August 2023 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

Sundaes on Wednesdays

The Danby Community Church's Sundaes on Wednesdays continues into August. Wednesdays, 7pm. Arrive early at 6:30pm for free Ice Cream Sundaes! Donations accepted.

There's plenty of seating, and room for your own chairs!

August 2 – the Ageless Jazz Band

August 9 – Bob and Dee

Summer Market On August 18

The third Summer Market is on Friday, August 18, 4-7pm, in (and around) the Sue Beeners Pavilion near the Danby Fire Station. 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!

This month's music, sponsored by the Danby Community Council (with thanks to Community ARTS Partnership), is provided by Danby resident, singer, and harpist *Pamela Goddard*. Next month's music, is still *TBA*. (pg)

This Month Inside the Danby News:

Know Your Neighbors . . . . . ③
Reminiscing . . . . . ④
Unsolicited Purchase Offers . . . . ④
Are You A *Danby News* Angel? . . ④
What The Town Didn't Tell You . ⑤
Summertime In Dotson Park . . . ⑥
Ombudsman Volunteers . . . . . ⑥
The Thanks Department . . . . . ⑥
Farmer's Market Coupons . . . . . ⑥
Community Library . . . . . ⑦
Seniors! . . . . . ⑦
Coffee and Donuts . . . . . ⑦
Calendar . . . . . ⑧

Flower Party

Love flowers? Want to make a bouquet for yourself or someone you love in a fun and supportive atmosphere? Then come to a flower party at the Dotson Park pavilion, Saturday, August 12, 2-4pm.

The workshop will be led by Danby flower grower Julie Clougherty. It's sponsored by the Danby Community Council.

Snacks and drinks as well as all tools and materials (including vases to take home) will be provided, but feel free to bring flowers, greenery, tools, and vases of your own. Let your imagination run wild in a fun and supportive creative environment!

The workshop is limited to 10 participants, first come, first served. Please RSVP to me, [okalee.farm@gmail.com].

In case of rain, we'll delay one day to Sunday, August 13--same time, same place. (jc)

West Danby Picnic

Round out the summer at the annual old-fashioned West Danby Picnic on Saturday, August 19, 4:30pm, in the pavilion at the intersection of Brown and Short Roads in West Danby. Rain or shine (hopefully, shine!).

All welcome, and bring your friends, family, and guests as well.

This is a dish-to-share event, and already Tod S. has told us he'll be bringing his delectable smoked pork. If you can, bring a main course, side dish, salad, or dessert. Drinks will be provided. Also, if possible, bring a chair and your own place setting.

If the weather is good, there will be badminton set up in the field. There may well be a mountain music session happening on-site too, we'll just have to see....

Especial thanks to Mike McLaughlin for use of the site! This event organized by the West Danby Community Association with assistance from the Danby Community Council. (pf)

August 2023

Layout: Ted Crane
Count-n-Label Crew:
Ted and Pamela; others.
Post Office Crew:
Ted

To contribute items:
Danby Area News
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Ithaca, NY 14851-6886
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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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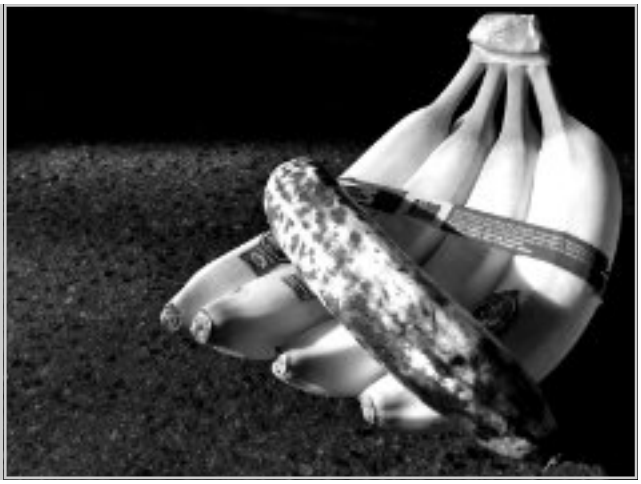
...plus all those who have sent subscription-level donations

Sometimes, youth is wasted on the unripe.

photo by Ted Crane



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.

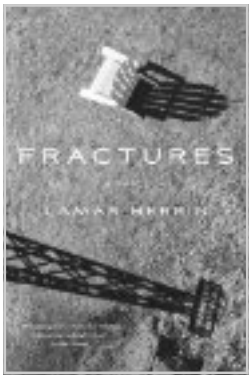
You'll learn what is, and isn't acceptable material for publication. If it's acceptable, we'll make an effort to include it; generally, we print everything we receive! You'll find hints about how to prepare a submission. Following these guidelines makes the editing and layout easier.

