July 2023 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

Summer Market Continues July 21

The second Summer Market is on Friday, July 21, 4-6pm. This year the market has moved to the covered pavilion outside the Danby Fire Station. The shelter opens the market to new and different vendors. There's plenty of parking in the lot on Gunderman Road. Please don't park in front of the fire station.

The Danby Summer Market features some of our very local farmers, along with herbalists, artists, and crafts makers. You will find Shagbark Gardens, Finca La Abundancia, Steinhaus Farm, Pica Flor Farm, Whiskey Cane Production, Karlee Creations, photography by Linda Wyatt and Ted Crane. And more!

There will be music each month at the Market. The Community Council (with thanks to funding from a CAP GAP grant) is pleased to provide support funding for the musicians. Each month will be something different: July 21, *Six Mile Craic*; August 18, *Pamela Goddard*; and September is *TBA*. (pg)

Annual ReUse & Bake Sale

It's time for Danby's biggest and best ReUse sale (a.k.a. yard sale, rummage sale). It's at (and in) the Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Road, on Friday, July 28, 3-7pm and Saturday, July 29, 9am-1pm.

You'll find furniture, kitchen and household items, linens, books, toys, sporting, jewelry, knick-knacks, accessories, and more. A bit of everything except clothing. Indoors in the Fellowship Hall and outside on a tarp under the trees.

If you have useful items that you no longer use, please drop them off at the Church starting on Monday, July 24, whenever someone is available. Or call 607.273.8241 to arrange a drop-off time. (sb)

Democratic Primary Results

If voter turnout was an indicator, *Danby News* readers were unaware that there was a Democratic Primary for Town Clerk on June 27. It is also possible that they thought their vote wouldn't matter. The unofficial results include participation by only 81 voters (some absentee and affidavit ballots have not yet been counted) out of about 1,500 eligible to vote. That's roughly a 5 percent turnout.

What's more, all signs point to the outcome that voters elected someone who will not take office. As reported in the June issue of the *Danby News*, Mariah Dillon—the apparent winner with 42 votes—had announced in early May, "I have withdrawn my candidacy for Town Clerk."

Janice Adelman, the incumbent Clerk, tallied 33 votes on the unofficial results, and write-ins collected 6 votes.

As explained in the June issue, Steve DeWitt, one of the Tompkins County Election Commissioners, said that, once a candidate has accepted a place on the ballot, their name cannot be removed unless they leave the County. The winner's name will appear on the Democratic line of the General Election ballot in November. That race will be uncontested. Barring an unusually effective write-in campaign leading up to the General Election, Danby voters have elected someone who will not serve.

Absent a reversal of intent, when next year begins and the winner does not take the oath of office... the Town Board will be required to appoint a Clerk without voter input.

In related news, the Town Board is preparing to pass a law to abolish the Clerk's office and make it an appointed one. A similar law has been rejected by voters three times in the recent past. *See separate article in this issue.* (tc)

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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More Seniors . . . . . ⑦
Community Library . . . . . ⑦
Calendar . . . . . ⑧

July 2023

Layout: Ted Crane
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Ted and Pamela; others.
Post Office Crew:
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To contribute items:
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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.

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

Peonies photo by Ted Crane, gardening by Pamela Goddard

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: Claire Peters-Lunny

Would you know what to do if you found an injured or abandoned opossum and/or her young? The best thing to do is find a wildlife rehabilitation specialist. You might call the vet school at Cornell. Or you might find your way to Wild by Nurture, founded by Claire Peters-Lunny and supported by her team of wildlife rescue volunteers.

Amazing things are happening in a suburban home on the edge of Danby. Hundreds of rabbits, groundhogs (a.k.a. woodchucks), and opossums are raised, nursed to health, and (whenever possible) released back into the wild. During 2022, Claire cared for well over 400 animals. In her current pace, with the help of pre-release volunteers, *Wild by Nature* can care for up to 120 animals at a time.

Claire started with raccoon rehab several years ago, when she was a stay-at-home mom. She got interested in caring for wild animals, and qualified for a license from the NYS DEC. Today, with a Class 2 Wildlife Rehabilitator License, she can train others to do this work. Her *Wild by Nurture* support team is known statewide as a resource for the rescue and rehabilitation of opossums.

