November 2023 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

A Tranquil Retreat: Autumn at Dotson Park

As the vibrant colors of summer fade and the crisp chill of autumn sets in, there's no better time to visit Dotson Park. The Park is a charming oasis tucked away in the heart of our little town of Danby. Nestled among the changing leaves and cool breezes, Dotson Park offers a serene escape. In the fall, the Park comes alive with a myriad of delightful activities for visitors of all ages.

Scenic Strolls
There is a trail system around the park. With trees shedding their leaves in shades of red, orange, and gold, the park is transformed into a picturesque wonderland. Take a leisurely stroll and immerse yourself in the beauty of autumn's natural tapestry. Don't forget to wear waterproof boots as the trails are often wet.

Birdwatching
Dotson Park provides a haven for birders to witness the wonders of migration. Numerous bird species pass through on their way south. Grab your binoculars!

Picnicking
Autumn is the perfect season for a picnic in the park. Dotson Park offers picnic tables and space to lay out a cozy blanket and a basket of your favorite fall treats. Savor the outdoors while basking in the warm glow of the sun.

Playgrounds and Recreation
Families with children will find that Dotson Park caters to young adventurers too. The natural playground has a slide and boulders, making it an ideal place for kids to let their imaginations run wild. Engage in a friendly game of frisbee golf at the 18-hole course on the south and east sides of the park.

Wildlife Observation
Keep an eye out for the park's resident wildlife. Squirrels and rabbits are common and you might spot some deer running through the fields. Dotson Park's ecosystem thrives in the fall, offering glimpses of nature's wonders. Please note hunting is not permitted in the park.

Relaxation and Reflection
Sometimes, the best way to enjoy a park in the fall is to simply relax, read a book, or meditate in its soothing ambiance. The gentle rustle of leaves and the cool, crisp air create a reflective atmosphere.

In the hustle and bustle of modern life, Dotson Park is a precious gem that invites you to slow down and connect with the natural world. As the days grow shorter and the temperatures drop, this small but beautiful park offers a warm embrace to those who seek solace in the serenity of autumn. So, grab your scarves and boots, and head to Dotson Park to experience the magic of fall in all its splendor. (ap)

Piles of Pancakes

It's that time of the year again. The Danby Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting Pancake breakfast! Drive-thru or stop in for a plate of Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, and Home fries, all for $12.

Join us Sunday, November 12, 8-11am for breakfast and support our Jaws of Life fundraiser. We're halfway there! Additional breakfasts are planned for winter Sundays including, tentatively, December 3 and January 14.

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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Candidate Forum Recording

General Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 6am-9pm. Polling places are the Danby and West Fire Stations. Be an informed voter.

The Friday the 13th forum showcasing the candidates for Danby Town Board (2x Supervisor and 4x Councilperson) is available online at `[youtube.com/@tompkinsLWV]`.

Internet troubles led to initially poor sound quality and 10 minutes of silence; afterward, the sound is excellent.

Listen to the recording and get objective information about the candidates. (tc)

November 2023

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

To contribute items:
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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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Jefferson Colman
Anonymous
Bruce Richards
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Carl and Marge Seamon
Tammy Polmanteer
Margo & John Yntema
Garry & Gay Huddle

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

Peahen on the prowl!

A wandering peahen escaped from its home during the summer… and was spotted all around Danby.
—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 Coleen (and Tim) Foley

This month we're meeting our neighbor Coleen Foley and her husband Tim. If you follow the Danby/South Hill Facebook group, you may have seen some of Coleen's atmospheric photographs of their hillside view. Coleen and Tim are also acupuncturists. They operate Ithaca Community Acupuncture.

When we spoke this fall, Coleen admitted to feeling a bit overwhelmed—in good ways. As a mom of two, and with multiple projects at all times, this is not surprising.

Coleen and Tim had traveled parallel paths from different places before meeting in the Finger Lakes. Tim received a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana in Missoula. Coleen grew up on Long Island and received a degree in Geology from Hofstra University.

