

MESSAGE FROM MONICA



September 1, 2022

Dear Darienites,

Despite the very dry weather we experienced this summer, we should be mindful that we are in the midst of the 2022 hurricane season. The Town was hit with a number of storm events over the last year and faced historic flooding. In order to keep all of our residents as updated as possible, we will be hosting a Public Information Session on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 7:00 PM, during our regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting. Key department heads and emergency personnel will join us to share updates, focusing on lessons learned, as well as basic preparedness steps residents and businesses can take now. We will also review the Town's storm action plan, highlighting standard practices and maintenance throughout the year. We will detail specific storm prep as an impending event approaches, mid-storm response, and aftermath assistance and guidance. An update on the status of flooding studies commissioned after the last two storm events will be presented. If you are unable to attend in person or watch the meeting live on TV79, the Vimeo recording of the entire meeting will be available on the Town website for future reference.

Please continue to keep in contact with me with your thoughts, questions, and concerns.

Sincerely,
Monica McNally

DATES & INFORMATION

The Town began the rehabilitation of the sanitary sewer on Old Kings Highway South on August 31, 2022. Work hours will be 7:00 AM through 5:00 PM on weekdays, and is scheduled to continue through January of 2023. The work area includes all of Quaker Rd. and Old Kings Highway South from the intersections of Quaker Rd. to (west of) Andrews Drive. Darien Police will be on site for traffic control. Area residents will have access to their homes at all times and the detour of traffic is not anticipated, but may become necessary. As always, school bus traffic will be given priority through the area and roads will remain open to emergency services at all times.

LABOR DAY

9.5.22

Town Hall Closed

PLANNING & ZONING

9.6.22 7:30 PM

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMISSION

9.7.22 7:00 PM

FIVE MILE RIVER COMMISSION

9.8.22 6:00 PM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

9.12.22 7:00 PM

PLANNING & ZONING

9.13.22 7:30 PM

OPERATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE

9.14.22 9:00 AM



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

The Health Department will begin offering flu vaccine clinics as soon as vaccines are made available. Appointments can be scheduled through their website: www.darienct.gov/flu

Registration for Parks & Recreation Fall and Winter Programs is open. Visit www.darienct.gov/parkrec to learn about the many program offerings and to guide.

POLICE INFORMATION

With the new school year underway, it is timely to make residents aware of the roles and responsibilities of School Resource Officers (SRO's).

Darien Police Department School Resource Officer Job Description

The SRO provides a regular police presence on the school campus and acts as a liaison between the Police Department, faculty, and the student body, working diligently to foster a spirit of cooperation and trust between all parties. The SRO also provides education, assistance, and law enforcement services to the school community. They receive direction from the Detective Division Lieutenant and Sergeant and maintain strong, regular lines of communication with the Patrol and Detective Divisions.

Examples of Essential Job Duties:

- Maintain and foster a strong security awareness throughout the school campus to include the student body, faculty, and staff
- Classroom presentations including, but not limited to, topics of legal issues, police/youth relationships, and substance abuse and addiction
- Provide conflict mediation – including discussion groups addressing health issues, teen issues, family life, peer pressure, legal issues, refusal skills, and consequences
- Develop and utilize problem-solving projects to foster police and youth relationships
- Monitor truancy (liaise between principals, guidance counselors, faculty, students, crisis support workers, and the Human Services Department)
- Monitor crime awareness; investigate criminal issues in and around the schools and disseminate intelligence information to appropriate personnel
- Interact with students/faculty and respond to requests for police service and assistance: interview complainants, victims, and witnesses at the scene of a crime or other incidents to gather relevant information, submit reports (in narrative form) describing events, activities, investigations, or enforcement actions taken
- Patrol on foot, by bicycle, or by car to establish a visible presence within the school building and on school grounds
- In conjunction with the Youth Detectives, exercise judgment to determine whether

and a referral should be made and complete the necessary paperwork and procedures when processing an arrested party. May assist in preparing cases for court or give deposition testimony regarding the facts of a case

