

City Council Notice of Special Meeting Goal Setting Session

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED A SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025, 6:30 PM IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM, 1710 PLAINFIELD ROAD, DARIEN, ILLINOIS. AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS

- 1. Environmental Committee**
- 2. Review of the Darien Business Alliance (DBA) activities and future focus**
- 3. Review of our marquee sign policy**
- 4. Resident communications survey review**
- 5. Revenue to fund police pension fund**
- 6. Meeting decorum**
- 7. Elected Officials – Survey Review**

CITY OF DARIEN RULES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THIS MEETING

Unless otherwise allowed by a majority vote of the Body, the public comment periods for this meeting shall be as follows:

At the conclusion of the meeting immediately before adjournment. At the direction of the Body, the floor may be opened for public comment in conjunction with specific agenda items.

Individuals seeking to make public comment to the Body shall be formally recognized by the Chair.

Individuals addressing the Body shall identify themselves by name, but need not provide their home address.

Individuals addressing the Body shall do so by addressing their comments to the Body itself and shall not turn to address the audience.

Public comment time shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person.

An individual will be allowed a second opportunity to address the Body only after all other interested persons have addressed the Body and only upon the majority vote of the Body.

Since this is a special meeting, public comment will be limited to subject matters germane to the agenda of the special meeting.

CITY OF DARIEN

M E M O

TO: Mayor Marchese, City Council, City Clerk, and City Treasurer

FROM: Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator

DATE: November 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Goal Setting Agenda Topic Summary– Wednesday, November 19, 2025 - 6:30 p.m.

Listed below are the agenda topics and overview for the goal setting session scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th. Please note, an * indicates there is back up for that item.

1. [Environmental Committee*](#)

At the October 20, 2025, City Council meeting, the Council postponed a vote to disband the Environmental Committee (EC). The consensus of the Council was to include the discussion at the November goal-setting meeting to allow for additional time for discussion. Since 2023, the EC held one meeting with an additional meeting held on November 6, 2025. During the period of 2017 through 2022, the EC held fourteen meetings, with items being mostly informational and repeated annually. The challenge with discretionary committees is to maintain an active role after their initial priority, such as solid waste. At the EC meeting on June 20, 2001, the committee began to review its role and functions. (Minutes attached) After their review in 2001, it is evident that they have struggled for topics and many meetings were cancelled for lack of a quorum or agenda items. The city does not require a formal committee in order to be proactive on environmental issues. Currently, many environmental efforts require expertise and training in a variety of topics related to the environment. City elected officials and staff have taken on the task of meeting environmental concerns and accomplishing numerous goals.

2. [Review of the Darien Business Alliance \(DBA\) activities and future focus*](#)

This is the first year of the city's creation of the Darien Business Alliance. The staff will discuss the DBA business activities to date and a recommended future focus.

3. [Review of our marquee sign policy*](#)

The use of the city marquee sign by local businesses has been minimal. The city uses it daily and we do promote many of the local organizations. Staff requesting the city council to consider additional ways for local businesses to use the sign without charge.

4. Resident communications survey review*

Attached is the resident communication survey that the city publicized on Direct Connect. The city council will have a chance to review and discuss the results.

5. Revenue to fund police pension fund

For the last several years, the police pension contribution by the city has exceeded the annual property tax levy. The difference has been paid for with other general fund revenue. The city has not raised the property tax levy since 2009. The council can provide input if the tax property tax revenue should be increased to meet the total annual pension amount, without using other general revenue funds.

6. Meeting decorum

The city's council meetings allows the council to conduct important and useful discussion between the elected officials. The council members can provide input if they may have about any concerns with the process for council discussion among themselves and between the council and the public, with the goal of facilitating/maintaining productive and professional discussion.

7. Elected Officials – Survey review*

Each elected official will have a chance to review their survey focusing on topics they listed to discuss but were not on the agenda due to time constraints.

CITY OF DARIEN

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Marchese, City Council, Clerk, and Treasurer
FROM: Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator
DATE: November 19, 2025
RE: Environmental Committee

At the October 20, 2025, City Council meeting, the Council postponed a vote to disband the Environmental Committee (EC). The consensus of the Council was to include this topic at the November goal-setting meeting to allow for additional time for discussion. Attached, as background, is the staff memo that was included in the 10/20/25 council meeting packet.

The city maintains various committees that provide recommendations to the city. The committees generally have different purposes. First, committees such as the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Commission serve to fulfill duties required by state law. Second, discretionary committees such as EC are created by the city council for specific purposes, but not required by state law.

Since 2023, the EC held one meeting with an additional meeting held on November 6, 2025. During the period of 2017 through 2022, the EC held fourteen meetings, with items being mostly informational and repeated annually. The challenge with discretionary committees is to maintain an active role after their initial priority, such as solid waste. At the EC meeting on June 20, 2001, the committee began to review its role and functions. (See attached minutes) After their review in 2001, it is evident that they have struggled for topics and many meetings were cancelled for lack of a quorum or agenda items.

If the EC were disbanded, the group could continue as a volunteer group, (environmental club), such as the garden club and the Arbor Day volunteers. As an environmental club, they can work to eliminate duplication of activities. For example, the garden club already has a committee called the Nature and Environment Committee. If the group continued as a volunteer club they would not be required to follow the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and would have more flexibility including:

1. Would not need a quorum to have meetings
2. Would not create a public meeting if a majority of a quorum was not required (3 of 7 committee members discussing issues together)
3. Would be able to meet when and where they wanted with no notice requirements
4. Would be able to determine the size of the club and solicit new members
5. Would determine their issues they feel are important to discuss
6. Would be able to raise funds to carry out programs of an environmental nature
7. Would still be able to work with the city on environmental issues
8. Would not be required to take minutes

Several communities such as Elmhurst and Naperville have volunteer resident groups,

independent from the city, serving in the role as environmental advisors. The Naperville *Environment and Sustainability Task Force* (NEST) <https://www.sustainnaperville.org/> is a group of concerned citizens working to enhance environmental sustainability in Naperville. The Cool Cities Coalition (<https://elmhurstcoolcities.org/>) is the resident organization in Elmhurst that strives to promote sustainable solutions in the Elmhurst community through education, outreach and community action.

The city does not need a formal committee in order to be proactive on environmental issues. A similar example is the city does not need a formal Historical Committee to celebrate the city's history. Currently, many environmental efforts require expertise and training in a variety of topics related to the environment. City staff has taken on the task of meeting environmental concerns and accomplishing numerous goals. Mayor Marchese, City Council and staff have maintained their involvement in environmental issues, and have been active and accomplished the following:

- Through our membership in the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus, we have attended and participated in the MMC's Environmental sub-committee;
- Through our membership in the MMC, we were part of the first EV Readiness Cohort, which earned us Bronze level status;
- We have applied for grants, through the MMC for the development of EV Super charging stations in Darien, and we were awarded 1.3 million dollars to install charging stations at City Hall and at Public Works. The Brookhaven management was part of this program. While Brookhaven is prepared to open their charging stations, the federal government cut/pulled the 1.3 million which effectively negated our installation of the charging stations;
- As an environmentally conscious community, the City sought to enhance the appearance of our streetscapes, by landscaping our medians, and installing irrigation systems;
- We explored the use of an environmentally safe/biodegradable liquid that whose use we adopted prior to a snow/ice event;
- We explored the need to modify our ordinances detailing the requirements that provide residents with information on the installation of solar panels; this work resulted in our being designated a "Sol Smart" community;
- We have qualified as a "Greenest Region" awarded city;
- Through a grant we obtained from the Morton Arboretum, We are the recipients of 100 donated trees, that per the grant will be planted in parkways where there is poor canopy cover;
- Through a grant program with the State of Illinois, we will have the opportunity to purchase at more than half the cost of a new nine-ton dump truck that is EV equipped. As part of this program, we will also see the installation of a Level three super charger installed at our Public Works facility;
- We are exploring the possibility of being part of the BESS Program (Battery Energy Storage System). BESS units are large rechargeable batteries and associated hardware that store electricity for later use. This system would be installed on a separate property, and the City would receive revenue from the project;

- We have been and continue to be part of the Monarch Butterfly Program, and we continue to urge the development of Milkweed plantings for Monarch Butterflies and pollinators;
- We scheduled two electronics recycling program that included flat screen televisions, computers and assorted electronic equipment;
- Our adoption of LRS as our waste hauler included the use of a tote program that allowed for additional recycling material including composting. In addition, we worked with LRS to conduct an electronic recycling program.
- Revised city zoning codes to prohibit certain chemical storage/use
- Amended the zoning code to prohibit businesses that have Tier II reportable chemicals on their premises
- Recipient of a \$53,000 Illinois Community Canopy Tree Inventory and Management Plan Grant from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

If you have any questions prior to the goal-setting meeting please feel free to give me a call.

CITY OF DARIEN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

June 20, 2001
Darien City Hall
7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Halil Avci, Eric Gustafson, Myra Slifka and Kathleen Minardi

ABSENT: Willy Pua, Allan Jackimek, Claudia Krueger & Phil Kohl

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 P.M.

There being a quorum the meeting was called to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 3/21/01 regular meeting were read and approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Myra Slifka and seconded by Kathleen Minardi.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

A letter from the Darien Park District dated 5/28/01 was received thanking the Environmental Committee for their time and efforts on the 2nd Annual Darien Arbor Day Celebration at Ridgewood Park. The Committee also received a framed picture of the group of children and Home Depot volunteers that participated in the park activities on April 26, 2001.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CHAIRMAN / LIAISON REPORT

Chairman Avci explained that without committee projects (new or ongoing) the Committee has nothing to really meet about. New ideas or projects for the Committee are not coming from the City Council, so the Committee must create our own. Projects for the Committee like the Arbor Day event are very good for the Committee to work on. Mr. Avci would like the see the Committee create articles for the quarterly Darien Data Newsletter and the City's cable channel. The next newsletter will be Sept. 2001. Gina added that she has been putting Environmental Committee bulletins/briefs on the cable channel for some time now but will also help look for environmental news and information from various sources.

Mrs. Minardi suggested an "Adopt-A-Sign, Park or Street Program be strongly considered using junior high and high school aged students to participate for a class or special assignment, for local clubs, groups or community service projects. She also mentioned the Tree City USA designation for Darien and asked what Darien has done about joining this tree supportive organization. Gina explained that the previous Public Works Director did speak about this to the City Council both at a Goal Setting Session and a Budget meeting. At that time, the City was in the process of beginning to operate a Forestry division of Public Works. Two employees were selected and committed for Arborist training. The

department did look into the Tree City Program but were discouraged at the cost of computer software and the program parameters to complete tree inventory files and reports. The department will look into it again at a later time.

Eric Gustafson reported that the Comprehensive Plan Committee will be going to the Planning & Development Committee for approval consideration of the new Comprehensive Plan. A bikeway is included. It was suggested that grant money might be requested for the bikeway from State and Federal resources. Gina will look at Illinois EPA grant listings. Mr. Gustafson also suggested that the Environmental Committee participate in the Argonne Labs Open House in September, 2001.

Gina mentioned that another suggestion for Environmental Committee exposure would be the Darien Website at www.darien.il.us. She mentioned that she is the website contact with the City. She works with Claycomb Productions, the website contractor who also does the input for the site based on whatever new information and update maintenance Gina supplies to him. It was suggested that the Environmental page should also have a pull-down box that has an email address to write to the Committee with suggestions, questions or comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on July 18, 2001 at 7:00 P.M. at 7:00 P.M. at the Darien City Hall, 1702 Plainfield Road, Darien.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kathleen Minardi and seconded by Eric Gustafson to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gina Ballestra

June, 2001

AGENDA MEMO
City Council
October 20, 2025

ISSUE STATEMENT

Approval of an ORDINANCE disbanding the environmental committee

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The city maintains various committees that provide recommendations to the city. The committees generally have different purposes. First, committees such as the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Commission serve to fulfill duties required by state law. Second, discretionary committees such as COY and the holiday decorating committees are created by the city council for specific purposes, but not required by state law.

The city currently has a discretionary environmental committee. Under a different name, this committee began in 1987 with an ordinance designating the committee in 2000. The committee had an initial focus on recycling, which was a new topic for Illinois communities in the late 1980s. During this period, municipalities spent significant time in dealing with solid waste issues. In addition to solid waste, the committee discussed items such as litter, inoperable vehicles, selecting a city flower and many general informational items. Many of the issues they discussed were informational only and are being handled by other groups such as city committees and DuPage County. After researching archived meeting minutes, much of the committees' business were less complex than issues we are faced with today that require professional input. Many of the issues the committee discussed are now handled by other volunteer groups such as the garden club and Arbor Day group.

The challenge with discretionary committees is to maintain an active role after their initial priority, such as solid waste. In 2000, the committee began to review its role and functions. After their review in 2000, it is evident that they have struggled for topics and many meetings were cancelled for lack of agenda items. Since 2000, the committee has met once or twice per year with no meetings in 2024. Recently, staff was working to schedule a meeting for the committee and had difficulty in identifying topics and agenda items (Attachment A).

Due to these factors, staff is recommending the city council disband this committee.

STAFF/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The staff and Administrative/Finance Committee recommends the disbanding of the environmental committee.

ALTERNATE CONSIDERATION

As directed.

DECISION MODE

This item will be placed on the October 20, 2025 City Council agenda for consideration.



CITY OF DARIEN Memorandum

TO: Mayor Marchese, City Council, Clerk, and Treasurer
FROM: Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator
DATE: November 19, 2025
RE: Darien Business Alliance (DBA) activities and future focus

This is the first full fiscal year of the Darien Business Alliance. The city operates the DBA, which resembles a traditional chamber of commerce. This creation of the DBA allowed the city to have direct oversight of local business engagement such as special business events, communications, and programing. The focus of the DBA so far has been:

1. Hosted an introduction to DBA luncheon
2. Weekly email newsletter of promotions, events and business related information
3. Partner with other chamber events 3-4 times a year
4. Assist in preparation of the annual business focused Community Guide Magazine
5. Plan/host annual community events providing sponsorship opportunities for business exposure
6. Host Shop Local campaign to focus on retail and restaurant holiday promotions

We consider our first business luncheon, held in May, a success. We had a turnout of approximately 70 attendees and provided an excellent speaker discussing AI. We tried for a second business luncheon but cancelled it due to low registration. We have conceded that, while the business luncheons can be valuable, they take significant time to plan and there is just not enough interest in continuing those on a regular basis.

As one tool to support local businesses, staff is considering promoting retail businesses by their individual business center. Some ideas include developing a short video of the center/businesses that we can put on Direct Connect and our web site, encouraging *grand reopening's* that may include certain special deals/events, business ad on marquee sign, etc. If the council supports this approach, staff can put together more details. We will continue to participate in local business/chamber events.

CITY OF DARIEN
Memorandum

TO: Mayor Marchese, City Council, Clerk, and Treasurer
FROM: Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator
DATE: November 19, 2025
RE: Marquee Sign

The advertising policy for the marquee sign at Plainfield and Cass has now been in place since 2024. Exhibit 1, see attached, shows the information that was posted on the sign in 2025. Also attached is the current sign advertisement policy that was revised on 4-28-25.

The city sponsored and local not for profit (NFP) events are the most advertised. Since the policy revision of 4-28-25, there has been five businesses that advertised for a total revenue to the city of \$1,604. The city staff is pleased with the use of the sign for city and NFP events. However, the use of the sign by local businesses is below expectations.

Currently, the city does not charge for ads if a business sponsors a city event. The staff is recommending expanding the list of no cost ads for businesses that:

1. advertise in the Community Guide Magazine
2. participate in the city's promotion of retail businesses by their individual business center
3. participate in city's special events such as the Shop Local campaign
4. participate in programs that benefit local NFP groups

Additionally, we only allow business ads for businesses located in Darien, regardless if they pay dues to the DBA. The council should confirm that we will continue to allow ads for Darien businesses only.

EXHIBIT 1

Marquee sign information posted on the sign from 2025.

