



TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER

August 4, 2023 - Issue 39

MESSAGE FROM MONICA

Dear Darienites,

Supporting local businesses is important for our town's economy and community spirit. The recent Sidewalk Sales organized by the Darien Chamber of Commerce was a great success showcasing the power of shopping locally. Let's keep the momentum going when shopping for back-to-school and fall items.

As we enjoy the rest of the summer and head into the fall I hope you will take advantage of the various outdoor dining experiences our town has to offer. We have so many wonderful local restaurants and dining options to choose from. By giving them our business, we strengthen our community making Darien an even better place to live.

I value your input, please continue reaching out with your thoughts, questions and concerns.

Happy summer,

Monica



DATES & INFORMATION

UPCOMING MEETINGS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

8.7.23 7:00 PM

SEWER COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

8.8.23 4:30 PM

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY

8.9.23 12:00 PM

OX RIDGE BUILDING COMMITTEE

8.10.23 9:00 AM

BOARD OF FINANCE

8.15.23 7:30 PM

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

8.16.23 7:30 PM

DARIEN POLICE COMMISSION

8.17.23 4:00 PM

The complete meeting schedule of all Boards and Commissions is available

TRAFFIC

The Boston Post Road is a main thoroughfare in Darien, frequently used by motorists to avoid traffic on I-95. It continues to see increased traffic, particularly on Thursday and Friday afternoons. As this is a state road, the Darien Police Department does not control the timing of the traffic lights so it is unable to adjust them to accommodate the increased volume of cars. Residents should seek alternate routes to avoid delays.

LOOKING AHEAD

Fall and Winter Parks and Recreation program registration will begin on August 23rd. Details will be available soon.

The Mather Center will be closed from August 21st through August 25th for maintenance, cleaning, and repairs.

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.



Follow on Social Media
 @TownOfDarienCT
 #TownOfDarienCT

RESIDENT REMINDERS, NEWS, & TIPS

Auto Safety Reminder

Residents are strongly encouraged to lock their cars at all times and in all locations. Darien continues to experience thefts of unlocked cars, and break-ins to steal items left visible inside vehicles. The best way to discourage thieves from coming to Darien is to make conditions unfavorable for them. If cars are locked, and items are not visible, the thieves will not be incentivized to stay here and will go somewhere else.

Paving Schedule

Summer paving will continue through August 10th, weather permitting. Thank you for your patience while the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works does its best to maintain our roads. Traffic delays should be expected, so use alternate routes whenever possible. If you must use a road under construction, use caution as the surface may have raised structures. For questions and for further information please contact the Department of Public Works at 203.656.7346. The complete 2023 summer paving program schedule is as follows:

<u>STREET NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>START MILLING</u>	<u>FINISH PAVING</u>
Hillside Rd	Post Rd	Hollow Tree Ridge Rd	7/24/23	7/28/23
Patricia La	DuBois St	DuBois St	7/24/23	7/31/23
Casement St	Dubois St	Noroton Ave	7/25/23	7/31/23
Fitch Ave	Post Rd	Hecker Ave	7/25/23	8/1/23
Clock Ave	Noroton Ave	Dickenson Rd	7/26/23	8/1/23
Garden City Rd	Post Rd	Clocks Ave	7/26/23	8/1/23
Dickenson Rd	Post Rd	Crimmins Rd	7/27/23	8/2/23
Crimmins Rd	Dickenson Rd	Park Pl	7/27/23	8/2/23
Park Pl	Noroton Ave	Renshaw Rd	7/27/23	8/2/23
Waring La	Old Kings Hwy S.	End	7/28/23	8/2/23
Brushy Hill Rd	Andrews Dr	Andrews Dr	7/28/23	8/3/23
Andrews Dr	Old Kings Hwy S.	Red Coat Pass	7/31/23	8/4/23
Robinhood La	Sedgwick La	End	8/1/23	8/4/23
Royle Rd	Mansfield Ave	End	8/1/23	8/4/23
Richmond Dr	Post Rd	Point O' Woods	8/1/23	8/7/23
Hamilton Rd	Brookside Rd	End	8/2/23	8/8/23
Linda La	Hanson Rd	Linda La	8/2/23	8/9/23
Hummingbird La	Hanson Rd	End	8/3/23	8/9/23
West Ave	Edgerton St	Noroton Ave	8/4/23	8/9/23
Edgerton St	Heights Rd	West Ave	8/4/23	8/10/23
Heights Rd	Edgerton St	Noroton Ave	8/4/23	8/10/23

