



TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER

October 13, 2023 - Issue 43

The following statement was issued by the Board of Selectmen on Sunday, October 8, 2023 and distributed through social media. It is also posted on the Town website.

The unanticipated strike against civilians in Israel, serves as a stark reminder of the constant threats that loom in our global landscape. These aggressions against an ally or peaceful nation underscores the indefensible nature of these acts. Our Board of Selectmen, along with Darien residents, strongly denounces these murderous attacks and we stand in unity with Israel and its citizens during these trying times.

MESSAGE FROM MONICA

Dear Darienites,

The following statement was issued by the Board of Selectmen on Sunday, October 8, 2023 and distributed through social media. It is also posted on the Town website.

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While another rainy weekend is on the horizon for Connecticut, the spirit and enthusiasm of our Darien community aren't dampened. Just last weekend, the Parks and Recreation Department prudently shifted Rocktoberfest from Saturday to Sunday, ensuring its success despite the weather. Additionally, remember that the Town has moved the Great Island Bus Tours from the previously scheduled date of September 23rd to October 28th. This adjustment allows many of our residents the opportunity to tour the property when hopefully, the skies are clearer.

Thanks to the effectiveness of Darien's infrastructure, our town managed almost 4 inches of rain within a 36-hour period from September 28th to 30th without major complications. Our stormwater management systems performed impressively, with only minor, isolated flooding and no reported damages. Hats off to the Highway Division of the Public Works Department. Their continued dedication to maintaining our drainage systems, especially during these increasingly frequent heavy rainstorms, is noteworthy.

For safety, I'd like to remind everyone: Always lock your vehicles to prevent thefts. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. A recent instance where a vigilant resident helped the police stop a car theft underlines the importance of this. Moreover, a "distraction larceny" at Post Road and West Avenue reminds us that while Darien is a secure place, consistent awareness remains essential.

As always, your opinions and thoughts matter to me. Please reach out with any questions or concerns. I genuinely value and appreciate your feedback.

Thank you,

Monica

DATES & INFORMATION

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS

10.16.23 7:30 PM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10.17.23 8:30 AM

Joint Department Heads

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

10.17.23 7:00 PM

BOARD OF FINANCE

10.17.23 7:30 PM

GREAT ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10.18.23 6:30 PM

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

10.19.23 7:00 PM

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

10.24.23 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.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

Property Monitoring via Darien Land Records

With rising reports of fraudulent real estate transactions, the ability to monitor activity on one's property can be extremely helpful in identifying a problem in a timely manner. The Town of Darien's website is a tool that residents can use to monitor activity that may be occurring under their name.

A recent advisory issued by the US Secret Service Cybercrime Investigations division detailed the nature of these schemes, identifying how "criminals are posing as real property owners and through a series of impersonations are negotiating the sale of properties which are vacant or lien free." A New York resident who owned undeveloped property in Fairfield, CT is reported to have recently returned to CT to find a new home under construction on his land. The property was sold without his knowledge, and construction ensued without delay.

The Darien Town Clerk's office records and indexes documents pertaining to transactions on property located in Darien on a daily basis. If you buy or sell a home, transfer a title, take out or pay off a mortgage, grant an easement to your neighbor, or transact any one of dozens of other transactions, the details of these actions are documented both online, and in books stored in the Town Clerk's vault. Access to this information is free and available to the public.

To access this information online, see the Town Clerk's page on the Town of Darien website at www.darienct.gov. The service is free via COTT Systems. Users will need to set up a free account with Record Hub before accessing the information.



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RESIDENT REMINDERS, NEWS, & TIPS

Town Leaf Pick-Up Schedule

The Town Leaf Pick-Up begins Monday, October 30, 2023. The complete [pick-up schedule](#), including reminders and restrictions, is available on the Town website.

Pick-up # 1: Monday, October 30, 2023, north of railroad tracks and Wednesday, November 1, 2023, south of railroad tracks.

Pick-up # 2: Monday, November 13, 2023, north of railroad tracks and, Wednesday, November 15, 2023, south of railroad tracks.

Pick-up # 3: Monday, November 27, 2023, north of railroad tracks and, Wednesday,

November 29, 2023, south of railroad tracks.

Parking Permits

Parking permit renewal payments are due on October 31st. Permits with no changes needed can be renewed online at [Darien Parking Authority](#) with your email and PIN, which were included in the renewal letter. Please note that the fee for the 2024 commuter parking permit has increased to \$478.58 (\$450 + \$28.58 state sales tax).

Any changes in contact information, or license plate additions and deletions, should be emailed to Anne DiCeglie, Parking Administrator, at adiceglie@darienct.gov, along with a copy of the new registration(s).

Renewals will not be issued to accounts with outstanding parking tickets and/or past-due motor vehicle taxes until the delinquencies are resolved.

Sewer Bills

Sewer Service bill payments are due by October 31st. Statements of \$500 or less are due in full by October 31st. Bills over \$500 will automatically be split into two equal installments, with the first payment due October 31, 2023, and the second one due April 30, 2024. Residents with two installments will receive a bright orange reminder card in the mail in March if they have any amount due on their account.

Payments may be made in person in the Tax Office at Town Hall, Room 104 (Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM - 5:15 PM), online through the Town website www.darienct.gov, or by mail. Checks must be made payable to the Darien Tax Collector. Please note that sewer service charges are not included in escrow payments.