Non-profits that have used the sign (majority have use frequently/on multiple occasions):

1. Darien Arts Council
2. Darien Garden Club
3. Darien Lions Club
4. Darien Woman's Club
5. Indian Prairie Public Library
6. Hinsdale South High School/Foundation
7. Darien Rotary Club
8. Darien VFW Post 2838
9. Darien Park District
10. Darien Historical Society
11. Darien Youth Club
12. Team 66 Foundation

Cass Professional businesses that have ads running for free (per agreement with property owner):

1. Seneca Realty Executives
2. Holistic Health & Beauty
3. Edward Jones – James Burke
4. Overmann Law
5. Higher Health Chiropractic (Dr. Anna)

Businesses that have paid for advertisements (including cost for ads and ad period):

1. Darien Immediate Care – April 13, 2025-May 31, 2025 - \$320
2. Unique Balloon Decorating – May 1, 2025-May 30, 2025 - \$200
3. Charleys Cheesesteaks – May 1, 2025-July 31, 2025 - \$600
4. Wayback Burgers – July 1, 2025-July 30, 2025 - \$150
5. Modell Funeral Home – September 3, 2025-October 20, 2025 - \$334
6. **Note- the city also offers free sign ads as part of city event sponsorship.**

TOTAL PAID FOR ADS: \$1,604

City information running on sign:

1. City Council meetings
2. Municipal Services meetings
3. Direct Connect sign up
4. Looking to advertise

Seasonal city info:

1. Snow alert
2. Citizen of the Year
3. Tree trimming
4. Hydrant flushing
5. Events (Darien Dash, Darien Fest, Summer Concerts, Cop on a Rooftop, Coffee with a Cop, Cops'n'Bobbers, National Night Out, other misc. DBA events)
6. Branch pick up
7. Decorating contests
8. Any other pressing news/info shared on web or DC



A nice place to live.

DIGITAL MARQUEE SIGN REQUEST FORM

Name of Organization or Business: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Message display date(s): _____

Sign Location: Southeast corner of Cass Ave and Plainfield Rd

Subject of requested message:

- ☐ By checking this box and signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the City's Marquee Sign policy.
- ☐ I further acknowledge that I understand the City has the sole authority to remove my message from the Marquee Sign at any time.
- ☐ I have enclosed the required documentation demonstrating my organization's status as a public entity, non-profit status or a business license registered to Darien.
- ☐ By checking this box, I am requesting to receive design assistance at an additional cost of \$250.

Print Name

Position/Title

Signature

Date

DIGITAL MARQUEE SIGN POLICY

Section 1 – Purpose

This policy establishes the City of Darien’s guidelines for the use of the Marquee Sign. This policy applies to all employees and officers for the City, and applicants requesting to post a message to the Marquee Sign.

Section 2 – Objective of the Marquee Sign

The goal of the Marquee Sign is to convey information about Darien programs, events, services, and initiatives, provide emergency alerts and other important City information, and to allow local businesses to advertise.

Section 3 – Guiding Principles

All Marquee Signs are subject to the following rules and guidelines:

1. All Marquee Signs will be maintained and monitored by authorized users during normal business hours. During an emergency event, designated personnel may post outside of normal business hours to keep the public informed.
2. The Marquee Sign will not be used to:
 - a. Directly or indirectly endorse any person or organization that is not directly associated with the City or other Darien public agency.
 - b. Endorse or promote a political campaign, candidate, or ballot measure.
3. Messages posted to the Marquee Sign must comply with applicable federal, state, county, and City laws, ordinances, regulations, and policies. This includes adherence to established laws and policies regarding copyright or plagiarism, records retention, the Freedom of Information Act, privacy and information security policies and protocols established by the City or imposed by existing laws.
4. Reservation dates will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. The City retains the right to approve or deny any request. In the event that the advertisement period is disrupted due to technical difficulties, the City will ensure a full 30-day period of advertisement when the sign is operational. No refunds will be given.
5. Content that is graphic, obscene, explicit, abusive, threatening, harmful, inflammatory, intended to defame anyone or any organization, compromise the safety or security of the public or public facilities, suggests or encourages illegal activity, or is misleading or fraudulent in nature will not be permitted.
6. Content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, age, gender, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation, will not be permitted.

Section 4 – Submission Policy

1. Members of the public that wish to post to the Marquee Sign must submit the Digital Marquee Sign Request Form, and meet the following requirements:

- a. Requests for use of the Marquee Sign must be submitted at least one week in advance to the City by completing the attached form, which can be obtained on the City's website www.darien.il.us or at City Hall.
 - b. Each business or organization is allowed a maximum of two (2) advertisements per 30-day advertising period.
 - c. Message run time is limited to no more than 30 days per event or advertising reservation, unless otherwise authorized by City Staff.
 - d. The City reserves the right to limit the number of messages displayed at any one time to keep the sign board relevant, at its sole discretion.
 - e. Messages should be concise and should contain basic information about the event or advertisement. The City reserves the right to edit the requested message as they see fit.
2. Requests for use of the Marquee Sign for the promotion of Community Events must meet the following additional requirements:
 - a. The requestor must represent a Darien not-for-profit organization that is sponsoring an event, which is open to the Darien community and not for commercial purposes.
 - b. Reservation requests must be submitted with the appropriate application form. Documentation evidencing the organization's non-profit status will be required.
 - c. Events must meet one or more of the following criteria to be eligible:
 - i. City event or activity
 - ii. City sponsored or funded
 - iii. Local governments within the City of Darien's corporate limits or serving Darien's residents
 - iv. Not-for-profit community events open to the public and not exclusionary in nature
 - v. Darien new business grand opening events
 - d. **Revised 4/8/25** City of Darien businesses sponsoring a City event will be permitted to advertise for a full 30-day period at no charge except any required set up fees.
3. Requests for paid advertisements to be displayed on the Marquee Sign must meet the following additional requirements:
 - a. Reservation requests must be submitted with the appropriate application form. Documentation evidencing a business license registered to Darien will be required.
 - b. ~~Each advertisement period will cost \$550.~~ **Revised 4/8/25** Each advertisement period will cost \$200 per a promotional rate set by the Darien City Council. The City Administrator reserves the right to adjust advertisement pricing as he may see fit. If the requested advertisement should last less than the 30-day advertising period (i.e., a limited time promotional deal, specials at a grocery store, etc.), price will be adjusted accordingly.



City of Darien – MEMORANDUM

TO: Bryon Vana, City Administrator

FROM: Lisa Klemm, Administrative Assistant to City Administrator

DATE: July 31, 2025

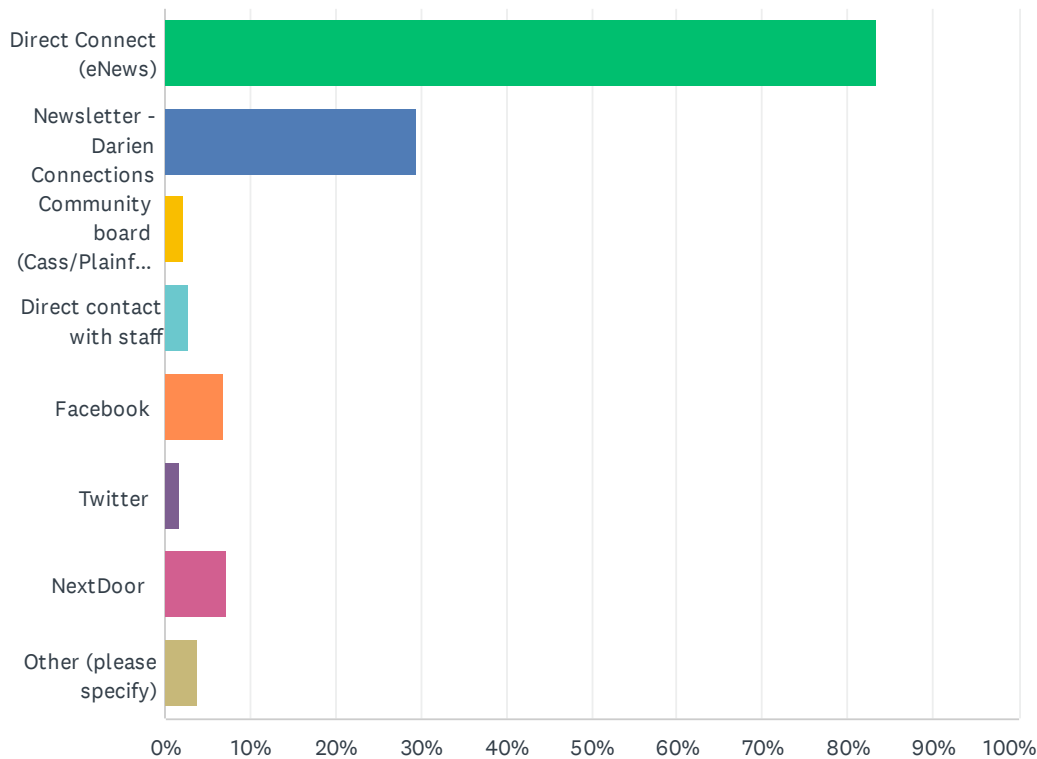
RE: Results – Darien Communication Survey 2025

Attached please find the results of the 2025 Communications Survey. The survey was open from June 24th thru July 27th. The survey included 15 questions for the residents to complete. The total number of residents responding was 530, noting that individuals may not have answered some of the questions. Overall, residents seem to be satisfied with the city's communication, with 83.36% relying on our weekly eNews, Direct Connect.

As a reminder, this survey was not designed to be statistically representative. Rather, it was to capture a snapshot of general sentiment and perception from those who chose to respond. As such, the results are best understood as qualitative insights. The value of this survey lies in the patterns and themes that emerged from the responses. For example, staff noticed several questions regarding the police texting program that has stopped. Based on those questions/comments, we put a statement in Direct Connect advising that we are currently looking for a new program/method. We also receive communication feedback throughout the year which helps determine the information we put in DC and social media.

Q1 What is your primary source of receiving information from the city?

Answered: 529 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Direct Connect (eNews)	83.36%	441
Newsletter - Darien Connections	29.49%	156
Community board (Cass/Plainfield)	2.08%	11
Direct contact with staff	2.84%	15
Facebook	6.81%	36
Twitter	1.70%	9
NextDoor	7.18%	38
Other (please specify)	3.78%	20
Total Respondents: 529		

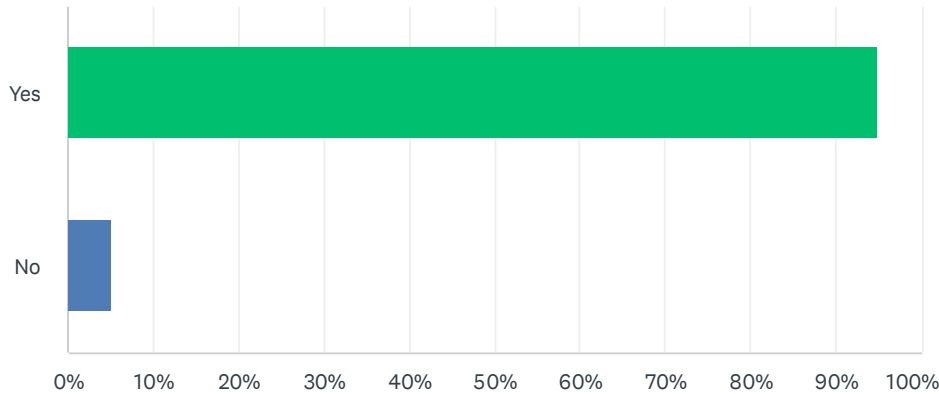
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Village website	7/26/2025 6:45 PM
2	Patch and it used to be texts from PD, but haven't received them in a year	7/26/2025 5:56 PM
3	Alderman	7/24/2025 3:38 PM
4	E mail	7/24/2025 8:37 AM

Darien Communications Survey 2025

5	Our HOA REP, Bonnie Kucera, forwards the info	7/24/2025 7:42 AM
6	Patch	7/23/2025 4:04 PM
7	friends	7/23/2025 3:46 PM
8	Patch	7/20/2025 2:52 PM
9	Website	7/19/2025 7:17 PM
10	Facebook groups and neighbors	7/18/2025 3:43 AM
11	The Patch	7/17/2025 9:45 PM
12	Word of mouth with other residents	7/17/2025 5:02 PM
13	It seems it is residents on NextDoor. I have not seen community posts on social media. I have seen Bryon Vana respond to some posts on NextDoor. I was not aware Darien had a FB page. Just looked it up and followed.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
14	Mary Sullilvan's posts on Facebook	7/14/2025 3:52 PM
15	Gossip	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
16	Darien Patch	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
17	DARIEN PATCH	7/13/2025 5:22 PM
18	Word of mouth	7/12/2025 10:37 AM
19	Parch	7/10/2025 5:07 PM
20	Darien Patch	6/30/2025 5:39 PM

Q2 Do you feel the information you receive is well organized and easy to understand?

Answered: 522 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.83%	495
No	5.17%	27
Total Respondents: 522		

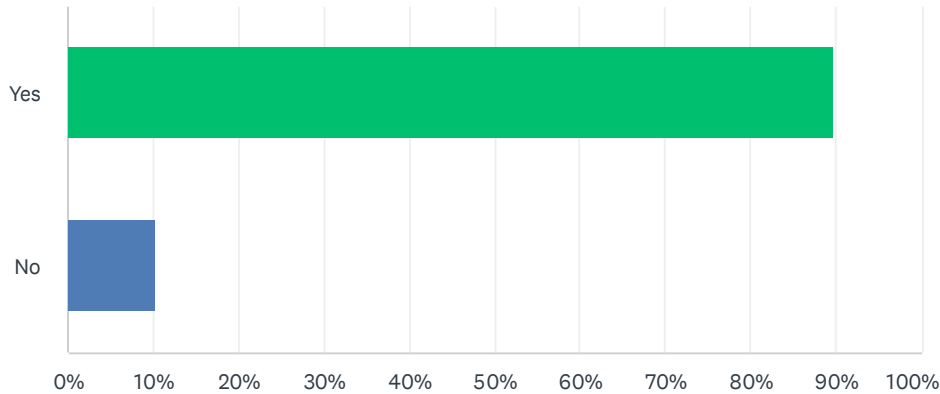
#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	It's just a bit all over. Important (actionable) buried down below the mayors musings.	7/27/2025 12:21 AM
2	Organized but lots of fluff.	7/24/2025 3:44 PM
3	I can go without the mayor's long commentary and just give me updates about what's going on.	7/24/2025 8:12 AM
4	But I could do without the Mayor's message.	7/23/2025 8:39 PM
5	The Mayor's message is too long, please shorten the message.	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
6	Sometimes	7/23/2025 6:12 PM
7	Absolutely!	7/23/2025 5:58 PM
8	Darien Direct contains everything that I need to stay informed.	7/23/2025 5:56 PM
9	Not on here, I feel I miss things that are happening quite often.	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
10	It does not really disclose issues with conflict	7/18/2025 9:35 AM
11	Mayor's comments are too long, bullets point would be better.	7/18/2025 4:54 AM
12	There is so much information it gets really hard for me to stay interested past the mayor's note to get to all the info so I skim it	7/14/2025 3:20 PM
13	I would like it if it were a little bit larger print	7/14/2025 3:05 PM
14	The letter from the mayor is long. But appreciate the message.	7/14/2025 2:01 PM
15	Mixed	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
16	Would like less of the mayor's personal stories and more about the city departments	7/14/2025 11:29 AM

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17	It could be way more concise. Also, I almost always find myself scrolling straight to the bottom as that information is typically the most relevant.	7/14/2025 11:19 AM
18	Sometimes it is	7/14/2025 11:01 AM
19	But often too long	7/14/2025 10:54 AM
20	However the mayor talks to much about his personal life and things that have zero to do with Darien. He comes across as a figure head that just likes to hear the sound of his own voice.	7/14/2025 10:52 AM
21	Without a diubt	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
22	I need to know more of what businesses are coming to Darien and what the economic commeeetee is working on and their progress.	7/14/2025 10:18 AM
23	VERY SKETCHY. MISSING DETAILS, NAMES, EXACT LOCATIONS ETC	7/13/2025 5:22 PM
24	Sometimes	7/10/2025 6:31 PM
25	Drop the Mayor's weekly message. It has nothing to do with events in Darien	7/10/2025 5:18 PM
26	Often meetings that are 6 or more months old are broadcast in easy to listen times.	7/3/2025 3:23 PM
27	Often times feels like there is a lot of extra fluff before getting to the important information.	7/3/2025 3:01 PM
28	Too long winded mayor's comments	7/3/2025 2:43 PM
29	Unless you post a comment city does not like then they take it down..rather communist?	6/30/2025 6:22 PM
30	Not enough of it. Not timely.	6/30/2025 5:39 PM
31	I would like to see a spot each week that shows the e mail address to send concerns about land where grass is way to high	6/27/2025 11:28 AM
32	Direct Connect is great. I look forward to it each week	6/27/2025 5:32 AM
33	Too much useless information, not enough of the important details. For example, Thursday (06/26) night's concert info should include what type of music that the band plays. Far too much space is given to the Mayor's Message section. His long-winded expatiation should be on his own web page, with only a link on the Direct Connect email.	6/26/2025 7:08 PM
34	Improve senior opportunities	6/26/2025 6:28 PM
35	its always a sermon about the mayor	6/26/2025 3:30 PM
36	Way too much info about the personal life of the mayor - No one cares! We should be getting updates about the city from the mayor. Where is that info?	6/26/2025 3:26 PM
37	Content could be shorter	6/24/2025 8:28 AM

Q3 Do you feel the city provides timely and relevant information pertaining to your interest(s)?

