



# TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER

October 27, 2023 - Issue 45

## MESSAGE FROM MONICA

Dear Darienites,

Tomorrow we will host the rescheduled Great Island Bus Tours. I am looking forward to providing close to 700 residents with the opportunity to see Great Island for the first time. This introduction is possible due to the dedication of volunteers from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Great Island Advisory Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, as well as Town Hall staff.



The Great Island Advisory Committee is always interested in residents' feedback and as we move forward, I hope you will follow developments on the [website](#) and share your thoughts. All meetings are videotaped and posted to the TV79 page of our website for viewing at any time.

Tomorrow, the tour busses will be running from Pear Tree Beach to Great Island from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, so many of the parking spaces will be utilized by residents with reservations for a tour. Weed Beach will be an excellent alternative on Saturday, for residents just looking to spend time by the shore. As a reminder, there will be no entry to Great Island, other than the busses. Staff will be on-site to redirect traffic and prevent unauthorized access to the property.

As always, your opinions and thoughts matter to me. Please reach out with any questions or concerns. I genuinely value and appreciate your feedback. I hope that everyone enjoys a safe and happy Halloween!

Thank you,

Monica

## DATES & INFORMATION

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### RTM RULES COMMITTEE

10.30.23 7:30 PM

Virtual

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

11.1.23 7:00 PM

#### DARIEN POLICE COMMISSION

11.2.23 3:00 PM

Special Meeting

#### ELECTION DAY

6:00 AM – 8:00 PM

### GOVERNMENT 101

#### 2023 Revaluation

The town-wide update of real estate assessment mandated by state statute has been ongoing over the past year and will continue into November. The field inspection phase for revaluation 2023 began on March 29, 2023. The inspection includes, but is not limited to, updating street layer photographs for all Darien parcels (7,365 images), as well as comparative verification / sketch validation for over 600 residential and commercial parcels (Oblique Imagery). Inspection and data collection of 580 residential homes sold over the last 18 months was an important part of the revaluation process.

Tyler, the appraisal firm contracted by Darien to assist with the valuation, have also inspected and are updating assessments on Darien commercial

Polls Open

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

11.8.23 9:00 AM

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY**

11.8.23 12:00 PM

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

11.9.23 8:30 AM

The complete [meeting schedule](#) of all Boards and Commissions is available on the Town website. Most meetings can be viewed on [DarienTV79.com](#).

For additional events and programs happening within Darien, view the Darien Chamber of Commerce [Community Calendar](#).

parcels, analyzing regional and local sales information in concert with income and expense data submitted by each commercial property owner.

Assessment change notices are scheduled to be mailed the week of November 20<sup>th</sup>. After that time, assessors will be available for questions, concerns, and appointments through December. Residents should call the Darien Tax Assessors office, 203.656.7310, or email [Tony Homicki](#) the Assessor. For additional information, please refer to the [Assessor's page](#) under Taxes and Assessment on the [Town of Darien](#) website.



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**#TownOfDarienCT**

## 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 the railroad tracks and Wednesday, November 1, 2023, south of the railroad tracks.

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

Pick-up # 3: Monday, November 27, 2023, north of the railroad tracks and, Wednesday, November 29, 2023, south of the railroad tracks.

### Parking Permits

Parking permit renewal payments are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Any changes in contact information, or license plate additions and deletions, should be emailed to Anne DiCeglie, Parking Administrator, at [adiceglie@darienct.gov](mailto:adiceglie@darienct.gov), along with a copy of the new registration(s). Renewals will not be issued to accounts with outstanding parking tickets or past-due motor vehicle taxes, until the delinquencies are resolved.

### Sewer Bills

Sewer Service bill payments are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Statements of \$500 or less are due in full. 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](#), 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.

### CODE RED

Register to receive [CODE RED](#) Town emergency messages including but not limited to

weather emergencies, and road closures.

### **Social Media**

The Town continues to use its social media outlets to share Town information. If you do not already subscribe to the Town accounts, please consider these options (Instagram, Facebook, and X) as a way to stay informed.

