

## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



*"When you see a Darien Police officer, thank them and remember that true heroes don't wear capes, they wear blue."*

Several weeks ago, I received close to thirty "Thank You" cards from a class of students in District #61. I enjoyed reading their notes thanking me for sending them a video where I discussed

my role as Mayor of the City of Darien. While each card was unique, there was one thought expressed in almost all of them, they thanked me for keeping them safe. While I appreciate the sentiment, what I want them to know, is that the people who really do keep them safe, are the men and women of the Darien Police Department. They are the true heroes, the individuals who go out each day with only one purpose in mind, to keep the City of Darien safe for its residents.

If you have never visited with a Darien Police officer, I suggest you take some time to meet one; you will soon realize that they are just like the rest of us. Behind the uniform and all the equipment, they have families and lives very similar to the rest of us. The difference between their lives and ours, is that they go to work every day, put on a uniform and dedicate their lives to the safety and wellbeing of all Darien residents.

Darien's men and women in blue are among the finest officers serving any community in DuPage County and the State of Illinois. I am biased, and I will add, that as I have come to know them personally, they are the **FINEST** department in DuPage County and the State of Illinois, and if you look at Chief Thomas' report in this newsletter, you will see data that shows how we live in one of the safest communities in DuPage County. That doesn't happen by accident, it takes outstanding leadership, excellent training, state of the art equipment and the dedication of thirty-four men and women who are deeply dedicated to serving each of us on a daily basis. In an era when many are critical of police, here in Darien we respect and honor them for their work.

So in response to the students who thanked me for keeping them safe, I can only say that when you see a Darien Police officer, thank them and remember that true heroes don't wear capes, they wear "blue." Thank you to all of our Darien officers and leaders, I am honored to be your mayor.

Sincerely,

**Joe Marchese**  
Mayor



## CONCERTS ON THE GREENS

The first in a series of City concerts held at Carriage Greens was a huge success and a wonderful night. We estimate approximately 250 were in attendance. Carriage Greens provided a variety of great food and drinks. Other local favorites including Harmi Sushi, Buona Beef, Falcos, and Tizzy's Eats and Treats were also there providing a variety of food and treats! Don't miss the last the concert, Thursday, August 31 featuring Reckless and, new this year, Oktoberfest, Saturday, September 23.

We are thankful for the generous food donations collected by the Darien Women's Club, which were collected on behalf of the City and delivered to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel food pantry.



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Darien Police Chief Greg Thomas presented the 2022 Police Department annual report at the June 19, 2023, city council meeting. The statistical information in the report shows Darien continues to be an extremely safe community with low crime rates, modern crime prevention strategies, and a philosophical approach to policing called problem-oriented policing. Problem-oriented policing teaches police officers to be proactive in identifying underlying problems. This helps to alleviate crime at its roots and to focus on problems instead of on single calls or incidents.

We encourage you to read the complete annual report that is available on the City's web site, [www.darien.il.us](http://www.darien.il.us). If you do not use a computer please contact Rose Gonzalez 630-353-8133 and request the report to be mailed to you.

*We are proud of all the women and men in the department and wish to thank them for their service to the community.*

## 5 POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT TAKEAWAYS

1 Crime is classified into various categories. All of the categories showed a decrease in crime, for an overall total crime decrease of 8.3%.

Person Crime	- 0.9%	Property Crime	- 7.0%
Societal Crime	- 36.8%	Other Crime	- 4.9%

2 To determine the safety of the driving public, the measure used is the frequency of crashes on public right-of-ways. Darien saw a 2.4% increase in accidents, or 8 more crashes on the public way in 2022 compared to 2021. There were no fatal crashes in 2022 and injury crashes are down 13% or 7 fewer than 2021.

3 Officers continue to try to making Darien streets safe and respond to citizen's concerns of speeding. To that end, officers made 7,739 traffic stops in 2022 compared to 7,027 in 2021 a 10.1% increase. Of the 7,739 traffic stops, 6,860 traffic citations were issued.

4 For 2023, the department plans on more outreach activities through both, in-person meetings and social media. The library agreed to host a discussion on various topics once a month starting in the fall of 2023. We had two neighborhood meetings and hope to have more of them. Neighborhood meetings allow for neighbors to ask any question of the police. We do give a short presentation on crime, but the meetings are designed to be community driven. We have increased the number of people following the police department on Twitter and other social media platforms. We hope to get a public service message out once a month and continue notifying the public about issues that occur, such as road closures.

5 Darien implemented a 40-hour continuing education program in 2022. The training included five sessions, eight hours each. Topics included CPR/AED training, Law Updates, Firearms, Defensive Tactics, Sexual Harassment, Rescue Task Force / Active Shooter, Resiliency for Police, and Taser. Many of these topics are required certifications and others are mandated from the SAFE-T Act.



