

MESSAGE FROM MONICA



Dear Darienites,

On June 27th the RTM voted to support the acquisition of Great Island, 60+ acres along the coastline of Darien. The vote was 67 in favor of the purchase and 13 opposed. The contract was finalized on June 28th and the town has 40 days, ending on August 5th, to complete its due diligence on the property.

We will continue our work during the remaining due diligence period. Town staff and outside advisors will review the property, including environmental, operational, and legal matters. The contract affords considerable protections to the

Town as the buyer of the property and specifically states that if at any time during the due diligence period the Town deems the property unsuitable, in its sole discretion, the Town may terminate this agreement and the deposit shall be refunded. This provision provides that we have ample time and flexibility to explore and resolve any issues and ensures that this acquisition remains right for the Town.

The Board of Finance will issue bonds to pay for the purchase price to enable us to close on September 5th, which is 30 days after the due diligence period ends. That is when the Town would take ownership of the property.

I believe that by working together, and potentially with the assistance of private support, we can shape Great Island into a town asset that carefully combines investment and preservation.

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 on Friday, July 15, 2022, with a rain date of Saturday, July 16, 2022, at Darien High School.

The Darien Community Band will provide live music and we encourage individuals to support our local food trucks. Residents should bring blankets and chairs for their own comfort. This year, we will again offer a sensory-friendly location for viewers.

Access to fireworks parking will be via Noroton Avenue only, starting at 6:30 PM. The fireworks show will begin at approximately 9:00 PM. Access to the Darien High School property, including all fields and paths, will be restricted from 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM to personnel and vendors only. Paths near the fireworks launch site will remain closed through the evening.

Resident parking passes sold out quickly! All parking passes must be picked up in the Parks and Recreation office by July 13th, whether purchased online or in person. Only vehicles with parking

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COASTAL WATERS

7.11.22 7:30PM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

7.11.22 7:00PM

PLANNING & ZONING

7.12.22 7:30PM

BLIGHT REVIEW BOARD

7.13.22 5:30PM

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY

7.13.22 12:00PM

BOARD OF FINANCE

7.19.22 7:30PM

PLANNING & ZONING

7.19.22 7:30PM

PARKS & RECREATION

passes will be permitted into the event – passes MUST be visible on the dashboard prior to arriving at the event.

COMMISSION
7.20.22 7:30PM

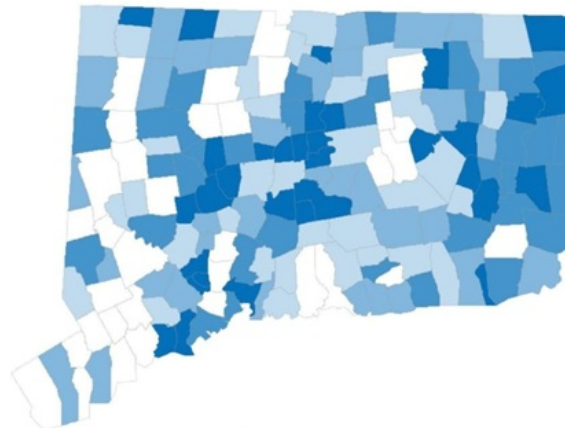
This event would not be possible without the generous donations of our many sponsors: Baywater Properties; Compass; The Corbin District; Crestwood Advisors; Darien Sport Shop/NFL; Federal Realty; First County Bank; the Glassmeyer Family; Nielsen's Florist; Rings End; the Anderson Family; the Dolcetti Family; Sheree Frank: Realtor, Houlihan Lawrence - Darien/Rowayton; the Stevenson Family; Orchard Tree Care Specialists; Palmer's Market; and Rand Insurance.

For questions, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (203) 656-7325 or refer to the [website](#).

RESIDENT REMINDERS NEWS & TIPS

INTERNET BROADBAND SURVEY

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has launched a statewide broadband survey to assess residential broadband access within the state. The Biden-Harris administration has announced its "Internet for All Initiative", which will invest \$45 billion to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed internet for everyone in America by the end of the decade. Each state is set to receive at least \$100 million, with each state's final funding allotment being determined by the number of unserved locations they have, as identified by the broadband maps, the FCC is expected to release next year.



[View the CT Office of Policy & Management broadband map to view broadband subscription rates in your town.](#)

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POLL WORKERS NEEDED FOR THE AUGUST 9TH PRIMARY

The Registrars of Voters are seeking Darien residents to serve as poll workers for the August 9th primary. Poll workers will be paid between \$112 and \$225 per shift based on position, experience, and the number of shifts worked. Two shifts are available at each polling location: 5:15 AM to 1:15 PM and 1:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Training will be provided before August 9th.

Please contact the Registrars of Voters office if you are interested:

- in person, at Town Hall 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM Monday through Thursday, room 106
- by phone at 203-656-7316, or
- email Cara Gately, cgately@darienct.gov, Tracey Whitehead, twhitehead@darienct.gov, Susan Gray, sgray@darienct.gov, or Corey Frate, cfrate@darienct.gov.