Answered: 509 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	89.78%	457
No	10.22%	52
Total Respondents: 509		

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Would be interested in to see more in current developments.	7/26/2025 6:45 PM
2	Not knowing that there have been accidents and road closures isnt helpful	7/26/2025 5:56 PM
3	Sometimes	7/25/2025 7:39 AM
4	Why cable when 48% have wireless!	7/24/2025 11:39 PM
5	Too little about new business and the zoning/new business activities	7/24/2025 2:14 PM
6	Sometimes	7/24/2025 9:58 AM
7	Would like more.	7/24/2025 8:37 AM
8	More crime summaries are needed!	7/24/2025 4:34 AM
9	Sometimes	7/23/2025 10:21 PM
10	Sometimes	7/23/2025 8:39 PM
11	Too much of the same information	7/23/2025 7:21 PM
12	Sometimes	7/23/2025 6:12 PM
13	Great job!	7/23/2025 5:58 PM
14	Always timely and informative	7/23/2025 5:56 PM
15	If ever a question I have no problem calling or dropping by City Hall. Everyone is always helpful and gracious.	7/23/2025 4:20 PM
16	Sometimes	7/23/2025 3:52 PM

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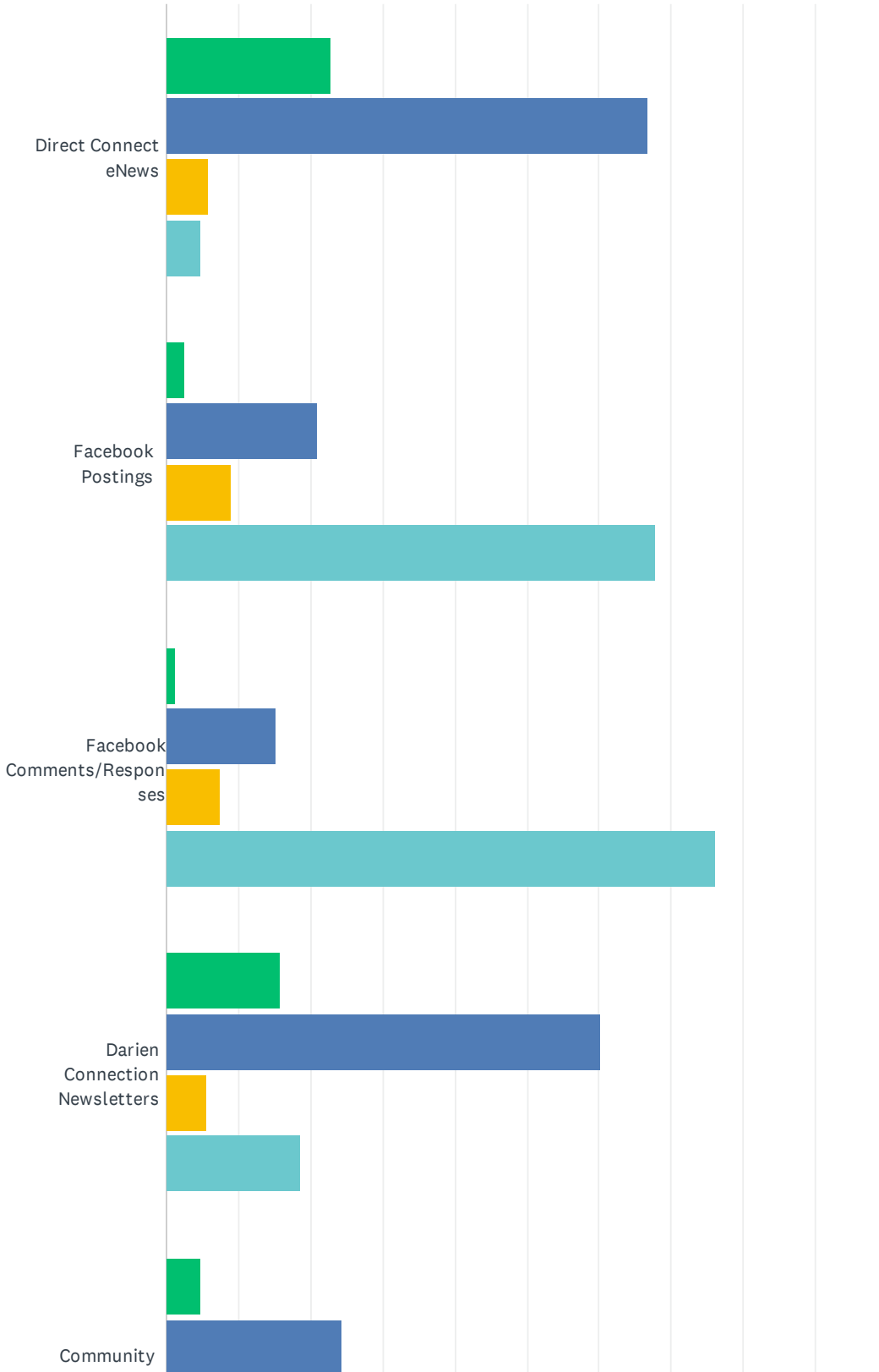
17	Would like more transparency. Pls include police blotter, community development/ planning ideas and follow up updates.	7/19/2025 6:06 PM
18	It would be nice if there was information on businesses coming to and/or leaving our community. Specifically, the shopping center on the Southeast corner of Lemont Rd and 75th street.	7/18/2025 11:19 AM
19	Generally	7/18/2025 9:35 AM
20	I would like to see more about Park maintenance issues	7/17/2025 5:37 PM
21	I'd like the mayor to provide weekly updates on what's being done to drive more businesses and tax revenue to Darien instead of poems and personal anecdotes.	7/17/2025 4:44 PM
22	Big decisions are made without community input. You have to search for the agenda and subsequent minutes. When a relevant proposal comes up, It should be featured on the first page with timelines noted so interested parties can be involved and get heard.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
23	Would like about Metronet and this high speed fiber optic cable that has invaded our neighborhood. More flags in our lawns, more digging etc. It seems we just get the previous diggings done at the frontage road at Oldfield. Just when the grass is reestablished and the corner barriers are gone, another digging project starts. Was the community surveyed re: Metronet? I don't recall it was. I just got a letter in the mail telling me it's coming. Please clarify. Thanks.	7/15/2025 11:02 PM
24	Only use about 20% of the information	7/14/2025 8:06 PM
25	Sometimes	7/14/2025 5:36 PM
26	Didn't really have a feeling on this, but I couldn't proceed without answering.	7/14/2025 5:14 PM
27	Tho the schedule for the oil app during road resurface not adequate	7/14/2025 4:58 PM
28	I guess	7/14/2025 4:50 PM
29	Except on X..... maybe it's the platform. The police alerts are always hours off when the event happens	7/14/2025 4:09 PM
30	The land usage process and city tax dollars committed to the developers is not shared with the voters.	7/14/2025 2:41 PM
31	Info is more calendar events than actual happenings that occur	7/14/2025 1:36 PM
32	I am not a FB user, but generally I would like to hear more about what is happening in the community. Can we get a link to a board meeting minutes?	7/14/2025 12:42 PM
33	Sometimes but not often	7/14/2025 11:29 AM
34	Except would prefer the mayor not preach in the newsletter.	7/14/2025 11:25 AM
35	Mostly. Darien utility marked my yard then installed a pole with a box on it. Later removed said box and left the pole. No information given. Would be nice to know. Gigi Lane. Also info on Fairview Ave closure seems like it should be shared	7/14/2025 11:12 AM
36	The mayor's message should be about Darien. Everyone I know complains about his portion of the weekly email.	7/14/2025 10:52 AM
37	Get park district to clean up shorelines around ponds	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
38	However please tell the mayor we don't want his philosophical article. Tell the mayor not our parent get over yourself	7/14/2025 10:07 AM
39	OFTEN CONSTRUCTION INFO IS NOT PUT OUT.	7/13/2025 5:22 PM
40	I would like more info to go out regarding park updates and would appreciate more community involvement. For example, removal of swings from certain parks, more shade needed at parks. Love the new water park, but some trees would be nice, very sterile looking. Trees with benches under them would be great. Birchwood park was changed for the worse, lost climbing and swings.	7/12/2025 6:33 PM
41	sometimes not timely but I usually get the information to react to.	7/12/2025 10:37 AM

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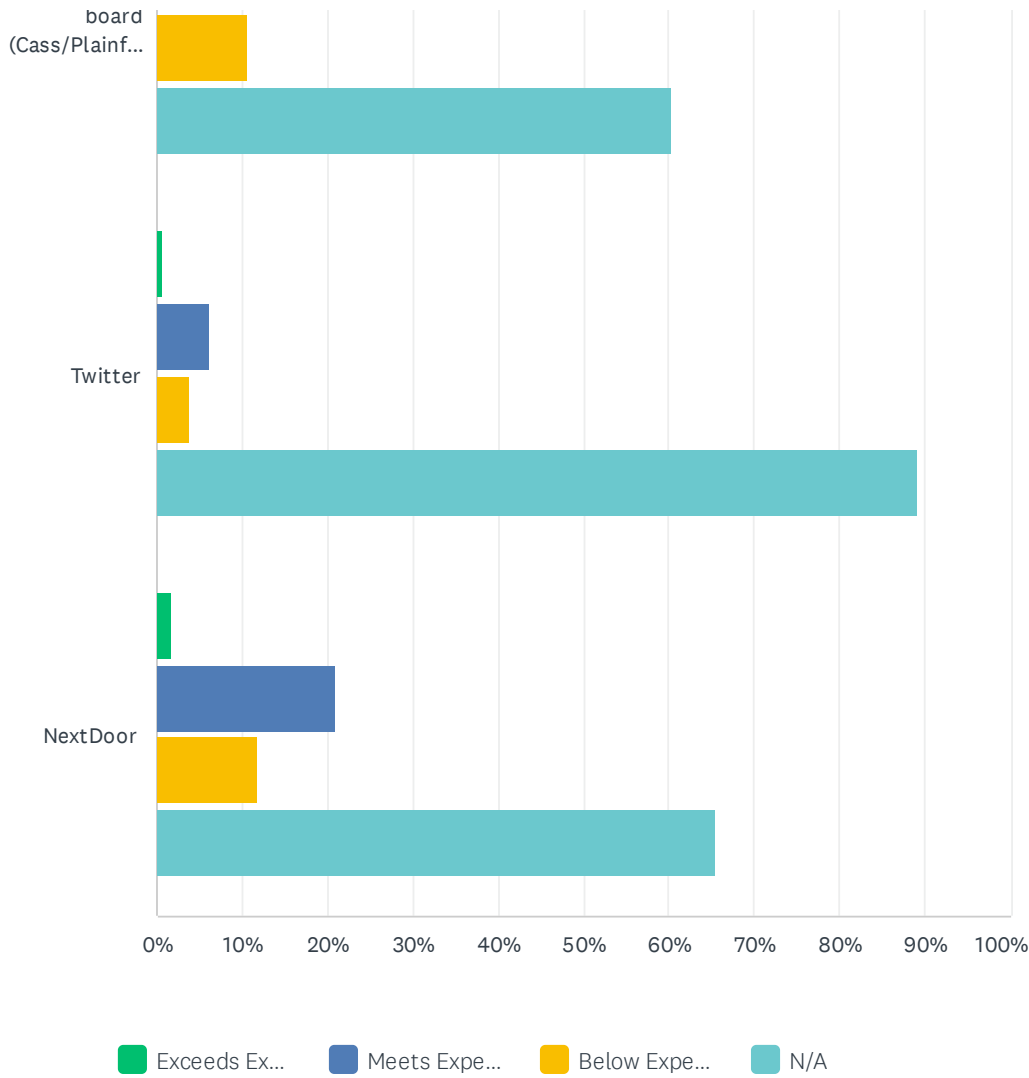
42	Not always.	7/11/2025 7:54 AM
43	Sometimes	7/10/2025 6:31 PM
44	Very much all geared towards senior citizens.	7/4/2025 10:33 AM
45	It would be helpful to know when school years start and end.	7/4/2025 8:19 AM
46	See above comment	7/3/2025 3:23 PM
47	The City and Police Department previously added a new text alert feature after their older usage of Twitter was not as current. However, those text alerts have seemingly stopped for months. Nothing about road closures due to accidents or other information appears to have come out in a long time.	7/3/2025 3:01 PM
48	Everything is for the geriatric community. Hardly news of new business or family events.	7/2/2025 10:27 AM
49	Not applicable	6/30/2025 6:22 PM
50	We need information early AND often. Not once just 2 days before	6/30/2025 5:39 PM
51	Reports of crime or accidents are reported on Nextdoor or ring but not by city	6/27/2025 9:13 AM
52	Some areas are not covered prior to an action going to take place.	6/27/2025 6:42 AM
53	See answer to question #2. Often, the information is "old"; the event that is mentioned in the Direct Connect article has already passed.	6/26/2025 7:08 PM
54	Senior information	6/26/2025 6:28 PM
55	The Darien Patch is a much greater/better resource regarding city activities than the city itself...	6/26/2025 3:45 PM
56	I like that Darien has been highlighting things more about our local schools and I think more could be done on this. Our schools are terrific and they're a significant part of what makes Darien great, and anytime we can highlight them, it strengthens the community.	6/26/2025 3:38 PM
57	mayor only talks about himself not the city	6/26/2025 3:30 PM
58	Some, but not enough. For example - how about Park District info?	6/26/2025 3:26 PM
59	There are times that I wish I knew more about Park district events	6/24/2025 8:28 AM

Q4 How would you grade the following communications from the city as it pertains to your expectations:

Answered: 530 Skipped: 0



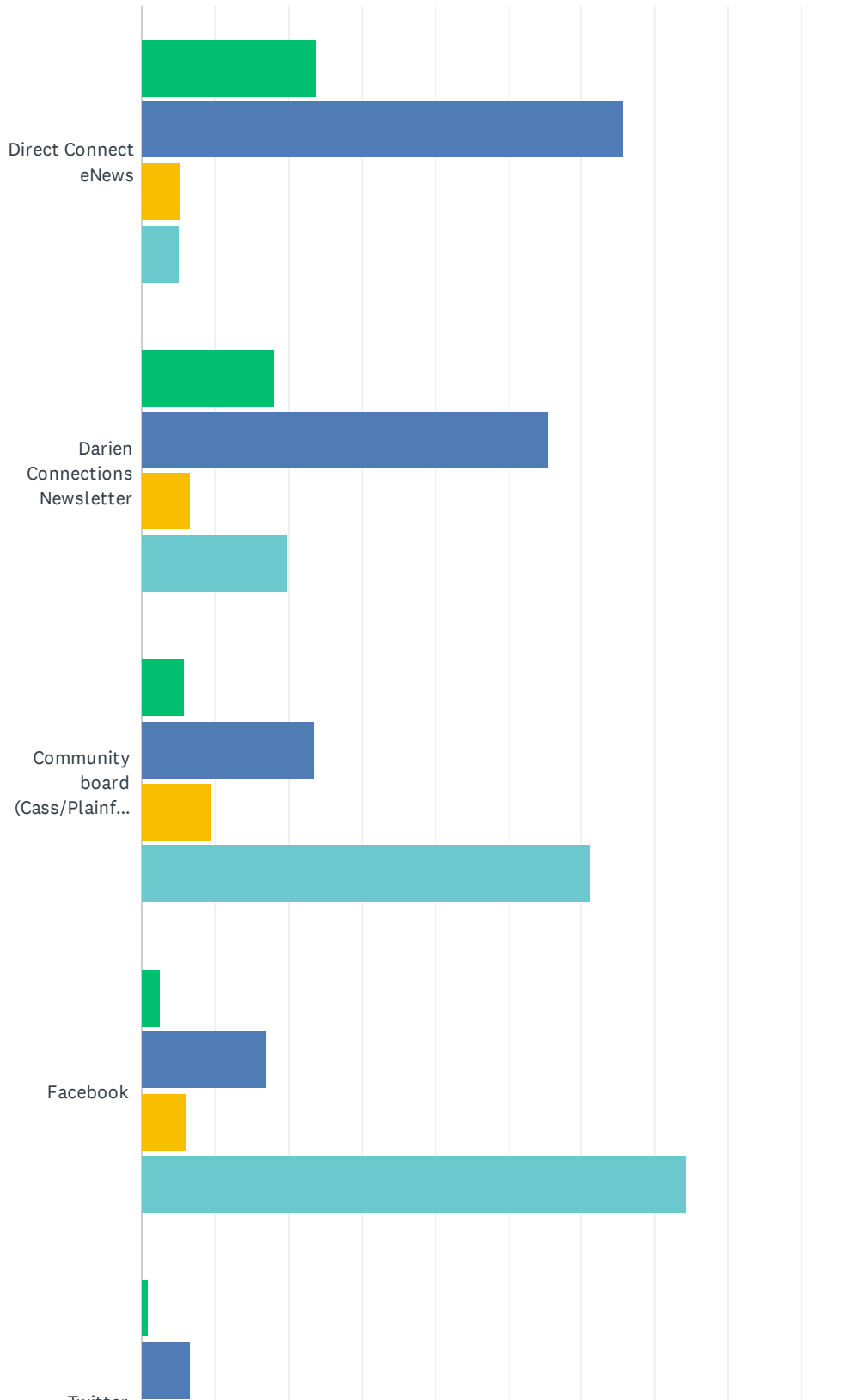
Darien Communications Survey 2025



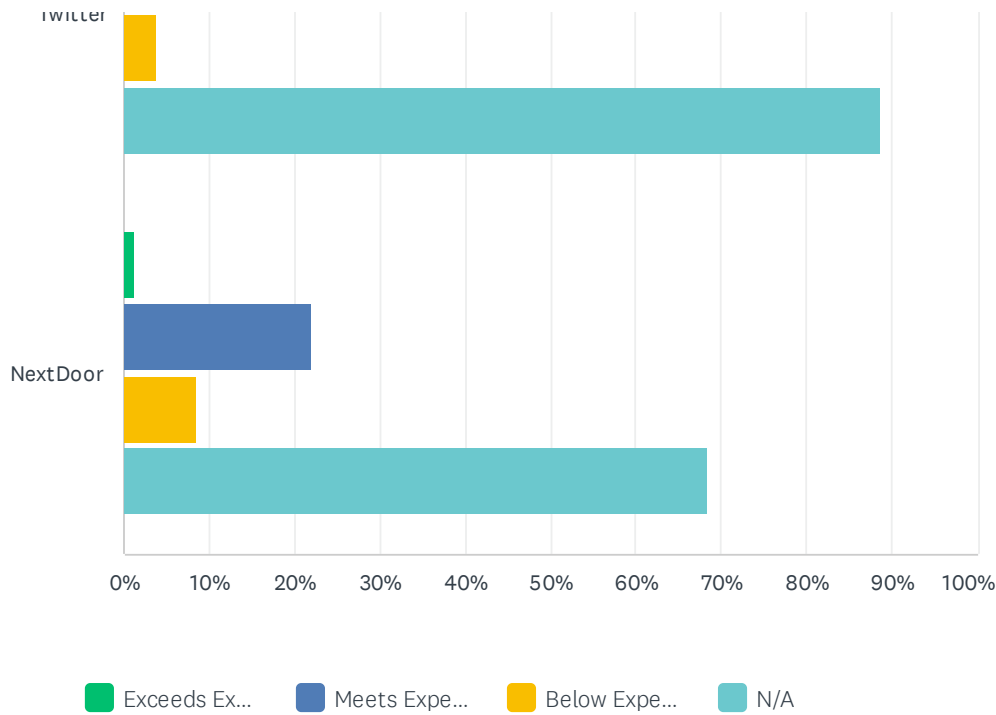
	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Direct Connect eNews	22.80% 119	66.67% 348	5.75% 30	4.79% 25	522	1.82
Facebook Postings	2.50% 11	20.91% 92	8.86% 39	67.73% 298	440	2.20
Facebook Comments/Responses	1.38% 6	15.21% 66	7.37% 32	76.04% 330	434	2.25
Darien Connection Newsletters	15.68% 74	60.17% 284	5.51% 26	18.64% 88	472	1.88
Community board (Cass/Plainfield)	4.67% 20	24.30% 104	10.75% 46	60.28% 258	428	2.15
Twitter	0.69% 3	6.22% 27	3.92% 17	89.17% 387	434	2.30
NextDoor	1.78% 8	20.89% 94	11.78% 53	65.56% 295	450	2.29

Q5 Please rate the format/appearance of the following as it pertains to your expectations.

Answered: 515 Skipped: 15



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	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Direct Connect eNews	23.86% 120	65.61% 330	5.37% 27	5.17% 26	503	1.92
Darien Connections Newsletter	18.16% 85	55.34% 259	6.62% 31	19.87% 93	468	2.28
Community board (Cass/Plainfield)	5.85% 25	23.42% 100	9.60% 41	61.12% 261	427	3.26
Facebook	2.58% 11	17.14% 73	6.10% 26	74.18% 316	426	3.52
Twitter	0.95% 4	6.64% 28	3.79% 16	88.63% 374	422	3.80
NextDoor	1.18% 5	21.88% 93	8.47% 36	68.47% 291	425	3.44

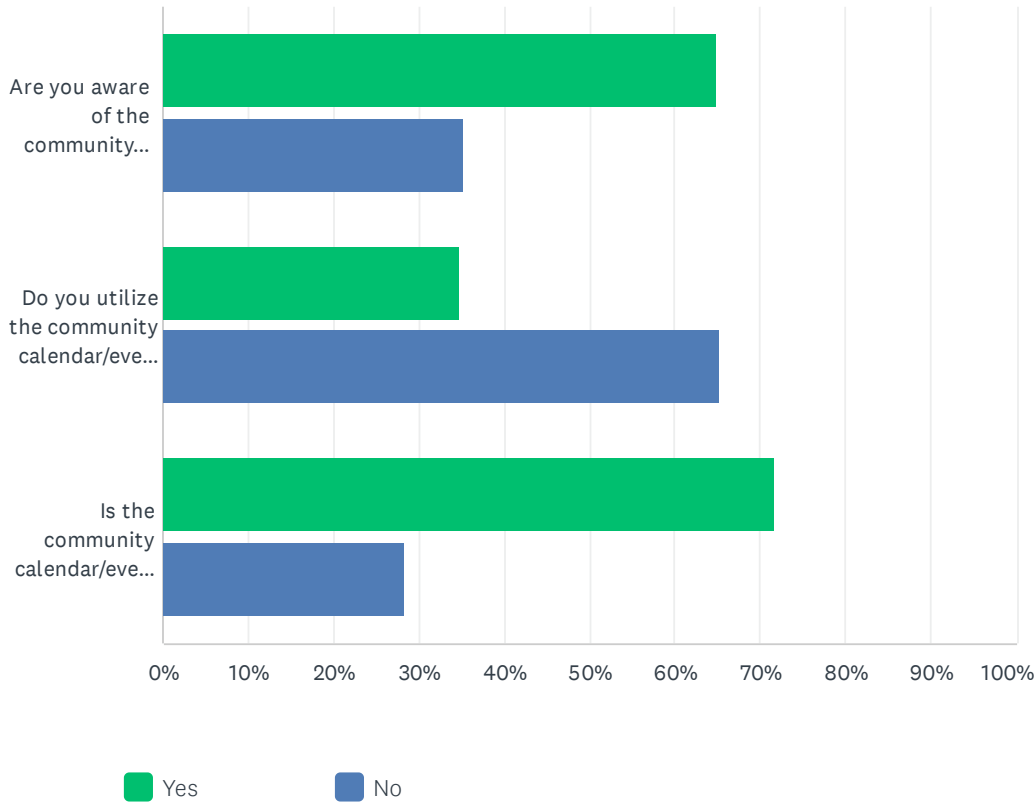
#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	I am not on Facebook or twitter or next door	7/25/2025 7:39 AM
2	No one wants cable/ 10 years too late	7/24/2025 11:39 PM
3	I would like the Newsletter to be more frequent than quarterly. It used to be monthly	7/24/2025 6:10 PM
4	This is how we get our Darien information.	7/24/2025 3:59 PM
5	I don't get involved in social media	7/24/2025 3:38 PM
6	I do not follow on Next Door or on Twitter/X so cannot comment. The newsletter comes out once quarterly I believe so am not sure.	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
7	Great job!	7/23/2025 5:58 PM
8	Enjoy the Thursday releases	7/23/2025 5:56 PM
9	I only get news fro newsleyter	7/23/2025 4:18 PM

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10	I really don't recall seeing much from the city on Nextdoor.	7/23/2025 4:04 PM
11	I feel you can do a better job on Facebook, it is a good platform to get out news, highlight and attract residents to the businesses and events, or even give a platform for businesses to sponsor events they want to throw.	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
12	Add more content and updates to the newsletter. The social posts are too infrequent and limited.	7/19/2025 6:06 PM
13	I am not sure what Community board (Cass/Plainfield) is.	7/18/2025 11:19 AM
14	Where is Direct Connect news? this is the first I've heard of it.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
15	Too many stupid comments	7/17/2025 4:16 PM
16	Would prefer clickable links versus a long newsletter to scroll through and determine what is of interest	7/14/2025 7:42 PM
17	I don't use most of the method of communication mentioned.	7/14/2025 2:01 PM
18	Next door is mostly gossip	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
19	Sometimes ads on community board are hard to read from a distance	7/14/2025 11:22 AM
20	Please STOP with the tracking links in email. Just provide direct links. You don't need to track everything we click on and many of us BLOCK tracking links so we can never even use your links in emails.	7/14/2025 11:02 AM
21	I think the Mayor's messages should be at the bottom and the most important info/dates outlined first.	7/14/2025 10:40 AM
22	NextDoor gets co-mingled into too many other communications not relevant to the city of Darien	7/12/2025 10:37 AM
23	The newsletter should feature residents of Darien, like a get to know your neighbor. People congrats things but you wouldn't know b/c it's all about some old retired mayor who thinks he's hot stuff and so important.	7/2/2025 10:27 AM
24	I like getting info every week in the eNews. I don't even know when the Darien Connections newsletter comes, it seems like it's infrequent and probably expensive.	6/26/2025 3:38 PM
25	needs more info	6/26/2025 3:30 PM
26	Once again I would like to see Direct Connect shortened	6/24/2025 8:28 AM

Q6 The city's website contains a community calendar/event board that captures events in and around Darien. darien.il.us/community/eventboard

Answered: 526 Skipped: 4



	YES	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Are you aware of the community calendar/event board?	64.75% 338	35.25% 184	522	1.35
Do you utilize the community calendar/event board?	34.74% 173	65.26% 325	498	1.65
Is the community calendar/event board easy to navigate?	71.59% 252	28.41% 100	352	1.28

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Should be an N/A option	7/26/2025 6:45 PM
2	yes, but only for the short time I am stopped at a light	7/26/2025 3:22 PM
3	I was not aware of it	7/25/2025 7:39 AM
4	Can't say that I do!	7/24/2025 8:50 PM
5	Don't know	7/24/2025 7:24 PM
6	Don't use it	7/24/2025 6:25 PM
7	Seems very busy/clutter	7/24/2025 6:10 PM
8	Did not know it existed	7/24/2025 3:44 PM

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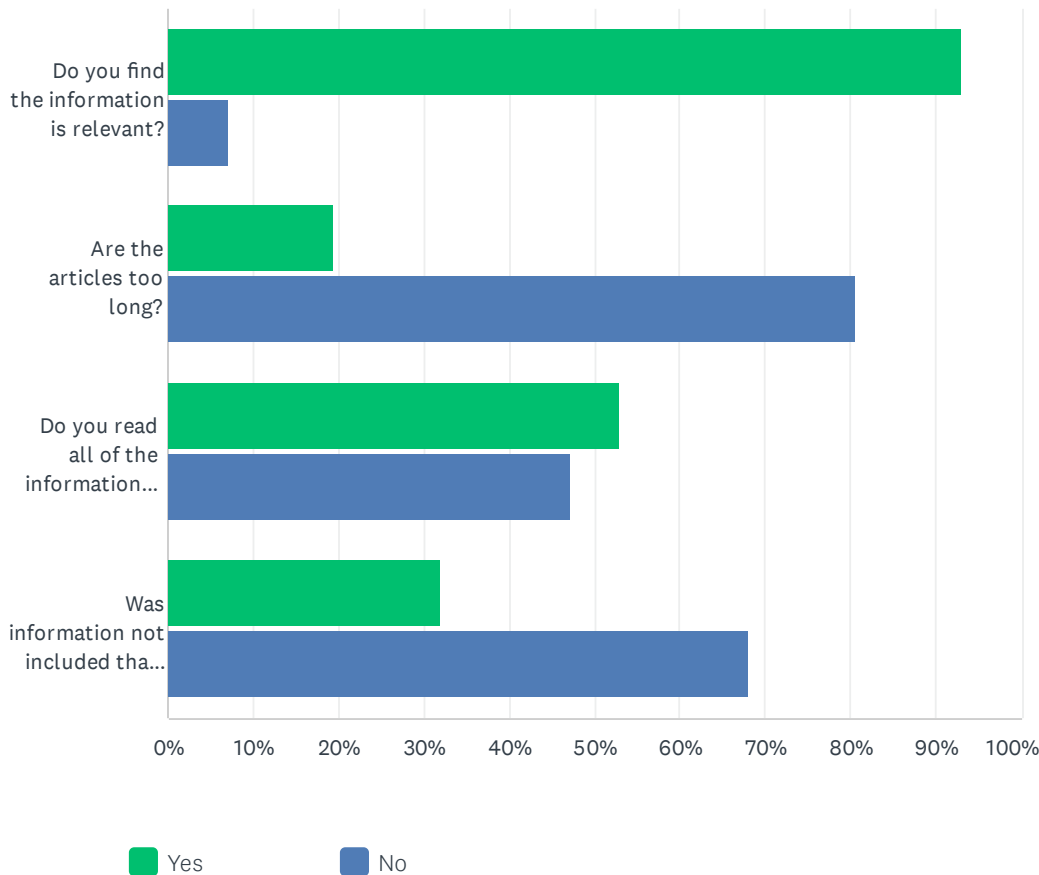
9	the calendar needs work	7/24/2025 2:33 PM
10	Haven't used it	7/24/2025 10:04 AM
11	Since I seldom use the calendar board, I can't comment on its navigation.	7/24/2025 8:30 AM
12	Did not even know we had one	7/23/2025 10:42 PM
13	Did not know existed till now	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
14	Don't normally use the community calendar	7/23/2025 5:56 PM
15	wondering if Com Ed or someone else just dug up and rutted my backyard on Dorchester????	7/23/2025 4:48 PM
16	We are really shit-ins.	7/23/2025 4:18 PM
17	I wasn't aware of this....I will look at it	7/23/2025 3:53 PM
18	I never looked until now	7/23/2025 3:52 PM
19	I browse it when I get the enewsletter.	7/19/2025 6:06 PM
20	Did not know about website	7/18/2025 4:54 AM
21	Doesn't work on mobile phone.	7/17/2025 8:55 PM
22	Don't use it	7/17/2025 5:44 PM
23	As a part of the loan agreement with Carriage Greens Country Club, they were to provide community events. I attended a couple outdoor music events in their parking lot. What other community events can we expect? When/how can we expect an update on the loan status/repayment - compliance with terms?	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
24	Don't use	7/14/2025 8:06 PM
25	Dont know ut, so i have no idea.	7/14/2025 5:14 PM
26	Don't know as I don't use but no NA available to respond	7/14/2025 3:20 PM
27	It's too small and the location is bad	7/14/2025 2:58 PM
28	I don't know what that is. I get emailed the Darien newsletter	7/14/2025 2:14 PM
29	Prefer format of Darien Connect that comes to email vs having to look up	7/14/2025 1:36 PM
30	N/a	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
31	Don't use	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
32	I just learned about the event board in this survey. I will definitely access it from now on!	7/14/2025 11:02 AM
33	Don't know	7/14/2025 10:31 AM
34	I find it difficult to open the calendar on the city's website	7/12/2025 10:37 AM
35	I never knew about this link! Why isn't it in the weekly newsletter? If it's there, I never noticed it so I am sure others haven't noticed it either. I know there are links in the newsletter for the city calendar which is useless/boring to me. This eventboard is MUCH better.	7/10/2025 5:19 PM
36	There is not much on there, so my utilization of it is very rare. Again, geared towards an older crowd.	7/4/2025 10:33 AM
37	It would be nice to have more space to explain the event in the posting. There is a word/space limit. The link in the connect enews is usually to the calendar twice and not eventboard, please change that link..	7/3/2025 5:26 PM
38	I was not aware of it. I pretty much get all my Darien info from the Darien Connect eNews, which I read religiously and like very much. It is timely and interesting, and I like the Mayor's "editorials." The event board looks good and has items not in the eNewsletter.	7/3/2025 4:40 PM
39	Hardly visit city website.	7/2/2025 10:27 AM
40	Haven't looked at it	6/27/2025 9:13 AM

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41	I'll have to start checking it!	6/26/2025 4:08 PM
42	Had no idea this existed. Perhaps promote this more?	6/26/2025 3:45 PM
43	Just wish more organizations utilized calendar. I feel time needs to be spent by staff each week to go out and seek items for the calendar	6/24/2025 8:28 AM

Q7 These questions pertain to the city's weekly eNews.

