February 2024 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

Danby Food And Drink

See "Know Your Neighbors" on page 3!

Eclipse On The Horizon

Save the date for a once-in-a-lifetime event! On Tuesday, April 8, the shadow of the Moon will follow a path from Texas to Maine. A total eclipse of the Sun will be visible, only a short drive north of Tompkins County.

Danby's Community Council has arranged a presentation from Cornell's Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility, about ten days before the eclipse. Learn how and why it happens, where to watch it, and—most importantly—how to watch it safely. Stay tuned!

Pancakes On Peppermint Patty Day!

Join us Sunday, February 11 (and March 10), 8am-11am for breakfast and support our Jaws of Life fundraiser.

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company is still fundraising for our new Jaws of Life with Pancake breakfasts. Drive-thru or stop in for a plate of Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, and Homefries, all for $12. Last month we took delivery of the upgraded rescue tools ("Jaws of Life") that you, the amazing Danby community, have helped fundraise for the initial payment. We expect the new tools to be in service by the time you read this and our last two breakfasts should help us cover the entire price by donations. Thank you for all your support!

This Month Inside the Danby News:

Know Your Neighbors: Kartik Sribarra. ③
A Library On Your Corner . . . . ④
Chicken and Biscuits! . . . . . ④
Community Library . . . . . ⑤
'Tis The Chilly Season . . . . . ⑤
Book Review: Tray of Togetherness . ⑤
Re-Up For The Danby News . . . ⑤
Reminiscing . . . . . ⑥
Fire District Meetings . . . . . ⑥
Seniors. . . . . ⑥
Coffee And Donuts. . . . . ⑥
Some Like It Hot . . . . . ⑦
Calendar . . . . . ⑧

Winter Wonderland in Dotson Park

Winter finally arrived in Danby during mid-January. Snow blanketed the ground and it was time to explore the magic of the season right in our community park. Despite the chilly temperatures, Dotson Park offers a myriad of activities that can turn a winter's day into a magical adventure.

Replace your cabin fever with a trip to Dotson Park!

Join the Boards of the Danby Community Park Association (DCPA) and the Danby Community Council (DCC) for a Discovery Walk in the Park on Saturday, February 24, 10am. (bad weather date: Sunday, February 25). This will be a guided walk around the park to learn the trails, enjoy the snowy landscape, and see what kind of wildlife we might be able to discover along the way.

Dress warmly and bring a hot beverage and any wildlife guides you may have. We'll embark on an exploration through the trees to see what we can discover.

Explore the park on your own this winter:

Winter Walks

Begin your winter adventure with a leisurely walk through the Park's snow-covered trails. The crisp air and serene atmosphere create a tranquil experience, allowing you to reconnect with nature even in the coldest months.

Snowshoeing

If the snow has blanketed the ground, consider strapping on a pair of snowshoes. This simple activity opens up a whole new world of exploration and it's

—continued on page 4 ➲

February 2024

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

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.

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Sunset Over West 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: Kartik Sribarra

For well over a decade, Danby residents have longed for a gathering spot where we can enjoy food and drink together, hang out for conversation, and maybe take home a loaf of bread and some local produce. We miss the old Danby Market but we understand just how hard it is to run a successful local business of this type. Thanks to the energy and vision of a relatively new community member, *Danby Food and Drink* is on its way to being a reality.

After several years as a manager at GreenStar Co-op and getting to know the local food community, Kartik Sribarra started working at his friend's shop in Trumansburg, *Main St. Market*. During his three years there, he's seen the power of connection in really powerful ways. The more he thought about the role of places like the Main St. Market and Brookton's Market. They support local farms and producers while churning out phenomenally delicious food. Recognizing the lack of anything similar in Danby, Kartik realized that he was in a good position to try to make that dream a reality.

Main Street Market in Trumansburg

"I started thinking about how to create a project of this style in a community that's lacking a lot of the necessary infrastructure, and got connected to long-time Danby residents Olivia Vent and her daughter Christel Trutmann," Kartik explains. "Olivia has long dreamed of a market here in Danby. As the owner of some property right in the middle of the central hamlet, we quickly saw the shared opportunity. Now this project is getting close to a reality. Renovations are underway on the building at 1843 Danby Road."

