



# TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER

May 26, 2023 - Issue 32

## MESSAGE FROM MONICA MCNALLY

Dear Darienites,

As we look towards the excitement of Memorial Day, the unofficial launch of summer, I wanted to share the history of Memorial Day and the reason why our Town parade ends at Spring Grove Cemetery. Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday in May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Military. The origin of Memorial Day dates back to 1865, following the Civil War, and was originally known as Decoration Day. It was a day that families and friends would gather together to remember and decorate the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers and flags. It was declared a national holiday, known as Memorial Day, in 1971 when federal law changed the observance of the holiday to the last Monday in May and extended the honor to all soldiers who died in American wars.



I hope you will join me at Spring Grove Cemetery on Monday after our Memorial Day parade for a ceremony that honors our fallen soldiers, and celebrates the incredible sacrifices so many brave Americans made for our country.

To the many dedicated members of the armed forces that have served in the past and are currently serving, I express sincere gratitude for your devotion to defending and protecting our country.

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

Sincerely,  
Monica McNally

## DATES & INFORMATION

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### MEMORIAL DAY

5.29.23

Town Hall Closed

#### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

5.30.23 7:30 PM

#### RTM PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

5.31.23 7:30 PM

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

6.5.23 7:00 PM

#### RTM

6.5.23 8:00 PM

#### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

6.6.23 7:30 PM

### FUN NEWS

We are happy to welcome our 2023 Darien High School Senior Interns to Town Hall. Having recently finished their classes, the following seniors have joined the Town Hall staff until mid-June.

- Building Department – Gregory Saba
- Fire Marshal – Tyler Lombardo
- Finance – Brenton Dolan
- Parks & Recreation – Anastasia Zerboulis
- Registrar of Voters / Town Clerk – Lilly Wurm

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
6.7.23 7:00 PM**

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

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SOCIAL MEDIA**

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@TownofDarienCT



## RESIDENT REMINDERS, NEWS, & TIPS



### **Beach Information**

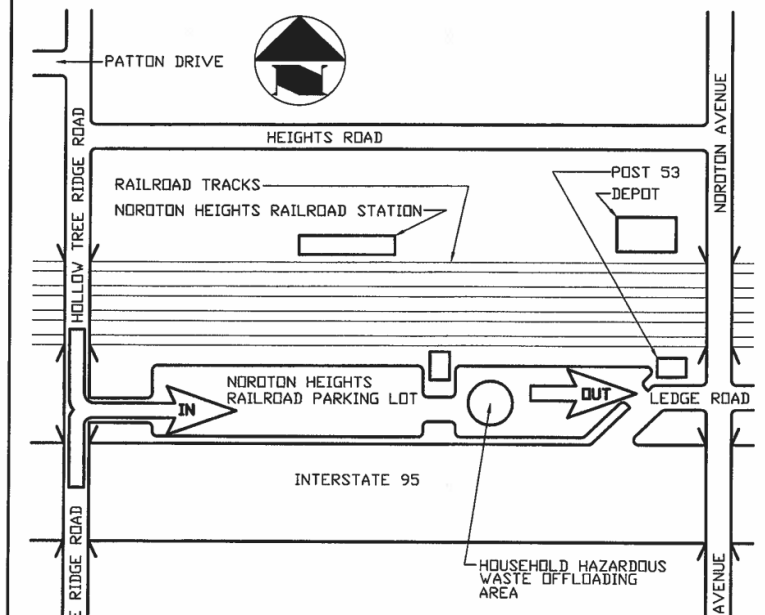
Town Beaches are in full operation from Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> through Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day). Both Weed and Pear Tree Point beaches are open from sunrise until 10:00 PM. Guard gate hours are 9:00 AM to 9:30 PM, with bathrooms open from approximately 8:00 AM through 9:30 PM. Concessions are available at Weed Beach only, please see on-site posting for hours of operation.

