



# TOWN OF DARIEN NEWSLETTER

November 24, 2023 Issue 46

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

11.27.23 7:00 PM

### RTM

11.27.23 8:00 PM

### DARIEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

11.27.23 6:30 PM

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

11.28.23 7:30 PM

### GREAT ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11.29.23 6:30 PM

### POLICE COMMISSION

11.30.23 4:00 PM

Special Meeting

### SEWER COMMISSION

12.5.23 4:30 PM

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

12.7.23 4:00 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.

### Darien's Old Fashioned Holiday

Join the Darien Parks and Recreation Department for the Annual Old Fashioned Holiday event on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at Tilley Pond Park. Highlights will include caroling, a hot cocoa bar, old-fashioned treats, cookie decorating, an ice sculpture photo opportunity, and new this year, a family water lantern craft that includes watching the finished lanterns float across the pond.

### National Day of Shopping Small

Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, is National Day of Shopping Small. Many stores will be offering special discounts, making it the perfect time to support our local businesses. As you shop, enjoy the holiday lights adorning the lampposts throughout town, which are generously donated by the Darien Chamber of Commerce each year.

### Annual Town Tree Lighting

On Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, the Darien Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the Darien Sport Shop and the Darien Chamber of Commerce for the Annual Tree Lighting from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Santa will arrive on his fire truck at 5:00 PM. Hot cocoa and candy canes will be provided.

### Town-Wide Channukah Celebration and Menorah Lighting

Darien's annual community-wide Channukah celebration will take place on **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm in Grove Street Plaza. The event will feature giveaways and treats from the Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, children's books from PJ Library, crafts from COFFI (The Coalition of Families for Inclusion), and delicious, hot potato pancakes generously donated by Marcia Selden Catering. The sixth grade chorus from Middlesex Middle School will entertain the crowd. Attendees are asked to please bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation to the Open Doors Shelter of Norwalk.

Starting the evening of December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, a 6-



foot electric menorah will be lit by different Jewish Darien families each night of Channukah. The lighting will be held regardless of the weather.

### Wreaths Across America

National Wreaths Across America Day in Darien will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. To volunteer to participate in placing wreaths on veterans' graves in the Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery please contact CAPT JC Carter, USN (ret), at [wreaths06820@gmail.com](mailto:wreaths06820@gmail.com).

## Resident Reminders, News, & Tips

### 2023 Revaluation Change of Assessment Notices

The 2023 Revaluation Change of Assessment notices were mailed earlier this week. As mandated by the State of Connecticut's General Statutes, commercial and residential property owners must receive a letter by the end of November, from the Office of the Assessor, showing the change in real estate assessment. A [document](#) detailing the assessment process and a comprehensive explanation of assessment values is available on the [Assessor's page](#) of the Town website.

Property owners with questions may contact Tyler Technologies, Darien's independent assessor. To schedule an online appointment with Tyler Technologies, go to [www.tylertech.com/schedule](http://www.tylertech.com/schedule) and follow the instructions. You will need the parcel number (PARID#) at the top of the change of assessment letter in order to book your appointment. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call Tyler Technologies toll-free at 1-(844)-656-0971 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday-Friday, excluding weekends and public holidays.

### Town Leaf Pick-Up Schedule and Removal Information

Final Leaf Pick Up will be Monday, November 27, 2023, north of railroad tracks and Wednesday, November 29, 2023, south of railroad tracks. Detailed information is available on the [Public Works page](#) of the Town website.

Please be reminded of the following while conducting the annual fall yard cleanup in preparation for winter:

- Leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste should not be deposited or stored within wetlands, watercourses, and/or ponds on your property. The deposit, storage, or composting of leaves and yard debris in or near wetlands and adjacent to watercourses is prohibited. The unauthorized discharge of any material into the wetlands or watercourses of the Town may be a violation of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Darien.
- Leaves should not be blown into roadways. The leaves not only contribute to unsafe driving conditions, especially when wet but also clog catch basins and stormwater pipes. This practice contributes to the flooding of roadways and private properties, and forces leaves into local waterways and streams causing damming.

### Parking Permits

Parking permit renewal payments were due on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The following late fees are in effect:

- Permits renewed between November 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> will be charged a \$50 late fee. The total: \$528.58
- Renewals are not available after December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Online renewal is available online via the [Darien Parking Authority \(nsolutions.com\)](https://www.nsolutions.com).

## New Sidewalk

A sidewalk is being constructed on Heights Road from the corner of Noroton Avenue, past the Depot, to the Noroton Heights Train Station, increasing pedestrian safety and walkability in the area.

## Reporting a Problem to the Town

With the recently redesigned Town of Darien website, a new way to report problems to the Town has been added for residents. SEE CLICK FIX is a simple way for residents to report an issue to the appropriate Town Department. Residents can easily [register with See Click Fix](#) and select the additional option of installing the See Click Fix mobile device app. Problems can still be reported through the website by utilizing the [REPORT A PROBLEM link](#) on the Town website.

## Dog Walking at Weed Beach

The Dog Walking Program at Weed Beach runs from November 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. Dogs are allowed in the designated area only. All dogs over 6 months must be licensed with the Town Clerk's office. More information about the rules and regulations is available on the [Parks and Recreation page](#) of the Town website.



