, including classical, jazz, folk and world music, country, and bluegrass.

The grant award was competitive and the Danby Community Council came up on top. CAP received 75 requests for 2023 GAP funding, significantly more than in 2022. After being shut down for years due to the pandemic, the arts community is ready and able to bring back live performances. The DCC's application and funding were in the upper tier of awards.

Thanks to this grant support and the support of DCC friends, all of our events are free. "Take a chance" on different types of music. Listen to new and different performers. Families with young children are welcome; it's a good musical exposure for youngsters and there's great joy in seeing seeing instruments played "up close and personal". 🎶 (pg)

See page 3 for info about Alchemy on April 2 🔄

consider COVID testing ahead of time, especially if you're not feeling well.

This is a free concert, thanks to *CAP Grants for Art Programs* support. Donations to cover refreshments and other incidentals are always welcome. We can also use volunteer assistance in setting up and cleaning up the hall on concert afternoons.

This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re-grants program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the offices of the Governor, the NYS Legislature, and Tompkins County, administered by the **COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP** of Tompkins County. 🎶 (pg)

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March 2023

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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



Spring is coming Soon!
 —Photo by Anne Becker

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. γ

PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

THE PREPAREDNESS CORPS gives residents the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster or emergency, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

Its next training session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 6pm in the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby Road. The training is free of charge, but registration is required at [\[prepare.ny.gov\]](https://prepare.ny.gov). NYS Disaster Preparedness Kits will be distributed to participants.

Corps training began in February 2014 and resumed last fall following the pandemic. The trainings are led by the New York National Guard working with experts from the state Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and are coordinated with local county emergency management personnel. 🐾

WHY A TON?

AVISITOR TO MY CLOSET exclaimed, "How many T-shirts do you have? You could wear one a day for a year without laundry!"



The collection has been growing for about 50 years. It started with shirts chosen by my parents. A lot of it is best described as "swag" (promotional items) from a lifetime of conventions, festivals, and mail-in offers.

Today's chosen shirt features artwork advertising *Taransaud*, a cooperage (barrel maker) in Merpins, France. It's swag from a wine-industry trade show I attended in the ought-ies. One word of the logo, "tonnellerie," caught my eye; it translates to "cooper" or "barrel-maker". It made me ask, is that related to the unit of weight, the "ton".

You'betcha. The old English word for a big barrel is, "tun."

A tun is a large cask that generally holds 2 butts (no jokes, here), a volume approximately equal to 250 gallons of ale (or 300 gallons of wine). Historical references note that, "these standards were not always precisely adhered to."

You've heard the rule-of-thumb, "A pint's a pound the world around." Let's do the arithmetic.

Two pints in a quart, four quarts in a gallon, 250 gallons in a tun. That's 2000 pints in a tun...and that's a ton.

For further study: What does all that have to do with heating and air-conditioning? Look it up. 🐾 (tc)

ALCHEMY IN CONCERT

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S SECOND CONCERT of the season will take place on Sunday, April 2, 2pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Road (NYS Rt.96B opposite Bald Hill Road). The event features the magical sound of the New England musical trio Alchemy: Rachel Bell, accordion, Karen Axelrod, piano, and Eric Martin, violin and viola. This is a rare treat, as the band seldom travels to this area. Music lovers can simply relax in their chairs and be taken on a lush musical journey.

Alchemy brings together three dynamic players who have recorded extensively and performed across North America and Europe. As a trio, their improvisatory style brings a contemporary and innovative feel to both traditional and newly composed tunes and songs. From driving Scottish Reels to French Mazurkas and everything in between, Alchemy delights the listener with heartfelt performances with a touch of whimsy.

Some of gems in Alchemy's repertoire are the lyrical and varied compositions by Rachel Bell, available in her recently published book *This Part of the World*.

The hall is easily accessible. Refreshments will be available, and the concert is suitable for all ages.

While COVID restrictions have been loosened by NY State, being vaccinated and wearing a mask are strongly encouraged. For the safety and protection of everyone, consider COVID testing ahead of time, especially if you're not feeling well.

Thanks to *CAP Grants for Art Programs* support, there is no admission fee. Donations to cover refreshments and other incidentals are always welcome.

This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re-grants program administered by the **COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP** of Tompkins County. 🐾 (pg)

MARCH MID-MORNING MEALS

DRIVE-THRU BREAKFAST

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



SUNDAY MAR 19TH 8-11 AM

**HELP US GET NEW
JAWS OF LIFE!**



WHAT THE TOWN DIDN'T TELL YOU

The Zoning process is not intended to protect neighbors or neighborhoods...only the law is, and ours may not.