Answered: 505 Skipped: 25



	YES	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Do you find the information is relevant?	92.93% 460	7.07% 35	495	1.07
Are the articles too long?	19.46% 93	80.54% 385	478	1.81
Do you read all of the information each week?	52.85% 260	47.15% 232	492	1.47
Was information not included that you would have found useful/important?	32.03% 131	67.97% 278	409	1.68

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	More about developments and how the village is doing financially	7/26/2025 6:45 PM
2	It seems like the police report is not complete. For examples I see accidents around but I don't see them on the report.	7/25/2025 7:39 AM
3	If information wasn't included how can we know if it would have been useful/important?	7/24/2025 10:26 PM
4	Crime stats and geographic	7/24/2025 7:24 PM
5	The mayors corner can sometimes be long.	7/24/2025 4:01 PM

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6	something can always be missed in q 4	7/24/2025 2:33 PM
7	Crime in Darien	7/24/2025 1:19 PM
8	The mayor gets too personal in his life on the newsletter. He should keep things more general. I understand his greed but I don't feel thus us the forum	7/24/2025 12:16 PM
9	Mayor message way to long and all about himself.	7/24/2025 9:02 AM
10	Updates on proposed zoning or new businesses. I get that info from the Patch, and it's usually not very detailed.	7/24/2025 8:12 AM
11	Mayor's comments too long	7/24/2025 7:33 AM
12	counsel meeting proposals/votes	7/24/2025 7:19 AM
13	Mayor's articles are way too long...link to personal website	7/24/2025 5:07 AM
14	Is this the Darien Connect or something else. If something else I do not recall seeing this.	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
15	The Mayor's comments are way too long and generally irrelevant.	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
16	Would like to read about accomplishments at schools and organizations	7/23/2025 7:21 PM
17	Don't know	7/23/2025 6:57 PM
18	Information about all the departments, especially infrastructure and police issues.	7/23/2025 6:48 PM
19	More infotmation	7/23/2025 6:12 PM
20	Darien business development accomplishments.	7/23/2025 6:09 PM
21	All information is useful	7/23/2025 5:58 PM
22	This gives me everything that I need to know	7/23/2025 5:56 PM
23	Status of business openings and closings	7/23/2025 5:42 PM
24	More city business briefs. Items covered in council meetings.	7/23/2025 5:00 PM
25	More detailed information on the new Metrolink	7/23/2025 4:59 PM
26	More information on local retail promotions.	7/23/2025 4:22 PM
27	I don't read the mayor's intro but I read everything else!	7/23/2025 4:15 PM
28	There are times where you can highlight when parking rules won't be enforced, get people's input for what they want to see in the city. It's very easy to incorporate links to surveys to gather people's information just like this. It would be nice to have more say as to what goes on in my community outside of having to attend meetings which can be inconvenient for someone who works nights.	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
29	Honestly, I don't need that long of a letter from the mayor every week	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
30	Sometimes the police blotter isn't up to date ands they run the same one two weeks in a row.	7/19/2025 10:26 AM
31	Why so many empty stores. Really looks bad	7/18/2025 4:14 PM
32	Maybe some more business information of stores opening/closing in Darien and surrounding area	7/18/2025 11:58 AM
33	The mayor's letter is too long.	7/18/2025 11:19 AM
34	don't know what not included	7/18/2025 9:55 AM
35	Development proposals	7/18/2025 9:35 AM
36	I wish it had quick links to things like school districts(s) - I'm in 61, library, park district, ect	7/18/2025 3:43 AM
37	Not that we are aware of.	7/17/2025 7:38 PM
38	Discuss local commercial construction and retail changes	7/17/2025 6:19 PM
39	Economic development with plans and timelines	7/17/2025 4:44 PM

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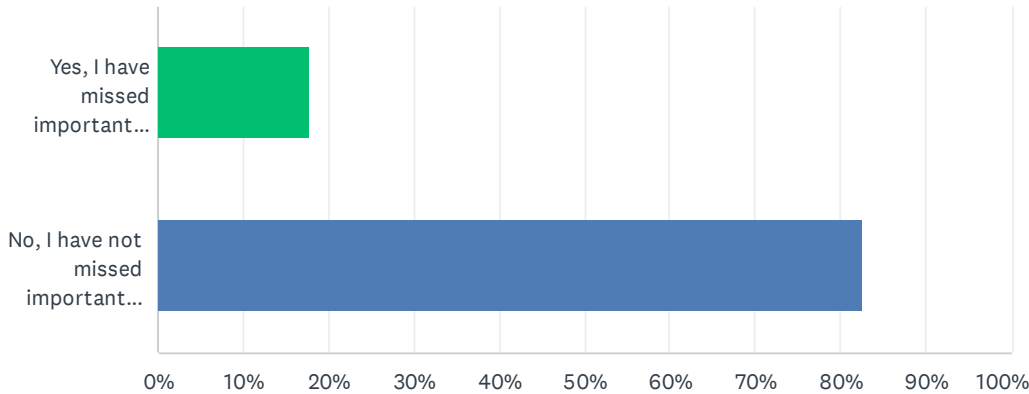
40	Nice to hear about citizens and students being recognized.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
41	Mayor's is too long.	7/16/2025 1:28 PM
42	As stated previously	7/15/2025 11:02 PM
43	I don't read mayor's remarks, as they are too long.	7/15/2025 5:21 PM
44	1. Updates on the progress/completeness of Metro Net in our community. 2. Update on road resurfacing and its completion	7/14/2025 9:28 PM
45	Not sure what I would be missing	7/14/2025 8:06 PM
46	A link to upcoming events, what's new in Darien	7/14/2025 7:35 PM
47	You didnt ask, but the mayors message is way too long.	7/14/2025 5:14 PM
48	I, as well as everyone I know, find the Mayor's Message absolutely useless. Instead he should provide highlights of meetings and feel free to share his opinions on topics relevant to the City. If you don't believe me ask readers if they would prefer to hear his thoughts on items directly relevant to the City or his musings.	7/14/2025 5:08 PM
49	Need more information about the apartment development	7/14/2025 3:05 PM
50	more budget and police operations info	7/14/2025 2:58 PM
51	Too much devoted to Mayor's article..this should be about what's happening in the city for citizens not his personal thoughts, feelings or emotions..too much like a sermon.	7/14/2025 1:36 PM
52	Possibly	7/14/2025 1:18 PM
53	Zoning ordinances and board agenda/ minutes would be helpful	7/14/2025 12:42 PM
54	Try to keep us informed as to what topics are being discussed at the city hall meetings	7/14/2025 11:38 AM
55	While I respect the mayor and believes he does a wonderful job, his weekly essays are mostly far to long, sometimes too personal and not city related.	7/14/2025 11:36 AM
56	A section highlighting upcoming "New Business" agenda items for both the City Council and Planning, Zoning and Economic Development committee.	7/14/2025 11:33 AM
57	The mayor should stop his articles. Dont need or want him to preach	7/14/2025 11:25 AM
58	I think some of the articles are too long/philosophical/personal	7/14/2025 11:22 AM
59	Some of the items are WAY too long (especially the Mayor's message, I've literally never finished reading one of those). Each item should be more to the point and then provide links for more information if people want to dive deeper.	7/14/2025 11:19 AM
60	mayor's comments are too long.	7/14/2025 11:14 AM
61	Lovely essay by Pres. sometimes too long	7/14/2025 11:00 AM
62	Some times the mayors messages could be shorter	7/14/2025 10:59 AM
63	Zoning changes say/b included	7/14/2025 10:31 AM
64	maybe move the mayor's note to the bottom, or link to it. I think the note takes away from the actual news and events. It nice to hear from the Mayor.	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
65	Again tell the mayor to keep his comments to the city..he is NOT our parent	7/14/2025 10:07 AM
66	I DON'T UTILIZE E NEWS	7/13/2025 5:22 PM
67	Your last question is a double negative which is very confusing.	7/12/2025 10:37 AM
68	These questions cannot be answered either yes or no only.	7/11/2025 7:54 AM
69	sometimes the mayor's letter is too long	7/10/2025 5:19 PM
70	Skip the Mayor's boring/self serving message	7/10/2025 5:18 PM
71	What you politicians are going to screw up next.	7/10/2025 4:54 PM

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72	Mayor's comments are too long, mostly unnecessary.	7/9/2025 12:39 PM
73	Want more community information. How's EJH band doing? What are the available fundraisers for schools, churches, etc. want to contribute locally.	7/5/2025 3:20 PM
74	It would be nice if there was a comprehensive newsletter for Darien: special events at the Park District, library, etc. It seems like everything is so siloed here.	7/4/2025 10:33 AM
75	Read it most weeks.	7/4/2025 8:05 AM
76	see #15	7/3/2025 4:06 PM
77	I don't read the eNews, so I have no opinion	7/1/2025 9:47 AM
78	Love the Mayor's messages (a little long, though). He adds a personal touch each week. Refreshing!	7/1/2025 9:08 AM
79	It's how I learned about metronet when they were in my yard	6/30/2025 3:46 PM
80	A seperate web site line each publication with the web site to report unkept lawns	6/27/2025 11:28 AM
81	Utility work, crime	6/27/2025 9:13 AM
82	See answer to question #2. I'll add that the article about the concert said NOTHING about parking locations nor if there are racks to secure bicycles.	6/26/2025 7:08 PM
83	Senior information	6/26/2025 6:28 PM
84	Would like to see it compressed and perhaps have calendar at top. Maybe have Mayors Message once a month	6/24/2025 8:28 AM

Q8 Have you missed any important updates or announcements in the past few months?

Answered: 482 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I have missed important updates and/or announcements	17.63%	85
No, I have not missed important updates and/or announcements.	82.57%	398
Total Respondents: 482		

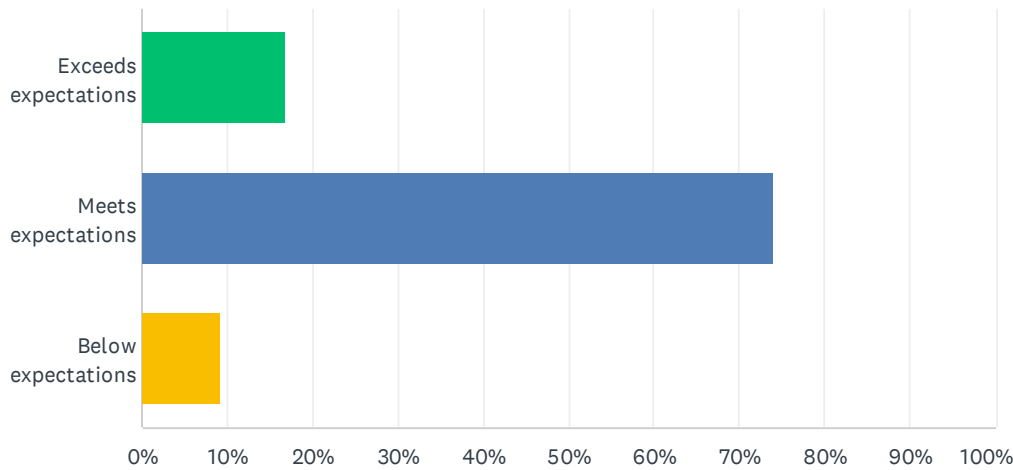
#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Accidents and road closures from PD	7/26/2025 5:56 PM
2	Never received info on cable !	7/24/2025 11:39 PM
3	My fault	7/24/2025 4:13 PM
4	Branch pick up.	7/24/2025 8:12 AM
5	Don't know.	7/23/2025 8:39 PM
6	I have no idea.	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
7	Don't know what I may have missed	7/23/2025 7:21 PM
8	When is next electronic recycling event?	7/23/2025 6:57 PM
9	What happened to texting from Darien PD	7/19/2025 7:17 PM
10	Police blotter should be included. I would like to see the progress update on the loan repayment by Carriage Greens as this came from taxpayer/resident money and was a substantial sum.	7/19/2025 6:06 PM
11	I have no idea.	7/19/2025 10:26 AM
12	don't know what i missed	7/18/2025 9:55 AM
13	Hard to say	7/18/2025 9:35 AM
14	Have no idea	7/18/2025 4:54 AM
15	n/a	7/17/2025 9:45 PM
16	Unsure	7/17/2025 7:00 PM

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17	I don't know what I might have missed	7/17/2025 6:19 PM
18	I do not know what I do not know. If you didn't include it in the enewsletter, or I didn't see it in The Patch, I am unaware. Social media is too casual and not informative.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
19	Not sure	7/15/2025 11:02 PM
20	i don't know if i've missed anything	7/15/2025 8:45 AM
21	Not sure	7/14/2025 7:35 PM
22	missed the spring craft fair at community center but couldn't find iout if they had it or not.	7/14/2025 6:06 PM
23	Sometimes I don't have time to search through City Council agenda items and important items should be highlighted in eNews	7/14/2025 5:08 PM
24	Didn't see anything about metro net or receive any notice. Metro net just appeared a couple of weeks ago in the e news.They had already dug and we're all over the neighborhood several weeks prior	7/14/2025 5:08 PM
25	I may have, but my fault for not reading everything. some of us get 100's of emails everyday so easy to overlook	7/14/2025 3:52 PM
26	None that I know of.	7/14/2025 12:34 PM
27	New "cable" provider install method!	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
28	I have not missed anything important to me	7/14/2025 11:42 AM
29	Not sure	7/14/2025 10:54 AM
30	IDK if I missed announcements if I missed. Poor question.	7/14/2025 10:36 AM
31	Zoning change about 75TH & Lemont Rd	7/14/2025 10:31 AM
32	i'm not sure...	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
33	Not that we are aware of	7/14/2025 10:20 AM
34	I have not read any important information.	7/14/2025 10:18 AM
35	NO WAY TO KNOW AS YOU ARE ANNOUNCING WHERE I DON'T GO!	7/13/2025 5:22 PM
36	That said. It's good to be aware critical communication is included and not just optional information	7/11/2025 2:42 PM
37	I'm upset that I can no longer use the parks in my motorized chair.	7/11/2025 7:54 AM
38	I don't think I have missed anything, but would love to see that eventboard on the weekly newsletter more prominent.	7/10/2025 5:19 PM
39	I no longer receive texts regarding accidents etc. They seem to be delayed but now don't get them at all.	7/7/2025 11:50 AM
40	This is weird bc how would I know if I missed anything?	7/4/2025 10:33 AM
41	Example is 87th & Lemont; and, smoking outlets	7/3/2025 3:23 PM
42	I don't recall seeing any info in the e newsletter regarding public meetings for the Chestnut Court redevelopment. I found most of that info in the Patch but several times that's outdated when I read about it. Seeing more info on Council agendas in the Connect would be helpful.	7/3/2025 3:14 PM
43	Police Department text alerts appear to have disappeared	7/3/2025 3:01 PM
44	City council meetings	6/30/2025 10:13 PM
45	N/a	6/30/2025 6:22 PM
46	Tree branch collections were missed and I had to go looking for them.	6/30/2025 5:39 PM
47	I've missed them not because I haven't read them, but because the information was in later than what was happening. i.e. Metronet and what was going to happen in our backyards.	6/27/2025 6:42 AM
48	See previous answers.	6/26/2025 7:08 PM