## Human Services

### Adopt a Family

Celebrate the holidays by bringing joy to a struggling family. Adopt a family on your own or with friends, book clubs, or church groups. Families range in size from 2-6 people. We are asking for donations of gift cards (family-specific guidance will be provided by Human Services). Drop off the gift cards to Darien Human Services and staff will get them to the “adopted” family.

### Adopt a Senior

Help a senior rediscover the true meaning of the holidays. The Human Services Department will choose a Darien senior who could use a little extra cheer this holiday season. We are asking for donations of gift cards (you will receive gift ideas to make things easier and more personal). Gift cards may be delivered to Darien Human Services and staff will present the gifts to your “adopted” senior just in time for the holidays. Thank you for helping to make a neighbor’s holiday a little brighter!

Please contact the Human Services Department at 203-656-7328 to participate with any questions. Gift cards may be delivered to the Human Services Department, Room 109, in Town Hall Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM – 5:15 PM or mailed to the Human Services Department at 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820.

## Emergency Call List

The Human Services Department maintains an Emergency Call List with the names of vulnerable seniors and disabled individuals to be contacted prior to a storm or other emergency. In the event of an emergency, staff will also provide information on resources available in the community such as Emergency Shelters or Warming/Cooling Centers. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the Emergency Call List, please call 203-656-7328 or [email Ali Ramsteck](mailto:Ali.Ramsteck@darrien.org), Director, LCSW.

## Great Island

The Great Island Advisory Committee will hold their next meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, Room 206 in Town Hall. The current committee schedule is a regular meeting on the last Wednesday of every month, but this schedule could change in 2024. The meetings are open to the public and are available to view live or recorded on [Darrien TV79](#).

## Interesting Information

### Darien Hunting Regulations

Hunting season has started. Every year, the Darien Police receive ongoing inquiries regarding hunters and hunting laws. It is helpful for residents, hunters or not, to have some understanding of these laws. The below addresses many of the questions, complaints, and inquiries received by the Police. Animal Control Officer, Chip Stahl, is a qualified reference for accurate animal related questions, including hunting questions.

- Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until sunset. (walking to and from the hunting stand outside of these times is allowable as long as the person isn't hunting)
- Bow hunting on private land is legal, including Sundays. (Darien is located in zone 11 which is one of the legal areas.)
- Crossbows are legal.
- Bow hunters are exempt from the 400" of fluorescent orange requirement from September 1 to November 14, and from January 1 to January 31. From November 15 to December 31, bow hunters may remove their fluorescent orange while in their tree stand.
- All deer and turkey hunters must have written permission from the landowner and this paperwork *must* be carried with them while hunting. They need a new permission slip every year (the landowners themselves are exempt from this requirement).
- There is *no minimum acreage* for archery, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting for deer. If using a firearm hunters must be a minimum of 500' away from any building occupied by people or domestic animals. Archery hunters are exempt from the 500' rule. If using a shotgun while waterfowl hunting this minimum distance drops to 250' and could be less with permission from the landowner. While the discharge of firearms in Darien is generally prohibited under the Town Code of Ordinances, there are exceptions for legitimate, bonafide hunting activity under the state hunting regulations. Firearm discharge from coastal areas (pointed away from land) below the high-water mark (i.e. for waterfowl hunting) is allowable in season.
- Deer hunters need verbal permission from the landowner to track deer across or retrieve a deer from someone's property. The proper and polite course of action is for the hunter to remove his/her camouflage (if so attired) and knock on the door of the residence to seek permission of the homeowner to track or retrieve the deer. The landowner does have a right to refuse, even if the deer is located on their property. In the case of an unresolvable dispute, the hunter must engage the DEEP to mediate the potential removal of the deer.
- Baiting of deer is allowed in Darien.

## Department of Health

### Free Covid Tests

The Federal Government is offering another round of no-cost Covid rapid test kits: <https://covid.gov/tests>.

## Environmental Health Professionals Day

November 17<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed Environmental Health Professionals Day by Governor Ned Lamont as a way to recognize the dedication and hard work that these professionals do in their communities daily. As an example, please [view](#) this video directed and produced by Darien Health Sanitarian, Mindy Chambrelli.

## Mather Center Senior Programs & Youth Services Partnership

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## Police Information

**Connecticut has a strict “Social Host” or “House Party” law that holds parents and property owners liable for underage drinking and/or cannabis use that occurs in their homes.**

**Anyone who owns, rents, or controls property** (indoor or outdoor) where a party or gathering is held is seen as a “host” under Connecticut’s Social Host law. This includes homeowners, landowners, parents, and guardians.

**Juveniles** may also be charged as hosts, such as in the case of teenagers who throw a party while their parents are out of town. There is no minimum age to be considered a host. Under the Social Host Law, it is a Class A misdemeanor to **allow** minors to drink alcohol or use cannabis in your home or on your property. For your first violation, you may be fined up to \$2,000 and receive up to one year in jail.

Depending on the situation, you could also face additional charges related to the incident. For example, if you are found to have **provided** alcohol to minors, you can be charged with a Class E felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$3,500 and up to 18 months in jail. You may also be held civilly liable for injuries, accidents, or incidents that stem from underage drinking. This means if a minor becomes intoxicated on your property, and then commits a crime or gets into an accident resulting in injury, death, or property damage, you can be sued by the minor and/or by an injured third party.

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