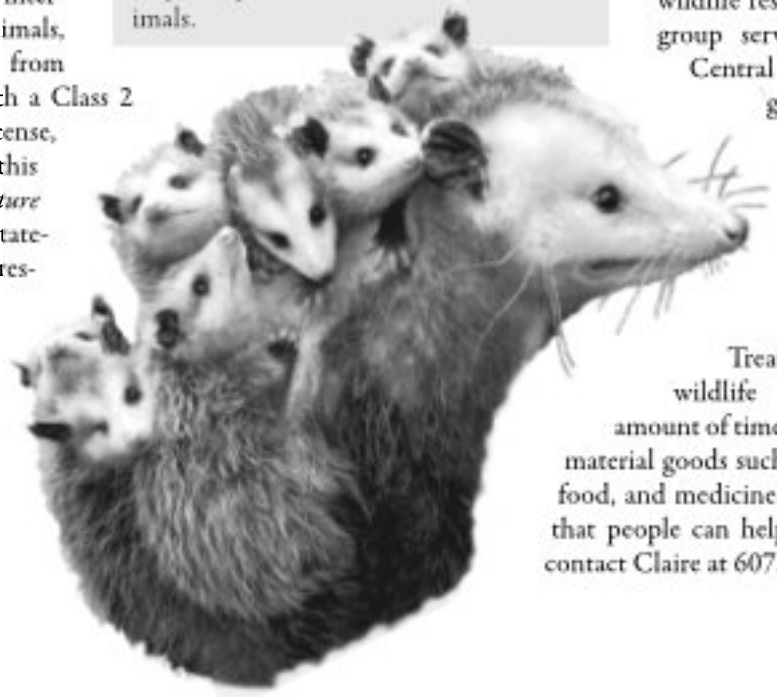
There are now at least two volunteers in Danby who have gained their licenses and several volunteers who assist with pre-release care.

Fun facts about opossums from Claire Peters-Lunny

Mother opossums and their young
Young can live in pouch of injured or dead mother for several days. So, if you hit a opossum, or find one on the side of the road, check it out to see if there are live young there.

Opossums and insect control
Tick control. Spending time on the ground, they can attract and get covered by ticks. However, like cats, they are constant groomers. So they clean off and eat lots of ticks. They also eat bugs—they especially like gypsy/sponge moth caterpillars. They will hunt those down and gobble them up.

Opossums and rabies
Because of their cool metabolism, opossums are resistant to rabies. If a rabid animal dies and something else eats the carcass, that animal could get the disease. But opossums can eat the carcass of something that died from rabies and not get sick. By cleaning up these dead critters, they help stop the spread of rabies between wild animals.



Almost all of the need to care for wildlife arises from human interactions of some kind. Animals are hit by cars and are attacked or damaged by domestic animals. Sometimes, they are sickened by toxins such as lead, poisons, and even parasites.

Claire sees the need as huge and beyond what she can do with her limited space. She hopes to set up a wildlife rehab center on a larger piece of land, and she hopes that this can happen in Danby. She's actively looking for land with a barn, or where a barn/shelter can be built. Beyond rehabilitation, the facility could also be an educational center where people can learn more about our wild animal neighbors and how to live in peaceful coexistence with them.

Wild by Nurture's mission is to rescue, raise, and rehabilitate orphaned, injured, or sick wildlife and return them to their habitats.

This small, volunteer-based wildlife rescue and rehabilitation group serves small animals in Central New York. Help is urgently needed to expand their services. The effort is run entirely on donations, which go directly into caring for wildlife.

Treating and caring for wildlife takes an incredible amount of time and patience, but also material goods such as housing, bedding, food, and medicine. There are many ways that people can help. If you're interested, contact Claire at 607.342.5512. (pg)

Rebalancing The Bargain

Would you give up this...for that?

Katherine Miller, of the *NY Times*, recently wrote about the changing balance between American individuals and their government. She observed that, "The more complex a problem is, the more intimate it is, the more Americans tend to resist and distrust the idea of governmental intrusion and authority."

So, would you be willing to pay "this" kind of tax in exchange for the option to be able to do "that"? This kind of trade, Miller says, "suggest how fragile and uneasy is the contract between citizen and state." There are times when citizens might want to change the balance and, sometimes, the balance is at risk of being changed without the citizens' explicit consent.

All around America, the bargaining table feels like it's tilting. In the 21st century, the bargain between citizen and state is rebalancing in unpredictable ways, many unwanted by the public. In some places, this takes the form of the legislature trying to restrict the process of citizen-initiated ballot propositions. In other places, the government is trying to convert elected offices into ones where it hires and fires.

So, would you give up this...for that? (tc)

Danby News Wants Support

If you're looking for more than sanitized announcements from official sources, the *Danby News* is the place to go. Of course, this comes at a price. We have to pay the bills and we have to keep asking for your help.