## A REGIONAL APPROACH TO POLICING

The police department belongs to several intergovernmental agencies, partnering to provide regional approaches to police services. Intergovernmental groups include:

**DuPage County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (DuMEG)** is a county-wide management approach linking local, county, state, and federal police agencies to pro-actively combat illicit drug trafficking within DuPage County, Illinois.

**DuPage Public Safety Communications (DU-COMM)** answers 9-1-1 calls and provides radio communications for 44 member police and fire agencies, working twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week to provide these critical services.

**The Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team (MERIT)** is a consolidation of law enforcement specialty teams including: SWAT, Crisis Negotiations, Canine, Incident Management Assistance, Planned Events Group, Major Crash Team, Major Crimes Group, Public Integrity Team, Forensics Investigation, Digital Forensics and drone team.



**PLEASE CALL 911 FOR ANY TYPE OF POLICE RESPONSE (including NON-EMERGENCY calls)**

NOTE: If calling 911 for police service from a cell phone, tell the operator that you need the Darien Police. This will help the police respond more efficiently.

# SENIOR CORNER

Senior citizens are a vital part of our community and there are many agencies and organizations that provide services to Darien's seniors. Here are just a few:

**Darien Police Department Elderly Services Program** - The Darien Police Department's Elderly Services program will respond to seniors in need and help them connect with DuPage County Senior Services. Please contact Sgt. Nick Skweres at [nskweres@darienil.gov](mailto:nskweres@darienil.gov) or 630-353-8337. An Elderly Service Officer (ESO) will reach out to discuss needs and next steps. ESOs check in on registered seniors, provide local resource information, provide presentations for senior groups, investigate crimes, abuse and neglect and serve as a liaison with DuPage County Senior Services. Each registered senior will receive the direct phone and email contact information for their assigned ESO.

**DuPage Senior Citizens Council** - DuPage County agency providing a Home Maintenance Program and Home Delivered Meals Program for local, eligible senior residents. For more information call 630/620-0804. 1990 Springer Drive, Lombard, IL 60148.

**Homebound Delivery - Indian Prairie Public Library** - If you are unable to visit the library due to an illness or disability, and for those who are caregivers to family members experiencing illness or disability, the Indian Prairie Public Library offers personalized delivery of library materials for those who qualify. Call Marquita H. at 630/887-8760 ext. 225, or email [homebound@ippl.info](mailto:homebound@ippl.info).



## DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES



**Address:** 4341 Saratoga Ave.,  
Downers Grove  
**Phone:** 630-719-6670  
**Website:** <https://www.dgtownship.com/senior-services/>

Downers Grove Township Senior Services provides older adults with vital resources and referral information on services like Dial-A-Ride transportation access, benefit access and RTA applications. They offer activities and classes on topics that include the Senior Survival Skills topic series, computers, art, driving, games and more. News and updates are shared via their newsletter, Banner News, and through flyers, pamphlets and email blasts. Be sure to register your email with them!

PERMIT #	1234	CITY OF DARIEN SOLICITOR PERMIT					
NAME: LAST	DOE	FIRST	JOHN	INITIAL	E		
COMPANY/ORGANIZATION	ABCD REMODELING						
DRIVERS LICENSE NUMBER	412345678	STATE	IL				
SEX	M	HEIGHT	6	WEIGHT	140	EYES	BROWN
DATE OF BIRTH	4-5-67	PHONE NUMBER	345-6789				
SIGNATURE:	John E. Doe						
DATE PERMIT ISSUED	5-16-16	EXPIRATION DATE	6-16-16				
APPROVED BY:	John M. Rogers				CITY CLERK		

## DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION

Warmer weather means more door to door solicitors. Residents that do not want solicitors to ring their doorbells should post a sign indicating "No solicitors invited." These decals are available at City Hall (1702 Plainfield Road) or the Darien Police Department (1710 Plainfield Road). The City of Darien advises residents NOT to give their utility bills to solicitors. Note, home solicitors are required to show you a city permit. If a home solicitor fails to show you a city permit or you think the solicitation is a scam please call 911 immediately to report.

## E-WASTE COLLECTION

The City of Darien will be providing Darien residents a home collection for E-Waste items. This service provides a more convenient and simple way to responsibly manage electronics that are banned from the landfill. There is no charge for this service, though there is a limit of seven items including only two total TVs or monitors (or one of each). Registration will be required and opens online at [www.darien.il.us](http://www.darien.il.us) approximately 3 weeks before the event. Late registrations will not be included in the collection and will require a special pickup fee paid in advance.

The 2023 curbside e-waste event is the week of October 16. Registration is required by October 11 at 6 p.m.

- Seven item limit including only two total TVs or Monitors or one of each
- Tube TV's may not exceed 40" (inches) or 100 pounds
- Flat Screen TV's may not exceed 48"(inches) or 100 pounds

LRS may provide an estimate for a special handling fee of E-Waste exceeding limitations. If you would like to inquire about an estimate, please e-mail: [Service@LRSrecycles.com](mailto:Service@LRSrecycles.com) or call 844-NEED-LRS.