At some point, both Coleen and Tim found their way to the *Finger Lakes School of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine*, a part of the *New York Chiropractic College*. There, they found their true calling—and true love. They were married at Taughannock Falls State Park, and soon opened *Ithaca Community Acupuncture*.

Tim explains, "In my last year of study, I traveled to China and the Zhejiang Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital in Huang Zhou. There I observed community style acupuncture as the standard way of treating patients. After starting my private practice, I believed that community style acupuncture could work in Ithaca."

Community Acupuncture is intended to address the problem that many people cannot afford the out of pocket cost for regular acupuncture. Community Acupuncturists see a higher number of patients in a shorter amount of time. This keeps the cost accessible and still administers highly effective treatments. During the pandemic, the Foleys learned that, according to the health department, their form of acupuncture is safer than other methods. People receive treatment in reclining chairs set at least six feet apart in a large room. At this time, masking is optional but encouraged.

The business turned 13 years old on Labor Day. Originally at 510 West State, it has moved to 209 Dey Street, in the same building as Hickey's Music. "We're very lucky," Coleen says. "There are a lot of clinics that didn't make it through the pandemic." Tim and Coleen are still catching up from lockdown. For two years, thanks to distancing, they've been operating at 50 percent capacity.

"Now it is even harder than during the pandemic," Coleen explains. "There's currently little help for small business recovery. There's less government support and inflation is a struggle. We're still trying to keep acupuncture affordable. We're doing it, but it's a different feeling than before."

Coleen understands the challenges of running a small business. In fact, she has a passion for supporting local business. "In 2018, I started a Facebook group, *Ithaca is Local Business*, because I realized how owning a small business can be overwhelming, and how important support is," she says.

Finding balance is always a struggle, but the Foleys seem to be making it work. "When I'm not doing acupuncture I love to spend lots of time with my husband, Tim, our two children, Brennan and Amelia, and the family dog, Nelson," Coleen says. "I also enjoy teaching myself photography and cooking lots of Indian food!"

Photography is a lock down project that really grew. "It's all a big COVID story," Coleen laughs. She got a camera from late father-in-law and took it with her on walks outside. "I've always been a bit of a weather geek, so that played into it for me. We're so lucky, we live in a place with all this open sky. This has been a bright spot for me. It's interesting to see how people have expanded their artistry during lockdown."

During lockdown, Coleen also started taking pictures of people, primarily her family and friends. That led to weddings and parties. Now, she is pretty well booked up through the holiday season. "This is a third tiny little business I do here and there," Coleen explains. You can find her photographs in the Ithaca Community Acupuncture entrance way and on her Facebook page *Replica Photos by Coleen Foley*. (pg)

Falling Back

Extra hour of sleep! At 2am on Sunday, November 5, the clocks fall back to 1am. If you haven't adjusted your alarm before you go to sleep, rest assured that you can ignore it for an extra hour in the morning.

For what it's worth, "clocks falling back" means that Daylight Savings Time is gone for the year. You'd think that saved daylight could be used to extend the daylight hours during the winter but, no, the days keep getting shorter and shorter. Where does that saved daylight go to? Can we spend it somewhere? (tc)

Ballot Proposition: Abolishing An Elected Clerk

The General Election on November 7 brings focus to the issue of the quality of elected officials in Danby. There hasn't been a contested race in Danby for a long time; in effect, our officials are elected during the Democratic Primary. This year, voters have a choice.

Some say that the contested races are a response to a need for respect and engagement.

In an ironic turn, Danby's Town Board chose to pass a law—one that requires voter approval at the ballot box—that sharpens the focus on respect. It is entitled, in part, *A Local Law providing for the Abolition of the Elected Position of Town Clerk....*

A former, well-respected Danby Town Clerk, Pamela Goddard, was asked about the Clerk's role and her experiences. "There were ways that I enjoyed the work, and there were ways that it was frustrating. Ric [the Supervisor] and I didn't always agree and we sometimes had heated discussions before coming to an understanding. The important thing was the feeling of agreement and mutually respectful communication."

