



# TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2023 - Issue 28

## MESSAGE FROM MONICA MCNALLY

Dear Darienites,

We are fortunate to live in such a generous town. We have hundreds of volunteers devoting both their time and financial resources to a multitude of local organizations. These donations allow for improvements which directly help both residents and visitors to our town. On behalf of the community, I want to thank all of the individuals, organizations, and businesses that have provided so much to Darien over the years. Below are some of the more recent donations highlighted by the Parks & Recreation Department.



### FEDERAL REALITY:

\$22,000 towards the demolition of the current playground at McGuane Park in preparation for a new playground scheduled for installation this June or July.

### DARIEN FOUNDATION:

- \$25,000 towards a construction bid package for the Weed Beach Meadow & Trail project, plus up to an additional \$350,000 towards the project, contingent upon the results of the construction bid.
- Up to \$15,000 towards a replacement flagpole at Weed Beach. The final donation amount is contingent upon the final cost of the project.

### DARIEN LITTLE LEAGUE

\$15,000 for a full field evaluation at McGuane Park. This evaluation is necessary to determine the amount of work required to restore and revitalize the athletic ball fields after years of use.

### DARIEN RESIDENTS AND THE DARIEN ATHLETIC FOUNDATION

\$50,000 donated in 2021 to convert a single tennis courts at Cherry Lawn Park into four pickleball courts.

### DARIEN ATHLETIC FOUNDATION

Approximately \$25,000 towards the cross country running path constructed at Darien High School and through the Diller Park property in 2019.

### COMBINED COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE DARIEN FIREWORKS

Up to \$40,000 annually towards the Fourth of July Fireworks for the last 10 years.

Thank you to all who have donated towards these projects and everyone who contributes to making Darien the special place it is.

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

Sincerely,  
Monica McNally

## DATES & INFORMATION

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
4.3.23 7:00 PM

**PING PONG**

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

4.4.23 7:30 PM

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

4.4.23 7:30 PM

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

4.6.23 7:30 PM

FINAL BUDGET VOTE

**MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION**

4.11.23 3:30 PM

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

4.12.23 9:00 AM

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY**

4.12.23 12:00 PM

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

4.28.23 7:30 PM

**BLIGHT REVIEW BOARD**

4.12.23 5:30 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.

The Mather Senior Center has just purchased a ping pong table and is including ping pong in its long list of weekly activities. On Mondays and Fridays, the Darien Men's Association is scheduled for play 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM and general membership play is scheduled for Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM.

The health benefits of ping pong are remarkable: it is safe, low impact, helps with balance, improves reflexes, improves eye hand coordination, and is an amazing mental work out. The sport does not have overwhelming physical demands, making it adaptable to all skill levels, ages, and abilities. While rallies are relatively brief, they can involve a dozen or more split-second decisions. Research shows that the basic physical and cognitive demands of ping pong slows cognitive decline and dementia.

**FOLLOW THE TOWN ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

#TownofDarienCT

@TownofDarienCT

**RESIDENT REMINDERS, NEWS, & TIPS****Food Drive Rescheduled to Saturday, April 29**

Due to a poor weather forecast, the Darien Youth Commission has rescheduled their "drive through" food drive for Person to Person to Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM at the Koons parking lot by the Darien Train Station (across from Tilly Pond Park). Suggested donation items include: hearty soups, cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, dried and canned beans, fresh produce, pasta, sauce, protein/granola bars, shelf-stable milk, and baby food.

**Security Guards at Town Beaches**

Beach security guards will resume their positions for the season beginning on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at Weed Beach, and Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, at Pear Tree Point Beach. 2022 beach permits are valid through Wednesday, May 31, 2023. 2023 Beach permits can be purchased [online](#) or in the Parks and Recreation office at Town Hall.

**Tennis Court and Kayak Lottery Results**

The Parks and Recreation Department has contacted everyone who registered for the tennis court and kayak lotteries. Tennis lottery participants received either their first or second court selections. All 150 kayak spots have been reserved and there is a waitlist in the event a spot is not taken.

**Paddle Courts Closing for the Season**

The Weed Beach Paddle Courts will close at 10:00 PM on Saturday, April 1, 2023 and reopen for the 2023-2024 season on Monday, October 9, 2023.

### **Pickleball**

The official Pickleball season begins soon. The court reservation system will open to residents the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> allowing for court reservations beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reservations will be available from May 1<sup>st</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>. The fee to reserve a court is \$20/court for 90-minutes of play. Complete details and schedule information is available online at [darienct.gov/pickleball](http://darienct.gov/pickleball).

The Parks and Recreation Department sent a tennis/pickleball survey to their email database to gather data regarding residents' feelings towards lining the new Cherry Lawn tennis courts with pickleball lines. A link to the survey is posted on the Parks and Recreation [page](#) of the Town website.

### **Seasonal Job Opportunities**

The Town is currently hiring for multiple seasonal jobs. Please see the Human Resources [page](#) of the Town of Darien website to learn more and apply.