Eleven years ago, Kartik (pronounced "Car-thick") Sribarra and his family moved to Tompkins County from the Washington D.C. area. With a history in nonprofit work (she in environmental advocacy and he in advocacy for more walkable and bike friendly infrastructure) they needed something different for themselves and their infant son. "We were eager to raise him in a more balanced work/life setting, and lay down roots in a community we felt more connected with. While we believed firmly in those causes, we also knew that lifestyle wasn't conducive to raising our family in the way we wanted to."

Their search for the right place brought them to White Hawk Village in central Danby. Here, they found meaningful work and a supportive community. This was a pleasant surprise for Kartik, who is an American born of parents from India. Being in the "Ithaca bubble" helps maintain a balance between rural and urban living. "We soon discovered White Hawk and Danby, and immediately knew we'd found our, 'forever home,'" he says.

"As a person of color, I never thought living in a rural setting would feel safe for me," Kartik continues. "And yet, in a community such as ours—both White Hawk and the greater Danby and Ithaca region—I realized that this dream, `nature with neighbors,' could be a reality. In the blink of an eye, we've been at White Hawk for more than 10 years! I'm so extremely grateful to our neighbors and all of Danby who have helped make this beautiful sliver of land a welcome home for us."

Kartik envisions "Danby Food and Drink" as a community hub. "I often half-joke that my real goal is to build community, he says. "It just happens that humans tend to gather around food! I've loved getting to know our customers in Trumansburg...their names, families, connections, stories. The thought of helping tighten our web of connection here in Danby brings me such joy. Not only as people, but also as growers, producers and consumers of food and drink."

The shop/eatery will have a small kitchen turning out soup, sandwiches, deli salads, and baked goods. There will be coffee and espresso service, and Kartik is applying for a liquor license so there can be a small bar with a handful of beers on tap. And of course, good locally sourced food and drink from nearby vendors.

"I'm not trying to be a late night spot, but a family spot," Kartik explains. He expects the shop to close by 9pm on weekends. "Over time, I want to explore many different ways we can serve as a place for people to gather, support each other and bring new friends into our lives. I hope to host music and art events, indoor and out. With the beautiful Dotson Park right behind the market, the opportunities to connect with friends and neighbors outdoors is pretty exciting to me."

Kartik wants to learn more about needs in our community and ways that Danby Food and Drink can help everyone. "I'm honored to work with some really phenomenal leaders in our community who are developing plans to improve our food system, so no one is left hungry or without quality, nutritional food," he says.

Visit **[danbymarket.com]** to take a brief survey regarding Danby's diverse needs. If all goes as planned, Danby Food and Drink will open sometime this spring. Stay tuned for more updates.

(pg)

➲ *Winter Wonderland, con't from front page*

a fantastic way to experience the beauty of a winter landscape while getting some exercise.

Bird Watching
Did you know, winter brings its own set of feathered visitors. Bundle up, grab a pair of binoculars, and explore the park's birdlife. Spotting winter birds, such as cardinals and chickadees, adds an extra layer of enjoyment to your outdoor experience.

Photography Expedition
Capture the park's winter beauty with a photography expedition. The snow-covered trees and trails leave plenty of opportunities for stunning shots. Don't forget to bring a thermos of hot cocoa to keep warm during breaks. And if you post those photos online, feel free to share them with the Danby Community Park Association Facebook page!

Sledding
Did you know there is an excellent sledding hill in the park? Follow the park road to its end around the corner. If your sled is collecting dust and you or the family are itching to feel the wind on your face, come enjoy Dotson Parks infamous sledding hill.

Winter doesn't mean hibernation; it's an invitation to embrace the unique beauty of the season. Dotson Park, though small, offers 90 acres of winter activities waiting to be explored. Whether you prefer a serene walk or an adventurous sledding session there's something for everyone to enjoy in the winter wonderland the park. Bundle up, grab your gear, and embark on a winter adventure right in your backyard. (ap)

Have You Had Your Radon Test?

Radon is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas that occurs naturally in the ground and can enter your home through cracks or gaps in the floors or walls. It can cause serious health problems if left undetected.

Tompkins County is within the EPA's Zone 1 (Red Zone). This means that it is especially important to test your home for radon every five years.