A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page. (tc)

Know Your Neighbors

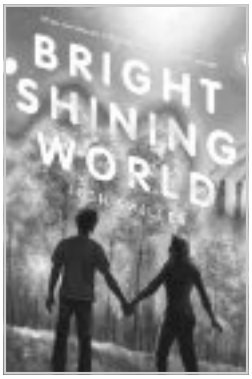
We've given introductions to all sorts of Danby residents in this column. We've talked to potters, woodworkers, and fabric artists. We've described hobbies that are much more than that: championship knife throwing, horse breeding, and animal rescue. This month, we turn our attention to literary arts.

Did you know that Danby boasts several published authors? It's not surprising, given the proximity Cornell University and Ithaca College, that there are many specialized books and papers that come from the research and experience of Danby residents. We also have fiction writers.



Here's nutshell descriptions of three authors, and we'd love to hear from you about others. As you'll see, Danby authors have a wide range of experience, interests, and storytelling styles.

Lamar Herrin is a professor emeritus of creative writing at Cornell University. Many of his students have gone on to become bestselling authors themselves, including Philip Gourevitch, Philipp Meyer, and Melissa Bank. Herrin's own short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker, Harper's*, *Epoch*, and *The Paris Review*.



Lamar and his wife divide their time between Tompkins County and Spain. Early in his career, he taught in Barcelona; later, was director of the Cornell in Spain program. The people and history of Spain feature in several of his novels, including *The Rio Loja Ringmaster*, *House of the Deaf* (about terrorism and political conflict in Spain), and *Romancing Spain*, a deeply personal memoir. Herrin's 2013 novel *Fractures* is a family saga blended with the hydrofracking controversy in rural New York.

His most recent novel, *Fishing the Jumps* takes place over the course of a weekend spent fishing on an Adirondack lake. Two middle-aged friends, sip Jim Beam on the rocks and share tales of memory and camaraderie. The past and present meld, revealing that what happens in the past ...rarely stays there. Fishing the Jumps is more than just fishing tales.

We hope to catch up with Lamar and learn about new projects during one of his return trips to Danby.

Josh Swiller calls himself an author, an advocate, and an unabashed lover of trees. His most recent book, *Bright Shining World* is a young adult novel set in, "a small town in upstate New York."

It is a novel about coming of age in a time of accelerating chaos; of young people finding hope, courage, community, and light in a darkening world. One of the fun details, especially coming from a writer living with his family on the edge of the Danby State Forest, is that the trees in the novel appear to be talking to people.

A graduate of Yale University, Josh has had a wide variety of careers: forest ranger, carpenter, slipper salesman, raw food chef, Zen monk, journalist, and teacher. His first book, *The Unheard: A Memoir of Deafness and Africa*, has been on the *New York Times* best seller list.

Deaf since a young age, Swiller spent his formative years in frustrated limbo on the sidelines of the hearing world, encouraged by his family to use lipreading and strident approximations of hearing aids to blend in. The Unheard describes a time when Swiller decided to set out to find a place so far removed that his deafness would become irrelevant. That place turned out to be Zambia, where Swiller worked as a Peace Corps volunteer for two years. His experience provided material for a powerful and well received book.

Swiller now speaks often on issues facing mainstreamed deaf individuals. In August 2005, he had successful surgery for a cochlear implant and partially recovered his hearing. He continues to write, and we hope to share more information about a new project in the coming months.

Gail Mazourek, a West Danby native, has written several books of historical fiction, now available on Thrift Books and Amazon. In 2017, Gay Huddle talked with Gail about her book *Sam's Own Words*, a non-fiction biography of a Samuel Paul Crippen, through 53 years of diary entries: working in the west, going through two World Wars, and navigating the difficulties of life in Horseheads, NY. Gail's other three books are a young adult series looking at American Revolutionary war history through the eyes of *Samantha*.

Do you know of other local writers? Pass the info on to us and we may be able to share more about them in *Know Your Neighbors*.

(pg)

Be A *Danby News* Angel

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**!

Do you own a business or work for a public-spirited employer? Consider the benefits of helping out with either with text-based or display advertising.

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)

Unsolicited Purchase Offers

Danby residents (among others) occasionally receive mail with unsolicited purchase offers for land or other property. These are not necessarily scams and some are legitimate. The catch is, it isn't always obvious when an offer is misleading or below market value.