Current beach parking permits will expire on May 31, 2023, so residents are encouraged to purchase their new beach parking permits as soon as possible. Permits cost \$53.00 each for residents and property owners with Darien car registrations, and \$85.00 for residents and property owners with non-Darien car registrations. Senior residents with Darien car registrations may apply for one free sticker per household.

Permits can be purchased in person (Room 110 of Town Hall), by mail, or online through the Parks & Recreation [page](#) of the Town website. Acceptable forms of payment include cash, check, or credit/debit card. Car registrations are required each year to obtain a sticker, a photo of the registration is acceptable.

Non-residents can purchase a daily pass for \$53.00 at the security gate with a credit/debit card only. Cash is not accepted.

### **Hazardous Waste Day**



On June 3, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Darien will be holding our annual Hazardous Waste Day at the Noroton Heights Train Station. Drivers must enter the train station via Hollow Tree Ridge Road, continue to the drop location, and exit via Ledge Road near EMS Post 53. Complete details regarding what is allowable are available on the Public Works [page](#) of the Town website. Please consider consolidating items with a neighbor or friends because there is a per-car disposal cost to the Town



### Dog Licensing Begins June 1

June is Dog Licensing Month! Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, all dogs over 6 months must be licensed by June 30, 2023. The fee is \$8 for a neutered/spayed dog and \$19 for an unneutered/spayed dog. All dogs must have a current rabies vaccination and the certification must be presented when licensing. A \$1/month late fee will be imposed for licenses issued after June 30<sup>th</sup> and any dog not licensed is subject to a \$75 fine by the Darien Animal Control Officer. For more information, please contact the Town Clerk's office or go to [darienct.gov](http://darienct.gov) then "How do I?" and click on [GET A DOG LICENSE](#).

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### **Memorial Day Parade and Commemorative Ceremony**

The Memorial Day Parade is an annual Darien tradition. Attending the parade is a great way to honor many of our veterans, cheer on our local emergency service providers, support many of our student youth groups, and recognize multiple non-profits, that do so much to enhance our community. The parade will step off from Goodwives Shopping Center on Old Kings Highway North at 10:00 AM on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, proceeding up Brookside Road, turning left onto Post Road, and ending in the area of Spring Grove Cemetery.

To provide a safe environment and to accommodate parade participants and spectators, Darien Police advise the following:

- Avoid bringing backpacks or large bags to the event.
- Spectators are reminded to remain on sidewalks, curbsides, or as close as practical to the roadway edge throughout the duration of the parade. This is necessary to ensure the safety of viewers and marchers alike.
- Traffic detours and restrictions will be in effect as early as 8:00 AM on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be no on-street parking on Sedgwick Avenue, Mechanic Street, or Old Kings Highway North near the entrance to Goodwives Shopping Center.
- The Brookside Road and Old Kings Highway North approaches to Goodwives Shopping Center will be closed to all vehicular traffic at 8:00 AM.
- All vehicles participating in the parade must enter Goodwives Shopping Center via Sedgwick Avenue or Mechanic Street.
- Persons dropping off parade participants must use Sedgwick Avenue or Mechanic Street.
- No vehicles will be allowed to travel on Post Road from I-95 entrance 13 westbound to Old Kings Highway South during the parade.
- Old Kings Highway South from Goodwives River Road to Post Road will be posted as a "no parking" area.
- Motorists are advised to avoid the downtown area during the parade.

At the parade's end, the Town's Monuments & Ceremonies Commission invites all parade participants and spectators to attend the Memorial Day Commemorative Ceremony in Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery.

The ceremony will open with an invocation by First Congregational Church's Reverend Andrew Weisman, a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vietnam veteran and Grand Marshal, Bruce Kinloch, followed by the singing of our national anthem by the Tudor Singers, under the able direction of Mr. Chris Andrade. Author Kevin Callahan will be our Keynote Speaker.