Share news and cheers with your neighbors. Pay for your—and maybe their—subscription ($10-15 or more per household). Larger contributions support our community-building efforts. Join the **Danby 100**!

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. (dcc)

Reminiscing #11

I went back to my July 4, 2013 column for this information.

I had written about the new Chestnut Lean-to located in the Danby State Forest. It was then the newest of many on the Finger Lakes Trail. The original Chestnut Lean-to was erected about 1966.

Paul Warrender, Trail Maintenance Chair for the Cayuga Trails Club was in charge of the project. Paul's crew of construction volunteers, who built these lean-tos, was called the Alley Cats. The name means "Alle-gheny to the Cat-skills!"

The Finger Lakes Trail, at 570 miles, is New York's longest hiking trail: from Allegheny State Park at the Pennsylvania border to its intersection with the Long Path Trail in the Catskills. The entire trail system is approximately 950 miles.

All of the logs for this newest lean-to came from the American Larch (or Tamarack), best known for its waterproof tendency and toughness. The lean-to is a prime overnight camping spot in the area, a great destination for a family picnic or just a rest while hiking the trail.

I wished a happy retirement to Donna Mosher of Danby after 41-plus years on the job at Ithaca College, and to long-time South Hill Elementary School teacher Linda Duttweiler.

I dedicated this 2013 column to all the men and women who have served in our armed forces. I find that to be totally appropriate, not only because of the strong feelings I have for our military personnel, but also because currently our grand-daughter, Maddison Huddle, has also been serving in the ROTC program while attending Temple University in Philadelphia. Imagine our pride when we see her in her uniform or her Army fatigues, while listening to her stories about Boot Camp! It has been pretty amazing!

In 2023, I hope everyone is having a happy Summer. Have fun, be safe, don't forget the sunscreen. (gh)

Notice is hereby given that the fiscal affairs of the Danby Fire District for the period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on December 31, 2022, have been examined by an independent public accountant, Insero & Co. PAs, LLP, that the report of external audit by the independent public accountant has been filed in my office where it is available as a public record for inspection by all interested persons. Pursuant to Section 181-b of the Town Law, the governing board of the Danby Fire District shall, if necessary, prepare a written response and corrective action plan to the report of external audit of the independent public account and file any such response and corrective action plan in my office as a public record for inspection by all interested persons not later than 90 days from the date hereof.

Dated: June 1, 2023
Sharon Gaden, Secretary
By Order of the Danby Fire District

What The Town Didn't Tell You

Providing information that's not available elsewhere

The Town Board is preparing to pass a law that will, "abolish the elected Town Clerk and create a Town Board-appointed Town Clerk position." A Public Hearing—an opportunity for the public to weigh in—has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 19 at 6pm.

In the recent past, a similar law has been rejected by voters three times; twice at the ballot box. The third attempt was abandoned after spirited—and negative—response during the Public Hearing.

Laws like this, because they eliminate the right of the public to choose, must be approved by voters during a *mandatory referendum*. If the Town Board passes its Law, voters must agree to give up the power of the vote.

The Town Board's discussion during meetings has been, at times, frankly political. In effect, how will this action affect its own future electability? Members have acknowledged that they are ignoring the public's will. There has been little in the way of clear, long-term reasons to take this action; instead, the focus has been on differences between *this* Board and *this* Clerk. The Board barely acknowledges that they chose this Clerk (when the previous Clerk resigned), nor do they seem to have accepted that this Clerk is dissatisfied with the Board's performance.

Read the Supervisor's text in July's issue of the Town [Board] News *for confirmation of this paragraph.*

Tension between Clerks and Town Boards is almost a fact of life, and not just in Danby. Elected officials can regret their words or reasoning...and want them removed from the record. It is not unfair to say that the last three or four Danby Clerks have, at times, been pressured to revise minutes to reflect what the Board wants recorded for posterity, rather than what was said. Independently elected Clerks answer to voters, not to their employers.

If the proposed Law is passed, the Board would hire a Clerk. The Board has discussed a search committee to recommend a candidate. However, the proposed committee would consist of Board members, other employees of the Board, and a member of the public chosen by the Board. Perhaps, another Clerk or two—of the Board's choice—would be involved.

An observer might conclude that the committee is a way for the Board to appear to be at arm's length...while remaining in control of the process.

The Board's reasoning is often inconsistent. It noted that, typically, with only one candidate running, voters have little choice in who they elect as Clerk. Yet, the same weakness applies to the Town Board. Typically, only one candidate runs for each Town Board seat. Voters have no real choice and the Board is not representative of the voter's will.

