

MESSAGE FROM MONICA



October 13, 2022

Dear Darienites,

During the late spring and early summer, my office partnered with the Darien Police Department and the Darien Police Commission on the “Slow Down In Town” campaign, which was designed to highlight the importance of safe driving in town and create more awareness of the cyclists and pedestrians who share our roadways. While the campaign was well received, it has not achieved the desired impact on overall driving habits. The Selectmen’s office continues to receive many complaints about cars traveling too quickly, drivers ignoring crosswalks, and general unsafe driving behavior on roadways. It is important that all drivers obey traffic laws and posted speed limit signs for everyone’s safety.

In important news for residents, Aquarion has filed an application with the CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) for new water rates effective March 2023. For the average Darien homeowner, without an irrigation system or without heavier summertime water use, in the first year overall costs would be expected to increase by approximately 9%. A homeowner who has heavier summertime water use may see increases of 12-15% or more during those key months. Increases have also been proposed for subsequent years, which could increase the average homeowner’s cost by up to 20% over a 3-year period. Residents may provide comments on the application to PURA at a public hearing or electronically through the PURA web-filing system or by e-mail to Pura.ExecutiveSecretary@ct.gov.

Thank you for continuing to keep in contact with me with your thoughts, questions, and concerns.

Sincerely,
Monica McNally

DATES & INFORMATION

RTM

10.17.22 8:00 PM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10.18.22 7:00 PM

BOARD OF FINANCE

10.18.22 7:30 PM

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

10.18.22 7:30 PM

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

10.19.22 7:30 PM

FIVE MILE RIVER COMMISSION

10.20.22 6:00 PM

HOUSING AUTHORITY

10.25.22 6:30 PM

IMPORTANT LINKS

Darien Flu Clinic Appointment Scheduling:

www.darienct.gov/flu.

COVID Booster Shot availability: [vaccine clinic finder](#)

Darien Leaf Pick-Up [schedule](#)

Code Red [sign-up](#)

**PLANNING & ZONING
COMMISSION**
10.25.22 7:30 PM

The complete meeting schedule of all Boards and Commissions is available [here](#).

Schedule your appointment at
www.darienct.gov/flu

Darien Health Department Flu Vaccine Schedule

MATHER CENTER

Thursday, October 13,
9:30 - 11:30am

Thursday, October 27,
9:30 - 11:30am

TOWN HALL ROOM 119

Tuesday, October 18, 9:30 - 11:30am

Tuesday, October 25, 2 - 4pm

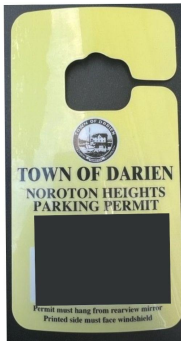
Tuesday, November 1, 2 - 4pm

VOTE & VAX:

Tuesday, November 8, 3 - 7 pm

The cost of flu vaccine is \$40, payable by check, cash, ConnectiCare insurance or Medicare Part B ONLY. We do not participate with any of the Medicare Advantage Plans.

RESIDENT REMINDERS, NEWS, & TIPS



**Train Station
Parking Permit
renewals
being mailed
9.30.22**

**Renewals
are due
10.31.22**

PARKING PERMITS

Train station parking permit renewals are due by October 31st. Late fees will begin on November 1st. Changes in contact information, or license plate additions and deletions, should be emailed to Anne DiCeglie, Parking Administrator, at adiceglie@darienct.gov along with a copy of the new registration(s). Residents will receive a confirmation email with the changes once they have been completed. Up to 4 license plates can be registered to the address on your permit, but plates must be registered before parking at the station or cars may be ticketed. Renewals will not be issued to accounts that have outstanding parking tickets and/or past-due motor vehicle taxes until the delinquencies are resolved.

