August 2024 FREE TO RESIDENTS

Danby News

Flower Workshop Coming

Calling all flower lovers! Last year's flower workshop was such a hit that Danby's Community Council has asked Julie to do it again, only a bit later in the season. Please save the date, Sunday, September 15, 2pm in Dotson Park.

Flowers and other plant materials will be provided, but Julie isn't growing as many this year, so please bring any flowers, seedpods, grasses, etc. that catch your eye! Tools and vases will be available.

Space is limited to ten participants, so please RSVP to **[okalee.farm@gmail.com]** if you're interested. (jc)

Disc Golf Upgrades Dotson's Baskets

Summer—the peak disc golf season—is here and the awesome members of DiscIthaca and Danby's Community Park Association have raised funds to update an already amazing Lynx Course with new Innova DISCatcher baskets. All 18 holes and the practice basket have been upgraded!

To celebrate, the club hosted the single-round, trophy-only *Breaking in the Chains* tournament in July, followed by a BYOG (Bring Your Own Grillables) cook-out.

Be sure to come out and celebrate the incredible hard work of the amazing DiscIthaca and Dotson Park community! As a bonus, you can watch your scores improve (well, your results may differ) by at least three strokes as these amazing baskets will now catch all of your putts! (ap)

West Danby Picnic

Round out the summer at the annual old-fashioned West Danby Picnic on Saturday, August 24, 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/or guests as well.

This is a dish-to-share event. Tod S. has already told us he'll be bringing his delectable smoked

—continued on page 4 ➲

Make Music In Dotson Park

Two years ago, we had some really fun music gatherings under the hypar pavilion in Dotson Park. Let's do it again! On Sunday, August 18, 2-5pm in Dotson Park, we'll have an encore. Bring your instruments, bring your voice, bring your listening ears. Nothing fancy. No fee. BYO drinks and snacks. All styles of music, all instruments, all voices are welcome. There's no electric power in the park, so we'll keep it home-grown and acoustic.

Danby's hills are alive with music, but most of us never get to hear it. Let's share our music with each other and make music together on a summer afternoon. It could be old time fiddle tunes, folk songs (with or without guitar), jazz improvisations, or short classical pieces. Some of the fun is hearing where our stream of thoughts take us, and what favorite songs and tunes people want to share.

Some of the musicians in Danby are well known (in their genres) and perform their music in concert halls, at outdoor festivals, or in the many wineries, breweries, and distilleries in the Finger Lakes. Others make music for their families and friends in small gatherings in backyards, living rooms, or side decks. Whether we consider ourselves accomplished performers or happy amateurs, the common denominator is that we are neighbors and it could be fun to get to know each other through music.

Those who want to just come to listen are very welcome. Bring the family. There's room and abundant things to do in the park, including the nearby natural playground for children. There will not be a rain date, so let's hope for good weather. Light rain is not a problem, the pavilion roof will keep us dry.

Come on out to Dotson Park on Sunday, August 18, 2-5pm. We'll be outdoors and can sit around the new picnic tables. If there's interest, we'll have another all styles music jam in September...and then the Harvest Festival in October. Questions? Contact the host, Pamela Goddard, 607.342.4110. (pg)

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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August 2024

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Post Office Crew:
Ted

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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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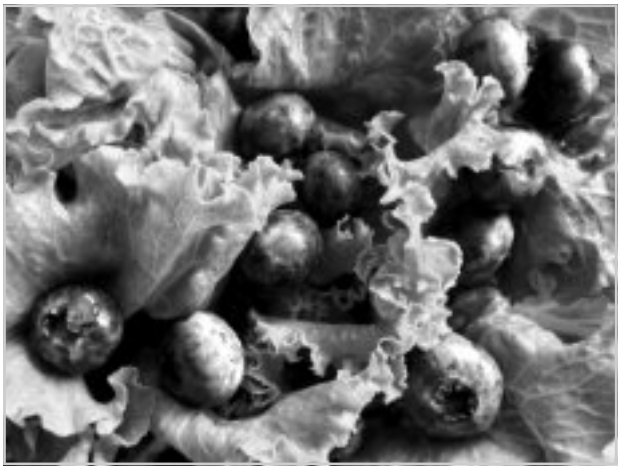


Blueberries Amongst The Lettuce

Where does a tart berry hide itself when the coyotes come picking?

In the lettuce, of course.

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)

Grateful For Our Neighbors

For the last several years, I've been talking to Danby neighbors and writing short articles so that we can get to know each other better. This month, I'm writing to say how grateful Danby's Community Council and Community Park Association are for the support of many of our neighbors. We asked you to come out in support of what we do, and you did.

