

## MESSAGE FROM MONICA

Dear Darienites,

Darien's summer events are in full swing. The Sidewalk Sales organized by the Chamber of Commerce brought many residents and neighbors to our streets and shops. The Town Fireworks, hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department, was a wonderful display. A special thank you for the generous donations from our sponsors: Baywater Properties; Compass; The Corbin District; Crestwood Advisors; Darien Sport Shop/NFL; Federal Realty; First County Bank; The Glassmeyer Family; 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.



Last week the Board of Selectmen adopted Vision, Mission, and Community Values statements that highlight what we value as a Town. The Board of Selectmen has been working on these combined statements with the help of many residents for several months and wish to thank everyone who participated in the process. The statements are under Community News, and also accessible on our Town of Darien [website](#).

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

Sincerely,  
Monica McNally

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 9, 2022

Darien is having a dual (Democratic and Republican) primary on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, for all local voting districts in Darien. Unaffiliated voters are not eligible to vote, and please note that there is no same day-registration in CT for a primary election. Please check the Registrars of Voters' [website](#) for voter registration deadlines.

Orange postcards with the most recent local district poll locations, state and federal district information, and the current elected official representation have already been sent town-wide and received by voters.

### VOTING INFORMATION

Polls will open at 6:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. Voting will take place by the absentee ballot application and ballot process, available through the Town Clerk's office, or in-person at Darien's six poll locations. Signage will be placed at all poll locations, directing voters to their respective voting districts.

### POLLING LOCATIONS

- District One remains at the Board of Education Building, 35 Leroy Avenue.
- District Two is temporarily relocated to the Mather Center at 2 Renshaw Road, accessible by the lower parking lot at Town Hall.

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

7.26.22 8:30 AM

### PLANNING & ZONING

7.26.22 7:00 PM  
PUBLIC HEARING

### SEWER COMMISSION

8.2.22 4:30 PM

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

8.9.22 7:00 PM

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

8.8.22 7:00 PM

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY

8.9.22 12:00 PM

### PRIMARY ELECTION

8.9.22 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM

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

- District Three remains at Noroton Heights Fire Department, 209 Noroton Avenue.
- District Four remains at Hindley School, 10 Nearwater Lane.
- District Five is temporarily relocated to the Mather Center at 2 Renshaw Road, accessible by the lower parking lot at Town Hall.
- District Six has moved to the Mather Center permanently, as a result of the 2020 state redistricting.

## RESIDENT REMINDERS NEWS & TIPS

### PEAR TREE POINT BEACH SURVEY

The Darien Parks and Recreation Commission is conducting a survey to seek input from Darien residents to help determine the desired improvements to the facilities at Pear Tree Point Beach. The survey will be active from July 21st through August 5th for all Darien residents and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. The survey will be distributed via email beginning on July 21st, and is available on the Parks and Recreation site [here](#). QR codes with links to the survey will also be posted at the Parks and Recreation Department, Darien Town Hall, the Senior Center, and at Pear Tree Point Beach.

All survey responses will remain anonymous. Residents will need to provide an email address so the responses can be validated, which will prevent multiple surveys from being submitted from a single email address. The Parks and Recreation Commission hopes for active and widespread participation from Darien residents.

### PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

On June 16, 2022, The Darien Planning and Zoning Commission released their draft Affordable Housing Plan. The entire document is posted on the Town website at [www.darienct.gov/ahplan](http://www.darienct.gov/ahplan). The Commission will hold a Public Hearing to review and hear comments on July 26, 2022, 7:30 PM, in Room 206 of Darien Town Hall prior, to submission to the CT Department of Housing. The public is encouraged to submit their feedback, questions, and comments to the Commission prior to the hearing by sending an e-mail to: [darienpzc@darienct.gov](mailto:darienpzc@darienct.gov), or by bringing a letter to the Planning & Zoning Department.

The Darien Planning and Zoning Commission has been meeting monthly since January 2022 to develop the proposed Affordable Housing Plan. It is expected that the Affordable Housing Plan, when adopted by the Planning & Zoning Commission will, together with the 2016 Town Plan of Conservation & Development, provide an excellent guide for the community going forward.

### PROPERTY TAXES

Property Taxes are due August 1, 2022. Tax bills are available through this [link](#) on the town website. Below are responses to common tax-related questions:

**1. The tax bill has a due date of July 1st.**

*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, 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.

**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.

**SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LOAN APPLICATIONS**

The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) is reminding small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations that Aug. 1 is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans in Connecticut due to remnants of Hurricane Ida on Sept. 1-2, 2021.

Low-interest disaster loans are available in the counties of Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham, including the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribal Nation in Connecticut; Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester in New York; and Kent and Washington in Rhode Island.

These federal [Economic Injury Disaster Loans \(EIDLs\)](#) are for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business did not suffer any physical damage.

Loan amounts can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 2.855 percent for small businesses and 2 percent for private nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity, and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at [DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s](https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s) and should apply under SBA declaration # 17259.

**FUN FACT**

August is "Family Fun Month." It is a great time to be together and to experience new adventures. Here are some fun suggestions you can do right here at home and in town:

- Order pizza and watch a movie in the backyard
- Go to the beach

- Go out for ice cream
- Enjoy a backyard campfire
- Build a backyard fort
- Family bike ride
- Fishing
- Day at the park
- Cook meals together
- Have a karaoke night

Use your imagination, spend time together and have fun!!