NYS Town Law assigns a single, important task to Town Clerks: keeping the records; in particular, recording the minutes of Town Board meetings (the Clerk may be asked to take on additional responsibilities, but records and minutes are in the Law). The law created an independent, elected Clerk to keep objective minutes of the Town Board's deliberations.

While some larger Towns—those with tens of thousands of residents and rich administrative departments—currently appoint Clerks, the vast majority of NY's 900+ Towns continue to operate smoothly with elected Clerks. In small towns the Clerk is often a one- or two-person department. Working together closely requires a good relationship and, for this reason, NYS Town Law specifies that an *elected* clerk can appoint a Deputy without Town Board approval.

The Town Clerk is the public face of the Town government. For many residents, the Clerk is the only official they have contact with.

Go to the Public Hearing, speak out and pay attention to the ballot in November. (tc)

Accessible Phone Calling

You can dial 711 to connect to TRS (Telecommunications Relay Service) from anywhere in the United States, including Danby. TRS makes it possible for persons with a hearing or speech disability to place and receive calls, and it supports English and Spanish Text-to-Voice TTY, Voice Carry Over, Hearing Carry Over, and Speech-to-Speech.

It's fast, functional and free! TRS providers are compensated for the costs of providing TRS from either a state or a federal fund, and there is no charge to the TRS user other than standard calling rates. TRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and all calls are confidential.

In the event of an emergency, TTY users should call 911 directly and not make a TTY-based TRS call via 711.

For more information, google "trs 711".

Summer (and year-round) weather and emergency idea: Sign up for Tompkins County's emergency location-based alerts. Visit **[tompkinscountyny.gov/siren].**

Woodchuck Go Away

Humane Animal Eviction

There are many sources for information about encouraging unwanted animals to go somewhere else. Removal and relocating animals usually does not work out well.

Patience is the best thing. Most wild animals that take up residence near your home in spring are seeking a safe place to raise their young. Once the young are able to be on their own, the adults will usually move on. If you can't wait for the animals to leave on their own, the next best strategy is humane eviction—gently harassing the animals so they'll move to an alternative location.

Wild animals have a sophisticated knowledge of their home ranges (the area in which they spend almost their entire life). Alternative places of refuge are part of that knowledge. Litters can, and will, be moved if disturbed.

Try using a combination of unpleasant smells and sounds. The size of the denning space and the amount of ventilation will largely influence if such repellents will work. Try to convert an attractive space (quiet, dark, and protected) into one that is inhospitable. You could try rags soaked in a strong smelling substance such as cider vinegar (not ammonia), lights, and even a blaring radio during nighttime hours.

Groundhogs, also known as woodchucks, whistle pigs, or moonacks, are some of the most unwanted critters in our area. They will destroy pretty much any vegetation they can lay their paws on, including the contents of your garden, your yard, and other outdoor spaces. They have a preference for vegetables and legumes, but, true to their moniker, they are also happy to dine on twigs, bark, wood chips and pretty much anything else that's available.

Because of their big appetite and willingness to settle for whatever food is available, groundhogs can be incredibly difficult. You'll have to be as persistent as they are. They are most likely to do damage during October, right before they enter their months-long hibernation period. During this time, they are able to consume twenty percent of their body weight in a single day, making them insatiable for food.

Here are some recommended options.

- **Use Hair Clippings in Burrows**
  The next time you trim your beard or get a haircut, put the cuttings in mesh bags and place them near any burrows you find in your yard. The scent will convince them that humans are nearby, which will make them scurry.
- **Use Castor Oil to Cast Them Aside**
  Groundhogs despise the smell of castor oil, so you can get rid of them by mixing one part castor oil with three parts water in a spray bottle and spraying the mixture in and around the burrows in your yard.
- **Don't Waste Your Pets' Waste**
  Groundhogs regard dogs and cats as predators, so if you sprinkle dog urine or used cat litter around groundhog burrows, they'll leave the area immediately. Icky...but effective.
- **Use Spices to Your Advantage**
  Groundhogs dislike the smell of red pepper, cayenne pepper, lavender, or garlic. Sprinkle dried versions of one or more of these around and in any burrows you find in your yard. Or mix them with water in a spray bottle and spray it onto your vegetables and any other vegetation that they may find attractive. (pg)

Daylily Lovers!

The gardens at Cayuga Daylilies in Enfield are looking lush and promising. The season began on July 6 and runs thru the end of July. August hours will depend on what's blooming. Look for the "Open" banner between 77 and 95 Halseyville Road.