Free radon test kits are available through Tompkins County's Healthy Neighborhoods Program. Staff will provide instructions on how to use the kits. To learn more, call Diana Crouch, Education Coordinator, at 607.274.6702.

A cowboy went looking for a pet dachshund.
He wanted to get a long little doggie.

A Library On Your Corner

In 2009, Todd Bol of Hudson, WI erected a model of a one-room schoolhouse in front of his house. It was a tribute to his mother, a teacher who loved to read. He filled its inside with books for people to take and called it the, *Little Free Library*.

His neighbors and the world loved the "take A book, leave a book" idea. Little Free Libraries are now in 120 countries on all 7 continents. See **[littlefreelibrary.org]**.

The original idea of the LFL was that a family would get together to build, sponsor, and register an LFL with the organization and maintain and supervise the contents. This created a family and neighborhood project everyone could buy into.

I know people who would like to have an LFL on their property, but they don't want the work and cost of building one or supervising it. There are others can build it, and some who can keep an eye on it. I'm willing to play matchmaker.

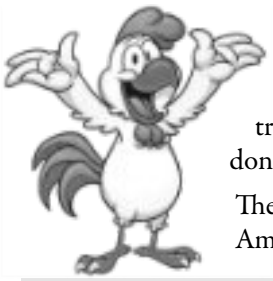
Shoot me, **[rondaroaring@hotmail.com]**, an eMail and tell me what you're interested in doing. Do you have a site you'd like to suggest? Do you have the means to build/or install LFLs for others? Do you have books you'd like to donate? Would you like to support the registration of an LFL (for $49, your LFL gets a number on a brass plaque and lists it on the web site)?

I look forward to hearing from you.

[I've got a great location at the corner of Comfort and Love (a.k.a. Lieb), dozens of duplicate books, can keep an eye on it, and have design plans. Can anyone turn that design into a library? -editor] (rr)

Chicken and Biscuits

Come to the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner in Danby's Community Church on Friday, February 9, 5-7pm (also March 8 and April 12).



Bird and biscuit with all the trimmings, beverage and dessert. By donation.

The Church is at 1859 Danby Road. Ample parking available!

To the wicked, all things are wicked;
but to the just, all things are just and right.
—James Hogg, *Private Memoirs of a Justified Sinner*

Tray Of Togetherness

A picture book by Flo Leung available at TCPL

A young girl is excited because her large and diverse family is having a party to celebrate the Lunar New Year (February 10, 2024, the Year of the Dragon).

She and her family are going to create a Tray of Togetherness, a round tray with eight sections filled with goodies. In many cultures, eight is a lucky number. Some of the items on the tray are pistachios for happiness, candied watermelon for good health, and candied lotus root for abundance.

A great book for teaching young children about China's major holiday. Did you know that Chinese is the second most spoken, non-English language in NY State? (rr)

Be Prepared For Arctic Chills

Winter isn't half over and we've already had one week of really cold weather. What with the various weather extremes we're seeing in the US, there's likely to be more.

Tompkins County's Department of Emergency Response reminds residents to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves against frostbite and hypothermia. Extremely low wind chills can pose a risk to anyone outdoors for extended periods of time without protective clothing.

Signs of hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature, include shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling of hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness.

Frostbite is the freezing of specific body parts such as fingers, toes, the nose, or earlobes. Signs of frostbite include a lack of feeling in the affected area; skin that appears waxy, is cold to the touch, or is discolored.

Limit your time outdoors, dress in layers, and be sure to wear gloves, a hat, and a scarf to protect your face. If signs of hypothermia or frostbite appear, get out of the cold immediately and call 9-1-1.

Under its *Code Blue* policy, Tompkins County' Department of Social Services provides emergency shelter on nights when temperatures drop below 32 degrees to ensure everyone is warm and safe. You can find emergency shelter at 320 West State Street (8am-4:30pm) and at St. John's Community Services, 618 West State after hours.

For more information on winter weather safety, visit the local **[tompkinscountyny.gov/tompkinsready]** or the national **[ready.gov/winter-weather]** web pages.