SEWER BILLS

Sewer bills covering the period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, were mailed out on September 28th. The amount of the bill is based upon the homeowner's average water usage, according to Aquarion, during the non-irrigation months of November 2021 through March 2022. The billing rate has increased 2.69% from the prior year to \$6.88 per CCF (Centum Cubic Feet; the liquid measurement). Minimum statement amounts will be \$267.36. Statements of \$500 or less will be due in full by October 31, 2022. Bills over \$500 will automatically be split into two equal installments, the first due October 31, 2022, and the second due April 30, 2023. In March, people who have two installments will receive a bright orange reminder card in the mail if they have any amount due on their account, including those who did not pay the first installment. Payments may be made in person in the Tax Office at Town Hall (Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM - 5:15 PM), online through the Town website www.darienct.gov, or by mail. Checks should be made payable to: **Darien Tax Collector**.

CODE RED NOTIFICATIONS

The CODE RED notification system is the primary way for Town leadership and key public safety personnel to communicate with residents in the event of an emergency situation

and to communicate critical community alerts. Examples include severe weather notifications, a boil water advisory, or to dispense public health information. CODE RED is an opt-in service. Residents are strongly encouraged to register [here](#).



RTM REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

“WRITE IN” CANDIDATES FOR THE RTM

Residents interested in becoming a member of the RTM may still have the chance to appear on the ballot as a “write-in” candidate. Forms are available at the

Darien Town Clerk’s office and must be submitted by October 25, 2022. The form and instructions can be found [here](#). This process requires voters to physically write the candidate’s name in the appropriate box at the bottom of the ballot. The following Voting Districts are uncontested: Districts 1 and 2 both have 1 uncontested seat, District 3 has 2 uncontested seats, and District 5 has 4 uncontested seats.

LEAF PICK-UP

The town leaf pick-up program begins at the end of October. The complete schedule and instructions can be viewed [here](#). Leaves must be in 100% biodegradable paper bags. The appropriate bags are commonly found at local hardware stores, big box stores such as Home Depot, Lowes and supermarkets. Leaves can be dropped at the Town Recycling Center at any time of the year.

FARMERS MARKET

The Darien Farmers Market is open every Wednesday from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Goodwives Shopping Center. The Farmers Market will remain open on Wednesdays until November 23rd. This continues to be a wonderful way to “shop local” for fresh produce, plants, baked goods, meats, and cheeses. Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Vouchers are accepted through the closing date.



WATER MANAGEMENT

FLOOD INSURANCE

Approximately 600 homes in Darien are covered by residential flood insurance, which is less than 10% of the homes in Darien. The average policy premium for the covered homes is \$1,482.

Many homeowners think that their home insurance policy will cover flood related losses, but most policies do not. It is important to understand your homeowner’s insurance policy coverage and to verify coverage prior to an event. It is also important to know that flood coverage is not just limited to homeowners - business owners, renters, and tenants are also eligible to purchase a policy to protect their property and belongings.

FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On Thursday, October 27, 2022, the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), and Dewberry, an engineering firm with experience in disaster recovery, will hold a public information session for property owners regarding the Regional Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. The information session will explain FEMA flood grant programs and answer property owner questions about the grant application process. Individual assistance will be available to property owners to determine if they qualify, and aid in the preparation and submission of applications for flood proofing, buyout, and/or other forms of flood mitigation.

The information session will be held at Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, 4th Floor at 6:30 PM on October 27th and will be recorded and posted to the WestCOG website (www.westcog.org).

STORM PREPAREDNESS

Are you prepared for a major storm or hurricane? Major storms (from hurricanes to

blizzards) are the leading cause of long-duration power outages in Darien and there is much you can do to be prepared.