Q9 Overall, the city's social media:

Answered: 482 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Exceeds expectations	16.80%	81
Meets expectations	74.07%	357
Below expectations	9.13%	44
TOTAL		482

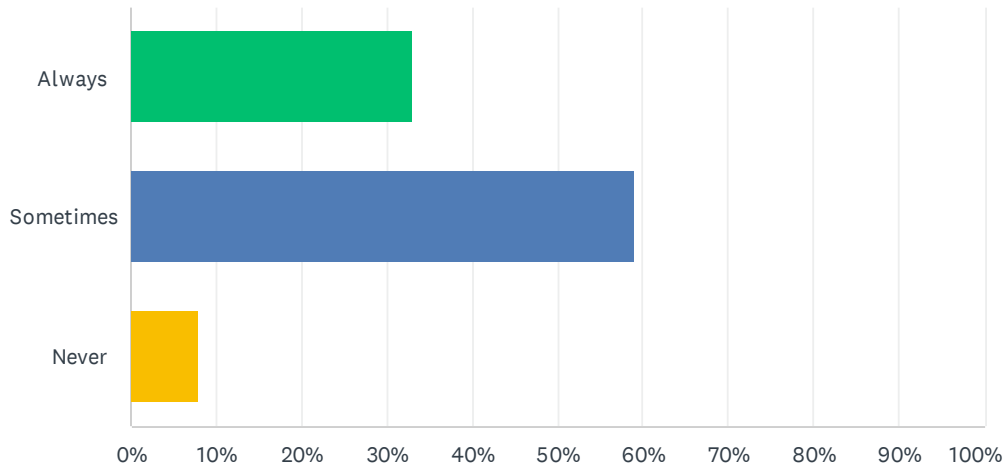
#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	I don't use the social media	7/25/2025 7:39 AM
2	Can do without the loooooong mayor's stories	7/24/2025 7:24 PM
3	N/A	7/24/2025 7:04 PM
4	I do not use social media since my heart attack. If I'm contacted by sites of my choice, I am satisfied.	7/24/2025 3:59 PM
5	Don't use Facebook as it is filled with trash	7/24/2025 3:44 PM
6	Would like to see more PD posts.	7/24/2025 8:12 AM
7	don't utilize any	7/24/2025 5:07 AM
8	I don't use Social Media	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
9	N/A	7/23/2025 7:21 PM
10	Do not use	7/23/2025 6:12 PM
11	I don't participate in much social media sites	7/23/2025 5:19 PM
12	I don't regularly follow it because most of the pertinent information is in the weekly newsletter.	7/23/2025 4:22 PM
13	I have very low expectations for the city's information exchange.	7/23/2025 4:04 PM
14	Just below, I only have a Facebook. I enjoy most of the content but feel the overall experience can be better. More interaction and information, put up polls, get people to have a good experience online and they might come here more.	7/23/2025 3:41 PM

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15	Many other cities seem better with social media	7/19/2025 10:26 AM
16	Thank you for putting this out weekly!	7/18/2025 3:43 AM
17	N/A	7/17/2025 6:19 PM
18	I was unaware there was a FB page. What should I be searching for on NextDoor? It would be better to have semi-annual meetings with our elected and city officials.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
19	Could be better.	7/14/2025 10:54 PM
20	dont read social media	7/14/2025 7:42 PM
21	N/A	7/14/2025 7:35 PM
22	I don't read the city's social media posts.	7/14/2025 2:01 PM
23	too many citizens don't follow or have social media	7/14/2025 1:36 PM
24	Should post more frequent and timely information on Facebook	7/14/2025 11:22 AM
25	There should be an NA option for this.	7/14/2025 11:19 AM
26	N/A	7/14/2025 11:02 AM
27	I'd like to see Darien also post to BlueSky or similar platform. I think there's trend of people getting off facebook and twitter.	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
28	I still miss the Neighbor's Magazine	7/12/2025 10:37 AM
29	What's the goal? Growth, happy residents	7/11/2025 2:42 PM
30	N A	7/10/2025 7:12 PM
31	I don't use the city's social media.	7/10/2025 5:19 PM
32	It is hard to believe, but not everyone uses social media. Wake up	7/10/2025 4:54 PM
33	NA- I don't follow the city on social media	7/7/2025 12:51 PM
34	I don't use social media.	7/3/2025 4:43 PM
35	Don't follow	7/3/2025 4:42 PM
36	I do not use social media. The Darien Direct Connect eNews meets my needs.	7/3/2025 4:40 PM
37	Some divisions surpass explanations while others are below explanations	7/3/2025 3:23 PM
38	I don't utilize the social media accounts.	7/3/2025 3:14 PM
39	Social media is for idiots.	6/26/2025 7:08 PM
40	Perhaps more frequency since that seems to be the primary way people get information. Perhaps add Instagram?	6/24/2025 8:28 AM

Q10 Periodically, the city provides outside resources (ex: DuPage County, CDC - Centers for Disease Control, local business links, LRS, Indian Prairie Library, etc) for residents' information. How much do you rely on the city for these resources?

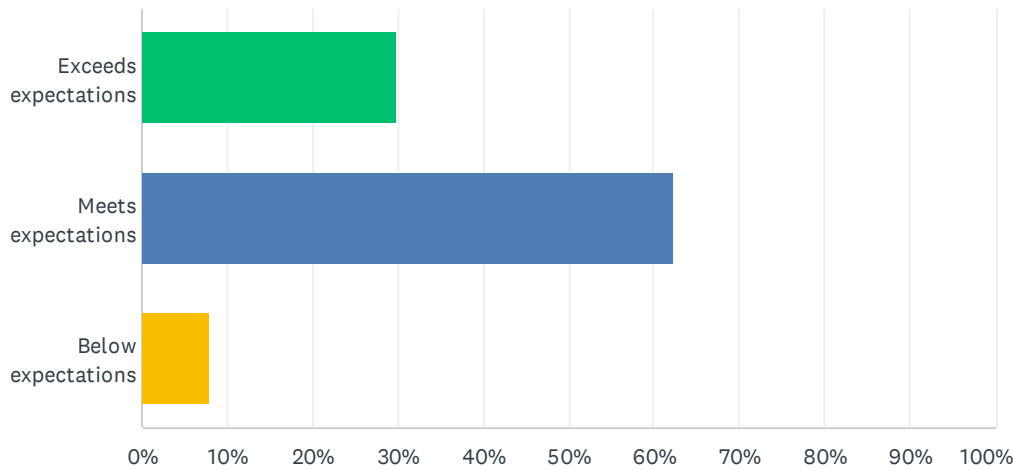
Answered: 519 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Always	33.14%	172
Sometimes	58.96%	306
Never	7.90%	41
TOTAL		519

Q11 How satisfied are you with city staff responding to your emails/calls?

Answered: 449 Skipped: 81



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Exceeds expectations	29.84%	134
Meets expectations	62.36%	280
Below expectations	7.80%	35
TOTAL		449

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Have used the portal for code enforcement	7/26/2025 6:45 PM
2	Never contacted them	7/26/2025 5:56 PM
3	City employees are very responsive	7/25/2025 7:39 AM
4	Haven't called or emailed.	7/24/2025 10:26 PM
5	There are times when I've not received a response	7/24/2025 7:24 PM
6	I wish my Alderman was more responsive via email	7/24/2025 6:10 PM
7	NA	7/24/2025 4:01 PM
8	Never used	7/24/2025 3:44 PM
9	Lisa Klemm is the best!!!!	7/24/2025 1:43 PM
10	Haven't used the staff	7/24/2025 10:04 AM
11	Does not apply	7/24/2025 8:33 AM
12	Lisa is very nice to work with and clearly cares about the city.	7/24/2025 8:12 AM
13	It took a week in order for me to get a username for the website to sign up for fitness classes. Also, the Darien website is not very user friendly.	7/23/2025 11:52 PM
14	corespondance is rare	7/23/2025 10:25 PM
15	never needed	7/23/2025 8:34 PM

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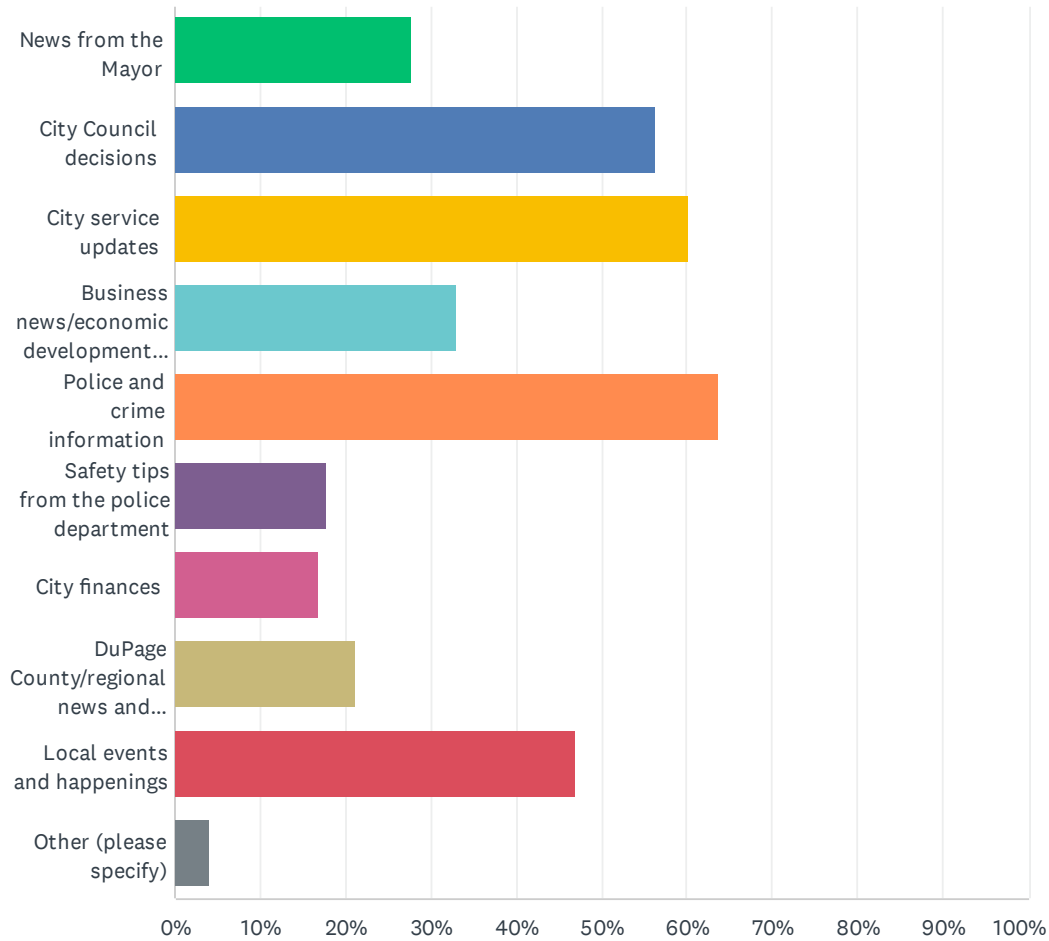
16	I have no idea because have never called.	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
17	n/a	7/23/2025 7:44 PM
18	N/A	7/23/2025 7:21 PM
19	Great service!	7/23/2025 5:58 PM
20	N/A	7/23/2025 5:04 PM
21	no calls, but should for above	7/23/2025 4:48 PM
22	I've never contacted the city staff.	7/23/2025 4:22 PM
23	N/A	7/23/2025 4:18 PM
24	Mary was fantastic at responding quickly.	7/23/2025 4:15 PM
25	n/a	7/23/2025 3:47 PM
26	I've never contacted the office	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
27	Gombac and Mary are the top tier	7/19/2025 7:17 PM
28	They return calls in a timely manner. However, their enforcement of city ordinances is inconsistent and contradicted depending on who you speak with.	7/19/2025 6:06 PM
29	Never needed, so I don't know	7/19/2025 10:26 AM
30	I have not used them yet.	7/18/2025 11:19 AM
31	don't know	7/18/2025 9:55 AM
32	No experience so don't know	7/18/2025 4:54 AM
33	I had only sent in a question years ago and never heard back from anyone on a particular topic.	7/17/2025 9:45 PM
34	Communication with Mary in the Permit department has been a struggle. She seems very short on patience.	7/17/2025 7:00 PM
35	N/A	7/17/2025 6:19 PM
36	City officials are not supposed to reveal names of people who submit complaints. Dan Gombac violated that. City officials should enforce the ordinances as they stand unless they are revised according to legal process. Making individual exceptions opens the city to criticism and liability.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
37	N/a I haven't sent emails or made calls	7/17/2025 1:32 PM
38	Have never had occasion to use.	7/15/2025 5:21 PM
39	Have not called or emailed.	7/14/2025 8:33 PM
40	Diane in Municipal Services is excellent. During our street resurfacing she answered all my questions and if she didn't know she found someone who did.	7/14/2025 8:06 PM
41	haven't contacted them to know	7/14/2025 7:42 PM
42	I don't ever call.	7/14/2025 5:14 PM
43	spoke to Diane Noverini about Metronet, she was very informative and took extra time to find answers to my questions	7/14/2025 3:52 PM
44	never had to email or call city staff	7/14/2025 3:45 PM
45	NA I don't call	7/14/2025 3:20 PM
46	Nice to call and actually talk to someone who can usually answer my questions.	7/14/2025 2:27 PM
47	Not Applicable	7/14/2025 1:18 PM
48	N/A i have never contacted city staff	7/14/2025 12:55 PM
49	NA	7/14/2025 12:42 PM

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50	Have not had to email as of yet.	7/14/2025 12:34 PM
51	Have not emailed or called.	7/14/2025 12:08 PM
52	Have not contacted anyone	7/14/2025 11:42 AM
53	Haven't needed to call	7/14/2025 11:41 AM
54	I had to call/get in touch with city one time and it took quite a while to hear back, but finally did and they became responsive. I was trying to get a hold of a Darien officer once and he IGNORED all my phone calls and visits to find him at police station, business went unfinished.	7/14/2025 11:02 AM
55	I have not needed to call the staff.	7/14/2025 11:02 AM
56	Inknown	7/14/2025 10:31 AM
57	I have emailed and not received a response. I'd like to know if there is a venue to complain constructively about neighbors, not being neighborly.	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
58	Treasurer is awesome	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
59	City of Darien staff is awesome! Very responsive when I've contacted them.	7/14/2025 10:11 AM
60	MY ALDERMAN AND DAN GOMBAC HAVE COMMUNICATE WELL.	7/13/2025 5:22 PM
61	Have never called but when stopping in person always wonderful.	7/11/2025 2:42 PM
62	We have a traffic and speeding problem on 79th street. Nobody is paying any attention to speeders on our street. We now have kids on these scooters on 79th street and someone is going to get hurt. This has been a problem on 79th street for years and nothing is being done These are my comments that have gone on for years. Do something on 79th street.	7/10/2025 6:31 PM
63	The one time contacted my alderman via e-mail, he never bothered to respond	7/10/2025 5:18 PM
64	NA- have not had to reach out to city staff recently	7/7/2025 12:51 PM
65	Mary Belmonte very helpful	7/5/2025 3:20 PM
66	I have not had to contact the staff in a while. In the past they have always been very responsive.	7/3/2025 4:40 PM
67	It's their JOB to answer us we pay their salary...	6/30/2025 6:22 PM
68	Raelky use them, but they've always come through when I do.	6/26/2025 3:47 PM
69	Mary Sullivan, our alderwoman, is always extremely responsive and helpful.	6/26/2025 3:38 PM
70	never calls back, or it takes days	6/26/2025 3:30 PM
71	The mayor does not take the time to bother with residents. Slow to respond. Then, zero actual response. Kind of sad really.	6/26/2025 3:26 PM
72	City Staff is amazing !!	6/24/2025 8:28 AM

Q12 Select 3 topics you are most interested in receiving information about the city.