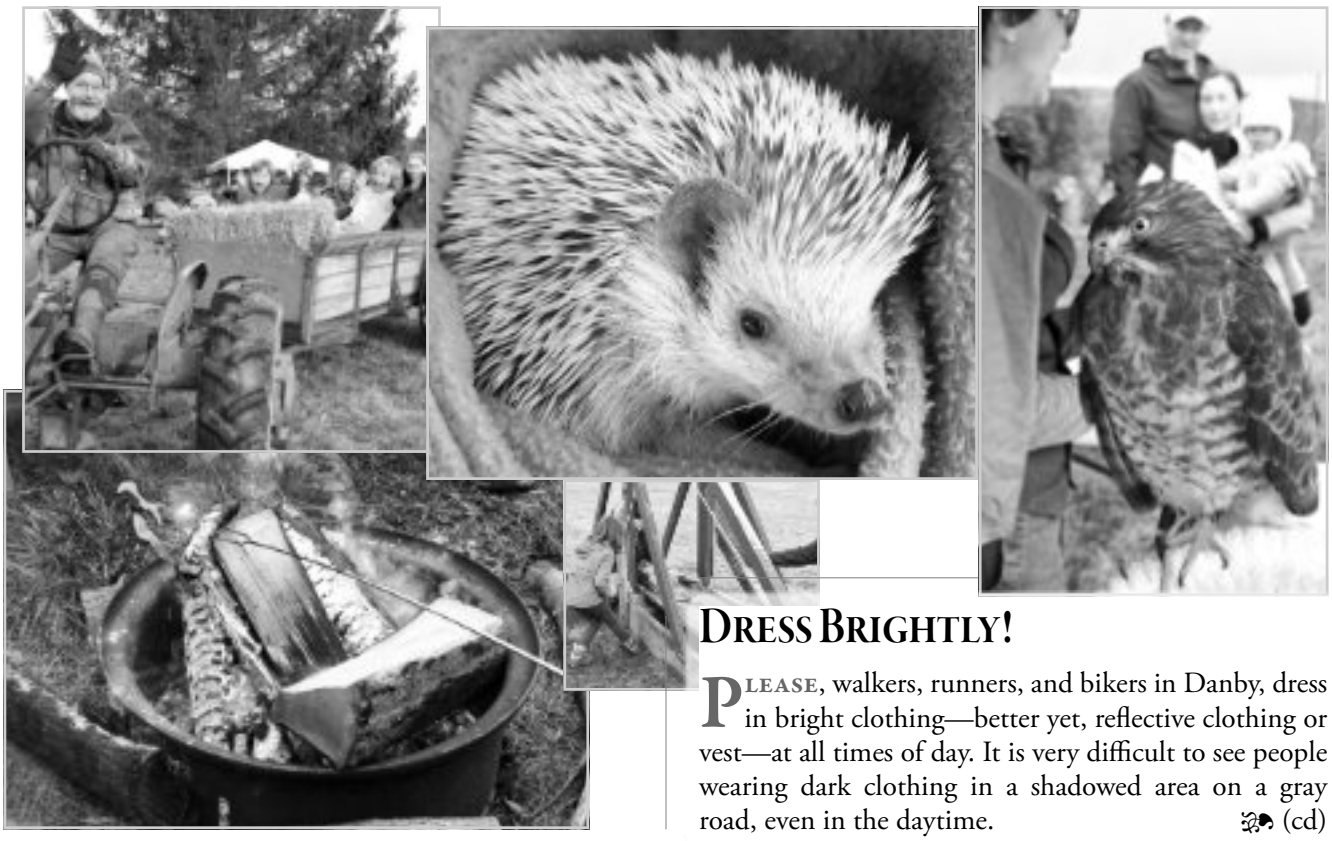
NYS Law establishes the Clerk as a Town's record keeper. Goddard observed, "The minutes are the responsibility of the Town Clerk. The Town Board should not have control over the contents of legal, historical record of Board actions. This is frequently a tug of war. A Town Board can see the Clerk as their secretary, and feel that the clerk should do as told."