On Tuesday evening, July 9, dozens of Danby residents made the trip to the Museum of the Earth for a special meeting (or set of meetings) of the "members of" the DCC and DCPA. Thanks to a one-time designation by the NYS Attorney General—in order to have a legal quorum--the membership was defined as, "those who show up." We were gratified to have a highly representative group who approved—for each organization—new Bylaws, and a new slate of directors, and (legal language) "ratified, confirmed, and approved" a plan of merger between the two organizations.

Carrie Pollak, an attorney specializing in not-for-profit law working on behalf of DCC and DCPA, facilitated the meeting. She was able to walk people through the process, starting with the need to correct a major obstacle in the old Bylaws of both organizations: an unattainable quorum. The membership was previously defined as every resident in the Town of Danby, requiring more than 1500 residents to attend every meeting. Pollak patiently and clearly answered questions aired by members.

There were questions about different options the two organizations might have, like independently dissolving and reincorporating. There were questions about the new definition of membership and how directors would be chosen. There were questions about what the reorganized, merged not-for-profit would look like and how it would move forward.

Attorney Pollak pointed out that a not-for-profit corporation is different from a government agency. While it may operate with less transparency, that does not mean there is a desire to operate with less public involvement. In short, there are many ways to contribute to and be involved with the future of the Park and public programming.

After quite a bit of time clarifying these things, and as the questions spun on with uncertain purpose—and some became confrontational—it was pointed out that all this was achieving was piling on more legal bills for the poor (literally) organizations. We thank those of our neighbors who used Robert's Rules of Order—they "called the question"—to relieve us from endless and seemingly pointless objections voiced by a tiny minority of those present. 25 of 32 people present voted to end discussion and vote on the resolutions. All the resolutions presented (amending by-laws, approving slates of directors and officers, and authorizing the Presidents of both the DCC and the DCPA to execute the Merger Plan) was approved by lopsided majorities (7:1 or better), with Pollak noting that she might have missed some of the votes in favor.

The amended Bylaws and Plan of Merger are now headed to NYS Attorney General's office for approval before they are filed with the Department of State, which will issue a new Certificate of Incorporation. This may take some time, as much as a few months. While that is happening, both the Community Council and Community Park Association still exist.

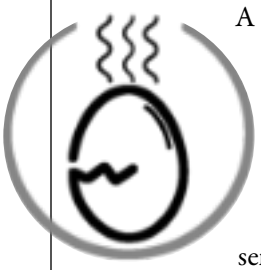
Dotson Park remains open to the public, and will be maintained. Concerts and other public programs (such as the late summer music making) will take place. The Danby News will continue to come to your mailbox.

When the merger is complete, the surviving corporation will be named Danby Community and Park, Inc., DCAP for short. We'll be well placed to plan improvements to the Park and to create programming that enhances the quality of life of our Danby neighbors. There will be Lots of ways to be involved.

Most importantly, none of this would be possible without the strong support of our neighbors. Not only those who were able to attend the meeting, but an equal number (at least!) who voiced their approval and support even though they could not attend. The Directors of the Community and Park are immensely grateful and uplifted by the support we've received. This gives us such hope and faith for the future. Thank you, thank you. (pg/tc)

Smelling Gas...Or Not?

Indoor natural gas leaks are prevalent and can impact indoor air quality and climate emissions, yet low-level, persistent leaks may go undetected.



A recent study from PSE Healthy Energy and Stanford University shows that benzene and other hazardous air pollutants are present in the natural gas used in homes throughout North America. Additionally, researchers found that low-level gas leaks could go undetected, even by residents with even an average sense of smell.

For more info, google "cnet gas smell leaking"

What The Town Doesn't Have To Tell You

Those in the know, understand that Legal Notices in a newspaper are not the best way to communicate important information to the public. Yet, sometimes, they are the most viable option.

The other typical notification option is posting a notice on an official Bulletin Board, somewhere in a government building. You'd have to visit the Bulletin Board in person, frequently, to be well informed...and that just doesn't happen.

Danby's Town Board is required to give public notice about hearings. Public notice is also required for applications handled by Danby's Planning Board (PB) and Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). For example, site plan reviews by the PB and all appeals heard by the BZA require notice. While Town Board actions affect the Town as a whole, actions by PB and BZA can have an outsized effect on individuals...but there is no requirement for effective notification of individuals who are potentially affected.

