



# TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER

February 17, 2023 - Issue 25

## MESSAGE FROM MONICA MCNALLY

Dear Darienites,

Darien is a fast-growing, busy town, experiencing an increase in pedestrian and vehicular traffic. With this growth, the Darien Police Department is seeing more drivers failing to stop at stop signs, failing to come to a full stop before making a right on red (where allowed), failing to yield to pedestrians, and failing to yield for stopped school buses. Additionally, police are seeing an increase in speeding, operating under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, and the use of handheld electronic devices while operating a vehicle. In response, they are stepping up enforcement efforts to reinforce safe driving practices. Motorists and residents should expect to see their efforts on our main thoroughfares, pass-through streets, and less-traveled roadways.



On February 8th, the Board of Selectmen approved the proposed Town Budget. The meeting can be viewed [here](#) on TV79. With this vote, the budget will now be formally presented to the Board of Finance on March 7th. After a public hearing on the budget on March 14th, the Board of Finance will spend the following weeks reviewing the Board of Selectmen Budget and the Board of Education Budget, with the vote to approve the budget scheduled for April 6th. The Board of Finance budget review meeting schedule is posted [here](#) on the Town Website. All meetings are open to the public and may be viewed live or from a recording on TV79.

As always, please continue to keep in contact with me with your thoughts, questions, and concerns.

Sincerely,  
Monica McNally

## DATES & INFORMATION

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### PRESIDENTS DAY

2.20.23  
TOWN HALL CLOSED

#### INVASIVES REMEDIATION WORKING GROUP

2.21.23 7:00 PM

#### RTM TGS&A

2.21.23 7:30 PM

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

2.27.23 7:00 PM

#### RTM

2.27.23 8:00 PM

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### SEASONAL HELP NEEDED

The Parks & Recreation Department is hiring summer lifeguards for the Town beaches, and a seasonal Front Desk Clerk. To view details and job applications visit the Job Opportunities [link](#) on the Parks & Recreation page of the Town website.



#### YOUTH COMMISSION

Springtime is a busy season for the Darien Youth Commission. Summer Camp registration was a huge success and the TOPS Program (Teen Options)

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**  
2.28.23 7:00 PM

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**  
2.28.23 7:30 PM

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.

has several events planned for registered Darien teens. To register for TOPS events and to sign up as a volunteer, click [here](#).

#### **FOLLOW THE TOWN ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

#TownofDarienCT  
@TownofDarienCT



## **RESIDENT REMINDERS, NEWS, & TIPS**

### **DARIEN TV79 LAUNCHES VIEWER SURVEY**

What's your favorite show on Darien TV79? When and how do you watch... at home, on your phone, at the gym? Take 2 minutes and help TV79 better serve you by taking their online survey. Just follow this link or click on the QR code <http://bit.ly/3RWya7s>



### **Q ALERT**

Q Alert is an automated notification system for reporting non-emergency "service requests" to the Town. Examples of items to report can include but are not limited to: litter, potholes, downed or damaged trees, dead animals, street light repairs, and blight. The Q Alert system is listed on the Town of Darien [website](#) in several places.

1. On the main bar of the Town Website click on ONLINE SERVICES, Q Alert is listed as ["Submit a Service Request."](#)
2. At the bottom of the main page of the Town website, in a light blue bar that says "see something wrong in Darien? Report issue." Clicking on [Report Issue](#) takes you to the Q Alert section.
3. To report blight specifically, on the main bar of the website, click on "HOW DO I?" then ["Report Blight"](#). This takes you directly to the blight page.

### **WOMEN IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The Women's Business Development Council is sponsoring an **Equity Match Grant Program**. The program offers grants of up to \$10,000 to women-owned businesses in CT that have been in business for 2 or more years and have revenues between \$25K and \$2M. Grant applications must be filed by February 28th. Please visit the Women's Business Development Council [website](#) for more information.

### **HOME HEATING SAFETY**

Below are home heating safety reminders from the Fire Marshal:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container

- a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

## INTERESTING INFORMATION

At this point residents have likely seen increases in their electric bills. Eversource increased their supplier fee from \$.12 to \$.24 per kilowatt hour. The State of CT has set up a process where residents can seamlessly switch electric suppliers without any fees. Go to [energizect.com](http://energizect.com), click "Supplier Rate Finder" then "Eversource Residential." You will need your Eversource Bill for reference. There are no cancellation or termination fees.