She continued, "The Clerk is not merely a secretary, but an important, independent keeper of records. The Clerk should have autonomy and not feel that their job depends on keeping the Town Board happy. An elected Clerk is responsible to the residents of the town and to those who will read town records in years to come."

"I see the move to abolish an elected position and create an appointed one as an attempt for control of the Clerk's office. Appointing a Clerk would not fix the real problem—the need for control—that has developed out of a lack of mutual respect."

Danby's Town Board acknowledged that, *One of the motivations for bringing this up in the first place was...our inability to have her do things the way we would like them done.* (06-Jun-2023, 1:59:30 in the recording).

The Town Board appointed this Clerk. Now it wants more control...leaving Danby's voters with less. (tc)



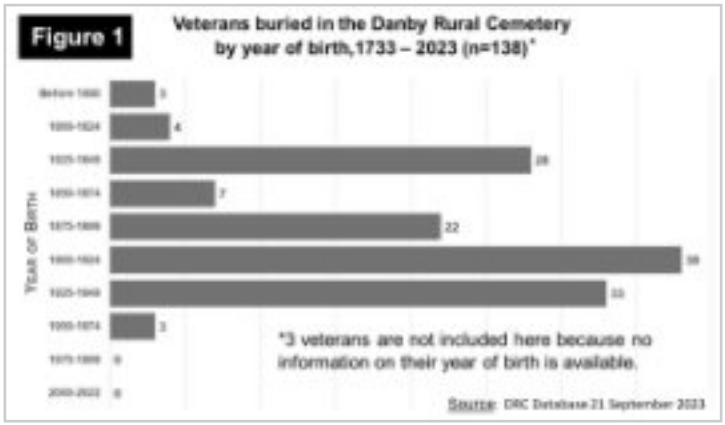
Dress Brightly!

Please, walkers, runners, and bikers in Danby, dress in bright clothing—better yet, reflective clothing or vest—at all times of day. It is very difficult to see people wearing dark clothing in a shadowed area on a gray road, even in the daytime. (cd)

Danby Rural Cemetery Salutes Veterans

On Monday, May 29, 2023, the United States celebrated Memorial Day, honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. In the Danby Rural Cemetery (DRC), the graves of 141 veterans were marked by American flags and visited by families and community members.

This was a big day for the DRC Board. Over the previous twelve months, members had worked hard to ensure that every veteran's grave was identified and included in the DRC database. New row labels made from special weather-resistant materials were introduced to help those searching for veteran graves. Local volunteers Jane Brewer and Linda Howe walked every inch of the cemetery to place the flags and confirm that each and every veteran was recognized. The all-volunteer caretaking crew manicured the cemetery, mowing, trimming, blowing, and ensuring flowers or other memorabilia were fresh and clean.



What do we know about the veterans buried in the DRC? Our information is incomplete, and combines data gleaned from handwritten cemetery ledgers dating back to the early 1800s, gravestone markings (many are eroded by weather and require rubbing to decipher), and memories (still!) of community members. Taken together, these sources have allowed us to create a database that contains the best available information on who is buried in the cemetery.

Figure 1 shows the number of veterans buried in the DRC by the year they were born. We know that the three oldest veterans buried in the Cemetery were born in the 1700s and fought in the Revolutionary War (John Bush, 1733-1816; Homer Beers, 1736-1816; Jabez Beers, no date-1816).

Not all gravestones include information on the veteran's service arm, or whether they saw active duty and if so, in which military conflict and whether they died in service. However, some guesses may be possible based on the historical timing of US involvement. At least one of our DRC veterans fought in each of World War I (1917-1918), World War II (1941-1945), the Korean War (1950-1953), the Vietnam War (1962-1973), the Persian Gulf War (1991), and the wars in Afghanistan (2001-2014) and Iraq (2003-2011). Many graves include official US plaques or markers providing details of the veteran's service.

