

MESSAGE FROM MONICA



Dear Darienites,

Congratulations to all of the students and families who reached milestones in the last few weeks. We are proud of all of the accomplishments earned and achieved by all of our students. Another school year has finished and now it is time for all of us to enjoy everything summer has to offer.

Now is the perfect time for all of us to slow down, free up our hectic schedules, and make time to relax and spend some quiet quality time with our family and friends - especially our young people. We should all enjoy "the lazy days of summer."

Let this also be a time for our community to heal after a very difficult few months. If you or someone you love is struggling, I encourage you to refer to the Mental Health Resources tab on the Town [website](#) to view the many resources that are available. Included are names of mental health providers taking new patients from Darien or people who are directly tied to Darien, offerings for support groups for people of all ages, ways to enroll in the next two Mental Health First Aid Training classes, as well as contact information for Ali Ramsteck and Cynthia Hall, Darien Human Services, who are both Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

We have teams of professionals and community leaders working hard to help address the mental health needs in Darien, and will have much more information to share as we all move forward.

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

Sincerely,
Monica McNally

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

TOWN FIREWORKS

The Town Fireworks are scheduled for Friday, July 15, 2022 at Darien High School (the rain date is Saturday, June 16th). Resident parking passes will be on sale from Monday, June 27th through Wednesday, July 13th. Passes are limited and available on a first-come-first-served basis for \$30 each. Passes may be purchased online [here](#) or in-person at the Parks & Recreation Department in Town Hall from 8:00 AM - 5:15 PM Monday-Thursday. This event would not be possible without the generous donations of our many sponsors.....Baywater Properties; The Glassmeyer Family; The Corbin District; Compass; Darien Sport Shop; Federal Realty; First County Bank; Crestwood Advisors; Nielsen Florist; Rings End; The Anderson Family; The Dolcetti Family; Sheree Frank: Realtor, Houlihan Lawrence - Darien/Rowayton; The Stevenson Family; Orchard Tree Care Specialists; Palmers Market; and Rand Insurance.

RTM

6.27.22 8:00PM
Great Island Vote

FIREWORK PARKING PASSES GO ON SALE

6.27.22

PLANNING & ZONING

6.28.22 7:30PM

HHR BUILDING COMMITTEE

6.30.22 6:00PM

SEWER COMMISSION

7.5.22 4:30PM

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMISSION

7.6.22 7:00PM

GREAT ISLAND FACTS AND TIMELINE

Approximately 60 acres of property
1.5 miles of shoreline
9 existing structures
Purchase Price: \$103 million

June 9: Public Information Session presented by First Selectman, Monica McNally, and Board of Finance Chair, Jim Palen. A video of the entire presentation can be viewed [here](#).



Bob's Eye View of Great Island with Scott's Cove on the left, Crab Island, Fish Islands, and Green Ledge Light in the distance, and Ziegler's Cove on the right

June 13: Board of Selectmen vote in favor of the purchase.

June 15: Board of Finance vote in favor of the purchase.

June 27: RTM will Vote on the potential purchase.

August 6: Due diligence period ends if RTM has approved the purchase.

All information regarding the potential purchase is available on the main page of the Town website under [Great Island](#). This page will be updated continuously so please refer there for current information. Any questions or comments should be emailed to boardofselectmen@darienct.gov.

RESIDENT REMINDERS NEWS & TIPS

NEW RECREATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

We are pleased to welcome Cassandra (Cassie) Schull, our new Recreation Program Supervisor in the Parks and Recreation Department. Cassie spent a number of years as both the Recreation Marketing & Communications Specialist, and the Economic & Community Development Coordinator for the City of Milford. We are fortunate to have her as a part of our great team here at Town Hall. As a reminder, there are several openings in the fun summer programs being offered through the Parks and Rec Department. Please click [here](#) to view them and register.

DOG LICENSING

Please remember to register your dog with the Town by June 30th. A \$1/month late fee will be imposed for licenses issued after June 30th. Any dog not licensed is subject to a \$75 fine by the Darien Animal Control Officer. All dogs over 6 months must be licensed. The fee is \$8 for a neutered/spayed dog and \$19 for an unneutered/spayed dog. Current rabies vaccination and the certification must be presented when licensing. For more information, please contact the Town Clerk's office or go to darienct.gov then "How do I?"