## PLANNING AND ZONING

To Apply Online:



### PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The Planning and Zoning Department serves four separate yet interrelated [land use boards and commissions](#): the [Planning and Zoning Commission](#), the [Zoning Board of Appeals](#), the [Environmental Protection Commission](#), and the [Architectural Review Board](#). Each of these Boards and Commissions are comprised of volunteers responsible for different aspects of how property is used and maintained in Darien. The permitting, review, and enforcement processes are handled by professionals within the Planning & Zoning Department in Town Hall.

The majority of the permit application process can be done online. The Planning and Zoning page of the Town website has extremely detailed instructions regarding how to file permit applications, zoning regulations, and the approval process. The information available to residents helps speed up the submission and approval process. Many questions can be answered by reading the [FAQ](#) page.

The length of time it takes for permits to be approved is generally commensurate with the size and scope of the project being submitted for approval. When submitting permit applications it is important to make sure that all drawings are complete and submitted exactly as directed. Actual scale drawings are required for all projects regardless of their size. Incomplete drawings cannot be reviewed or approved. Additionally, when building or architectural plans are submitted, applicants must pay close attention to the drawings being requested. For example, electrical and plumbing plans need to be submitted separately so they can be reviewed as stand-alone drawings.

## GOVERNMENT 101

### TAX ASSESSOR

The Assessor's Office has submitted the Town of Darien Grand List to the State of Connecticut. The Grand List is comprised of all taxable properties within Darien, including real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles. The annual signing of the Grand List allows local government to function by contributing to how taxes are assessed. Once the financial needs of the town are identified, the tax rate or mill rate (obtained by dividing the amount of the tax levy by the total assessed value) can be established allocating an equal share of the tax burden on the citizens of Darien.

Detailed information about the Assessment process is available on the Town of Darien [website](#): Taxes & Assessment, Assessor, Frequently Asked Questions about Tax Assessment.

### TRAINING ROUND TABLE

Several times a year department representatives from municipalities within the State of Connecticut join together for training round tables to tackle important issues that require a broad response. On Tuesday, February 7th a tabletop exercise was held to look at issues towns could face during a mass violence event. The goal was to explore resources and opportunities to support each other in addressing the impact of a mass violence/ mass shooting event on municipalities. Additionally to review the planning needed to help communities recover. The particular focus was on events in public settings, such as movie

theatres, retail stores, and houses of worship, rather than schools or universities since events in community-based settings present a different set of challenges. It is critical for communities to develop a playbook/ plan to lead municipalities through the response and recovery phases should a mass violence event occur.

Darien's representatives included the Chief of Police, two Police Captains, the Director and Assistant Director of Human Services, the Director of Health, the Fire Marshal, the Emergency Services Director, and the Director of Parks and Recreation.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### WATER FOUNTAINS

Utilizing ARPA funds, Darien is fortunate to have been able to purchase several new water fountains for residents' enjoyment.

**Cherry Lawn** will have a hand washing station, pet water bowl, water bottle filling station and regular drinking fountain. Installation of the new fountain is expected in May.

**The Tilley Pond Park** fountain is in keeping with the beige look of the current stone fountain. It has a pet bowl, regular fountain, toddler fountain, and a water bottle filling station.

**McGuane Park** has a new water fountain on the wrap-around deck.

**Pear Tree Beach** had a small water fountain installed in July which closely resembles what was previously there to avoid additional connection and demolition costs. A final decision has not been made regarding the style of the fountain at Baker Park, but a decision is expected soon.



## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

### RAY SLAVIN

Ray Slavin, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, has lived in Darien for 55 years and has been volunteering in Town for almost as many. He began his volunteer career with the theatre section of the Darien Arts Center, where he combined his passion for singing and acting with his love of volunteering. Since then his volunteer positions have included: The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, the Cable Commission, which is now TV79, the Republican Town Committee (RTC), the Memorial Day Parade Committee, the Mather Center Building Committee, and the Commission on Aging. He still handles voter registration for the RTC, is an active member on the Commission on Aging, the Knights of Columbus, the VFW, his Parish Council, and volunteers at the Mather Center Welcome Desk. Ray was initially encouraged to volunteer by his wife as a way to get involved and give back. He shared his belief that Darien is a great place to live and you need to give something back in return for what you get from living here.

Sign up here to receive the  
newsletter



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

[Unsubscribe mhayes@darienct.gov](mailto:mhayes@darienct.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [mymcnally@darienct.gov](mailto:mymcnally@darienct.gov) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!