## **ELECTION INFORMATION**

### **Notice from the Registrars of Voters**

#### When is the next Darien election?

A municipal election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The following local municipal offices will be on the ballot: First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and RTM seats in each district. No town-wide office is contested this year, but several RTM offices are; we encourage and support participation in the democratic process in every election.

All polling places will be open during the standard hours of 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. You may vote in person at your polling location, or by absentee ballot.

Absentee Ballots are currently available and can be obtained from the Town Clerk by filling out an [application online](#) or visiting the Town Clerk's office, Room 101, at Town Hall.

To find out if you are currently registered to vote and to verify the accuracy of your voter registration, visit the CT Secretary of State's [registration lookup site](#).

#### Important registration deadlines for voting on November 7, 2023:

If you will turn 18 on, or before Election Day, November 7, 2023, you are currently eligible to register to vote. You can [register to vote online](#), in person at the Registrars of Voters office at Darien Town Hall, or call the office at 203.656.7316 to have a registration form mailed to your address.

Tuesday, October 31, 2023: Last day to register to vote online or in person.

- This is the last regular admission of electors for those who become 18 years of age, U.S. citizens, or residents of the municipality on or before October 31, 2023.

- In-person applicants must appear at the Registrars of Voters office by 8:00 PM. The office will have extended hours (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM) to process voter applications until this deadline.

- All mail-in voter registration applications must be received, or postmarked, by this date in order to be accepted for the November 7, 2023 election. The deadline for new voter registration via the Online Voter Registration System is also on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, at or before 11:59 PM.

Monday, November 6, 2023: Limited Voter Registration Session, last weekday before the Election

- The Registrars of Voters may register new electors who have attained their qualifications of age, citizenship, or residence after the October 31, 2023 deadline. This limited registration period is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

#### Where Do I Vote in Person on Election Day?

The voting District Map and Voting District by Street can be found on the [Registrar of Voters page](#) on the Town website under the "Voting Districts" heading.

Darien District Poll Site and Election Day Registration locations for the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election:

District 1 (includes Districts 1-00, 1-01 and 1-02): 35 Leroy Avenue, Board of Education Building

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

District 3: 209 Noroton Avenue, Noroton Heights Fire Department

District 4: 10 Nearwater Lane, Hindley School Gymnasium

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

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

Election Day Registration: 2 Renshaw Road, Mather Center (upper level, enter through Town Hall Gymnasium lobby)

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Trunk or Treat

Families with children up to Grade 5 are invited to the third annual Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM at the Darien High School Athletic Loop. This event is hosted by the DHS Student Government. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$5.00 per child to support Darien Human Services, or a costume donation to support Person to Person.



### Darien Youth Commission Food Drive

The Darien Youth Commission and Person to Person are hosting a food drive on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Koons Parking Lot across from

Tilley Park. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> time in less than three years the two organizations have partnered for their "Drive-Thru Food Drive." Donations can be made without getting out of the car.

Donations that best serve our community include: hearty soups, cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit & veggies, dried & canned beans, fresh produce, bags or boxes of rice, pasta, sauce, protein & nutrition bars, shelf-stable milk, and baby food.

### **Wreaths Across America**

National Wreaths Across America Day in Darien will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023. On this day, wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves in the Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery. Donations to sponsor a wreath at Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery can be made directly through the [Wreaths Across America website](#) using location code: CTSGVD. Volunteers are needed to assist in the wreath-laying ceremony on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at noon. Wreaths will be placed on the graves of the veterans following a brief ceremony. For questions, please CAPT JC Carter, USN (ret), at [wreaths06820@gmail.com](mailto:wreaths06820@gmail.com).

### **Inaugural Day of Hope**

On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Darien Mental Health Task Force is sponsoring the inaugural Day of Hope at the Depot Youth Center from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Join the Darien Community as we continue to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.



**Darien's Inaugural**  
**HOPE DAY**

Join us as the Darien community  
gathers to smash the stigma  
around mental illness

**SUNDAY, NOV 5TH**  
**1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM**  
**AT THE DEPOT**  
**(25 HEIGHTS ROAD)**

Sponsored by Darien's Mental  
Health Task Force



**HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Gift Card Donations for Thanksgiving**

The Human Services Department has begun collecting gift cards to local grocery stores to help families in need with their Thanksgiving meals. Gift cards to all local grocery stores are much appreciated by families in need.