Owners, often seniors, are coaxed by real estate investors into selling their property or home for far less than what they're worth.

These investors, sometimes known as wholesalers, blanket regions with signs, leaflets, mailers, and cold calls, searching for property that is not on the market. They convince homeowners to sell, often at a discount, then re-sell for thousands of dollars more. They do this without making a single upgrade. Unscrupulous wholesalers know that fast cash from property sales can appear to be a lifeline; they take advantage of owners who weren't even considering selling their property.

If the mailer says, DO NOT DELAY or TIME VALUE DATA ... translate it as, TAKE YOUR TIME. PROCEED WITH DUE CAUTION.

Wholesaling is legal in many cases and can provide a useful service. Investors offer cash deals and fast closings. Industry-savvy homeowners who are willing to take a financial hit can use them to unload a property quickly, but unwary owners can miss out on significant value or even find themselves without a place to live.

The best protection is to deal with brokers you know and, always, always work with a lawyer who will protect your interests. (tc)

Reminiscing #12

This is actually from another July column, July 23, 2005. I thought you might enjoy reading it.

I wrote that I had not seen many hummingbirds since living in Danby but then, one day, a tiny hummingbird apparently lost her way and was trapped inside Garry's shed. We tried to coax her out but she seemed disoriented, tired and scared. After resting a bit on one of the shed's beams, she lit on the edge of our grand-daughter's bubble wand, which I then carried outside to set the bird free. It was quite a magical moment!

I shared that we were spiriting our two grand-daughters, Marci and Maddi, away for an overnight in the mountains. I remember that trip to this day because it was super fun. We cuddled with them, laughed, ate ice cream and pizza, and stayed up late. Those two are now lovely young women.

I wrote that Danby Fun Day 2005 was a big success. A great parade, delicious chicken, nice weather and a big crowd. I think these kinds of events draw a community together, even if for one day.

I asked my friend, Margie VanDeMark, how her Dad, Eino Makarainen, happened to settle in Danby from Finland. Margie told me that her Dad is listed in the Ellis Island roster. He arrived in America in 1917 when he was two years old.

Eino & Ruth, on their wedding day, 1946

After living in Michigan until 1922, Eino's father, Jacob, bought the farmhouse on Comfort Road in Danby, making it home for all nine Makarainen siblings. The first car the family bought was a "Star" touring car costing $495.

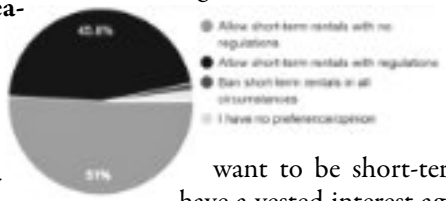
Eino and his wife, Ruth, took over the farm when Jacob died in 1957. Margie was born there and, along with husband John, raised her own family right across the road from her parents. Margie and John are still happily settled there. Margie is a true Danby girl! (gh)

What The Town Didn't Tell You

Providing information that's not available elsewhere

Danby's new planner has a more detailed resume than we thought: the *Town [Board] News* announced the hiring of Greg Hutnik, but didn't mention the expense. Hutnik's salary will be $74,000; with benefits, the position will cost taxpayers well over $100,000. Also, Hutnik is currently an alternate member of Enfield's Planning Board and Enfield's Deputy Supervisor. If he does not resign both positions, how will that affect his commitment to Danby?

Danby's Town Board adopted a tax relief measure: conservation easements have been tied to partial tax exemptions. This measure is intended to promote adoption of conservation easements. It applies only to the assessed value of a property's land, not the residences, and it allows the creation of term-limited easements.



This program offers an advantage to all residents, not only the property owners who will receive some tax relief: it encourages the the owners *not* to divide their properties, thus protecting Danby's scenic views and open space.

Sadly, the Town Board openly discussed a policy of not granting an easement unless the property owner agrees to accept the maximum term allowed for each level of exemption, effectively doubling the "trial" period of 15 years. Which would neighborhoods rather have: a guarantee that quality of life will be protected for at least 15 years (longer if the easement is renewed)...or none?

Danby's Town Board voted to abolish the elected position of Town Clerk: After a public hearing during which 9 out of 10 verbal comments from the public were against the measure (and the only written comment was also strongly against), the Board voted to adopt the law.

Board discussion suggested that one member was in favor, two felt that the Town Board should allow the voters to decide, and one was against (for unspecified reasons).

The law is subject to a mandatory referendum during the General Election in November.