Danby's Zoning Law has a curious way of handling notification beyond the not-very-effective Legal Notice and/or Bulletin Board

Based on this, it might be wise for every property owner in Danby to protect their own interests by checking the Legal Notices of the Ithaca Journal (or visiting Town Hall) at least once a week...and to share news with their neighbors. If you know where to look and if it's working, the IJ also publishes Legal Notices on its web site.

Why does this matter? If you're a homeowner, wouldn't you like to know what's happening next door to you? You can't choose your neighbors but you can speak your piece about the impact of a planned project on you and your property. This is especially the case with the BZA, where you neighbor is asking for a variance—for permission to do something that is not allowed by Danby's Zoning Law.

Whether or not you think zoning is a "good thing", zoning is the way the Town mediates between the desires of an individual and the good of the neighborhood. Zoning can protect you when a big corporation wants to build a commercial venture next door.

Danby's Zoning Law has a curious way of handling notification beyond the not-very-effective Legal Notice and Bulletin Board (LNBB).

In Section 804 of the Zoning Law, paragraph 1 states that, beyond the LNBB, only the *applicant* must be notified. Paragraph 3 reiterates that this is the only required notification. Paragraph 3 further states that the Town policy (does such a policy exist? It's not among the policies that the Town Board reviews during its annual Organizational Meeting.) is to give notice to all property owners within 500 feet of the applicant's property. The burden of this extra notification is laid on the applicant, though the Town is permitted to—and often does—assume that responsibility.

Unfortunately, the 500-foot requirement, which might work well in downtown Ithaca, often means that only a few immediately adjacent neighbors are notified. This is hardly in the interest of effective public notification.

Paragraph 4 unwinds the protection given to neighbors. It states that failure to notify, "shall not be a jurisdictional defect," and any action taken, "shall not be nullified or voidable by reason of the failure to provide such notification." Thus, the PB or BZA can choose to proceed even if LNBB was not provided, let alone a mailed letter.

In a final Catch-22, paragraph 4 also states that the PB or BZA may decline to conduct its hearing if notice is not provided. However, if you aren't assiduously reading Legal Notices and haven't visited Town Hall since you last paid your taxes, and the optional written notification doesn't reach you (it happens!)...how are you supposed to know enough to claim that you weren't notified? If you don't know, how is the PB or BZA supposed to know?

FYI, a law suit against the BZA and the Town, claiming failure to notify, was decided against the neighbor because of paragraph 4.

In the current world, with its growing rules and shrinking privacy that can affect random individuals, it only seems reasonable to ask the Town to extend better protections: require mailed notifications, require a more reasonable (1000+ feet?) notification perimeter, require the posting of substantial (10 sq.ft.?) signs on the applicant's property, and require the failure to notify to void any actions taken.

Until then, the public will just have to read Legal Notices. (tc)

You can't always be everyone's favorite.
You're not an avocado.

Danby Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has traditionally set up its larder in the Danby Community Church on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 4-6pm (this month, that's Thursday, August 15).

Those in need at other times can call Joan Barber, 607.280.4776, for an appointment.

Set-up help is needed the day before Food Pantry, 2:30-6pm, on the day of Food Pantry to hand out food, etc., and at 6pm the day of Food Pantry to help put extra food away and clean up the room.

Another Food Hub

What began as a small space outside of the YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County has grown into a community-wide effort. The Neighborhood Food Hub offers not only food, but at times pet products, household cleaning items, and hygiene products to everyone in the community.

With the YMCA Neighborhood Food Hub, participants are offered free choice to fill their grocery bags with several nutritious options to restock their pantries and refrigerators.

The Neighborhood Food Hub is open Mondays and Fridays, 11:30am-5:30pm, at the YMCA, 50 Graham Road West in Lansing.

➲ ***West Danby Picnic, con't from front page***

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.

We'll also take the opportunity to recognize the service to the community provided by our recently-retired Water District employees, Carl and Marge Seamon and Tod Sukontarak.

If the weather is good, there will be badminton set up in the field. We're hoping to have an Appalachian music session happening on-site too!

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

Bad weather always looks worse through a window.

Summer Market Shines!

Danby's Summer Market continues its fourth year on August 16, 4-7pm. In addition to local produce and crafts vendors, there's a community yard sale every month on the 3rd Fridays in August and September.

Gather in and around the Sue Beeners Pavilion near the Danby Fire Station on NYS Rt.96B in central Danby. Enjoy an afternoon of shopping and listening to the background sound of local music from *Karlee Weaver,* courtesy of Danby's Community Council. You'll see neighbors and friends. Bring a blanket or picnic and relax into the weekend!

Parking is available in the lot off Gunderman Road and along Gunderman Road.