Community Library

February brings a new selection of picture books from TCPL. Numerous bestseller lists and book awards are published each year, and several of our books are included. Here are just a few that haven't already been mentioned:

- Light Perpetual—Francis Spufford
- Great Circle—Maggie Shipstead
- Friends and Strangers—J. Courtney Sullivan
- Every Heart A Doorway—Seanan McGuire
- Percy Jackson Series—Rick Riordan (recently made into a Disney+ series)

More than 1,000 items were signed out from our little library during 2023! While it is only staffed by volunteers for six hours weekly, the library is accessible to patrons whenever Danby's Town Hall doors are open. We invite you to come and see all there is to offer and, while you're there, help us with the monthly jigsaw puzzle! (cp)

Time To Re-up To The *Danby News*

It's now more than two years since the *Danby News* shifted to a reader-supported funding model. The Community Council thanks all the readers who have offered support in the form of paid subscriptions and generous donations.

The *Danby News* is the place to go when you want information beyond official, sanitized announcements in expensive publications funded by your tax dollars.

We have to pay the bills and we have to keep asking for your help. Subscribers and supporters, it may be time to re-up. Share news and cheers with your neighbors. Paid subscriptions ($15 or more per household) help. Larger contributions support our community-building efforts. Join the **Danby 100**!

Business owners, please 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)

Reminiscing #18

Valentine's Day is my birthday, so I went back to my February 14, 2008 column to reminisce about what was going on in our neighborhood then.

The Danby Community Church was holding its Vacation Bible School, learning about the early days of America and the faith of the people who started our country.

A Danby Community Council concert event was held in the Danby Town Hall. The artists involved were all visiting from England.

I wrote about Poppy Singer, who was new to Danby from New York City. She earned a MA from Cornell in Textiles and Apparel. She sewed her own clothes for many years and took a particular interest in clothing and fabric design.

American Legion Post #221 on Danby Road was putting together a Valentine's Day Party.

I had received three eMail messages from Danby folks wintering in Florida. Ernie and Joan Payton told me they were headed out for Florida with a stop in Atlanta for the birth of their seventh grandchild. Rolly and Bea Manley contacted me from Daytona Beach to say how sorry they were to hear of the recent deaths in Danby of Ed Roberts, John Benjamin, Birdie Beach and Dick Carr. Rolly, who retired from the Ithaca Police, also mentioned the passing of Gary "Muggs" Bennett, a retired IPD Officer from Comfort Road in Danby. Jeanne and Glenn Grossman, also sorry to hear of the passing of so many Danby neighbors, sent their best wishes from Homosassa Springs, where they recently spent the day with Danby friends Pat and Bill Hiney. The Grossmans have been enjoying boating, fishing, bird watching, and catching blue crabs from their deck. They often went out into the Gulf of Mexico to see the large, white pelicans.

I congratulated Nicole Poole Brown and Dustin Brown on the birth of son Jake Austin Brown, born February 6 in California. Dustin grew up in Danby and, as we know, played professional hockey for the Los Angeles Kings.

I ended the 2008 column with a simple romantic tip, "Sweet nothings can mean everything!" Happy Valentine's Day, 2024; I'm going to be 39 again this year, believe it or not! (gh)

If you have some form of Medicaid, the State of New York allows it to be used for dental services. You can find a list of dental providers who accept Medicaid online: google "ny health medicaid dental".

Danby Fire District Notice Of Regular Meetings

Please take notice that the Danby Fire District of the Town of Danby, Tompkins County, New York, will hold its regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 P.M. Meetings will be held at the Danby Fire Station, 1780 Danby Road, Town of Danby. All meetings of the Danby Fire District are open to the public.

This notice is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 104 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York.

By order of the Danby Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners.

Sharon Gaden, Secretary, January 9, 2024

Seniors Update

The Danby Seniors will meet on February 1 and March 7, at Noon in Danby's Community Church. All folks, 55 and over, are invited to join us for a dish to share luncheon.

During our January meeting, we enjoyed a lively game of Bingo called by Ted Merritt.

For the March meeting, Gail Mazourek has agreed to discuss her latest book with us. It was cowritten with her daughter Cynthia and is tough to put down once you begin reading it.