Sidewalk Replacement

The asphalt sidewalk on the north side of West Avenue from Edgerton Street to Noroton Avenue is being replaced with a concrete sidewalk. Once the new sidewalk is complete, road paving may begin in this area of West Ave.

Run for the RTM

The RTM is Darien's legislative body, voting on many legislative issues in town, including the town and school budgets. Being a part of the RTM is a great way to support the community and have an impact on Town matters. To become a member, residents who are registered voters need to complete a nominating petition by obtaining 25 signatures from residents within their voting district and submit the petition to the Town Clerk's office by September 12th to appear on the November ballot. Complete [information](#) is available on the Town website, www.darienct.gov/run-for-the-RTM.

Shellfishing Information

Darien has several shellfishing beds available to licensed/permitted residents. Residents can easily obtain a shellfishing permit through the Darien Health Department's [webpage](#) located in the sidebar under "Forms, Permits, Regulations, & Fee Schedule." Completed applications may be dropped off at the Health Department's office, and the permit will be sent by mail. Residents may also make an appointment to bring in completed paperwork by calling 203-656-7320 and they will receive the permit at that time.

As with the beaches, rainfall and other environmental factors can affect when shellfishing beds are open. Residents should call 203-838-9807 to verify that the water quality is suitable for shellfishing before heading out.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Darien End of Summer Luau

The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting an end-of-summer luau at Weed Beach on August 25th. This fun event will include DJ Entertainment, games, and contests including best-dressed individual, best-dressed group, limbo, and more. Registration will be available soon.

Town Beach Information

Both Town beaches are open daily from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Parking permits are still available for purchase at Town Hall, and daily passes are for sale at the security booths for \$53 per vehicle, credit card payments only. The Weed Beach security booth is open from 9:00 AM to 9:30 PM, and the Pear Tree Beach security booth is open from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Weed Beach Grill hours are weekdays 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM and weekends 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM. The concession may close earlier if it is slow or the beach is not crowded. The beaches are also a great place to have an outdoor picnic or barbeque during the warm summer months. For swimming safety, the Darien Health Department collects and tests water samples for bacteria at both beaches once a week. Beach status updates will be posted on the Health Department website, Town social media accounts, and via the beach hotline at 203.656.7323.

Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters

On June 21st, the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters undertook its annual restocking of the Town's public clamming beds. Commissioners Bill Cavers and Julie Jones were welcomed aboard the vessel Joannie F. by Captain Roger Frate, Jr. Motoring out to the east side of Great Island, a total of 10 crates of cherrystone and quahog clams were deposited, some 20,000 clams in all.

The Frates own and operate Darien Seafood Market, sourcing a portion of the shellfish they sell from beds owned and leased by the Town of Darien. In return, the Frates contribute a share of their catch to Darien's public beds so that residents themselves can enjoy harvesting clams from our local waters.

Last weekend, the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters held another coastal debris clean-up. They picked up trash and debris from Pear Tree Point Beach, the east side of Goodwives River up to the Rings End Bridge, and the west side of the Goodwives River at Goodwives Meadows, a Darien Land Trust property.

This year a total of 250 pounds of debris was removed. As usual, plastics were in the lead: coffee cups, lids, endless food wrappers, Mylar balloons, and water bottles. There were also plenty of lacrosse, tennis, soccer, and beach balls.



Pictured left to right, Commissioners Bill Wright, Julie Jones, David Kahn, Jim Furlong, and Bill Cavers. The photo was taken by Julie Kahn, who also picked up debris.