First Selectman Monica McNally will then read the names of Darien's 92 servicemen who lost their lives in defense of our country in all conflicts from the Civil War until the current day.

An honor guard unit from VFW Post 6933 will discharge three volleys to salute their fallen comrades, followed by Taps and a concluding benediction.

It is a worthwhile and memorable ceremony. Come once, and you will remember it forever.



### **Post 53 Food Fair**

The Post 53 Annual Memorial Day Food Fair will be held on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Tilly Pond Park. Live entertainment, games, ambulance tours, and a silent auction are all part of the fun. Food tents from locally owned businesses will include Palmer's Market, Smokey Joe's, Fisherman's Net, The Goose, and Michael Josephs. The Food Fair raises money to support operating expenses related to patient care, continuous training, and community educational programs including Hands-Only CPR and Stop the Bleed classes.



### **Railroad Parking Update**

Metro North will be doing a major track project on the New Canaan branch beginning May 30<sup>th</sup>. The work is expected to continue through at least the end of the summer. During that time, Metro North will run buses from the New Canaan branch stations to the Stamford station. We expect several New Canaan commuters will choose to drive to either the Darien or Noroton Heights station instead. Our lots are open to the general public via daily parking spots, and we expect that these lots may fill up more quickly than usual. Traffic in and around the stations may also increase this summer. Visit our [Parking Website](#) for information on all of our commuter parking options.





### **Farmers' Market Opening**

The parking lot in front of Stop & Shop at Goodwives Shopping Center transforms into the Darien Farmers' Market in June, becoming a community gathering place where fresh, local shopping can be done each week. Darien Farmers' Market members have a shared mission to build strong and sustainable local food systems. They are grateful for their loyal customers, and the relationships developed over their many years in Darien.

The Darien Farmer's Market is returning on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. The Farmers' Market, sponsored by Urstadt Biddle Properties and the Town of Darien, will be open from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM every Wednesday from June 7<sup>th</sup> through November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Local farmers and food producers offer a wide variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, chicken, canned goods, bread, pastries, pies, bagels, flowers, and more. For specific vendor information and weekly offerings, see their website, [darienfarmersmarketct.com](http://darienfarmersmarketct.com).



### **Lyme Disease Documentary**

Living in the northeast where Lyme Disease is prevalent, residents should be informed about ticks and the illness. Screenings of the Lyme Disease Documentary, "The Quiet Epidemic" is available to stream on AppleTV, Prime Video, and Vimeo-on-demand. Additionally, two in-person screenings are coming up in our region to include Q&A:

May 23 –New York, NY — Mt. Sinai Icahn School of Medicine @ 5 pm

May 24 – Kent, CT – Kent Memorial Library @ 6 pm – Hosted by Kent Memorial Library



### **Adventure Day Follow Up**

The Annual Adventure Day event was held on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The wonderful thank you letter below from the Darien Land Trust sums up the success of the event and highlights how the Parks & Recreation Department partners with our community non-profits and volunteers to enhance the enjoyment of natural spaces in Darien.

Hi All,

*It was a glorious spring day yesterday for Adventure Day 2023! Thank you to our board members who pitched in on Trails Fix Day back in April to prepare the trails and tidy the preserve for Adventure Day. Despite the heavy rains the day before, Dunlap & Selleck's Woods looked great.*

*The event was attended by approximately 350 - 400 people (100 cars each session). Many happy kids were exploring the woods, zipping down the zip-line, and meeting the animals - thank you, Darien Nature Center.*

*Thank you to event Co-Chairs Brook McIlvane and Penny Wilson for another great Adventure Day. The Land Trust prepared four stations for the kids to stop and learn about nature or just have some fun, while DLT board members talked up the mission of the Land Trust. The Owl Station featured a new screech owl box built by an Eagle Scout with a list of awesome owl facts, and we coordinated with the Nature Center to bring a live screech owl. The Birdhouse station had several bluebird boxes and a wheelbarrow full of birdseed with hidden eggs and toys for the little ones to match to a poster. We were fortunate to have Liam O'Neill from New Canaan, a lifelong angler, and self-taught naturalist, to catch and release at least 15 fish of all kinds for the kids to see and learn about.*