Safe Firewood Transport

Moving untreated firewood is one of the main ways invasive pests and diseases spread to new areas. In 2009, a regulation was enacted in New York State to prevent accidental spread.

NYS firewood regulations prohibit:

- Bringing untreated firewood from out of state
- Transporting untreated firewood grown in the state more than 50 miles from its source or origin

Regulations require that people carry source, origin, or treatment documentation whenever transporting firewood. Heat-treated firewood may be moved in an unrestricted manner.

- If you transport untreated firewood, it must have a receipt or label that identifies the firewood source.
- If purchasing and transporting heat-treated firewood, it must have a receipt or label that says, *New York Approved Heat-Treated Firewood/Pest Free*.

No documentation is needed for firewood that is used on the same property from where it is cut, unless it is transported on public roads from one area of the property to another.

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

Reminiscing #24

This is from an Ithaca Journal column I wrote in August, 2005.

"Summertime and the livin' is easy." Those are famous words, but not always accurate for road crews working outside during the hot, muggy days of summer. I asked Danby Highway Superintendent Bill Hall [2024: Keith Shipman] how work went this year and what is ahead for fall.

Bill reported that the Department has spent the spring and summer cleaning up from winter by grading and repairing roads. Unpredictable weather left work crews cleaning up trees from wind and rainstorms in early June. Roads that are scheduled for surface treating should be completed this month. In the fall the crews will be completing drainage roadwork. Their hard work is appreciated by the community.

Danby historian, Joan Grant [2024: Mary Ann Barr] reported that in the 1800s and 1900s Danby was rich with farms. I asked Paul Moore of Gunderman Road for some recollections of life on a farm in Danby. Paul was born in 1925 when there was no electricity on the farm and a hand pump used for water. All 7 siblings went to the old Danby School, located where the Danby Fire Station now stands on NYS Rt.96B. Along with homework, Paul pitched in to help with 3 cows, 15 sheep, and a team of horses. A cord of wood also had to be cut every week to heat the house.

Paul was involved in 4-H as a youngster and was busy preparing for the 2005 4-H Fair when I asked him for this story! Paul and his wife Harriet were married in 1953 and worked their dairy farm together. They also had a milk route picking up 100+ cans and delivering them to a creamery in Willseyville. (2024: Harriet and Paul have passed but their stories are remembered).

A little summer nostalgia: Know what I miss most during the summer months? Watching a movie from my car! (2024: When spending a few days in Clayton, New York early in July, we went to an old drive-in movie that was still operating. The movie was not very good but it sure was fun being there!). (gh)

This Issue's Writers

- ap.... Amanda Piha
- cp.... Cindy Parlett
- dcc.. Comm. Council
- gh ... Gay Huddle
- pf.... Peter Fraissinet
- pg ... Pamela Goddard
- sr..... Ted Crane
- tk .... Theresa Klinger

Seniors Update

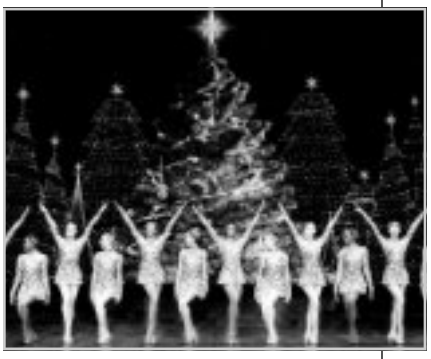
Our July BBQ at the Eagles Club was a great success. Approximately 82 people were in attendance. Our next dish-to-share luncheon will be held on Thursday, August 1, at Noon in the Danby Community Church. We are planning to play a few games of Bingo with prizes!

Our September lunch is scheduled for Thursday, September 5. Don't forget to bring your own table service and a utensil to share your dish.

Upcoming Trips

September 16-17: This will be our overnight trip to Lancaster and the Sight and Sound Theater to see Daniel. The trip will include show tickets, motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, breakfast, lunch, dinner and a guided tour through an authentic Amish farm. The cost will be $310 per person (double occupancy) and we are requiring a $75 non-refundable deposit, due by August 10. Please contact Pat Sawyer, 607.227.2378 or [ps49@twcny.rr.com].

October 16: We will be taking a Fall Foliage train excursion on the Arcade and Attica Railroad with lunch at the Turkey Run Golf Club. Price per person is $60. Please contact Theresa Klinger, [tklinger627@gmail.com] if you are interested in signing up or let her know at one of the monthly luncheons.