NEW DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Welcome to Susan Barksdale, the new Director of Human Resources for the Town of Darien. Susan has spent the last 11 years working for the Town of Stratford's Human Resources department, most recently as the Assistant Director. She is SHRM certified and has extensive experience in all areas of HR – contract negotiation, employee

relations, staff development, recruitment as well as HR information systems. She served on the Stratford Board of Education for four years, acting as co-chair for the final two years. In her spare time, Susan serves on the board of a local non-profit advising the director on all HR matters. She has an MBA, as well as a BS in Aeronautical Engineering.

MENTAL HEALTH



NEWPORT HEALTHCARE
Empowering Lives. Restoring Families.™



Grief and Loss Support Group Series

In collaboration with the Town of Darien, Newport Healthcare is offering a grief and loss support group for local parents and families at no charge, on three Wednesdays in July. Attend either live or via Zoom. Registration is not required; attend all three sessions or as many as you are able.

When:

6:00–7:00 pm ET
Wednesday, July 6
Wednesday, July 13
Wednesday, July 27

Where:

Newport Academy
85 Old Kings Highway N.
Suite 1A
Darien, CT 06820

[Click Here to
Attend Virtually](#)



Questions? Contact:

Erin Swett, LCSW
Advanced Clinical Outreach Specialist
203-231-0042
erin.swett@newporthealthcare.com

GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP SERIES

In collaboration with the Town of Darien, Newport Healthcare is offering a grief and loss support group for local parents and families at no charge. Sessions are scheduled for three Wednesdays in July. Attend either live or via zoom using this [link](#) which can also be found on the town website under Mental Health. Registration is not required; you may attend all three sessions or as many as you are able.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

The Human Service Department is offering two more free Mental Health First Aid Training Sessions for Darien residents, or those who work directly with Darien residents. The next session will be held on July 13th and 14th from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The final session is a single day, Saturday session, on July 16th from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Space is still available, for adults age 18 or older. To register, email aramsteck@darienct.gov.

POSTVENTION SUICIDE TRAINING FOR TOWN STAKEHOLDERS

Definition of Postvention: A planned response after a suicide to help with healing and reduce the risk of further suicide incidents.

On Thursday, July 7th, several members of the Town Mental Health Task Force participated in the first of two sessions of “Postvention Suicide Training” provided by [the Hub](#) (The state-designated Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization). The goals and objectives for this training are:

- Review risk factors and warning signs for promoting postvention as a method of prevention for individuals at risk
- Identify protocols and best practices for communication after a suicide to insure immediate and follow-up response across a community
- Develop a Postvention team of stakeholders to ensure policies and procedures are implemented

The Hub’s suicide prevention team continues to work closely with the Town to guide us through the best-practice response to the multiple tragedies our town has experienced. One of the important aspects of this work, designed to help reduce the risk of future tragedies, is to focus only on support and resources for the community during the first 4-6 months following a suicide or untimely death. There should be no prevention work or intensive training for the greater community until this time has passed. It has been stressed that while we may want to “do” something, the first 4-6 months after the most recent tragedy are a time for healing and recovery, and efforts to “do” something can have a negative impact.

The next training will take place on July, 19th. During this training, the Postvention Team's roles & responsibilities will be defined and the work of developing a Town Wide Postvention Plan will begin. The broader Mental Health Taskforce will convene following the Postvention training.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The [Mental Health Tab](#) on the Town Website has multiple resources available to help including contact information for local service providers able to see new patients. You may

COMMUNITY NEWS

DARIEN SIDEWALK SALES

The Darien Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 2022 Sidewalk Sales from July 14th through 16th, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Expect tons of shopping, entertainment, and fun giveaways. It's a "not to miss" in Darien! For details on locations and special giveaways please download the Live Darien CT mobile app [here](#) or at <http://onelink.to/livedarien>

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FOR NOROTON & WEST AVENUES

You may have noticed that a small amount of the project site work has started with some clearing of trees and bushes. The Town Public Works Department is working closely with the construction company, Deering Construction, to complete much of the work, or possibly even all of it, during the school summer break to reduce inconvenience. As of now, there are no planned road closures or traffic pattern changes scheduled during the construction. Proper traffic control personnel will be on-site. Access to all businesses will be maintained throughout. There is a possibility that the hanging of the traffic signal equipment may require a lane closure, but that will be determined at the time.

Upon completion, the intersection will include two new sidewalks:

- A concrete sidewalk extension on the northside of West Avenue from Noroton Avenue east to almost Fairfield Avenue,
- The sidewalk on the north side of West Avenue from Noroton Avenue West to Edgerton Street will be replaced with new concrete.
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There is no firm start date for the construction yet, but based on the construction contract, the entire project should be completed by mid-November.

GOVERNMENT 101

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Voter registration mail-in applications must be received by the Darien Registrars of Voters office by close of business (12:45 PM) on Thursday, August 4, 2022; OR
2. Postmarked or received by DMV, or a voter registration agency, by August 4th, 2022; OR
3. Postmarked by August 4, 2022, AND received by the Registrar's office by Noon on Monday, August 8, 2022, for voters to be enrolled and eligible to vote in the Primary.
4. The deadline for in-person enrollment (includes party-affiliated and unaffiliated voters) with the Registrar's office for voting in the Primary is noon on Monday, August 8, 2022. (Exception: applications of servicemen and persons out of the country may be received throughout the day.)

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