## YARD WASTE AND FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

From April 1st through the second full week of December, residents can take advantage of weekly yard waste and food scrap collection services (composting) with Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS). These services are included in the monthly fee! Yard waste generally includes leaves, grass cuttings, twigs, small shrubbery clippings, plants and flowers. Limbs should not exceed 4 feet in length and 50 pounds in weight. Branches must be no more than 4 inches in diameter, with the total diameter of the bundle not to exceed 24 inches. Residents can participate by placing yard waste and/or food scraps (there is no need to separate them) in biodegradable paper bags, or in containers and placing them at the curb on your garbage day.

## BRANCH PICKUP PROGRAM

The City's Public Works Branch Pickup Program is free for all single-family homes and provides for the collection and disposal of branches from residential properties. Please stack the branches neatly by the curb on the Sunday before the pickup week. The chipper can accept branches up to 6" in diameter.



### FREE BRANCH PICK UP DATES

August 21- 25  
October 23 - 27



1702 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL 60561  
630-852-5000 • [www.darien.il.us](http://www.darien.il.us)

**CITY HALL HOURS:**

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**CITY OFFICIALS:**

Joe Marchese, Mayor • 630-353-8108 • [jmarchese@darienil.gov](mailto:jmarchese@darienil.gov)  
Bryon Vana, City Administrator • 630-353-8114 • [bvana@darienil.gov](mailto:bvana@darienil.gov)  
Dan Gombac, Dir. of Municipal Services/Community Development • 630-353-8106 • [dgombac@darienil.gov](mailto:dgombac@darienil.gov)

**STAY CONNECTED**

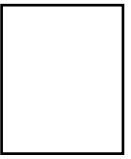
The City of Darien uses a variety of communication tools to provide timely and important information to the public. This includes the Direct Connect weekly e-newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, and NextDoor.

Sign up for Direct Connect at <https://bit.ly/DarienDirectConnect>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofDarien/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CityofDarien>

NextDoor: <https://www.nextdoor.com/>



**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

**DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1710 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL 60561  
Administrative/Non-Emergency Phone Number – 630-971-3999

*PLEASE CALL 911 FOR ANY TYPE OF POLICE RESPONSE (including NON-EMERGENCY calls)*

NOTE: If calling 911 for police service from a cell phone, tell the operator that you need the Darien Police. This will help the police respond more efficiently.

**UTILITIES**

ComEd .....	1-800-EDISON1
Nicor .....	888-642-6748
Comcast .....	866-594-1234
DuPage County Water (payment/billing).....	630-985-2905
LRS (Garbage).....	844-633-3577

**OTHER NUMBERS**

Darien Park District .....	630-968-6400
Dial a Ride .....	630-719-6670
Downers Grove Township Tax Assessor.....	630-968-2100
Indian Prairie Public Library .....	630-887-8760
PACE.....	847-364-7223

**DARIEN ACCEPTED THE WARHOL COMMUNITY ART CHALLENGE**

The College of DuPage Art Project is coming to the windows of the Indian Prairie Public Library (IPPL) with large Andy Warhol-inspired images of notable Darien figures. This is sponsored by the College of DuPage and The JCS Fund of the DuPage Foundation

**HOMETOWN HEROES: ABOUT THOSE FEATURED**

**Krishan “Kris” Sant** was a member of numerous city committees, which allowed him to have a significant impact on the growth of our city. He touched the lives of many in his home country of India by setting up hospitals that served those in need of medical attention. His life was a gift that we all benefited from, and his impact on our city will be forever celebrated.

**Sam Kelley** was a member of the Combined Homeowners Committee for Incorporation, and in 1969 Sam Kelley suggested the name Darien for the newly incorporated city. A Boy Scout leader, City Alderman, 1988 Citizen of the Year, and civic-minded Sam spent a lifetime serving the city.

**Fred Andermann** emigrated with his parents from Germany at the age of 9 in 1843. In 1864 the family bought an 80-acre farm in Lace. Fred became a leader of the Lace community, also holding public office. He is considered by many to be one of the two founding fathers of the area that is now known as Darien.

**Joseph “Joey” Ventimiglia** was a role model for bravery as he faced the effects of devastating childhood cancer. Joey was diagnosed at age 6 with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, which affects around 200 children in the world annually. Joey’s short life touched many.



Pictured L to R top: Kris Sant, Sam Kelly; L to R bottom: Fred Andermann, Joey Ventimiglia

**ANDY WARHOL: A LIFE IN POP**

The Cleve Carney Museum of Art and the McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage are hosting an exhibition of the works of Andy Warhol. Original works on view will include 94 pieces from *Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop* through Sept. 10. <https://www.theccma.org/>