Absentee Ballot Registration

Residents registered to receive absentee ballots should have received their ballots in the mail. Absentee ballots are provided for the following circumstances:

- Absence from Darien on Election Day
- Serving in the military
- Sickness
- Physical disability
- Religious tenets forbid secular activity on Election Day
- Working as a poll worker on Election Day at a site other than your own

To receive an absentee ballot, registered voters must complete the registration application. [Applications](#) are available in the Town Clerk's Office or online.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Youth Commission TOP Program

Tonight, October 13th, is the first 7th and 8th grade TOP's program of the new school year. The Tokeneke Pumpkin Carnival is open only to Darien 7th and 8th grade students registered in the TOP's program. The program runs from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The cost is \$20 per student, payable at the check-in table. Carpooling is recommended and students may wish to bring extra money for fair games and food.

Halloween Window Painting

The Youth Commission Halloween Window Painting Contest will take place on October 21st. The contest is open to all Darien middle and high school students. See the [Youth Services](#) page of the Town website for details, including registration information.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Walk

On Saturday, October 21st, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will host the Fairfield County *Out of the Darkness Walk* at Sherwood Island Park in Westport. Last year, there was a tremendous turnout of Darien residents. We hope to continue that this year. Please register through the [Fairfield County Out of the Darkness](#) website.

Center for Medicare Advocacy Lecture

Join Kathleen Holt, MBA, JD, Associate Director of The Center for Medicare Advocacy on Monday, October 23rd at 12:30 PM as she discusses this legal organization and how it connects seniors with the resources they need to make informed Medicare decisions. Call the Darien Senior Programs at the Mather Center at 203-656-7490 to register.

GOVERNMENT 101

The 2023 municipal election will be held on November 7th. Below are the Darien District Polling Sites and Election Day Registration locations.

District 1 (includes Districts 1-01 and 1-02)
35 Leroy Avenue, Board of Education Building

District 2
2 Renshaw Road, Town Hall Gymnasium

District 3
209 Noroton Avenue, Noroton Heights Fire Department

District 4
10 Nearwater Lane, Hindley School

District 5
2 Renshaw Road, Town Hall Gymnasium (upper level)

District 6
2 Renshaw Road, Mather Center (lower level)

Election Day Registration Location
2 Renshaw Road, Mather Center (upper level through Town Hall Gymnasium doors)

For detailed information please see the [Registrars of Voters page](#) of the Town website, or call, 203.656.7317.

POLICE CRIME TIP

How and When to call 9-1-1

Occasionally, questions arise regarding as to when 9-1-1 should be called, versus the Darien Police routine number, 203-662-5300.

9-1-1 is for police, fire, or medical emergencies when immediate action is required: someone's health, safety or property is in jeopardy or a crime is in progress. Our Telecommunications Dispatchers are highly-trained, dedicated professionals who will get you the help you need. Please use 9-1-1 responsibly. Please do not call 9-1-1 and ask for the non-emergency phone number. Telecommunications Dispatchers can't provide information on the weather, power outages or any other routine municipal services using the 9-1-1 system.

Far from an exhaustive list, these are some examples of when to call 9-1-1:

- Incidents that involve and immediate threat to a person or property: screams, attacks, gunshots, fires, car accidents with injuries, and medical emergencies
- In-progress crimes; this could include car theft or burglary, fights, burglary dwelling or other structure, or to report an impaired driver
- A serious crime that has just occurred or is occurring such as an assault or robbery
- A suspicious circumstance that may indicate an imminent criminal act: car thief/burglar, prowler, or vandal

Additionally, be able to give an accurate location of where the incident is taking place. If you call 9-1-1 accidentally, please stay on the line and let the dispatcher know.

HUMAN SERVICES



Connecticut Energy Assistance Program

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program helps eligible Darien households pay winter heating bills. The Human Services Department is currently accepting applications. Residents must meet the following income restrictions:

Maximum Household Income

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5
Annual Income	\$41,553	\$54,338	\$67,124	\$79,910	\$92,695

Proof of income is required, including:

- Social Security benefits, pensions or annuities
- Dividend and interest income
- Employment income
- Child support and/or alimony payments
- Unemployment
- Workers' Compensation or disability payments

Darien Human Services is open Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:15 PM. Please call 203-656-7328 to schedule an appointment.

Mental Health First Aid Training

The Darien Human Services Department is offering another session of Mental Health First Aid Training on November 8th and 9th. The training is free of charge to Darien residents or those who work with, or interact regularly with, Darien residents. The two-day training will be held at Post 53, from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM on both days. Like CPR training, which helps a non-medical professional assist an individual following a heart attack, the 8-hour certification in Mental Health First Aid helps an individual who does not have clinical training assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis. To register, email aramsteck@darienct.gov.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Community Needs Health Assessment

The Darien Health Department and Advisory Board of Health have surveyed multiple Community Health Partners regarding Darien's overall community health. Within the survey, partners were asked to identify strengths and perceived needs in order to assess the overall health of the Darien community. Partners include Darien Public Schools, Darien Police, Senior Center, Youth Commission, Human Services, the Darien YMCA, Silver Hill Hospital, Post 53, local clergy, and the Depot Youth Center. After the partner input is reviewed and discussed, the survey will be sent to the public.

Food Safety

Understanding food safety and expiration dates is an important part of public health and

safety. The Darien Health Department has compiled a list of credible and trustworthy resources for the public.

USDA

[Food Product Labeling](#)

[Before You Toss Food, Wait. Check it out!](#)

FDA

[Understanding Date Labels Confused by Date Labels on Packaged Foods?](#)

[Food Product Dating](#)

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

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