## FLOODING

The Town of Darien Public Works Department is continuing their work to repair flood damage from last year's multiple major storms, Elsa (7/9/21), Henri (8/22/21), Ida (9/2/21), and the unnamed storm of significance (9/23/21), and they continue to upgrade our drainage systems to prevent as much future flooding as possible. Below are status reports from Public Works on projects currently underway.

### Drainage Studies:

Last summer's storms were all extremely large and tested our drainage system. A few areas have been identified as in need of further study. These areas are Bailey Avenue; Salt Box Lane; and Grove Street. In the second quarter of 2021, two of the flood studies were initiated with a consultant. During the third quarter, studies were active in all 3 areas, including field reconnaissance and the development of hydrologic and hydraulic models to analyze water flow.

- Salt Box Lane Area: Models of the existing pipe network have been built and edited based on measurements taken in the field. Our consultant utilized a network of rain gauges to determine a possible return period for events similar to Elsa and Ida. Potential improvements have been identified and statistical analysis is underway to determine storm frequencies. The consultant is also reviewing historic records to determine where there were wetlands or watercourses that may be affecting drainage characteristics now. A meeting to review the reports is expected later this month.
- Bailey Avenue Area: Field measurements have been performed and a model has been made to replicate the flooding conditions. Improvements to the drainage systems are being considered, however, initial results seem to indicate that the railroad may be a barrier. Removal of this (if possible) would require further analysis of the downstream effects of water. This report will be completed and reviewed with the consultant following the Salt Box Lane report.
- Tilley Pond/Grove Street Area: This study includes Brook Street and Grove Street. Rain gauge data is being expanded in this area and a video contractor is being used to document existing pipes. A model of this area is also built and is being tested. This report is in the final stage of determining initial findings and is expected from the consultant in the fall.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON JULY 11, 2022**

#### Vision Statement

The Town of Darien seeks to innovate in a thoughtful manner, protecting the landmarks and natural resources of the town as we provide opportunities and services that benefit all of our residents.

#### Mission Statement

The Town of Darien strives to continually provide high quality, high value services to its residents, taxpayers and visitors.

#### Community Values Statement

Darien's sense of community is rooted in residents who respect one another, welcome diversity in all facets of life, and are engaged in our larger society. We value equity, fairness, inclusivity and dignity for all. We insist on a culture of respect and recognize that words and actions matter. The Board of Selectmen seeks to continuously improve programs and services that are accessible to all, as well as environmentally and fiscally sustainable. The Board of Selectmen is committed to ensuring that the Town is a safe and healthy place to live, work, and raise a family.

### **FOR OUR SENIORS**

There is still time to celebrate National Ice Cream Month at Mather Center. On Thursday, July 28th at 12:30, Ken Cappetta Entertainment with 'The Cones' will perform at Mather Center. Ken is back and better than ever. He will be accompanied by a special treat. While Ken entertains the crowd with songs from greats like Sinatra, Elvis, Roy Orbison, Neil Diamond, and more...the audience will be enjoying another ice cream favorite. Please sign-up in advance by calling Mather Center at 203-656-7490.

### **BOAT CAMP 2022**

On Friday, July 29th, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM the Darien Police Marine Unit and the Noroton Fire Department Marine Unit are participating in the 2022 Boat/Camp program.

For over 20 years Boat/Camp has shared the love of Long Island Sound with a group of children from low-income families in Fairfield County. The Squadron partners with Camp ROSCCO, Person-to-Person, and the Noroton Yacht Club annually to provide a safe on-the-water experience for children from ROSCCO's summer camp. Other organizations donating their time and goodwill include: Darien Boat Club, Darien Police Marine Unit, Noroton Fire Department Marine Unit, Norwalk Seaport Association, the United States Coast Guard – Eaton's Neck, and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary – Norwalk Flotilla 72. You can watch 2019 Boat/Camp's video on Person-to-Person's website:

<https://p2phelps.org/boat-camp-day-2019/>

The Darien Power Squadron is always looking for volunteers, if you are interested in having a wonderful day with great kids, please contact [raaschg@aol.com](mailto:raaschg@aol.com).

## **GOVERNMENT 101**

### **VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

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**

postmarked or received by DMV, or a voter registration agency, by August 4th, 2022; **OR**

postmarked by August 4, 2022, **AND** received by the Registrars office by noon on Monday, August 8, 2022, for voters to be enrolled and eligible to vote in the primary.

The deadline for in-person enrollment to vote in the primary (includes party-affiliated and unaffiliated voters) with the Registrars office is 12:00 PM on Monday, August 8, 2022.

(Exception: Applications of servicemen and persons out of the country may be received throughout the day.)

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

If you want to have a tick tested for Lyme Disease, please follow the directions on the Health Department's [page](#). Here you will also find helpful information on Lyme Disease and other tick borne illnesses that are most prevalent during the summer months.

### **POLICE INFORMATION**

The Darien Police Department and the Darien Police Commission are proud to announce that Field Services Captain Jeremiah P. Marron, Jr. is attending the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia for a period of ten weeks. The Academy is recognized as the pinnacle of executive-level law enforcement training worldwide; attendance is by nomination only and less than 1% of all law enforcement officers in the United States are selected during their careers. The cost of attendance at the FBI National Academy is fully funded by the United States Department of Justice and is self-described as the "Crown

Jewel” by the FBI. Captain Marron Jr. joins a distinguished list of Darien Police Department officers, including his father, the late Captain Jeremiah P. Marron, Sr., and our current Police Chief, Donald B. Anderson, who also attended the Academy.

The Darien Police Commission recently authorized the creation of an FBI National Academy Graduates plaque to be displayed at Police Headquarters. Additional information regarding the FBI National Academy is available [here](#).

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