*The bluebird birdhouse raffle was a big hit and winners were picked from both the morning and afternoon sessions. The winners could not have been more delighted and expressed thanks for how much they and their families enjoyed the day.*

*A special thank you to Christian Brakman and Polly Davis for signing up for a session and spreading the word about the DLT mission and presence here in Darien. Also big thanks to Photographer Nicole Rivard for capturing so many great shots.*

*Finally, thank you to the Friends of Selleck's Woods and Park and Rec for their partnership in this event. Both organizations added many hours working in the preserve or coordinating the vendors to prepare for this event.*

*Gratefully,  
Beth and Elizabeth*

**\*\* Authors: Beth Harmon, Executive Director, Darien Land Trust, and Elizabeth Mathus, President, Darien Land Trust Board of Trustees**

## POLICE CRIME TIP



### **Phone Scam Alert**

No legitimate law enforcement or governmental agency will ever ask you over the phone to provide credit card information or to ever pay or wire money to clear up an alleged criminal matter, such as an outstanding warrant or a fine for failing to appear in court. These requests or inquiries may come from someone purporting to be a member of

your local law enforcement agency using a valid name and phone number, but this is a common scam that takes place across the country. Please do not provide personally identifiable or financial information if you get a call of this type. If you should be victimized and suffer a loss, contact the Darien Police Department at 203-662-5300.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Darien Health Department performs regular fee reviews to ensure that fees assessed for Health Department activities in Darien are directly related to the cost of providing services and remain in line with fees in comparable communities. Recently, the Department has re-aligned the fees for food service establishments. This became necessary due to the recent statewide implementation of the FDA Food Code. The previous fee schedule was based on facility classifications defined by the State DPH Food Code, which became obsolete with the adoption of the new FDA Code.

The Advisory Board of Health reviewed the fee schedule adjustment during its March meeting and a unanimous vote was taken to recommend the proposed changes to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for their approval. After some discussion, the BOS approved the proposed fee schedule during the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The new fee schedule can be viewed on the Department of Health [page](#) on the Town of Darien website.

## INTERESTING INFORMATION

### Water Testing at the Town Beaches

The Darien Health Department monitors water conditions at the Town beaches between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Water samples are taken by Health Department representatives at least once a week, and submitted to a state-certified laboratory for analysis to ensure safe water quality. In addition to regular testing, the Health Department monitors rainfall events that may negatively impact water quality. They notify the Darien Parks and Recreation Department when it is necessary to restrict the public from swimming at Pear Tree Point and Weed Beaches.

The beaches are closed to swimming when any of the following conditions occur:

- Rainfall of more than 1 inch of rain within 24 hours, indicated by rain gages at Pear Tree Point Beach and within the City of Norwalk.
- Beach water sample results from each sampling station have unacceptable bacteria levels for swimming/bathing for two consecutive sampling days
- A pollution event has occurred, including but not limited to releases of sewage, oil, or other chemicals, or a toxic algal bloom that may pose a risk to public health as determined by the CT State of Public Health.

When the beaches are considered safe for swimming they are re-opened. The criteria for safe swimming include:

- More than 24 hours have passed since the end of the most recent rainfall event of 1 or more inches
- Water sample results, after subsequent retesting, are within the acceptable criteria for reopening as determined by the Health Department and the CT State of Public Health

The Darien Health Department maintains a 24-hour telephone HOTLINE (203-656-7323) with the beach status including both beach closings and re-openings. When possible, both the Parks & Recreation and Town Social Media accounts publicize closures and re-openings: @townofdarienct, #townofdarienct, @darienparkrec.

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