- Provide emergency medical assistance as needed
- Act as a liaison between the school system (e.g., guidance counselors, psychologists, crisis support workers, principals, superintendent), youth agencies, youth organizations, Town departments, and justice programs, and maintain effective communication
- Acts as an informational resource to school personnel, students, and parents
- Develop youth-related programs and initiatives for the school system to aid in the prevention of crime, violence, and drug abuse

Special Requirements:

- Must hold a current law enforcement certification through the Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training Council (POSTC)
- Only sworn officers, with a minimum of two years of experience with the Darien Police Department, shall be eligible for assignment as an SRO
- Must possess excellent interpersonal skills to establish rapport with school faculty, students, and parents

GOVERNMENT 101

VOTING PRECINCT AUDIT AND OFFICE LOTTERY

Secretary of the State Mark Kohler randomly chose 37 voting precincts from the August 2022 primary election to have their machine totals audited. In addition, 15 alternate precincts were chosen in the event the primary precincts are unable to be audited. Three voting precincts in Darien were among the primary and alternate locations chosen to have totals audited: Board of Ed Building (chosen as both a primary and an alternate), and Hindley School (alternate).

The lottery for the selection of the offices to be audited by the Registrars of Voters will be held Tuesday, September 6th, 11:00 AM, in the Town Clerk's Office. The Audit of the machine totals for precincts picked in the lottery will be conducted on Wednesday, September 7th, 10:00 AM, in the Town Hall Auditorium.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Selectmen will be holding a Public Hearing on September 12th, at 7:00 PM during its regularly scheduled meeting to obtain public comment on increasing specific Tipping Fees and Residential Dump Permits Rates. Rates were last reviewed in July of 2013.

The Town of Darien currently charges \$94 per ton to dump household trash at the town transfer station. As of July 1, 2022, Win Waste (formally City Carting) now charges the Town \$99.37 per ton to haul the waste away from the transfer station, leaving the Town at a per ton deficit. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has proposed increasing the fee for haulers to dispose of household trash at the town transfer station to \$118 per ton.

The Residential Dump Permit fees are also included in this request for a rate increase. The DPW proposes that a residential dump permit for a home with private garbage collection increase from \$40 to \$50 per year, while the residences without home garbage collection increase from \$120 to \$150 per year. For Darien's Senior Citizens, the first permit would still be free, while the acquisition of a 2nd or 3rd would be \$50 each. The existing Commercial Vehicle Dump Plate Fee that is renewed annually will remain at \$150.

If the Board of Selectmen approves these rate increases, the hauler fee will be effective October 1, 2022. The new rate for the Residential Dump Permits will take effect with the sale of the 2024 fiscal year permits.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Representative Town Meeting (RTM), has some vacant seats. To join, read more about the application process, and access the nominating petition, click [here](#). Completed

forms should be returned to the Town Clerk's office by Sept 13th in order for your name to appear on the November ballot. Please call the Town Clerk's office with any questions: 203 656-7307.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

Holmes and Royle Elementary Schools, Middlesex Middle School and Town Hall have each earned the EPA's ENERGY STAR for superior energy performance. ENERGY STAR-certified buildings are verified to perform in the top 25 percent of buildings nationwide, based on multiple key metrics. ENERGY STAR is the only energy efficiency certification in the United States that is based on actual, verified energy performance. Darien is committed to doing its part to protect the environment and public health, and saving energy is just one of the ways we are accomplishing this. Thank you to Darien Public Schools Facilities Department, the Darien Public Works Department, and the Advisory Committee on Sustainability for working to achieve this certification.



WATER MANAGEMENT

The Department of Public Works continues to manage, maintain and study the Town's water management and draining systems. Below are updates on the multiple major projects under review.

Old Kings Highway South

As highlighted above, the work to re-line 3500 linear feet of existing 12" asbestos concrete sanitary pipe and 18 sanitary manholes along Old Kings Highway South began on August 31st. Construction is expected to continue through January, with negligible traffic impacts anticipated.

Salt Box Lane Study

Public Works met with its consultants on August 9, 2022, to review the progress of the study which is 90% complete. The review of flood inundation maps for a variety of storm events are 100% complete. When the report is completed in its entirety, findings and recommendations will be presented to the public.

