



# TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER

March 3, 2023 - Issue 26

## MESSAGE FROM MONICA MCNALLY

Dear Darienites,

On Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, I will be presenting the Board of Selectmen's proposed budget to the Board of Finance. This budget reflects the changing needs of the Town as we experience growth due to redevelopment. There are several new full-time positions included in the budget, primarily in the area of public safety. We are also responding to increased utility costs and the return of some of our programs to pre-pandemic levels. At the same time, we are benefitting from higher interest rates, which is increasing the Town's investment income, and growth in the Grand List due to the redevelopments, which will help offset budget increases.



The Capital budget includes: replacement of older Police and Public Works vehicles, improvements to our Town parks and beaches, building upgrades for the Fire Department drill tower, and energy efficiency upgrades to Town buildings. Dates of Note:

3/7/2023 Board of Selectmen and Board of Education Budgets are presented to the Board of Finance

3/14/2023 Board of Finance: Budget Public Hearing (snow date 3/21/23)

4/6/2023 Board of Finance Budget Vote

5/8/2023 RTM Final Budget Vote

The Board of Selectman budget strives to maintain the level and quality of service our community expects while continuing to address the growth overall that we are experiencing.

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

Sincerely,  
Monica McNally

## DATES & INFORMATION

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

3.6.23 7:00 PM

#### BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

3.6.23 7:00 PM

#### BOARD OF FINANCE

3.6.23 7:30 PM

#### RTM

3.6.23 8:00 PM

Rescheduled from 2.27.23

### GOVERNMENT 101

The Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) is now in the process of reviewing appeal applications. The deadline for submitting appeals was February 20<sup>th</sup>. Questions regarding assessments should be directed to the Assessor's Office, 203.656.7310 or [DarienAssessors@darienct.gov](mailto:DarienAssessors@darienct.gov). To view a list of Assessment Exemptions and Benefits please click [here](#).

## BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

3.7.23 7:00 PM

## PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

3.7.23 7:30 PM

## BLIGHT REVIEW BOARD

3.8.23 5:30 PM

## BOARD OF FINANCE

3.14.23 7:30 PM

Budget Public Hearing

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

3.15.23 9:00 AM

The complete meeting schedule of all Boards and Commissions is available [here](#). Most meetings can be viewed on [DarienTV79.com](#).

For additional events and programs happening within Darien, click [here](#) to view the Darien Community Calendar available through the Darien Chamber of Commerce.

## EMERGENCY CALL LIST

The Darien Human Services Department maintains an *Emergency Call List* with the names of vulnerable seniors and individuals with disabilities to contact prior to and after a storm or town-wide emergency. If you or someone you know is vulnerable or has a medical condition that might make them vulnerable during an emergency, please notify Darien Human Services (203-656-7328) to be added to the Emergency Call list.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Darien Health Department page on the Town of Darien website always has links to current food and product recalls. The page can be accessed [here](#).

## FOLLOW THE TOWN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

#TownofDarienCT  
@TownofDarienCT



## RESIDENT REMINDERS, NEWS, & TIPS

### Swap Shop Temporary Closure

The Swap Shop located at the Darien Transfer Station and Recycling Center is closed through Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> for maintenance. It will reopen on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. No access to the Swap Shop is available before then, so donations will not be allowed during the closure. The Town of Darien cannot make arrangements for storage of donations. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### Beach Permits

Beach and Boat Launch permits are now on sale. Resident beach permits cost \$53 and boat launch permits cost \$50. Click [here](#) for the online applications. Residents may also purchase their permits in person at the Parks & Recreation Department in Town Hall, Room 110, Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:15 PM. Please print out the application using this [link](#) and bring the completed application and any required supporting documents with you. Beach permit and boat launch stickers are required from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day at Pear Tree Beach (Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> through Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>), and mid-April through late September at Weed Beach. Other types of passes are available, see the Parks & Recreation [page](#) for details.

### Tennis Court Reservation Lottery

The Parks and Recreation tennis court block reservation lottery opened on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The intent of the block reservation system is to allow Darien residents the opportunity to reserve a block of time in advance for group or non-profit league play. Entries will be accepted until 5:15 PM on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Residents are able to request block time for dates between Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. An invoice with the results will be emailed to applicants between March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>. Residents are able to request block time after the lottery closes based on court availability. Complete details including the block time request form are available on the

Parks & Recreation [page](#) of the Town of Darien website.

### Kayak/Paddleboard Storage Lottery

The Town of Darien offers 150 spots for kayak/paddleboard storage at Pear Tree Point and Weed Beaches for Darien residents. Residents must enter the lottery by 11:59 PM on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The lottery will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup> and results will be announced by Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. All registration information, rules, and restrictions are available on the Parks & Recreation [page](#) of the Town of Darien website.

### HHR Building Committee

The HHR (Holmes, Hindley, and Royle) Building Committee is progressing with their work. The proposed architectural and design plans are under review in the Planning and Zoning Department. Residents are able to view the plans on the Town website [here](#), or may visit the Planning and Zoning office to view the physical drawings. All HHR meetings and materials are available through the [Other Committees & Agencies](#) Section of the Town website.