We hope you can find some time for a visit to indulge your senses and bask in the beauty. Our schedule is Thursdays and Fridays, 3-6pm; Saturdays, 11am-4pm; and Sundays, 1-4pm. Visits can also be made by appointment.

Contact us for more info at 607.220.3733 or [cayugadaylilies@gmail.com]. (pc)

Free Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on July 17, and August 21. Open to the public! 1859 Danby Road, 607.272.1687, [danbychurch.org].

They're in need of prep and cleanup volunteers.

This Issue's Writers

- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- mv .. Margie VanDeMark
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- pc.... Pat Curran
- rr..... Ronda Roaring
- sb .... Sharon Boda
- tc .... Ted Crane

Seniors Update

Danby Seniors will gather in July for our annual chicken BBQ at the American Legion. A big thank you goes to Jon Mosher for leading the bird cooking, and to John and Ted for fetching them and helping cook.

The July 11 bus trip to Silver Birches in Hawley PA has filled. The August 9 trip to Alexandria Bay is filling up; contact Nancy Gould, [ngould1@yahoo.com] or 607.273.8705, for info.

We traditionally haven't met in August but Pat Phelps asked at our June meeting if folks would want to. Several said, "Yes!" so there will be a meeting on August 3 at Noon in the Danby Community Church, for a dish to share lunch. All seniors are welcomed! (mv)

Farmers Market Coupons

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program will open July 1. Coupon booklets can be picked up at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging during business hours, or at one of the distribution sites in Tompkins County. For more information, please call 607.274.5482. (rr)

Community Library

It's Summertime! Grab some books before heading out on vacation! Here's some of our new additions:

It's Summertime! Grab some books before heading out on vacation! Here's some of our new additions:

Adult Fiction

- *The Closer*—Mariano Rivera
- *Open House*—Elizabeth Berg
- *23rd Midnight*—James Patterson
- *Credible Threat*—J.A. Jance
- *The Midnight Library*—Matt Haig
- *The Thursday Murder Club*—Richard Osman
- *A Forgotten Place*—Charles Todd
- *The Sentence*—Louise Erdrich

Children's Books

- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?* and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*—Bill Martin Jr.
- *Adventures of Harold and his Friends*—Valerie Garfield
- *Lulu the Big Little Chick*—Paulette Bogan
- *The Magic Hat*—Mem Fox
- *Too Many Carrots*—Katy Hudson
- *Math Riddles*—Harriet Ziefert (cp)

Upcoming Entertainment!

The Danby Community Church's *Sundaes on Wednesdays* returns at the end of July. Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Arrive early for free Ice Cream Sundaes!
July 26 – Ithaca Concert Band
August 2 – TBA
August 9 – TBA

At the bottom of the big hill, on NYS Rt.13 just north of Buttermilk Park, Visions Federal Credit Union is offering free programs on its stage during the summer!
Thursday, July 27, 7pm – *Comedy Show* (bring a chair)
Saturday, August 5, 9am – *Sing Me A Story* w/ John Simon and Cal Walker.

Caregiver Support

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging facilitates a Caregiver Group that meets every other Tuesday, 11am-Noon. This group provides emotional support, education and resources, and shared experiences. Caregivers may attend via Zoom or in person. For more information or to register, contact Amy Jackson, 607.274.5486 [ajackson@tompkins-co.org].

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Jul 2023

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Danby News
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Danby News: Event Calendar

Jul 1 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Jul 5 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Jul 6 • Thu
Noon American Legion Post 221 • **Seniors BBQ**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Jul 10 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Jul 11 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**
Jul 13 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**
Jul 17 • Mon
8am Community Church • **Coffee and Donuts**
Jul 18 • Tue
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**
Jul 19 • Wed
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Public Hearing: Abolish Elected Town Clerk
Public Hearing: Tax Abatement/Conservation Easements
Jul 20 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
Jul 21 • Fri
4pm DVFC Fire Station • **Danby Summer Market**

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Jul 5	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Jul 11	972 1566 0090	423584
Youth Commission	Jul 13	See Town web site	
Planning Board	Jul 18	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Jul 19	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	Jul 25	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Jul 25 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**
July 26 • Wed
7pm Community Church • **Sundaes on Wednesday**
July 28 • Fri
3-7pm Community Church • **ReUse Sale**
July 29 • Sat
9am-1pm Community Church • **ReUse Sale**

Aug 1 • Tue
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Aug 2 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
7pm Community Church • **Sundaes on Wednesday**
Aug 3 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Aug 5 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Aug 8 • 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
Books can be returned via the outdoor 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