Learn more! Take a walk through the cemetery; it is especially beautiful in the Fall. Contribute to our effort by joining the small group of elderly volunteers who are working to maintain the grounds and the cemetery records and funding base. Call Sharon Boda at 607.220.6676 to join our team, and contact Jane Brewer at 607.339.7518 for specific Veteran-related questions or comments. (sbjb)

Harvest Festival Wrap-Up

Braving potentially ugly weather, several hundred Danby residents and friends gravitated toward Dotson Park on Sunday, October 15. We saw the sun, we wiped water droplets, and no one went home with dampened spirits.

The Danby Community Council wants to extend its deepest gratitude to William Huizinga (Candor-based pumpkin farmer) and the Full Plate Farm Collective for their generous donations of less than lovely produce.

We were very lucky to be able to glean the Huizinga fields just hours before unsellable squash were plowed into the fields. The Full Plate folks gave us a crate-load of varied winter squashes that didn't pass muster for its their CSA shares. With all this excess and seconds in cucurbits, we were able to keep the trebuchet busy with produce propulsion.

Our hearts were warmed but the *oohs* and *ahhs* from kids of all ages as they crowed around the sleek raptors, the soft ferret, and the not so soft hedgehog exhibited by the Cayuga Nature Center and the Cornell Raptor Program. We hummed favorite tunes from fiddler Ben Hogben and the aptly named old-time band, the Pheasant Pluckers.

Some of us sampled all three kinds of cook-it-yourself hot (and not) dogs, and we all went home happy. (dcc)

Can You Top This?

Can You Top This was a popular radio program in the 1940s and 1950s. It featured the original Laugh Meter. The public was invited to send in jokes and the best of them were read on the air. The show's panelists—comedians, all—then attempted, live and without preparation, to tell a better joke.

It was no laughing matter for the panelists, as their attempts had to be pertinent to the original joke from the public. The Laugh Meter rated all the jokes—based on audience reaction—from 0 to 1000. The author of the submitted joke could win a prize, from $2 (during the first episodes) all the way up to $25 (toward the end of the show's lifetime).

Imagine: a $2 prize? Few shows on TV or radio are live, let alone shows that require on-the-spot thinking, and all the prizes have inflated so they end with a few zeros.

In Danby, the inflation of prizes and dollars is worth rating on the Laugh Meter. During its October 25 meeting, the Town Board increased the amount budgeted for a staff person who will produce its *Town [Board] News* from $20,000 to $25,000. That's in addition to the actual expense of production—printing and postage—that currently runs almost $15,000 per year. Taxpayer dollars!

The *Danby News* continues on its lean budget. While printing cost, thanks to Arnold Printing, has remained fairly stable, USPS postage has gone up about 35 percent since last year and will increase again in January.

The Community Council appreciates the contributions offered in support of the Danby News. We remind you that, just as issues arrive in your mailbox every month...we eagerly watch our mailbox for new subscriptions and larger donations. Please, take a moment to send $15 or more for your annual subscription. If you can afford more, don't hesitate: it will keep issues coming to Danby residents on a tighter budget.

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. It's worth it. (dcc)

Seniors Update

The next meeting of the Danby Seniors will be on Thursday, November 2 at Noon, for a dish to share luncheon. Usually, about 50-60 folks show up for fellowship and all sorts of good eats!

We will be entertained by Pamela Goddard on the harp.

Our annual holiday luncheon will happen on December 7 at Noon in La Tourelle, 1150 Danby Road. John Simon will provide the music. Contact Theresa Klinger for information and to sign up, **[tklinger617@gmail.com]** or 607.275.6171. The cost is $25 per person and there will be a cash bar.

Tammy Lopez has created a Facebook page for our group. If you haven't already, check it out. (mv)

Free Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts on Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on November 20 (and Dec.18). 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.

Community Library

The holidays are upon us! Our Thanksgiving books for children are on display, with Christmas and Hanukkah waiting in the wings!

A new selection of Large Type books from TCPL has arrived and our visit to the fall Friends of the Library Sale has resulted in a number of new books to read by some of your favorite authors.