FLOODING

With the extreme heat throughout the country and in the Northeast, the threat of large storms and flooding rains increases. Below is a helpful storm safety preparation checklist from Eversource.

Storm Safety Checklist

EVERSOURCE

BEFORE THE STORM

With the first signs of an approaching storm, make sure you have what you need.

- Build an emergency kit with the essentials, including first-aid supplies.
- Be attentive to severe weather warnings. Have a battery-powered radio available.
- Make sure you have adequate medical supplies and prescriptions.
- Have extra cash on hand in case ATMs don't work.
- Stock up on non-perishable canned goods and pet food.
- Fully charge your cell phone and a portable, phone-charging battery pack.
- Download the free Eversource mobile app to report outages or check for updates.

Prepare Your Home/Vehicle/Generator:

- Test smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors for proper operation and battery life.
- Fill large containers with water for drinking and fill the bathtub with water to flush toilets.
- Have access to flashlights, extra batteries, candles and matches.
- Make sure your vehicle is fully fueled and/or charged.
- Be prepared to cook outside with a charcoal or propane grill.
- If you have a generator, test the properly installed generator-transfer switch. Have extra gasoline stored safely outside.

If You Rely on a Home Medical Device:

- Contact Eversource to be notified when major storm events are anticipated, if you are not already on the medical device notification list.
- Prepare for the potential for power outages. This includes switching to backup power or moving to an alternate location, if necessary.

DURING THE STORM

Power outages do happen. When they do, Eversource works to safely and quickly restore service.

- Unplug your sensitive equipment if you don't have surge protectors.
- Report a power outage quickly online at Eversource.com or call Eversource.
- Stay as far away as possible from any downed wires outside your home.
- Leave your home if authorities order an evacuation.

Generators:

- Never install a generator inside – even if windows are wide open. Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide that can kill within minutes.
- Place your generator well away from your home, making sure exhaust cannot enter through windows or doorways.
- Never try to power your house with a portable generator plugged into a household outlet.

AFTER THE STORM

Even after a storm has passed, it is important to remain alert until restoration work is completed.

- Stay as far away as possible from downed wires and never drive over a power line. Assume all downed wires are "live" and dangerous.
- Call 911 immediately to report downed wires to local fire and police.
- Never touch anything that may be in contact with a downed wire, including trees, fences, guardrails or puddles of water.
- If all of your neighbors have their power back on, but yours is still out, report your outage again by contacting Eversource.
- Check your appliances for damage. Plug in and turn them on one at a time to avoid a power surge.
- After a prolonged outage, check food in your refrigerator or freezer carefully for freshness.
- Do not enter damaged buildings. In the event of a gas leak, even the tiniest spark from a phone, flashlight, electrical appliance or a match could ignite the gas.

Emergency Shelter

If you or your family need heat, air conditioning, or a more comfortable place to wait out a power outage, call your local fire or police department or local Red Cross chapter to locate an emergency shelter.

Report a Power Outage

Online at Eversource.com,
on the Eversource app, or call 24/7:

Connecticut: 800-286-2000 E. Massachusetts: 800-592-2000
New Hampshire: 800-662-7764 W. Massachusetts: 877-659-6326

MNAUG19

HUMAN SERVICES

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SERVICES

The Darien Human Services Department is accepting donations of gift cards for their Back-to-School program. This annual program provides gift cards to purchase school supplies for students in grades K-12 whose families receive any of the following: Darien Human Services Programs; free or reduced lunch program; Parks and Recreation or Town Youth Commission camp scholarships; SNAP; Husky Healthcare, or services from Person-to-Person. Gift cards from Target and grocery stores are preferred. Gift cards can be delivered to the Human Services Department in Town Hall, Room 109, Monday through Thursday, between 8:00 AM and 5:15 PM.