Answered: 525 Skipped: 5



Darien Communications Survey 2025

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
News from the Mayor	27.62%	145
City Council decisions	56.38%	296
City service updates	60.19%	316
Business news/economic development updates	32.95%	173
Police and crime information	63.81%	335
Safety tips from the police department	17.71%	93
City finances	16.76%	88
DuPage County/regional news and information	21.14%	111
Local events and happenings	46.86%	246
Other (please specify)	4.00%	21
Total Respondents: 525		

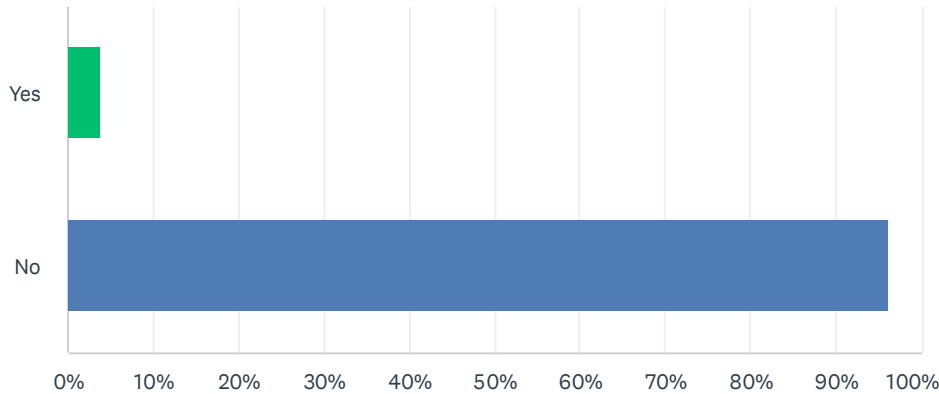
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	These are all worthy of knowing too	7/24/2025 11:51 PM
2	Updates from city alderperson about each aldermanic issues	7/24/2025 11:49 PM
3	Education/local public schools	7/23/2025 4:46 PM
4	Sometimes the City Council decisions are not always the best	7/23/2025 3:45 PM
5	Park District maintenance issues	7/17/2025 5:37 PM
6	What is happening with the loan repayment from Carriage Greens Country Club? why do we have to ask for updates? They should be provided especially after the residents and officials are publicly criticized by the owners.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
7	County/regional news would be next choice	7/14/2025 2:58 PM
8	As mentioned earlier, upcoming "New Business" agenda items for the City Council meetings and Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development meetings.	7/14/2025 11:33 AM
9	Please stop the mayor from preaching in the city newslettet	7/14/2025 11:25 AM
10	How many s Darien evaluated as a whole based on academic achievements and youth enrichment programs. How satisfied are Darien residents in keeping up 📈 Darien safe and in compliance with property maintenance and how often they check on violators of ordinances to make sure they comply.	7/14/2025 10:18 AM
11	CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND NEWS ON PROJECTS....THINK PLAINFIELD AND MAIN STREET.	7/13/2025 5:22 PM
12	I find all these topics important	7/12/2025 10:37 AM
13	City CouncilUpcoming legislation.	7/11/2025 2:42 PM
14	Upcoming changes in ordinances, etc before they occur.	7/11/2025 7:54 AM
15	Most of the items listed are important to me	7/11/2025 7:37 AM
16	All of it! But these are the top 3 most interested in	7/7/2025 12:51 PM
17	So hard to pick only 3! I think all the info is important.	7/3/2025 4:40 PM
18	ALL of the above	7/1/2025 9:08 AM

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19	How about the agenda for the next council meeting about 5 days before the meeting	6/30/2025 5:39 PM
20	I look at all information provided	6/28/2025 7:15 AM
21	I'm actually interested in all of the above topics.	6/26/2025 9:02 PM

Q13 Do you have any problems when viewing Direct Connect - eNews on any of your devices (ie. mobile phone, tablet or computer)?

Answered: 512 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	3.91%	20
No	96.09%	492
Total Respondents: 512		

#	COMMENT	DATE
1	Sometimes Darien connect is gliche. It may be my phone	7/26/2025 6:45 PM
2	Something has to be done about the bikes and dirt bikes that are being driven by very young children. Someone is going to get hurt if they have not already.	7/25/2025 7:50 AM
3	It frustrates me that I have to open a new window to see the whole thing.	7/23/2025 4:31 PM
4	N/A	7/23/2025 4:18 PM
5	Wanted to find out how to leave you money when I pass, leaving it too the K9 , and Darien Fire and Paramedics and police and could not get an answer.	7/23/2025 3:46 PM
6	Sometimes on my phone	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
7	On my mobile device (android) it long to scroll through, especially the Mayor's Message. I almost always have to scroll to the bottom and open the link to view it in its entirety. Which is fine, just annoying sometimes - not the end of the world.	7/18/2025 3:43 AM
8	Please improve mobile experience	7/17/2025 8:55 PM
9	when the listings for road work age given I can't find how to enlarge them	7/14/2025 6:06 PM
10	Not viewing, however I can not use any of the links provided in email because you use TRACKING LINKS and my service doesn't allow me to click on them, it BLOCKS THEM. Just provide direct links. You don't need to track everything we click on, it's silly.	7/14/2025 11:02 AM
11	keep it one column, like you are now.	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
12	I only use computer	7/11/2025 7:54 AM
13	Darien newsletter is much better than Downers Grove newsletter. Appreciate the amount of news and the look of Darien newsletter	7/10/2025 5:19 PM

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14	Sometimes it's too long to fit in an email and requires clicking a link to read the whole thing	7/7/2025 12:51 PM
15	No issues but the social media icons at the bottom are huge! Doesn't seem it's mobile optimized.	7/3/2025 5:27 PM
16	It seems to cut off the email at the end sometimes	7/3/2025 3:01 PM
17	Not sure	7/3/2025 8:51 AM
18	I don't use Direct Connect so no opinion	7/1/2025 9:47 AM
19	Links do not always download on mobile phone, maps formwork being completed too	6/30/2025 10:13 PM
20	The Mayors comments are way too long and many times aren't relevant to Darien. They tend to be personal in nature . Because his article is too long it hampers me from reading further. I think the Mayor is doing a fine job but his comments are way too long and sometimes too personal vs the city.	6/27/2025 12:40 PM
21	To view the entire Direct Connect, it must be viewed in browser (mobile device). Probably due to the length of the Mayor's Message.	6/26/2025 7:08 PM
22	From my phone often links don't work right	6/26/2025 4:36 PM

Q14 What could we do better to keep you informed?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 316

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Find creative ways to meet the people where they are at. Continue to find ways to connect the community through events or local causes.	7/26/2025 6:45 PM
2	Go back to sending text messages	7/26/2025 5:56 PM
3	Use park district building to provide current city notifications for those who don't want to use Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, etc.	7/26/2025 7:45 AM
4	Not sure if you already do this, but an index or bullet points at top of each email. I skim quickly for info and this would help.	7/25/2025 2:28 PM
5	Post on channel 6	7/25/2025 7:50 AM
6	I think of nothing else	7/24/2025 11:51 PM
7	Tell 52% why we need cable we have wireless (48%).. 5 companies service us now !	7/24/2025 11:39 PM
8	City is doing a great job! Thank you!	7/24/2025 10:49 PM
9	Elect better people. Uou have conflicts of interest in your office. It's gross.	7/24/2025 9:46 PM
10	The mayor takes up too much space with his stories. That room can be used to advise citizens of more important information	7/24/2025 7:24 PM
11	N/A	7/24/2025 7:04 PM
12	I wish the Darien Newsletter would be sent more often than quarterly (monthly like in past administration)	7/24/2025 6:10 PM
13	Like easier way to find out when council, school district, park district, etc. meeting are when citizen comments will be accepted.	7/24/2025 5:41 PM
14	Nothing. I am happy	7/24/2025 4:29 PM
15	Nice job in requesting community feedback!	7/24/2025 4:13 PM
16	Na	7/24/2025 4:01 PM
17	not sure	7/24/2025 3:50 PM
18	Nothing comes to mind.	7/24/2025 3:47 PM
19	It's up to me to stay informed. You offer options but citizens should take advantage of these opportunities	7/24/2025 3:38 PM
20	we get a good amount of info. thank you	7/24/2025 2:33 PM
21	You're doing great	7/24/2025 2:05 PM
22	Nothing	7/24/2025 1:43 PM
23	More detail on council issues	7/24/2025 1:19 PM
24	Your communications is fine for me.	7/24/2025 12:39 PM
25	N/A	7/24/2025 12:26 PM
26	I have no ideas for you at this time	7/24/2025 12:21 PM
27	Nothing	7/24/2025 12:16 PM
28	All good	7/24/2025 12:09 PM

Darien Communications Survey 2025

29	Unknown	7/24/2025 10:24 AM
30	Street closures, tree trimming, sidewalk grinding info	7/24/2025 10:04 AM
31	Issue important information ASAP . Also I do not utilize Facebook	7/24/2025 9:58 AM
32	Cut Mayor comments by 2/3 rds.	7/24/2025 9:02 AM
33	I think the Darien e-newsletter is great way to keep us informed.	7/24/2025 8:54 AM
34	Again,future plans for Darien. We hat are our most. Pressing problems.What can we be doing better.	7/24/2025 8:37 AM
35	Give us updates on ordinances being considered/passed and how we can contact our alderman if we want to voice our concern. I don't even know who my alderman is, never heard from him/her.	7/24/2025 8:12 AM
36	N A	7/24/2025 6:27 AM
37	The City does really well with overall or general information. Information specific to my block or my subdivision, such as street resurfacing or curb replacement is sometimes late in being dissiminated.	7/24/2025 5:33 AM
38	For me this communication works well	7/24/2025 5:00 AM
39	More in progress emergency up dates and summaries!	7/24/2025 4:34 AM
40	Let people that u have a sign with info at Cass/ Plainfield. I did not know that.	7/23/2025 10:42 PM
41	BE open	7/23/2025 10:25 PM
42	Informing residents on a timely matter	7/23/2025 10:21 PM
43	overall it's good	7/23/2025 10:10 PM
44	I am satisfied.	7/23/2025 10:01 PM
45	Can't think of anything.	7/23/2025 8:40 PM
46	A list of all resources, provided in one place and how to access them.	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
47	Nothing	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
48	Can't think of anything at the moment	7/23/2025 7:35 PM
49	None	7/23/2025 7:33 PM
50	Tell us about developments in the city	7/23/2025 7:21 PM
51	You have done a great job informing the community. I cnt think of anything else you can do	7/23/2025 7:08 PM
52	I think you are doing very well! Very happy with our Mayor as well-	7/23/2025 7:00 PM
53	Keep up the good work. Be transparent!	7/23/2025 6:48 PM
54	Everything is ok	7/23/2025 6:48 PM
55	Keep mailing Darien information, not everyone has the technology to get things via the internet. We all have to remember to keep that in mind when decisions are made.	7/23/2025 6:36 PM
56	You are doing an excellent job.	7/23/2025 6:22 PM
57	Post significant Darien news and city council decisions on channel 6.	7/23/2025 6:09 PM
58	Increase FB posts	7/23/2025 6:02 PM
59	Darien does a great job keeping us informed. Thanks!	7/23/2025 6:01 PM
60	Always great job keeping community informed!	7/23/2025 5:58 PM
61	keep doing what you do now	7/23/2025 5:56 PM
62	More informative newsletter	7/23/2025 5:42 PM
63	Not sure	7/23/2025 5:22 PM

Darien Communications Survey 2025

64	IDK	7/23/2025 5:10 PM
65	Activate the police text alerts like in the past	7/23/2025 5:08 PM
66	Kk	7/23/2025 5:04 PM
67	Keep up the good work	7/23/2025 5:04 PM
68	Maybe more frequent updates	7/23/2025 5:02 PM
69	Include news from council members, ward specific	7/23/2025 5:00 PM
70	Nothing. The city puts out all the information you need. It's up to the residents to inform themselves by taking advantage of the various platforms of which the city shares information.	7/23/2025 4:57 PM
71	make sure we get notification when someone is flagging and then digging in our yard - still don't know who they were.... Dorchester....	7/23/2025 4:48 PM
72	Make the mayor's message shorter.	7/23/2025 4:31 PM
73	More information about local retail promotions.	7/23/2025 4:22 PM
74	I think the City of Darien does a great job. I've been here 38 years with no intent to move. Thanks to everyone, including our Police and Fire Dept., for keeping our town "A nice place to live" (thank you, Dan Gombak).	7/23/2025 4:20 PM
75	I'm happy with the newsletter.	7/23/2025 4:14 PM
76	Some things that are a big deal get some coverage and are never revisited. Since they are also not in the alderman's meeting packets I don't know how they manage. For instance: How is the sales tax deal we made with Walmart working out? What is the current (and ongoing) status of the loan to the golf course working out? The Darien Business Alliance suddenly appears and the members of the Darien Chamber know little about it. How is that possible when the Director of both is the same person? Has she somehow been unethical in "packing her parachute"? There's a lot of stuff out there that people wonder about that just gets dropped.	7/23/2025 4:04 PM
77	Can't think of anything.anything else	7/23/2025 4:03 PM
78	I	7/23/2025 4:01 PM
79	More campaigns to get residents to sign up to receive info from the city.	7/23/2025 3:56 PM
80	N/A	7/23/2025 3:52 PM
81	Nothing	7/23/2025 3:51 PM
82	offer general information. On wills and probate and how to add a church or other company, or organization.	7/23/2025 3:46 PM
83	Encourage neat appearance of thoroughfares, shopping centers, and neighborhoods. Removing dead trees, on streets and replacing them. Having business paint outside of buildings and clean parking lots.	7/23/2025 3:43 PM
84	Just be more active, there is nothing wrong with giving updates to people. I think polls, there are many good places around in Darien, but would be awesome to have more input, or even on the types of events or where. I've had enough of politics in Darien, work for the residents and lose your egos.	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
85	Nothing. It's good.	7/23/2025 3:39 PM
86	Keep up the good work.	7/23/2025 2:43 PM
87	Better audio on YouTube	7/21/2025 5:55 PM
88	More police crime reports	7/20/2025 7:48 AM
89	Summarize Planning Zoning/economic development meetings and outcomes.	7/19/2025 9:12 PM
90	Restart the Darien PD Texting communications	7/19/2025 7:17 PM
91	All good	7/19/2025 6:50 PM
92	Provide updates and follow up on prior decisions.	7/19/2025 6:06 PM