PROTECT YOUR CAR

We continue to see cars, and items inside cars, being stolen because car doors are left unlocked with keys left inside the vehicle. For your own protection, it is important to lock car doors at all times - even when parked in a private driveway. If everyone remembers to lock their cars, the thieves will find other places to go if they are unsuccessful in Darien.

INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

FROM THE MATHER CENTER

For our Seniors: The July issue of *Highlights and Happenings* newsletter is now available in the Darien Senior Center and [Online](#). We are celebrating SUMMER - National Ice Cream Month - and you! We have come up with some enjoyable, educational, and creative ways to spend your July. Please sign up in advance for the events on July 1st, 7th, and 28th. On those days we are offering special treats and want to ensure we have enough for those in attendance. For more information, please call Darien Senior Programs at 203-656-7490.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please read through the Town Lawn Sign policy before printing and distributing signs:

- Any lawn signs should be placed no more than one week prior to an event and should be removed one day after the event.
- To put them on Town property, such as Tilley Pond Park, requires approval from the Park and Recreation Commission.
- Any signs along the roadways (within 10-12 feet of a paved road) are on Town-owned property, and thus, subject to removal by DPW.
- Similarly, to put them on DOT property at the I-95 exits (such as exit 10 or 13) requires DOT review/approval.
- While cutting lawns, both DOT and the Town will remove the signs to cut the grass areas they are responsible for—either along a highway or in a park.
- Property owners are welcome to put signs on their property, at least 12 feet from the roadway. Three square feet max, one sign per property.

GOVERNMENT 101

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Connecticut Office of Legislative Research, a non-partisan group, has compiled a recap of what are considered key pieces of legislation that passed both the House, and the Senate, and were signed by the Governor during the 2022 Legislative Session. (February 9th to May 4th, 2022). The document can be reviewed on the Town website by clicking [here](#).

PRIMARY ELECTION

On Tuesday, August 9th, Darien is having a dual (Democratic and Republican) primary election. Residents should have received orange postcards with the most recent local district poll locations, state and federal district information, and the current elected official representation. Voting for the primary will take place in person at Darien's six poll locations or by the absentee ballot application and ballot process, which is available through the Town Clerk's office. For a primary election in the state of CT, there is no same-day, so please check the Registrar Of Voters [website](#) for voter registration deadlines. More detailed information will be available as the date gets closer, and can also be found on the Town [website](#).

PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Property tax bills will be mailed Tuesday, June 28th. Taxpayers should expect to see them in their mailboxes by Friday, July 1st. Tax bills will also be available at the following link through the town website beginning July 1st: <https://gemsnt.com/darien-webtax>

Below are Responses to Common Tax Related Questions:

1. The tax bill has a due date of July 1st, but I just received the bill.

Taxpayers have the full month of July to pay without penalty.

2. What is the new mill rate?

The new mill rate is 17.23 which is a 2.32% increase from the prior year.

3. To whom do I make the check payable?

Darien Tax Collector

4. I never received the tax bill.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or penalties thereon. Tax bills are available online at the link provided above.

5. My tax bill says the bill is for 2021. I bought the property in 2022.

The current tax bills are for Grand List 2021 which means they are based on taxable property identified by the Darien Assessor's Office on October 1, 2021. The tax bills are generated in July 2022, and payable in July 2022 and January 2023.

6. I recently paid off my mortgage.

Please contact the Darien Tax Office if you haven't received a tax bill by July 1st or access the tax bill from the website. Depending on the timing, the bill may have been coded for the bank to pay. As the Tax Office doesn't receive a notification when mortgages are paid off, the onus is on the taxpayer to obtain the bill and notify the Tax Office of the change.

7. My tax bills were mailed to the wrong address.

For real estate tax bills, the Tax Office requires written authorization from the property owner to change the mailing address.

For motor vehicle tax bills, mailing address changes need to be processed through CT DMV. This may be done online through the CT DMV website.

8. I received a tax bill for a car I no longer own.

When a motor vehicle is sold, destroyed, or registered out of state, documentation must be provided to the Assessor's Office in order to delete or prorate the tax bill. This documentation must be provided and any resulting tax paid by the end of July in order to avoid interest. Never ignore a tax bill!!!!

9. What period does the tax payment cover?

Real estate: The July 2022 payment covers the period July 1, 2022-December 31, 2022. The January 2023 payment covers the period January 1, 2023-June 30, 2023.

Motor Vehicle: The July 2022 payment covers the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

[Sign up here to receive the newsletter](#)