Gift card distribution for eligible families is scheduled from August 8th through August 24th, Monday through Thursday between 8:00 AM and 5:15 PM. To learn details and program requirements refer to the [Human Services](#) page on the Town website, or call at 203.656.7328.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Pond Algae

Residents are encouraged to prevent their pets and other animals from drinking, or swimming, in ponds or other surface waters. Blue-Green algae, also called cyanobacterial blooms, is a naturally growing algae that has been detected in our Town parks. This algae can cause serious illness in pets so please use extra caution. Details about what to look for are available on the [Health Department](#) page of the Town website. Posters with information from the CDC are posted in all Town parks.



GOVERNMENT 101

Revaluation and Fair Market Value

The state-mandated revaluation process in Darien is well underway. Connecticut General Statutes, Section 12-62, require that each municipality conduct a revaluation of all real property every five years. The purpose of this requirement is to insure uniformity in real property valuations (fair market value) by eliminating inequities that have developed since the last revaluation (2018) due to changing market conditions. This redistributes the property tax burden by assessing all taxable property at the same level of value.

Fair market value is a legal term defined by the courts as “the probable price which a property would bring on the open market, given prudent, knowledgeable, and willing buyers and sellers.” Fair market value is the standard by which the fairness of all assessments is judged.

The buyer and seller of real estate determine the fair market value of the real estate. The appraiser or assessor analyzes real estate transactions that occur within a community and determine the factors that lead to the final sale prices. Information developed through the

analysis of these sales is used by appraisers and assessors to develop mathematical models to estimate the market values of all properties in a community. Some of the typical factors used include location, condition, age, size, and quality of improvements.

The Darien Assessor is working closely with the Building and Planning Departments, and appraisers from Tyler Technologies, to study recent valid property sales, allowing the appraisers to establish parameters to estimate the value of property.

This current fair market value will be determined for each real estate parcel in the Town of Darien as of October 1, 2023, and will become a part of the Town Grand List (the Grand List is to total of all taxable properties within the Town). Changes made to the 2023 Grand List will be reflected in the tax bills issued in July 2024.

POLICE INFORMATION & CRIME TIP



Darien residents continue to fall victim to mail theft and “check washing” crimes. Check washing is when thieves steal personal checks from the mail and “wash” away the payee and amount. They can then sell the blank signed check or make it out to themselves and deposit the money into an account they control.

Here are some steps to protect yourself against check washing:

1. Pay your bills online. Avoid using public Wi-Fi services when doing so.
2. Deliver your mail to a post office. Don't leave envelopes containing checks in your own mailbox or in outdoor USPS collection boxes after the last pickup time. Best bet: Take your letter to your nearest post office during business hours and either hand it to a clerk or slide it through an outgoing mail slot inside the building.
3. Use a pen with blue or black non-erasable gel ink. Gel ink soaks into paper and may be more difficult to remove than ballpoint pen ink, according to authorities.
4. Don't let delivered mail sit in your mailbox. Grab your mail every day, as close to the delivery time as possible. If you will be away, ask a trusted friend to collect it or have the post office hold it until you return home.
5. Monitor your bank account. Don't wait for your monthly statement. Go online every few days to review account balances and look at checks drawn against them.
6. Report incidents quickly. Contact your bank as soon as possible after suspicious activity; banks are generally required to replace funds stolen via fraudulent checks, but only if the scam is reported within 30 days of the date of your bank statement. Also, if the bank requires it, file a report with your local Police Department, contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and credit reporting agencies.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

Dry Weather Fire Safety Tips

Even with some recent storms, our conditions are still dry. Below are some fire safety tips from our Town Fire Marshal, Bobby Buch:

- Avoid using fire pits, as sparks could easily catch dried lawns or brush on fire.
- Properly dispose of all smoking materials in metal closed-lid containers.
- Fire pit/ fireplace ashes should only be disposed of in closed metal containers. Ashes can stay warm for over a week, even though they will feel cool to the touch.
- When cooking, be sure the grill is at least 10 feet from the home, away from combustibles, and never left unattended.
- Always make sure you have working smoke detectors throughout the home.
- Avoid using sparklers and other fireworks.

Sign up here to receive the newsletter



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

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