- *Day of the Dead* .....J.A. Jance
- *Sleep No More*.....Iris Johansen
- *Sooley* .....John Grisham
- *Golden Girl*.....Erin Hilderbrand
- *Deadline*.....John Sandford
- *The Tenth Justice*.....Brad Meltzer
- *Total Power*.....Vince Flynn
- *Demon Copperhead*...Barbara Kingsolver
- *Jack*.....Marilyn Robinson
- *Violeta*.....Isabel Allende
- *Midnight Bayou*.....Nora Roberts (cp)

Reminiscing #15

I went back to my November 14, 2013 Town Talk column to share these memories with you.

Peter Farley crafted a bench for the Dotson/Danby Community Park. Using the example of a bench in Ithaca's Cass Park dog park, Peter ended up making two benches, one to replace an old bench and one to put on the park's Disc Golf Course. He burned the park's name into both benches.

Gail Mazourek of Danby sent me information about Cameron P. Chrisman of Newfield, who was the 2013-2014 recipient of the annual $500 Rudolf Mazourek Scholarship program that Gail started in memory of her son, Rudy. Cameron sent a thank you note to Gail, and she was particularly pleased that the award went to a Newfield resident, as Gail herself is from there.

Hospicare reminded me that November 21 is Children's Grief Awareness Day. Bereaved children are often referred to as the "forgotten mourners."

I wrote about lots going in Danby, including a Blood Drive, fish dinner at the Legion, open events put on by The Finger Lakes Finns, and a Community Council Concert in Danby's Town Hall. As the world continues to struggle with war-related tragedies, I would like to extend wishes for a Happy 2023 Thanksgiving, one where peace returns to all citizens on this planet. (gh)

Wonderful Wheelchairs

Wonderful Wheelchairs is a volunteer based non-profit organization in Ithaca. It seeks to help community members gain access to mobility equipment. Owners of chairs, walkers, and scooters know how frustrating it can be when they break down...and even when they're just *not quite right*. W.W. provides quality and affordable mobility devices and *maintenance* to those who need them. Visit **[wonderfulwheelchairs.info]** for more information. (rr)

This Issue's Writers

- ap.... Amanda Piha
- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- mv .. Margie VanDeMark
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- rr..... Ronda Roaring
- sbjb Sharon Boda and Jane Brewer
- tc .... Ted Crane

COFA News

Medicare Open Enrollment 2023

As you read this, we're in the middle of the 2023 Open Enrollment period for Medicare (officially, 10/15 thru 12/7). Changes take effect January 1, 2024.

If you're already enrolled in Medicare, you're receiving offers from various companies—sometimes several from each company. They all want you to switch to their plan. Some plans are better than others, but how do you know how to evaluate them based on your specific needs?

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging has HIICAP-certified counselors to assist you with all things Medicare—reviewing your current plan, providing other plan options, assisting with cost comparisons, and making changes for 2024. Contact COFA at 607.274.5482.

HEAP Can Help

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) opened for the season on November 1. Find out if it can help you! You need to fill out an application. It can be mailed to you. For more information, call 607.274.5482 or visit **[tompkinscountyny.gov/cofa/heap]**.

I miss the days when everything wasn't "unprecedented," "uncharted territory," and "never been here before."

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Nov 2023

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Danby News
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Danby News: Event Calendar

Nov 1 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
Nov 2 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Nov 4 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Nov 7 • Tue
6am-9pm Fire Stations • 2023 General Election
Nov 8 • Wed
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Public Hearing on the Proposed 2024 Budget
Nov 9 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**
Nov 13 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Nov 14 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**
Nov 16
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
Nov 20 • Mon
8am Community Church • **Coffee and Donuts**
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Nov 21 • Tue
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Nov 8	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Nov 14	972 1566 0090	423584
Youth Commission	Nov 9	See Town web site	
Planning Board	Nov 21	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Nov 20	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	Nov 28	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Nov 22 • Wed
6pm • **Town Board Meeting moved to 10/20**
Nov 23 • Thu
Thanksgiving
Nov 28 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**

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