ACROSS OUR TOWN LINE, over in Caroline, there's an emotional battle playing out over Zoning. You can't help but to notice the colorful signs on the road, like, "We pay you, you work for us," "Farmers against zoning," and even one suggesting, "We need carefully planned zoning."

Over here in Danby, for most of us, most of the time, Zoning is a bore. It's really hard to get residents interested in zoning issues. Almost impossible...until a change comes to the neighborhood.

Danby's Zoning Law was recently rewritten. The process started off with the formation of a Planning Group. About two dozen residents attended the initial meetings. Pretty much everything was done by consensus and voting. As the process continued—and a very different Planner was hired—attendance dwindled. Some felt they weren't being listened to, or their concerns were treated dismissively.

Much effort was directed toward development of the Hamlet areas of Danby and West Danby. Proposals were often illustrated with maps and photos of downtowns like Trumansburg and Dryden. Think: Downtown Danby.

When it came time to talk about "rural" Danby, minimum lot sizes increased; not as much as some thought would be needed to preserve rural character, but more than others preferred in order to be able to monetize a family property.

In all of this, little "bench-checking" was done to identify edge-of-the-envelope cases. Bench-checking is the process of inventing tests—unexpected cases—to see whether a design handles them well.

By the time the Town Board was asked to vote the new Zoning into law, it was already known that changes would be needed. During the public hearing, one resident (full disclosure: me) bemoaned the lack of checking, predicting that each unintended consequence would result in hardship or loss of quality of life for neighbors, and that Danby would become a checkerboard of problems that were fixed *after* a property was developed.

These errors are already affecting neighborhoods. Zoning decisions—subdivisions and site plans—are made in a way that doesn't put a lot of weight on what neighbors think; that's supposed to be baked into the Zoning Law. If the Zoning law, the basis for all decisions, does not prohibit something, then it can happen. If it can happen, it will happen.

One of the more heated discussions by the Planning Group involved *setbacks*. Setbacks provide a border within the outline of a property, where little or no buildings can be placed. They protect against new construction too close to a neighboring property. Some argued that, in a zone with a 10-acre minimum lot size, proportionately large setbacks would be a good idea. It didn't happen.



Within months of the passage of the Zoning Ordinance, a "you could never build on that, anyway" property—a ½-acre triangle in a 10-acre-minimum zone—in eastern Danby was purchased with the intent to build. The new owner successfully pushed the edge of the envelope. He figured

out how to defeat the intent of the zone and squeeze two buildings into the tiny lot. It's possible that larger setbacks would have preserved the neighborhood's rural character.

The neighbors were frustrated, almost to the point of suing the Town for misleading them about whether the lot could be built on. Sadly, the Zoning law said it could be done, therefore it was done...and no amount of legal wrangling would change it.

Another case is currently playing out near the center of Danby. The Zoning Law has allowed a clever—and some say manipulative—owner to build a home with many bedrooms with the intent of renting them for short terms. The decision process cannot take neighborhood concerns into account or, for that matter, the past promises or activities of the owner. The proposed use was not anticipated by the Zoning Law and, as a result, some are afraid they'll end up with a motel for a neighbor.

Moral of the story: plan ahead. Don't wait for a surprise to come your way. Get interested in Zoning, imagine the unanticipated problems, and be sure your Law handles them the way you think it should. Get involved! ♻️ (tc)

**Gather up your differences
and throw them in the air.
Give them to the wind
that shakes the barley.**

This Issue's Writers

○ cp.... Cindy Parlett
○ dcc.. Comm. Council
○ gh ... Gay Huddle

○ mb.. Mary Ann Barr
○ mv ..Margie VanDeMark
○ pg ... Pamela Goddard
○ tc Ted Crane

REMINISCING #7

IWENT BACK to read my Ithaca Journal column from March 17, 2005. I enjoy St. Patrick's Day. Wearing green, shamrocks, pots of gold at the end of the rainbow, green beer, leprechauns, and of course my very favorite meal, corned beef and cabbage! "May the road rise up to meet you, and may the wind be always at your back."

In that 2005 column I gave a shout out to Andrew Dunnick for being named *Tompkins County Youth of the Month*. Besides an outstanding school record, Andrew received this award primarily for his service to Danby as a member of the Danby Fire and Rescue!

Meetings were being held to discuss ideas for the Danby Community Park. Those who have dedicated their time and energy to the park are to be congratulated for their hard work. Recently, to date, many events have been held at the park, which is good for drawing a neighborhood together.