December 4: We will travel to NYC to see The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. This trip will also include time on your own for shopping and to check out the city, the amazing Christmas decorations and light shows as well as the Holiday pop up shops at Bryant Park where we will be dropped off. Cost for this trip is $130 per person. To sign up, please contact Tammy Lopez, [tml24@yahoo.com] or let her know at one of the luncheons. (tk)

Sundaes on Wednesdays

A summer favorite returns to Danby's Community Church at the end of July! On August 7, *Sundaes on Wednesdays* features the *The Ithaca Ageless JazzBand* at 7pm; on August 14, it's *Dee* Specker. For those with a yen for cold or with a sweet tooth, the Sundaes are served at 6:30pm. Free, open to the public.

The Church is at 1859 Danby Road.

Community Library

A big *Thank You* to the Cornell Companions for visiting us! Avery, Gus and Toucan patiently listened as the children read to them, and were rewarded with some well deserved treats. If you missed out on this event, we may schedule a return date in the fall. Look for the notices and keep your calendars open.

Two popular mystery series will be ending and we have the last book for both. The *Comfort of Ghosts* by Jacqueline Winspear is the 18th book and final Maisie Dobbs novel. *The Last Hope* by Susan Elia MacNeal, a Maggie Hope mystery, is the 11th and final book in that series.

It's not too late to take part in the Summer Reading Program we have available. Nica D'Alterio has kindly put together a fun, interactive reading program along with prizes for those who complete the reading sheets. Come in and take a look! (cp)

Rabies Vaccinations

Think ahead to September 14, the next Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic offered by the TC Health Department.

On 9/14, it'll be a drive-thru event at the TCAT bus garage on Willow Avenue in Ithaca. Call 607.274.6600 for information.

Support The *Danby News*

If you want information beyond official, sanitized announcements in expensive, tax-dollar-funded publications, the *Danby News* is the place to go.

We try to include a mix of event announcements, features about life in Danby, public service information, and brief, but in-depth explanations of the things that Danby residents need to know about their community.

We have to keep asking for your help and you've been responding. Paid subscriptions ($15 or more per household) are appreciated. If you can afford it, help keep your neighbors in touch with our community; 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)

Yard Work and Handy Services

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging maintains a list of individuals who are willing to do yard work and/or Handy Man services for older adults.

Summer is here and services like lawn mowing, gardening, and general yard work are very much needed. Many older adults are unable to maintain their yards or may have small tasks that need to be completed around the house.

The Office is updating its list and needs more workers. Specifically, we need individuals who are willing to work outside the City of Ithaca and in rural areas. If you are interested in assisting older adults, either on a paid or a volunteer basis, please call COFA, 607.274.5482.

Free Ramps

Do you need a ramp for yourself or someone in your household to be able to get in and out of your house? If you qualify, the Finger Lakes Independence Center, **[fliconline.org]** or 607.277.2433, can help you out.

Do you have an unneeded modular ramp? Want to donate it to FLIC for someone else who needs one? FLIC will take it away and install it for another eligible person.

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Aug 2024

Danby Community Council
Danby News
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Danby News: Event Calendar

Aug 1 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community & Park Mtg**

Aug 3 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

Aug 5 • Mon
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**

Aug 7 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**

Aug12 • Mon
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm WDFC Station • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**

Aug 13 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**

Aug 15 • Thu
4pm Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**

Aug 16 • Fri
4pm DVFC Station • **Danby Summer Market**

Aug 18 • Sun
2-5pm Dotson Park
Make Your Own Music • Community Music Jam

Aug 19 • Mon
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**

Aug 20 • Tue
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Planning Board Meeting**

Aug 24 • Sat
4:30pm McLaughlin Pavilion, Short and Brown
West Danby Picnic

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Town Board	August 5	882 2697 6101	905098
CAC	August 12	835 4940 5296	879507
Youth Commission	none	See Town web site	
Planning Board	August 20	893 3897 1114	956288
Town Board	August 19	847 9505 5187	308958
Zoning Appeals	August 27	Unknown?	None?
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			

Warning: Zoom meeting info and agendas change frequently!

Aug 27 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Sep 2 • Mon
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **No Town Board Meeting**

Sep 4 • Wed
5pm WD Fire Station • **West Danby Water District**

Sep 5 • Thu
Noon Community Church • **Seniors**
7pm Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**

Sep 7 • Sat
9:15am Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**

Sep 9 • Mon
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**
7pm DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
7pm WDFC Station • **WD Fire Dep't Meeting**

Sep 10 • Tue
7pm DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
7pm Zoom • **Conservation Advisory Council**

Sep 16 • Mon
6pm Town Hall+Zoom • **Town Board Meeting**

Sep 20 • Fri
4pm DVFC Station • **Danby Summer Market**

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