Grove Street Study

This study is approximately 40% complete. Currently, the initial flood modeling is being calibrated to match the recent flood events, and the camera inspection of the existing drainage system is being scheduled.

Bailey Avenue Study

During the August 9th progress review meeting, the consultants reported that this study is approximately 95% complete. As with the Salt Box Lane Study, when the report is completed in its entirety findings and recommendations will be presented to the public.

HIGHLIGHTS

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS: STUDENT RESOURCE OFFICERS



**Darien High School SRO,
Bryan Wallman**

Darien High School Resource Officer (SRO) Bryan Wallman has been serving with the Darien Police Department since 2006. He is the second SRO at Darien High School and has been serving in this role with distinction since January of 2017. Bryan has a long standing connection with the DHS community as he served as a volunteer wrestling coach prior to being assigned as the SRO. He also served as a "School Liaison Officer" at Hindley School for two years. This SLO program allows for officers, during the course of their regular patrol day, to frequently stop in at schools and engage with students and staff alike. SRO Wallman is a state certified law enforcement instructor and a member of the department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). He also serves on the Town of Darien's Juvenile Review Board (JRB). SRO Wallman currently lives in Ridgefield with his spouse and two children.



**Middlesex Middle School SRO,
Bryce Brown**

Newly assigned Middlesex Middle School SRO Bryce Brown has been serving with the Darien Police Department since 2019. He is the second SRO assigned at MMS. Prior to his employment in Darien, he was an officer with the Bethel Police Department for approximately two years. SRO Brown has a B.S. Degree in Business Administration from Western New England College and a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Sacred Heart University. Prior to becoming a police officer, SRO Brown was a substitute teacher and assistant varsity football coach at Guilford High School and then became a full-time business teacher at Trumbull High School. SRO Brown is also a state-certified law enforcement instructor. SRO Brown currently lives in Monroe with his spouse and son.



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: SUSAN YUNG DALY

Susan was appointed to the Darien Parks and Recreation Commission in 2007 and is currently the longest-serving member on the Commission. Susan has been a resident since 2004, and a dedicated and enthusiastic town volunteer ever since. Some of her volunteer efforts and initiatives include:

- Served as a member of the Weed Beach Building Committee
- Raised, as a co-chair of Playground by the Sound, over \$250,000 for the Weed Beach playground
- Co-founded Foreign Language for Darien's Schools, a committee that lobbied the school board to bring foreign language to Darien's elementary schools
- Assists with Pollinator Pathway and has planted and helped maintain gardens at Town Hall and Cherry Lawn
- Co-founded the Tokeneke School Passport Around the World event, an event to

- increase cultural awareness that is attended by over 800 people biannually
- Received the Tokeneke PTO's nomination for the Community Fund's Volunteer of the Year
- Board Member of the YWCA of Darien/Norwalk which named her as a "Woman of Distinction"
- Active in Darien's Boy Scouts of America: served on the board of the Andrew Shaw Memorial Trust (ASMT) as the Troop 35 Merit Badge Committee Coordinator, as Cub Scout den leader, and as a liaison for Eagle Scout projects that involve the Town's beaches and parks.

Susan's commitment to Darien is impressive and we are grateful to her for her service to our community.

MENTAL HEALTH

Now that we are past the acute postvention phase, the Mental Health Task Force was advised by experts to establish the following subcommittees: Programming/Behavioral Health; Mental Health Needs Assessment; Media/Communications. The subcommittees will meet periodically with the Mental Health Task Force to provide progress reports. Town-wide educational and prevention seminars will be organized during the fall by the Programming/Behavioral Health Subcommittee.

Additionally, the Mental Health Resources tab on the Town website continues to be updated periodically with additional resources and therapists/agencies that are accepting new clients.

9-8-8

This three-digit number, formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, is a 24/7 call, text, and chat line which will connect you to trained crisis counselors should you or someone you know be experiencing suicidal thoughts, mental health concerns, substance use, or other emotional crises. 9-8-8 has been built off of the existing lifeline (1-800-273-8255). Both numbers will be able to connect you to the exact same services and will remain in effect.



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 mhayes@darienct.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!