It could be said that, "Letting the voters decide," is an abdication of responsibility. By ignoring the fact that the Board even considered the idea in the first place, this reasoning could be characterized as, "intellectual dishonesty." With very few reasons stated to go ahead, but a lot of consideration of political consequences, the Board's process raises questions.

The Town has promised a public campaign laying out the "pro and con" arguments. If this effort is similar to the campaign offered for similar measures in 2018 and 2010, it may contain half-truths and self-contradictions.

Short-term rental survey: the Town has characterized the survey results as, "...the vast majority of the Town [residents] would prefer either no regulation or very light regulation...."

Looking at the results (available online), the very first pie chart allows a different interpretation. While 51 percent prefer no regulation, almost 48 percent asked for some regulation or a total ban. The rest were undecided. Hardly a "vast majority," either way.

There were 158 responses. A significant fraction of responders indicated that they were or want to be short-term rental landlords, who might have a vested interest against regulations. Of course, one could ignore that by assuming that all other respondents were biased against rentals.

During a Town Board presentation, the Planner described the outcome of several, more specific survey questions about various concerns as indicating that the majority—2/3 might have been mentioned—considered those concerns, "Not very important." This is factually correct, but could be considered intellectual dishonesty. Looking at the bar charts, it is clear that the almost the opposite is also true: about 2/3 of respondents considered these concerns either *very important* or *somewhat important*.

Short-term rentals may, or may not, be a good thing for Danby. However, a process relying on flawed interpretation of a skewed survey may not be the best way to go.

Town Board appointing a new member: About six months after being appointed to fill the vacancy created by Sarah Schnabel's resignation, Steve Weissburg resigned from the Town Board.

Two residents, Kevin Feeney and Paul Hansen, applied to fill the rest of his term and were interviewed in public on July 19. Both are also candidates for Danby offices during the November's General Election. Both gave impressively candid and positive impressions. For various reasons, the Board decided not to make a decision at that time.

Any discussion related to the appointment of someone to an elected office must be conducted in public. The agenda for August meetings has not yet been released. With luck, the Board will enter the meeting with open minds and the delayed discussion of the candidates will be carried out in public. (tc)

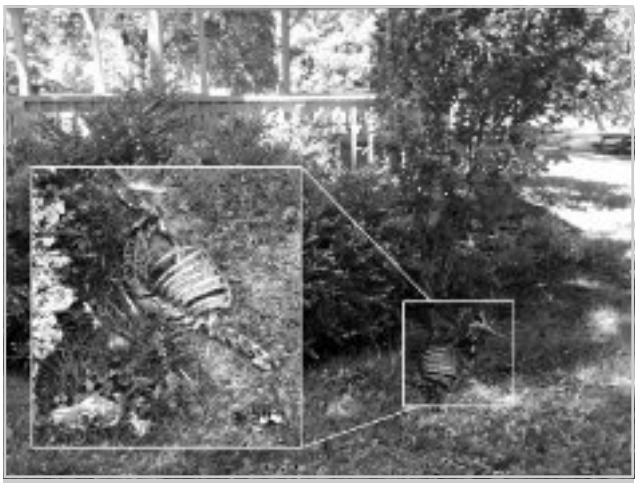
Summertime In Dotson Park

Have you been to Dotson Park lately? If not, the Park is a great place to enjoy these summer days. It is open to everyone and has a natural playground, an 18 hole-disc golf, a small pavilion and picnic benches, and miles of trails.

The trails are maintained this time of year by a small group of volunteers. The Danby Community Park Association is grateful for their hard work to keep the trails open and accessible to park visitors. Since the Park is largely made up of a natural wetland, trails tend to be wet, especially during times of rain. We suggest visitors bring appropriate footwear for their hike and be prepared for mud. Don't forget to hydrate on those hot days!

Thanks to Ithaca Agway and The Home Depot, the Park has new picnic tables. They're the perfect place to enjoy a meal outside. Come enjoy a hike and a picnic, or come by in the early morning to enjoy a quiet breakfast with nature. Remember, though, that the Park is "carry in, carry out" so there are no trash receptacles.

Looking to help preserve this important community asset? Volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated. Help ensure the park remains open and accessible to all! As a volunteer run, not-for-profit organization, volunteers are essential for keeping the park going strong. During the summer and fall months, we can always use volunteers who are interested in helping to maintain the trails, and to help with flowers and weeds. If you'd like to learn more about getting involved, please eMail us at [ContactUs@dotsonpark.org]. (ap)



Deer at Danby's Town Hall Gazebo
Sometimes, Town Hall skeletons aren't even hidden ☺.

