

A Message from Monica



Dear Darienites,

One of the most important challenges facing Darien is flooding. Last summer, storms Elsa and Ida were two historic rain events that caused unprecedented flooding and damage to Town residents and businesses alike. As a coastal town with multiple watersheds flowing from north to south, and highways and railroads traversing from east to west, Darien has very unique circumstances effecting how stormwater flows and collects. Managing water and flood prevention are top priorities. Significant amounts of work are being undertaken by Town employees, volunteers, and the engineering consultants Tighe & Bond, hired by the Town to survey flood zones. Beginning with this newsletter, you will see regular updates addressing the work happening on your behalf.

Please continue to share your thoughts, questions or concerns with me.

Sincerely,
Monica McNally

RESIDENT REMINDERS, NEWS, & TIPS

Town Hall hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:15 PM, closed Fridays. Multiple online services are available for your convenience through the Town [website](#).

Beach permits are on sale. Permits are currently required for entry at Weed Beach and will be required at Pear Tree Point Beach beginning Friday of Memorial Day weekend. Permits can be purchased by Darien residents and taxpayers for \$53 each online [here](#). Vehicle registrations and license plate numbers are required for each vehicle. For new residents, you will need to email proof of residency via a copy of your deed or rental lease to parkrec@darienct.gov. Please indicate "New Resident" in the subject line of your email.

Dump permits are now available for purchase online [here](#) for existing customers. New customers must purchase permits in the Public Works Department at Town Hall. Current permits are valid through June 30th. For residents WITHOUT garbage collection, the permit fee is \$120, for two cars. For residents WITH garbage collection, the permit fee is \$40, for two cars. An additional third

MEETINGS & EVENTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
5.16.22 7:00 PM

BOARD OF FINANCE
5.17.22 7:30 PM

PARKS & REC
5.18.22 7:30 PM

IT STEERING COMMITTEE
5.19.22 9:00 AM

PLANNING & ZONING
5.24.22 7:30 PM

HHR BUILDING COMMITTEE
5.13.22 10:00 AM
5.19.22 6:00 PM
5.26.22 6:00 PM

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

INTERESTING FACT

There are 5 harbors in the Town of Darien that have mooring fields, but only 2 are accessible by land: Darien Harbor at Pear Tree Point and Noroton Bay at Weed Beach. To access Noroton Bay, you need to be a resident of the Noroton Bay section of town and be a member of their association to use their private pier. The other harbors/coves (beachfront areas, Scott Cove, and Zeigler's Cove) are not accessible by land

permit may be purchased for \$40. All seniors 65 and over are entitled to one free permit per household. The Senior permits must be obtained in person at Town Hall, proof of age along with vehicle registration is needed. Additional permits are available for \$40.00 each in person.

Congratulations and thank you to Darien resident John Keena who was just appointed by Governor Lamont to be the new Harbor Master for Darien until June 2025. The Harbor Master is responsible for managing our harbors and navigable waterways.

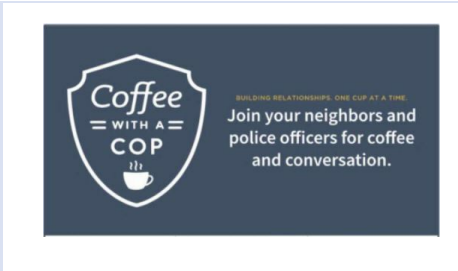
unless you are a waterfront property owner.



Flooding Report

Storms Elsa and Ida caused flooding in areas that have never flooded before, areas where no one would have foreseen the possibility of flooding, and areas not recognized as “flood zones” by FEMA. Since the storms, the Town has been working to evaluate the causes of severe flooding, and possible ways to prevent it from happening in the future. With BOS, BOF, and RTM approvals, the Town hired engineering consultants Tighe & Bond, to conduct multiple surveys. Additionally, the Public Works Department has been critically reviewing our water management infrastructure and making repairs and upgrades wherever possible. During the May 2nd Board of Selectmen meeting, Ed Gentile, the Director of Public Works, provided a comprehensive progress report about 8 of the ongoing projects. These are a combination of flood zone surveys, stormwater drainage infrastructure upgrades, and repairs to bridges and dams. The update can be viewed [here](#) via TV79, our government television station, during minutes 2:14 through 14:14.

Community News



Coffee with a Cop is this Saturday, May 14th from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Upper Crust Bakery on Post Road. Come join your neighbors and police officers for coffee and conversation. There is no agenda or any speeches, this is just a chance to get to know the police officers in our community.

Adventure Day! is Sunday, May 15th, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM or 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. The Darien Land Trust and the Friends of Selleck's Woods, in partnership with Darien Parks and Recreation, are

hosting this fun outdoor event. Children can test their forest skills in the *Adventureland* with a rope bridge, stump walk, and a zip line under a canopy of trees. Representatives from the Darien



Nature Center and Darien Land Trust will sponsor multiple, hands-on activity stations throughout the woods to engage children in various aspects of the environment and the importance of conservation. There will be arts & crafts projects, a free raffle, music, and an ice cream truck on hand. The event is geared towards families with children aged 2-10 years old, but all are welcome. The fee to attend is \$35 per family (up to 6 family members) and is a donation to the Darien Land Trust and the Friends of Selleck's Woods, which will go towards ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the park. Pre-registration is required: click [here](#) to attend Session 1 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, and [here](#) to attend Session 2 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.



The first Mental Health First Aid Training is being offered on May 19th and 20th from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Registrants should expect an email from Ali Ramsteck with more information. The second training will be held on Sunday, June 5th from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. This single-day offering was added by request to accommodate those not available on weekdays or who would prefer one day of training instead of two. There are still spaces available for the June 5th training session. Please email aramsteck@darienct.gov to register. The final scheduled training, which is filled to capacity, will be on June 8th and 9th, 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM.

GOVERNMENT 101

On Monday, May 9th, the RTM passed the budget for the fiscal year 2022/2023 for a total of \$159,044,090. This is a 2.32% increase over last year, setting the new mill rate to 17.23. Thank you to everyone who has been working so diligently since November 2021 to create, review and pass this budget. A special thanks to Kate Buch, Town Administrator, and Jennifer Charneski, Director of Finance.

The Darien Land Use Department utilizes a sophisticated mapping program called MapGeo. MapGeo is an online "GIS" System (Geographic Information System), that allows users to search and view multiple layers of the Town map. Examples of the layers include but are not limited to: zoning, wetlands and watercourses, flood zones, topography and watersheds. MapGeo


GREAT ISLAND

Regular meetings are taking place with multiple parties about the potential acquisition of this property. We continue to research and gather information to explore all aspects of acquiring it for our community. Analysis of funding and possible uses for the land are priorities. As promised, I will keep the community informed of progress and decisions as they become available.

FIRE SAFETY

Over the past few months, there have been several damaging fires in Darien - luckily none resulted in injuries. The Darien Fire Marshal, Bobby Buch has many helpful fire safety tips. Below are some timely suggestions regarding summer grilling.

can be accessed [here](#). Within MapGeo, when you click on the “themes” button you are able to see a menu of the multiple layers of the map, and you can turn on and off the layers you want to view or hide. MapGeo allows residents, builders, construction companies, and Town departments to quickly and easily view information that previously would have taken hours to research.



Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

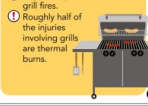
PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before relighting it.

FACTS

- July is the peak month for grill fires.
- Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



Your Logo

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
NFPA
The leading authority on fire and life safety research
on the structure and code-making process

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