Donations can be dropped off at the Human Services Department, Room 109, at Town Hall. Hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:15 PM.

### **Mental Health First Aid Training**

The Darien Human Services Department is offering another session of Mental Health First Aid Training on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The training is free of charge to Darien residents, or those who work or interact regularly with Darien residents. The training will be held at Post 53 from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM on **both** days. The interactive course is designed to give members of the public key skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. 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](mailto:aramsteck@darienct.gov).

## **FLOODING**

During the October 17, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting, Director of Public Works, Ed Gentile, presented findings from the Grove Street and Tilley Pond area Flooding Study. The [presentation](#) is available on Darien's [TV79 website](#) under recent programs. The presentation begins at minute 54.56. The [flood](#) study provided by Tighe & Bond consulting engineers is accessible on the [Public Works page](#) of the Town website.

## **POLICE INFORMATION**

This week the Police reported a large number of identity theft attempts within Darien. The best way to prevent identity theft is to put a credit "freeze" in place. A freeze can help protect the consumer from identity theft, even if someone has their name and Social Security number. A security freeze also forbids credit rating agencies from releasing any information from the credit report without permission from the consumer. A freeze ensures that credit will not be extended unless the true owner of a credit report "unfreezes" the credit report file for the lender or credit report company. Instructions on how to place a freeze on your credit are available on the [211 of Connecticut](#) website.

Below is guidance on the difference between mopeds, motor scooters, and motorcycles in accordance with Connecticut law:

**Mopeds** - A "bicycle with helper motor" (also known as a moped or noped) includes all vehicles: propelled by the person riding the same by foot, or by hand power, or a helper motor having a capacity of **less than 50cc** piston displacement, and not rated more than two brake horsepower and capable of a maximum speed of **no more than 30mph** and equipped with automatic transmission. Bicycles with helper motors are **prohibited from operating on sidewalks** under Connecticut State Law Title 14 Sec. 14-286. An individual must obtain a valid motor vehicle operator's license to drive a moped on public roadways in Connecticut.

**Motor Scooters** - Many motor scooters are considered motorcycles and require a

registration and motorcycle operator's license to operate on the road. Some motor scooters fall under the definition of a "bicycle with helper motor" (moped) as found in Connecticut State Law Title 14 Sec. 14-286. A "bicycle with a helper motor" would not be required to be registered, however, it would require that the operator **have a valid driver's license to operate on the road**. The legal age to obtain a driver's license in Connecticut is 16 years of age.

**Motorcycle** – A motorcycle is a two-wheeled motor-driven vehicle with an engine larger than 50cc and capable of driving over 30 MPH. **Owners not only need to register their motorcycles, get a state plate and purchase insurance, but they also need to have a motorcycle endorsement on their Connecticut driver's license.**

## MATHER CENTER

Thank you to Beth Paris, the Director of the Darien Senior Programs at the Mather Center, for this heartfelt opening to her Senior Programs weekly newsletter.

*"When a person doesn't have gratitude, something is missing in his or her humanity. A person can almost be defined by his or her attitude toward gratitude." Elie Wiesel*

*November is a time to remember everything for which we are grateful; everything that enriches our lives and brings us peace and growth. This month I am thankful for this town that cares so much for its residents and provides the beautiful Mather Center, a place that is a hub for connections, promoting good health, furthering knowledge, encouraging new and old interests, and where the ground is kept fertile for encouraging one's creative imagination!*

*Thanks to everyone in Darien Town Government, our staff, volunteers, our Commission on Aging Advocates, and to all of you who participate by keeping active so you can continue to be a source of light to each other, your families, and friends.*

*In these difficult times, as we acknowledge the global turmoil and the many predicaments that face humanity, I ask you not to lose heart. Believe in the power of kindness that each of us is capable of showing to another. Every conversation that we have that heals and fosters commonalities contributes to hope and peace. We can spread love!*

*Once again I invite our members to participate in this month's offerings. On Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual Thankful For You luncheon at 12:00 noon sharp. Space is limited, so please sign up as early as possible.*

Sign up here to receive the newsletter



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

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