Other areas of discussion on the Danby Town Board schedule during this time were taxes and highway projects. This was 2005 and it's now 2023 and taxes are *always* on the agenda, aren't they? It's a subject that is always on our minds, no matter what year it is!

I wrote about the many daycare options in Danby in 2005. We were lucky to have them as so many working parents needed to know their children were well cared-for. Home daycare is not an easy job; I know first-hand, as I provided it in my home for many years when my own kids were young. Eric Miller and I still joke about the time Eric cut Jeff's hair while they were fooling around in our basement (and why there were scissors involved at play, I really don't know to this day!). Needless to say, it took me a long time before I could joke about it because Eric did not do a very good job! Eric and Jeff are now in their 50s!

Easter was on March 27 and services were held at Jennings Pond and at the Danby Federated Church (now known as the Danby Community Church), as well as breakfast at the church. In 2023, Easter falls on April 9. 🐰 (gh)

MORE ON LAWSUITS

RONDA ROARING added some info to last month's *What The Town Didn't Tell You*: the record of suits is public. You can find *Roaring v. Town of Danby*, case number 2022-0216, at [tompkinscountyny.gov/cclerk].

She noted that, "...these cases consumed a huge amount of the Planner's time and that [Roaring v. Danby] didn't show one way or the other if the Planner was at fault." Ronda added, "They have a right to know." 🐰

PLANTING ST. PATRICK'S GREEN FOR THE *DANBY NEWS*

ST. PATRICK'S DAY ROLLS AROUND on March 17 every year. It's a time for wearing of the green, green beer, green eggs and ham, and, for many people, enjoying themselves with good friends.

If you've read this far, one of your good friends is the *Danby News*. We can't go drinking with you but, for the price of a few pints of green beer, you can continue to enjoy community news and cheers and share it with your neighbors.


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, March 17 is also *National Red Nose Day*. Sláinte! 🍀 (dcc)

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NATIONAL SLAM THE SCAM DAY

MARCH 9, 2023 IS National Slam the Scam Day. Throughout the year, the SSA provides tips about Social Security-related scams to help you stop scammers from stealing your money and personal information. Share scam information with your loved ones. Slam the Scam!

Recognize the four basic signs of a scam:

- Scammers pretend to be from a familiar organization or agency, like the Social Security Administration. They may eMail attachments with official-looking logos, seals, signatures, or pictures of employee credentials.
- Scammers mention a problem or a prize. They may say your Social Security number was involved in a crime or ask for personal information to process a benefit increase.
- Scammers pressure you to act immediately. They may threaten you with arrest or legal action.
- Scammers tell you to pay using a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire or money transfer, or by mailing cash. They may also tell you to transfer your money to a "safe" account.

Ignore scammers and report criminal behavior. Report Social Security-related scams to the SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Visit [ssa.gov/scam] for more information. 🐼

MEDICARE HELP

DO YOU NEED TO MAKE CHANGES to your Medicare Advantage Plan?

Contact the Tompkins County Office for the Aging for assistance. It has counselors to help you by comparing plans and providing you with information to make an informed decision on your Medicare benefits.

The Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment Period is January 1–March 31 each year. If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you can switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan or switch to Original Medicare (and join a separate Medicare drug plan) once during this time.

What you can't do during this period, is switch from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan, or change the drug plan associated with your Original Medicare.

Call the TCOA, 607.274.5482 to schedule an appointment to work with one of its Medicare Counselors. 🐼

HISTORY'S STILL A MYSTERY

RECENTLY this photograph of a fire engine was sent to me. The sender asked where the location of the picture was and if the Coddington Road Fire Department was indeed one of Danby's fire departments.



Some old timers in town and Fire Chief John Gaden confirmed that the location is

along Coddington in the Town of Danby and that there was a third Danby Fire Department until the 1960s.

The mystery to this bit of history is the identity of the young man beside the fire truck. If you know who he is you can eMail me at [mbarr@danby.ny.gov] or call 607.277.4788 and leave a message.

Another recent inquiry was about an escaped slave, William Simms, who lived in Danby in the 1800s. The question began with a description of Simms: he escaped from the plantation in Virginia where he was a slave, and how he ended up in Danby. That interesting story is posted on the Historian's bulletin board in Danby's Town Hall; there are copies for anyone who wants to one home. Or you can visit [tompkins.nygenweb.net] and search for "william simms".

The mystery here is where Simms and his wife are buried. It was thought they were buried in Danby's Methodist Episcopal Cemetery but there is no evidence of that. Where were the Simms buried? Please contact me (above) if you have any information. 🐼 (mb)

FREE TAX PREPARATION

LIFELONG is again offering free tax preparation, and there's still time to sign up for it.