Ways a storm could potentially affect you:

- Power outages for weeks or more depending on the scale of the disaster
- Loss of internet and home telephones
- Without power, well water pumps will not function
- Inability to charge cell phones
- Inability to leave or access your home due to downed trees and power lines, or residential damage
- Large-scale road closures and inability to travel
- Flooding

Be prepared:

- Make sure you are signed up for Code Red alerts to receive Darien's emergency notifications
- Have an emergency preparedness kit
- Have a shelter plan (where you and your pets can go if you become displaced)
- Have a family emergency communications plan (how to contact each other in an emergency)

Items to include in your preparedness kit:

- Water (a gallon per day per person for several days)
- Food (a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Moist towelettes (for personal sanitation)
- Manual can opener
- Prescription & nonprescription medications (have a supply to last up to several weeks if possible)
- Prescription eyeglasses, extra contacts, and contact solution
- Instant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream
- Food and water for your pet(s) for several days
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Fire extinguisher
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items

If you have any additional questions on how to be best prepared see the Emergency Management [page](#) of the Town of Darien website or call their office (203) 656-7345.

COMMUNITY NEWS

YOUTH COMMISSION FOOD DRIVE – NEW DATE

The Darien Youth Commission and Person to Person (P2P) are proud to partner on another drive-through food drive, the fifth in less than two years. The drive will take place this Saturday, October 15th, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Koons Lot, near the Darien Train Station. Volunteers will remove donations directly from donors' cars. With the current economic situation, hunger and food insecurity continue to be a reality for many local families. Visit the Youth Commission [website](#) for additional details and a list of the most needed items.

DRIVE-THRU Food Drive

OCTOBER 15th 2022 FROM 9:00A.M. TO 12:00 NOON

Darien Train Station Parking Lot

(Koons Lot, Off of West Avenue, Across from Tilley Pond Park)



Hosted By: *



To Benefit:



Most Needed Donations:

Hearty Soups
Cereal
Oatmeal
Pancake Mix
Canned Fruits
Canned Veggies

Canned Meat/Fish
Pasta & Sauce
Protein & Granola Bars
Shelf Stable Milk
Baby Food
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Fresh Produce



MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

On Saturday, October 22nd, please consider walking with fellow community members and representatives from the Mental Health Task Force in the OUT OF THE DARKNESS Community Walk hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This walk is a way to unite community members in the effort to fight suicide, raise awareness, and support those who have lost loved ones. Registration is free and open to the public. For information and to register, visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention registration page: www.afsp.org/Fairfieldcounty.

YOUTH COMMISSION WINDOW PAINTING CONTEST

On Saturday, October 22nd, The Youth Commission is hosting its 25th annual Halloween Window Painting Contest. Participation is open to students in grades 6 – 12. Teams, of up to 5 members each, can register to participate in this wonderful community event. Advance registration is required. Complete event information, including the registration form, rules & regulations, equipment needed, and participant waiver can be found on the Darien Youth Commission website: www.darienct.gov/yc

GOVERNMENT 101

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATE

The Town recently submitted to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) the completed Town of Darien 2022 Affordable Housing Plan. The plan was prepared in response to State Statute 8-30g, which required each community in the state to complete their plan by mid-2022.

The plan contains six separate chapters: Community Value Statement/Goals; History of Housing in Darien; Housing Needs Assessment; Land Use and Zoning Assessment; Plan Principles and Goals; and Strategies and Actions for Implementation.

The Plan was prepared by the Planning & Zoning Commission, with assistance from both in-house staff and an outside consultant. A public hearing on the plan was held on July 26, 2022. At the public hearing, the Commission heard from a number of Town residents. At its Tuesday, September 6, 2022 meeting, the Commission adopted the plan by a vote of 5-0. It is expected that this document will serve as an excellent resource for local boards and commissions, and the public alike.

The final adopted version of the plan can be found at: www.darienct.gov/ahplan.

DARIEN COMMONS

Welcome to the new residents of Darien Commons in Noroton Heights! Mid-October will see residents moving into the apartments on the West Avenue side of the development with commercial tenants beginning to arrive by year-end.

POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT

The Darien Registrars of Voters are recruiting poll workers for the upcoming November 8th General Election. Workers can serve in a number of positions at one of our six polling district locations, either for the full day (5:15 AM - 8:30 PM) or choose between a morning shift (5:15 AM-1:15 PM) or evening shift (1:00 PM pm- 8:30 PM). Workers are paid per shift, provided with snacks, refreshments, coffee, and a meal (lunch for the morning shift, dinner for the evening shift, and both for the full day) from Michael Joseph's Catering. All poll workers receive mandatory training from our Registrars' Office ahead of the election. Poll workers are a vital part of our democratic process. If you are interested in being a poll worker, please contact Corey Frate at the Registrar's Office (Room 106 in Town Hall) at (203) 656-7316 or at cfrate@darienct.gov

HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: ABOUT THE RTM, Part 2

The RTM is comprised of a Rules Committee and 7 standing committees: Education, Finance & Budget (this has 2 sub-committees: Board of Selectmen Budget and Board of Education Budget), Parks & Recreation, Planning, Zoning &

Housing, Public Health & Safety, Public Works, and TGS&A (Town Government, Structure & Administration).

The Rules committee is responsible for the internal administration of the RTM, including interpretation and application of the rules of procedure; preparation of the RTM agenda for each meeting; assignment of members to standing committees; appointment of special committees and advisory commissions; resolution of questions or disputes concerning the function and responsibility of any standing committee, special committee or advisory commission; and the designation of an acting moderator. The rules committee has two members from each voting district, and the members are elected by the district representatives.

The standing committees are responsible to provide accurate and up-to-date information to full RTM in the areas assigned to the committee and to maintain contact with the appropriate town boards, commissions and officials. Additionally, the committees are responsible to consider and recommend action to the full RTM on proposed and pending resolutions, legislation, or other matters affecting its assigned area. Each of the standing committees is comprised of at least one member from each voting district.

The time requirement and workload of each standing committee varies, based on traditional responsibilities and special projects. Finance & Budget and Education are two of the more active committees and closely follow the work of the Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT: JENNIFER CHARNESKI, Director of Finance

Jenn has been with the Town of Darien as the Director of Finance for 7 years, and active in local government budgeting and finance for over 20 years. She earned her MPA from Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). She was drawn to local government because she enjoys seeing the direct results of her work and witnessed that local government is the level of government that has the most immediate impact on residents. In her words, it is “for that reason, it’s so important that we are listening and responsive.”

The Director of Finance role is critical, with many duties and responsibilities, Highlights include the following:

- Oversees the Finance Department which is responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all funds. Supervises the functional areas of accounting, budget, debt management, accounts payable, and payroll.
- Oversees budget administration to ensure related programs and policies are carried out. Prepares operating and capital improvement budget recommendations assists department heads in the organization and administration of unit budgets and provides budgetary control.
- Manages the Town’s indebtedness program through the preparation of statements for debt service requirements, debt structuring, debt negotiations, and the sale of bonds.
- Recommends changes in financial operations to improve services and to attain operational efficiencies

INTERESTING INFORMATION

COASTAL FLOODING

During the October 3rd Emergency Preparedness & Response Presentation, Craig Flaherty, P.E. Partner and Principal at Redniss & Mead, explained how wind events have a direct effect on the tides and flooding along our coastline. Nor’easters, hurricanes, or remnants of hurricanes, are counter-clockwise moving storms. When offshore storms are moving up the coast, the wind is moving from east to west (Rhode Island to New York) pushing water in Long Island Sound in the same

direction, increasing the storm surge, which is additionally enhanced by the narrowing of Long Island sound near Darien. Due to these conditions, the potential coastal flood elevation is four feet higher on the western end of Long Island Sound than on the eastern end causing Darien to experience more coastal flooding than towns to our east.

Sign up here to receive the
newsletter



Town of Darien | 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820

[Unsubscribe mhayes@darienct.gov](mailto:mhayes@darienct.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by bymmcnally@darienct.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!