Remember to check out and join the Danby Seniors Facebook page if you haven't already! (mv)

Community Coffee and Donuts

Danby's Community Church is offering Free Coffee And Donuts on Mondays, once a month, 8-10am, on February 19 (and Mar.18, Apr.15, May 20, Jun.17). 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
- mv .. Margie VanDeMark
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- rr..... Ronda Roaring
- tc .... Ted Crane

Some Like It Hot

I didn't start out as a snappy food snob, looking askance at beige banquets.

Sure, you had to avoid the whole peppercorns in her roasts, but my Mom, a self-taught Michelin-quality chef, was not generally known for spicy food. Her sole foray into zesty territory was horseradish. She considered the store-bought stuff akin to moist sawdust. When horseradish was called for, only her fresh, hand-grated preparation would do.

We developed a family game. Mom served the horseradish and sniffed sadly, "It doesn't seem very strong!" I would take a spoonful, chew it thoughtfully, and lament, "You're right, it tastes good but has no zing. Here, why don't you try some?" She only fell for that trick once or twice.

I took a serious interest in spicy food during the infamous Cornell Fiber Study of 1977. Who could turn down ten weeks of three well-prepared sit-down meals per day...plus a $5 daily reward? Well, it turned out that identical meals, week after week, left me wanting a change of pace. As a test subject, my only options were the amount of water, salt, and pepper I used. You can only drink so much water and salt isn't my thing, so I turned to, well, several shakers of pepper a week. My taste for the tangy grew from there.

On National Hot Sauce Day, January 22, the online grocery people at *Instacart* revealed the preferences of American shoppers, by state. The Top-10 were:

- Frank's Hot sauce (the northeast and Alaska)
- Cholula (mountain states)
- Tabasco (Louisiana and Hawai'i)
- Texas Pete (south Atlantic)
- Burman's (no region)
- Tapatio (California and Nevada)
- Louisiana Hot Sauce (red states)
- Huy Fong Sriracha (Iowa)
- Valentina (Arizona)
- Crystal (Maryland, Delaware, Florida)

The hottest states are New Mexico and North Dakota. New York is middlin', beating out some predictable powerhouses like Louisiana. The lily-white states are Iowa and South Dakota.

The Instacart data is somewhat surprising. *Sriracha*, for example, is good, but only slightly hotter—and a lot less tasty than—the Thai sweet chili sauce, *Mae Ploy* (available in large jars at *Win Lee* on NYS Rt.13). *El Yucateco*, a green habanero-based sauce (the "house" hot sauce at *Old Mexico* and available in small bottles at *Wegmans* and others), was not mentioned at all. In addition to its great taste, many find it sufficiently spicy.

Chef Shaikh's Raging Inferno, a tamarind/habanero-based concoction, is also missing. It lives up to its "tastes like heaven" slogan but not to its "hot as hell" claim. (NB: the last two bottles in existence may reside in our pantry.)

Dave's Insanity doesn't even register in the survey. It's so hot, one jar is enough to last a lifetime. Why buy it twice?

Instacart trends expert Laurentia Romaniuk notes, "The growing popularity of hot sauce and its wide variety of flavors and styles [reflects] an increasingly diverse American population." My two cents, "Start mild and work up. It'll make your meals marvelously magical." (tc)

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Feb 2024

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Danby News: Event Calendar

Feb 1 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Feb 2 • Fri
All Day • **Groundhog Day**
Feb 3 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Feb 5 • Mon
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Feb 7 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
Feb 8 • Thu
7pm Zoom • **Danby Youth Commission**
Feb 9 • Fri
8am Community Church • **Chicken and Biscuits**
Feb 11 • Sun
8-11am DVFC Station • **Pancake Breakfast**
Feb 12 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Feb 13 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**
Feb 15 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
Feb 19 • Mon
8am Community Church • **Coffee and Donuts**
Feb 20 • Tue
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	Feb 5	962 1625 1190	071939
CAC	Feb 13	972 1566 0090	423584
Youth Commission	Feb 8	See Town web site	
Planning Board	Feb20	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	Feb 21	990 7294 9108	569826
Zoning Appeals	Feb 27	953 8273 3938	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Feb 21 • Wed
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Feb 24 • Sat
10am Dotson Park • **Discovery Walk**
Feb 27 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**
Feb 29 • Thu
All Day • Leap Day

Mar 2 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
Mar 4 • Mon
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
Mar 6 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**
Mar 7 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
Mar 11 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
Mar 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