The service is available by appointment until April 14. Schedule appointments now by calling 607.216.7862, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. Visit [tclifelong.org] for more information. 🐼

I think, said the blinking mink, that you are linked to a winking fink and you must drink pink ink from the kinked sink at the skating rink.

IVOTED STICKER CONTEST

THE TOMPKINS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS is running a contest and, for once, it isn't an election! To increase civic engagement and participation by young people in Tompkins County, they're being asked to design an I Voted sticker.

The contest is open to younger folk in Grades 9-12. Submissions will be accepted until May 1, 2023. Contest rules and the submission form can be found at [tcgov.co/2023sticker].

The artwork must say, "I Voted," and must fit inside a 2-inch diameter circle. It must be original and may be hand drawn or created using a computer.

The TCBoE will choose six finalists and a community vote by Tompkins County residents will select the winner.

The winning design will be printed and glued to lapel of every voter during the 2023 General Election on November 7. 🐾

A priest, a rabbit, and a minister walk into a bar.
The barkeep asks the rabbit what he wants to drink.
"I don't know," says the rabbit. "SpellCheck sent me here."

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SENIORS UPDATE

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE DANBY SENIORS will be a dish to share lunch on Thursday, March 2, Noon, in the Danby Community Church.

Cindy Cerrache has arranged for a speaker from the Honor Flight to talk to us. Cindy volunteers for this organization and collects shoes (gently used or new) for them as a fund raiser. You could bring shoes if you have some to be rid of!

During our April 6 meeting, we will have storyteller Regi Carpenter with us presenting *Where there's smoke there's dinner*. Pat Phelps arranged this for us.

The travel committee has been busy and several trips are in the works for this year! The May 2 trip to Villa Roma is nearly full. Contact Pat Phelps, 607.539.6477 or [patriciaphelps2.0@gmail.com] for info. 🐾 (mv)

FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS

DANBY'S COMMUNITY CHURCH is offering Free Coffee And Donuts Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on March 20 and April 17. Open to the public! 1859 Danby Road, 607.272.1687, [danbychurch.org].

They're in need of prep and cleanup volunteers. 🐾

CHICKEN AND BISCUITS

COME TO THE CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER at Danby's Community Church on March 10, 5-7pm (address above). Bird and biscuit with all the trimmings, beverage and dessert. By donation. 🐾

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

PICTURE BOOKS from the TC Public Library have arrived and are available along with the rest of our children's books. We have an area specifically for children, with a small table, toys (on request), board books, lift the flap books, and some all time favorites:

- Alice Schertle's *Little Blue Truck* series
- *The Berenstain Bears*
- *Dr. Seuss*
- *I Spy*
- *Henry and Mudge*
- *Nate the Great*
- Marc Brown's *Arthur* series
- *Little Critters* by Mercer Mayer
- James Dean's *Pete the Cat* series

🐾 (cp)

Mar 2023

DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

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 🏠 DVFC Station • Preparedness Training

6pm 🏠 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting

Mar 10 • Fri

5-7pm 🏠 Community Church • Chik'n 'n Biscuits

Mar 12 • Sun

3am 🏠 U.S.A. • Clocks Spring Forward

3pm 🏠 Community Church ⬅️ don't be an hour late!

Community Council Concert:

Dee Specker & Bob Walpole

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

Mar 16 • Thu

4pm 🏠 Community Church • Danby Food Pantry

Mar 17 • Fri

All Day 🏠 Everywhere • St. Patrick's Day

All Day 🏠 U.S.A. • National Red Nose Day

Mar 19 • Sun

8-11am 🏠 DVFC Station • Pancake Breakfast

Mar 20 • Mon

8am 🏠 Community Church • Coffee and Donuts

Mar 21 • Tue

7pm 🏠 Town Hall+Zoom • Planning Board Meeting

Mar 22 • Wed

6pm 🏠 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting

Mar 28 • Tue

7pm 🏠 DVFC Station/YouTube • Fire District Meeting

Apr 1 • Sat

Day of the Fool!

9am 🏠 Town Hall • Library Volunteers Meeting

Apr 2 • Sun

2pm 🏠 Community Church ⬅️ don't be an hour late!

Community Council Concert: Alchemy

Apr 4 • Tue

6pm 🏠 Town Hall+Zoom • Town Board Meeting

Apr 6 • Thu

Noon 🏠 Community Church • Seniors Meeting

7pm 🏠 Zoom • Danby Community Council Mtg

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

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Mar 7	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Mar 14	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	Mar 21	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Mar 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!