### **Swap Shop Reopening**

The Swap Shop at the Town of Darien Recycling Center, 126 Ledge Road, will reopen on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to residents for their patience during the temporary closure. Swap Shop hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, and Saturday 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM, closed Sundays and Holidays.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**



### **Spring Surprise for Seniors**

The Youth Commission is again partnering with the Mather Senior Center for a fun spring activity: "Spring Surprise for Seniors." Middle and high school students will decorate 6" terra cotta pots to be given to the seniors during their special spring luncheon on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Registration is required and will begin Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> via this [link](#) to the Youth Commission website. Pots will be available for pick up in the Youth Commission office, Room 110, in Town Hall, starting Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Completed pots must be returned no later than Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Creativity is the name of the game with this activity. If students wish, pots may be filled with some fun spring treats to add to the surprise- a list of suggested items will be provided. Pots do not have to be "planted" unless that's the student's desire. The Youth Commission and the Senior Center are pleased to continue their partnership with another activity that will deliver joy to so many.

### **Road Paving Schedule Reminder**

Road paving is scheduled during Darien Public Schools' spring recess. The work will begin on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, on Hollow Tree Ridge Road, between West Avenue and Middlesex Road. Milling of the current pavement will occur on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, with paving scheduled to begin on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The complete Town paving schedule is available under [News](#) on the Town of Darien website. Minor traffic delays will occur during paving, so please plan accordingly. You may call the Department of Public Works at 203.656.7346 with questions or for further information.

### **New Development Updates**

V20 Construction has begun demolition work on the second development in Noroton Heights, at the corner of Hollow Tree Ridge Road and Heights Road. Over the last several months, V20 Construction has conducted several studies, including drainage and traffic, which have been reviewed and verified by an independent "peer reviewer". The peer reviewer was hired by the Town, at V20's expense, to verify the accuracy of the study

findings. Permits for the first two phases of construction (foundation and drainage) have been filed with the Town Planning & Zoning Department and, similar to both Darien Commons and The Corbin District, it is expected that the “Noroton Crossing” development will take several years to complete.

Darien Commons, also in Noroton Heights, has begun welcoming more retail tenants. Residents should expect to see new businesses opening every 1-2 weeks for the next 10 weeks. The apartment building along West Avenue is at full capacity, and the apartments in the newer building along Heights Road are filling up quickly.

The Corbin District in downtown Darien has started to welcome new tenants, and work is progressing rapidly. In the near future, demolition of the buildings on the west side of Corbin Drive will begin. Construction updates and information are available on [thecorbindistrict.com](http://thecorbindistrict.com) website, and via social media, @thecorbindistrict.

## STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

The natural flow of water within Darien moves from north to south, downhill from New Canaan toward the Long Island Sound. The water flows through four different “watercourses” which run parallel to each other, loosely dividing Darien into 4 quarters. The exact mapping of the watercourses is viewable through the [MapGEO](#) program on the Town of Darien website. Understanding the water flow and the physics surrounding how the water moves effected Town requirements for how new drainage systems must be designed.

Knowing that water naturally flows downhill, a property located downhill, closer to the sound, will eventually have a significant impact from rain and storm water flowing through/across it. A simple explanation of this concept is to visualize a small snowball that starts in New Canaan and rolls downhill through Darien, it will become larger as it rolls downhill, collecting more snow as it goes. Water flow follows the same principal and so the result is a greater likelihood of possible flooding

To help mitigate the water flow across lower lying properties, drainage systems on properties with new construction or renovation projects throughout Darien are carefully designed to release rain/storm water at different rates to help prevent flooding. Properties close to the Sound are required to have systems designed to rapidly catch and release water, allowing for the flow of water coming from higher up. New drainage systems in the mid-section of Town trap the water and release it at a more moderate rate allowing the lowest lying areas to drain before the water flows through. Finally, the properties installing new drainage systems in the northernmost part of Town, the highest part, are designed to trap and hold water for the longest period and release the water at a slower pace.

The intentional and holistic approach to drainage design is frequently tested with the increased amount of rain in recent years plus the increased intensity of storms.

## BUDGET UPDATE

The Town and Board of Education budgets have undergone months of review by multiple elected committees as well as the public. The Board of Finance has been involved throughout the process, and is currently completing its final due diligence. As part of its process, the Board of Finance will establish a Mill rate, which is submitted, along with the proposed budget to the RTM for final approval.

For an explanation of what the Mill rate is, and how it is set, see below.

Mill rate = (taxes needed divided by the adjusted grand list) then multiplied by 1000

Grand List = All properties including: vehicles, businesses, and personal property. Properties and vehicles are assessed at 70% of market value.

Taxes needed = Total budget less non-tax revenues

Adjusted Grand List: the grand list is adjusted for estimated exemptions. That number is then multiplied by an estimated tax collection rate setting an adjusted grand list.

How the Mill rate is used to calculate your taxes due: The Mill rate establishes the taxes paid per \$1,000 of assessed value. Darien's Mill rate for Fiscal Year 2023 was 17.23. Therefore, a property with an assessed value of \$1,000,000 paid taxes totaling \$17,230.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Darien Police Department recently welcomed three new officers.

Abigail Frazer comes to Darien from the Trumbull Police Department where she has worked since 2018. Ofc. Frazer is a Trumbull native and was regarded as an exceptional and very active member of the Police Patrol Division.

Ofc. Victor Munoz comes to us from the NYPD. A Bronx, NY native, Ofc. Munoz has worked the last 5 years in the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct, South Bronx. Ofc. Munoz's resume includes over a decade of service as a TD Bank Customer Service Representative and several years as a New York Corrections Officer at Riker's Island.

Ofc. Thomas Guerrero comes to us from the NYPD. A Long Island, NY native, Ofc. Guerrero has worked the last several years at the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, Borough of Queens South. Ofc. Guerrero has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from St. John's University and resides in Long Island, NY.

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



Try email marketing for free today!