### Daylight Savings Time

Daylight savings time begins on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour.

## INTERESTING INFORMATION

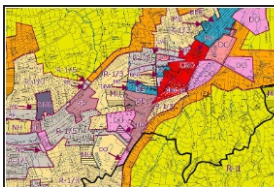
### Testifying at Public Hearings

The Legislative Session is underway in Hartford. Details about proposed Bills are available on the General Assembly's [website](#) and can be viewed on each committee's page. It is important to make your voice heard by testifying. Residents are able to testify in person or in writing. The complete guide on how to testify is available [here](#) on the General Assembly website. Contact information for local legislators is also available on this page.

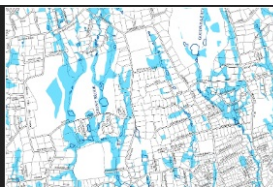
### Lithium Battery Safety

Lithium batteries are a common item used in many products because they store a large amount of energy in a small space. If not used the correct way, they can be hazardous. Like any product, a small number of them are defective causing them to overheat, catch fire, or explode. Due to the potential fire hazard, it is safest to store and charge battery-powered scooters and bicycles in a flat dry area away from any entry or egress. Detailed information about battery use, storage and safety warnings is available through the office of the Fire Marshal.

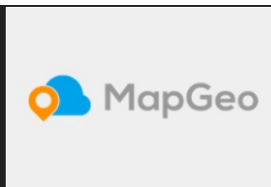
## PLANNING AND ZONING



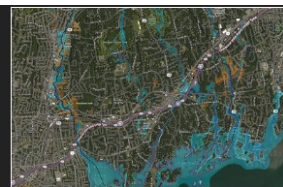
Official Zoning Map



Regulated Wetlands & Watercourse...



MapGeo Parcel Viewer & Abutt...



Darien Flood Hazard Mapper

The Town of Darien utilizes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to view and track land information in Darien. The GIS provides a multi-layer view of land. The layers include, but are not limited to, ownership information, property dimensions, easements and set-backs, wetlands and voting districts. Residents are able to access all of the information themselves through this [link](#) on the Town website. Complete step-by-step instructions are also provided below.

On the main page of the Town of Darien [website](#).

Click on ONLINE SERVICES in the header, then click GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS in the white dropdown bar.

Clicking on the Daren [MAPGEO](#) link leads to a detailed map with multiple “layers” of the property visible.

In the top right corner of the page, enter a property address and hit enter.

On the next page click in the left-hand column, and click on the specific name and address.

This page shows the property and surrounding properties. In the top right corner of the window there are several clickable “boxes:” click THEMES. Once on themes, a column will appear on the right-hand side of the screen with multiple tabs that can be turned on and off to show different layers of property. These tabs can be used to access the desired information.

The Darien GIS Portal [link](#) shows multiple maps with specific detailed information.

*\*The maps are very detailed and contains a tremendous amount of information so it can be slow to load based upon the speed of your computer and WiFi.*

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Daddy Daughter Dance

The “Hollywood Glitz & Glam” Daddy Daughter Dance hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Town Hall gymnasium. Join us for a glamorous evening designed for dads (or significant caregiver/guardian) and daughters between the ages of 5 and 12 to enjoy together! Come as you are, get dressed to impress, or dress as your favorite movie actor/actress/duo. One adult and one daughter are included in the \$40 fee, each additional daughter is \$10. Tickets are still available but they’re going fast!

Volunteers are needed to help with event set-up, registration, and the snack table - this would be a great opportunity for Mom, older siblings, or grandparents. Please fill out this [form](#) to sign up and volunteer.

### Darien Youth Community Conversation

“What Darien Teens Wish Adults Knew.” Come to the Darien Library on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, to listen to our Darien youth help adults better understand what it is like to be a teen in Darien. This event is hosted by The Thriving Youth Task Force and is supported by multiple organizations and agencies within Darien, including the Town of Darien Mental Health Task Force.

## WATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater management during construction and renovation is a complex issue that requires meticulous planning, design, and review. The Planning and Zoning Department works closely with homeowners, builders, architects, planners, etc. to support the design and planning, making sure projects comply with Town codes and regulations.

As a general rule, teardown projects will require all new drainage systems, while additions of less than 1000 square feet (sf.) do not. However, these generalities can depend upon specific locations and circumstances such as:

1. A structure in the watershed, for example a property right on Long Island Sound would not need to hold back water.

2. In situations where a replacement footprint is smaller than the old house's footprint, it may be exempt from constructing a new drainage system.
3. If an addition needs review/approval from a land use board (EPC, P&Z, etc.), even if it is less than 1,000 new sf. of impervious surface, it will require a drainage system

The codes and regulations exist to protect all land and property owners. Altering water flow on a single property can have an impact on surrounding properties. The experts in the Planning & Zoning department are able to help property owners create designs that meet the necessary requirements and protects abutting properties.

Sign up here to receive the  
newsletter



Town of Darien | 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820

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