Ombudsman Volunteer

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is looking for volunteers! If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about this important program and possibly becoming a volunteer please contact Trish Chevallard, Aging Services Specialist and LTCOP Coordinator, 607.274.5492 or [pchevallard@tompkins-co.org].

LTCOP is also hiring! It is looking for a full-time Project Assistant.

Farmers Market Coupons

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program opened on 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)

The Thanks Department

Fire Department
Thanks very much to the Danby Fire Department for coming out quickly after South Danby Road was blocked by a number of my neighbor's trees that were brought down by a wind storm.

Within minutes, they efficiently cut up the trees and got traffic moving again. We're lucky to have such dedicated members of the community. (rr)

Neighbors
Having good neighbors can be a powerful plus. On a hot, humid afternoon, neighbors took care of me when I dehydrated and suffered *situational syncope*.

In plain english, I fainted and face planted on one of Danby's tar-and-gravel roads. One neighbor drove home to fetch cool water and towels. Two more arrived and all three worked hard to convince me (with pictures!) that my head needed care. One drove me to the emergency room and gave me the best advice of the day: "Don't clean up your face, they'll see you faster." Spot on!

My cell phone rang while I was being stitched up. It was a fourth neighbor—who recognized my tractor sitting on the road and offered to return it to the house.

Thanks, Lanie, Andi, Mark, and Anthony. What more do you need than good neighbors like these? (tc)

American Legion on July 6. Big thank yous go to Jon Mosher for leading the chicken cooking and to John, Ted, and Jack for assisting. Several of us brought desserts—always a big hit. Thank you to our bakers! Donna Mosher and Linda Howe were working in the kitchen as well!

Our trip to Silver Birches in Pennsylvania on July 11 was a fun day: a beautiful venue, fun Bingo on the bus, great buffet lunch, and live music and dancing! Thanks go to Theresa Klinger for all her planning!

The August 9 trip to Alexandria Bay might have a few openings. Contact Nancy Gould, 607.273.8705 or [ngould1@yahoo.com], for more information. The trip includes a buffet luncheon, a Thousand Islands, boat tour, and a stop for ice cream on the way home. (mv)

Community Library

As the dog days of summer come to an end, there are still plenty of books available in Danby's Community Library! Adult Fiction selections from TCPL have arrived as well.

Adult Fiction
- *The Hotel Nantucket*—Elin Hilderbrand
- *City of the Dead*—Jonathan Kellerman
- *Fair Warning*—Michael Connelly
- *The Red Horse*—James R. Benn
- *Djibouti*—Elmore Leonard
- *Riding the Rap*—Elmore Leonard

Children's Books
- *Hush! A Thai Lullaby*—Minfong Ho
- I*nch by Inch:The Garden Song*—David Mallett
- *Thea Stilton and The Dragon's Code*—Geronimo Stilton
- *I Love You, Grandpa*—Jillian Harker
- *Lulu the Big Little Chick*—Paulette Bogan
- *What! Cried Granny*—K.Lum; A.Johnson (cp)

What are *Dog Days*?
The appearance of Sirius in the sky, just before sunrise, near the end of July, marks the beginning of the very hottest days of the year. The Romans referred to this period as *dies caniculares* or *days of the dog star.* Today, we've simplified this to *Dog* Days.

The Russian equivalent, "kanikuli" (каникулы), translates to, "holidays." (tc)

Free Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts on Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on August 21. Open to the public!

The Church is at 1859 Danby Road. Call 607.272.1687 or visit [danbychurch.org] for more information.

PS: They're in need of prep and cleanup volunteers.

This Issue's Writers

- ap.... Amanda Piha
- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- jc..... Julie Clougherty
- mv ... Margie VanDeMark
- pf.... Peter Fraissinet
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- rr..... Ronda Roaring
- tc .... Ted Crane

Time is a great teacher but, unfortunately, it kills all of its students.

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Aug 2023

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Danby News
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Danby News: Event Calendar

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: Ageless Jazz Band
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**
Aug 9 • Wed
7pm Community Church
Sundaes on Wednesday: Bob and Dee
Aug 10 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**
Aug 14 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Aug 15 • Tue
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**
Aug 16 • Wed
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Aug 17 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**

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!

Aug 18 • Fri
4pm DVFC Fire Station • **Danby Summer Market**
Aug 21 • Mon
8am Community Church • **Coffee and Donuts**
Aug 22 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Sep 2 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Sep 5 • Tue
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Sep 6 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
Sep 7 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Sep 11 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Sep 12 • 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