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93	An alert system that notifies residents in a timely manner. Improve social media postings.	7/19/2025 10:26 AM
94	Listen to what residents say at council meetings	7/19/2025 10:18 AM
95	I think you are doing okay.	7/18/2025 11:19 AM
96	Text messages for urgent news/updates.	7/18/2025 7:29 AM
97	List all sources of information so know what and where located in one place and identify where located.	7/18/2025 4:54 AM
98	What happened to: Economic Development Committee (Inactive)? Is there no Economic Development Committee?	7/17/2025 9:45 PM
99	All good with me, no need to improve	7/17/2025 8:55 PM
100	I think the present level of communication is optimum	7/17/2025 7:39 PM
101	Text messages should be utilized frequently-more efficient than other avenues.	7/17/2025 7:00 PM
102	You do a great job.	7/17/2025 5:51 PM
103	Keep up the good work	7/17/2025 5:44 PM
104	Trimming trees and improving grassy areas in the park areas, particularly south Grove Park.	7/17/2025 5:37 PM
105	Very happy with the Newsletter	7/17/2025 5:12 PM
106	Provide more content/updates. For instance, the city acquired a Vactor a couple years ago and discussed loaning it out. It was proposed we should charge our neighboring communities to use it. Who has borrowed it? How much income did it generate? How often do we use it?	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
107	Shorter mayor message and more facts about what's happening in our city.	7/17/2025 4:18 PM
108	I personally appreciate the Facebook posts. I receive a lot of emails in general so sometimes I miss when the Darien emails come through because they get lost by the others. One suggestion would be to possibly send the messages through text with a link. This way I know all the Darien newsletters or emails can be saved as a contact and I can keep track more easily.	7/17/2025 1:32 PM
109	Have Darien news in the Suburban Life Newspaper.	7/15/2025 11:02 PM
110	Communication is fine	7/15/2025 3:23 PM
111	I can't think of anything. I feel well informed.	7/15/2025 5:36 AM
112	Need some vibe in the social media area. Humor can go a long way/	7/14/2025 10:54 PM
113	What happened to the text program? When it started I was getting too many repeat texts, then it just disappeared. Haven't gotten a text in ages. Was it discontinued?	7/14/2025 10:15 PM
114	Nothing I can think of.	7/14/2025 10:09 PM
115	nothing it works,don't gfy to fix something thats not broken.	7/14/2025 10:00 PM
116	What is the city doing to keep our taxes from going up every year.	7/14/2025 8:06 PM
117	no comments at this time	7/14/2025 8:01 PM
118	Provide links to other sources of Darien information in Direct Connect	7/14/2025 7:35 PM
119	NA	7/14/2025 6:34 PM
120	Maybe the police text message. I used to receive but haven't received anything in a long time.	7/14/2025 5:36 PM
121	Thank you for all that you do!	7/14/2025 5:25 PM
122	Tell the bad. As well as the good. I think problems are not discussed, so residents are not aware, and therefore not able to deal as effectively as possible.	7/14/2025 5:14 PM
123	See above	7/14/2025 5:08 PM
124	Nothing comes to mind	7/14/2025 5:08 PM

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125	N/A	7/14/2025 5:01 PM
126	NOTHING	7/14/2025 3:13 PM
127	Keeping up on relevant town information.	7/14/2025 3:05 PM
128	Communication about vandalism in police section of the enews	7/14/2025 2:51 PM
129	Nothing	7/14/2025 2:43 PM
130	Be proactive with the voters.	7/14/2025 2:41 PM
131	Just continue with concise information that we need in Darien and DuPage County please.	7/14/2025 2:27 PM
132	You are doing fine.	7/14/2025 2:14 PM
133	NA	7/14/2025 2:02 PM
134	More police info. Closed streets etc	7/14/2025 1:38 PM
135	Focus on Darien Connect that comes directly without having to go find it and keep that more factual than Mayor's article and ads about events...just more facts about them.	7/14/2025 1:36 PM
136	nothing	7/14/2025 1:26 PM
137	Nothing	7/14/2025 1:18 PM
138	I'm signed up to receive text messages from p.d. Regarding accidents etc But I have rec very few ...not sure if that's because they're not sending notifications frequently or because they're no issues to alert citizens?	7/14/2025 12:34 PM
139	Nothing	7/14/2025 12:08 PM
140	you are currently doing a good job.	7/14/2025 12:02 PM
141	Nope	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
142	I'm happy with knowing where to find accurate information	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
143	dont know?	7/14/2025 11:40 AM
144	More feedback on city counsel actions.	7/14/2025 11:36 AM
145	More info about what the council is working on	7/14/2025 11:29 AM
146	See comments above. Generally make the weekly email shorter and more to the point.	7/14/2025 11:19 AM
147	Stop with the email tracking links. Allow me to click on them without my service blocking them. Use DIRECT LINKS. I can never get more information from Direct Connect emails because the links just don't work for me. I don't appreciate your attempts to track me.	7/14/2025 11:02 AM
148	Enjoy all the information in the e news letter that we receive weekly	7/14/2025 10:53 AM
149	Give the mayor a max word count of 150 words.	7/14/2025 10:52 AM
150	Police information. The city does NOT do a good job about police activity	7/14/2025 10:36 AM
151	I think I'm pretty well informed	7/14/2025 10:34 AM
152	Doing fine	7/14/2025 10:29 AM
153	The email newsletter is great. Keep it short and sweet, and timely.	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
154	Keep communicating	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
155	Some older residents do not know how to use Smart phones, Darien should have a paper copy for residents who want a printed paper copy every month. Emphasize completed business and new business under consideration. Also, have an article how senior citizens with limitations can get help and access to resources.	7/14/2025 10:18 AM
156	UTILIZE PATCH	7/13/2025 5:22 PM
157	I don't know if the police notifications on Twitter is working. I use to get notifications about closed roads due to accidents, etc but not any more. I would sometimes get 2 or 3 texts on	7/12/2025 10:37 AM

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the same topic within 5 minutes of each other. I checked to see if my phone number was still in cue and it is. Perhaps it is not being used to its intend or perhaps there is an issue in the app or perhaps it is not used anymore.

158	Send dedicated communication with critical information that requires residents to take action. It's not right to mix it in the full communication only.	7/11/2025 2:42 PM
159	Nothing	7/11/2025 10:43 AM
160	View the information from a perspective of someone who doesn't see the weekly meetings or is not involved in city affairs and summarize upcoming changes that are being pondered.	7/11/2025 7:54 AM
161	You do a great job.! You cover pertinent news in each letter but, I would like to see a monthly update on finances in a summary form . I understand we lent money to Carriage Greens and don't understand why we did it. I was unable to find information from the city communications.	7/11/2025 7:37 AM
162	More email communication	7/10/2025 9:27 PM
163	That someone cares about the people on 79th street	7/10/2025 6:31 PM
164	No suggestions	7/10/2025 6:13 PM
165	nothing-I appreciate the emergency updates when something comes up that needs to be known on a day other than Thursday.	7/10/2025 5:19 PM
166	I think Darien does a great job on informing its citizens	7/10/2025 4:40 PM
167	You are doing a great job	7/10/2025 3:19 PM
168	Keep up the good work.	7/9/2025 12:39 PM
169	bring texting notifications back of emergency road closures etc.	7/7/2025 11:50 AM
170	Nothing I can think of.	7/6/2025 5:51 PM
171	The police department used to send us updates of streets to avoid, etc. Lasted about a week then stopped. Today Plainfield Road was totally blocked off. No messages.	7/5/2025 3:20 PM
172	What happened to the Darien Police Department text alerts? They just stopped.	7/4/2025 10:33 AM
173	The city needs a better plan for the southeast corner of 75 th and lemont road.	7/4/2025 9:58 AM
174	I didn't know any of the options except Facebook and the printed mail existed, so more marketing on the other options	7/4/2025 8:07 AM
175	Nothing! Always informative and we enjoy the Mayors letters.	7/4/2025 8:05 AM
176	Make the outdoor sign more readable for older citizens, the color, timing, LO, etc...	7/4/2025 6:50 AM
177	Doing so much better than other cities I've lived in. Keep up the great work. I particularly like reading the Mayor's pieces. These are always so well written, thoughtful and empathic, as well as being very informative.	7/3/2025 8:46 PM
178	What happened to Darien Police texts? Haven't received one in months at least. No activity on their Twitter either for some time.	7/3/2025 5:27 PM
179	It would be nice to see local non-profit events that were shared on Eventboard shared via the city's facebook or social media more often.	7/3/2025 5:26 PM
180	Nothing that I can think of.	7/3/2025 4:40 PM
181	I am pleased with the information reported to me.	7/3/2025 3:28 PM
182	Have recent meetings broadcast more frequently. This could lower or increase attendance at meetings.	7/3/2025 3:23 PM
183	Stop relying on the digital sign at Cass/Plainfield Road. Focus on content for the Darien Connect.	7/3/2025 3:14 PM
184	Improve city services updates and police department social media alerts.	7/3/2025 3:01 PM
185	Not sure but I really wish we can get all these empty spaces filled. I know it's hard with costs going up and people not being able to afford rent space.	7/3/2025 8:51 AM

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186	Make information about the city and not single a whole page about the mayor. Hardly are new or existing business' featured.	7/2/2025 10:27 AM
187	Everything is good we need a meat market in darien not a grocery store but an actual meat market	7/2/2025 7:58 AM
188	I feel you communicate very well	7/1/2025 5:55 PM
189	I think you are doing a great job!	7/1/2025 9:08 AM
190	More police patrols esp on side streets like 69th race track..& 71 st both have cut thru from rt.83 traffic to Cass the cars speeding on Cass is never monitored.a squad should sit in middle slow cars down by their presence & those darn scooters engines/ e bikes, OMG a kid almost hit ME it was 2 girls giggling NOT looking around shot out from a driveway on 69th still. I SLAMMED on my brakes to avoid killing them 1 was standing driving the Ebike scooter thing her passenger sitting on a seat? Behind driver, Two on a scooter? STOP THIS INSANITY before towns get sued, oh that WILL happen this was in 700-800 blk 69...	6/30/2025 6:22 PM
191	Again: early and often. Just because you listed something once doesn't mean everyone saw it. List and post it several times for several days.	6/30/2025 5:39 PM
192	Doing fine	6/30/2025 3:47 PM
193	Nothing at this time	6/27/2025 3:06 PM
194	Shorter articles	6/27/2025 12:40 PM
195	each publication please put web site to report high grass	6/27/2025 11:28 AM
196	The City/employees are doing an awesome job	6/27/2025 10:43 AM
197	Text message. I use to get them and I have not gotten them in a long time.	6/27/2025 9:13 AM
198	Really appreciate the weekly e-newsletter!	6/27/2025 9:13 AM
199	Neighborhood/local happenings are not presented for community residents. When many emergency vehicles are are heard/seen going to an emergency, nothing is more than community is informed about what happens/happened. Police reports not presenting important events and results.	6/27/2025 6:44 AM
200	The Darien Connection is informative as long as information gets to the homeowner before something is going on and not during or after.	6/27/2025 6:42 AM
201	Nothing...you are doing a great job!	6/27/2025 5:32 AM
202	I think that you do an excellent job keeping us informed.	6/26/2025 9:02 PM
203	Less City Administrator editorializing in Direct Connect. Let residents contribute an article if it has community relevance.	6/26/2025 7:08 PM
204	Nothing needed	6/26/2025 5:58 PM
205	I would rather have information and don't need to have essays from the mayor about his life experiences and how they impact him. That is not relevant. He needs to be more considerate towards how he makes decisions that cause sigle people and elderly to foot the bill for families. Families need to pay their fair share and stop making singles pay the way fir their kids.	6/26/2025 4:36 PM
206	A little off the subject, but I have to say I was surprised and extremely disappointed concerning how long it took to cut the grass along Fairview.	6/26/2025 4:18 PM
207	For myself, you're doing just fine. Can't speak for others, but I;m sure they will	6/26/2025 3:47 PM
208	Recaps of City Council meetings would be greatly appreciated.	6/26/2025 3:45 PM
209	You're doing a great job. Thank you for your efforts!	6/26/2025 3:38 PM
210	keep the mayor from talking about himself!!	6/26/2025 3:30 PM
211	Have the mayor actually keep us informed instead of reflecting on his personal life. I can't say often enough, NO ONE CARES about the mayor's personal feelings. Just ridiculous!!! Use that	6/26/2025 3:26 PM

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space to update the residents on city council issues and basic city goals, etc. How about that???

212	You are doing good	6/26/2025 3:25 PM
213	Look at what other communities do. I receive email updates on Weather from Willowbrook and Woodridge.	6/24/2025 8:28 AM
214	From time to time, I would like to see the city hold town hall meetings, where the mayor and/or council members would respond to residents concerns.	6/23/2025 4:05 PM

Q15 Suggestions/General Feedback.

Answered: 161 Skipped: 369

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Continue to conduct surveys such as this to better understand the communities needs and share the feedback	7/26/2025 6:45 PM
2	Very pleased with the city communications.	7/26/2025 10:39 AM
3	Park district fitness center tvs should have more flexibility on what can be watched.	7/26/2025 7:45 AM
4	Not happy with Metro net recking our back yards and not leaving the lad they found them!	7/25/2025 4:09 PM
5	Good. Meets expectation of city communications.	7/25/2025 2:28 PM
6	After 48 years in fr vil why cable now ? No one will sign up, council screwed up the worst in 48 years here !	7/24/2025 11:39 PM
7	Darien has gone downhill for the last 20 years. You have turned a friendly community into some sort of wanna be libertarian wet dream.	7/24/2025 9:46 PM
8	N/A	7/24/2025 7:24 PM
9	N/A	7/24/2025 7:04 PM
10	I wish the Darien Newsletter would be sent more often than quarterly (monthly like in past administration). I know you can afford it. I think the billboard is ok as I walk by it everyday and filled with pertinent info and 'goings on'. I rely on the Darien weekly E-newsletter for a lot of info and county/service updates.	7/24/2025 6:10 PM
11	Somehow be more like surrounding suburbs in terms of fun events for citizens.	7/24/2025 5:41 PM
12	Had a face to face interaction with a staff member at City Hall early this year. There was a dead raccoon in the middle of the street (Plainfield Road) with cars swerving around to avoid hitting it (again). When I asked that someone be sent out to remove it I was told it was a DuPage County Road ... and their problem ... when I asked that someone call DuPage County I was told we don't get involved. When I asked for the phone number it was given to me on a post it note because I was walking and without paper. Seemed like it was a chore. So tell me ... don't get involved and wait for cars avoiding running over the dead raccoon and getting in a car accident? Now you're involved. I told the employee this and she simply disregarded my logic.	7/24/2025 5:01 PM
13	Nothing	7/24/2025 4:29 PM
14	Na	7/24/2025 4:01 PM
15	Have the police stop and talk to residents when driving thru subdivisions or at least wave , they don't seem v friendly.	7/24/2025 3:50 PM
16	No more marijuana stores. Please!	7/24/2025 3:47 PM
17	We on ward 4 are fortunate that our alderman keeps us informed	7/24/2025 3:38 PM
18	you can't please everyone	7/24/2025 2:33 PM
19	None	7/24/2025 2:05 PM
20	Nothing	7/24/2025 1:43 PM
21	Doing a good job	7/24/2025 1:19 PM
22	No	7/24/2025 12:39 PM
23	N/A	7/24/2025 12:26 PM
24	No	7/24/2025 12:09 PM

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25	I enjoy reading the Mayor's messages. They are reflective in nature and bring a community connection to our city. I appreciate the quotes and experiences shared.	7/24/2025 11:20 AM
26	Unknown	7/24/2025 10:24 AM
27	Keep up the good work	7/24/2025 10:04 AM
28	None	7/24/2025 8:37 AM
29	I'd like to hear more about what Darien is doing with the county. It feels like Dupage County Highway has an issue with the City. There is nothing special about Darien so keeping our roadways, sidewalks, streetlights looking nice should be coordinated better. Speaking of streetlights, certain subdivisions have one or two and others have lots. We need more street lights to keep the streets safe.	7/24/2025 8:12 AM
30	Several years ago, the City would organize Town Hall meetings and have all other government agencies (Schools, County, Park District, etc.) present. I think it would be a good idea to start that again.	7/24/2025 5:33 AM
31	Please restrict cigar/cigarette smoking at the outdoor concerts. Although outdoors, it ruined our night at the last Darien concert. Other towns 100% prohibit smoking or they have designated locations. This was right out in the front of the stage and needs to be addressed.	7/24/2025 5:07 AM
32	Thank you	7/24/2025 5:00 AM
33	keep our neighborhood safe!	7/23/2025 10:10 PM
34	More frequently communicate and consistently enforce violations that make our neighborhood appear unkept such as garbage cans in front of garage doors, branches laid out on street weeks before scheduled pick up and vehicles allowed to park overnight on streets, every night with no tickets (except snow nights).	7/23/2025 10:01 PM
35	NONE	7/23/2025 8:40 PM
36	None	7/23/2025 8:30 PM
37	Keep up the good work	7/23/2025 7:35 PM
38	None	7/23/2025 7:33 PM
39	Wasn't very satisfied with Metronet marking up my property spraying paint on my landscaping. Disappointed Darien didn't follow-up to see what Metronet was doing to some properties.	7/23/2025 7:25 PM
40	stop cars from blocking sidewalk. Tell people not to walk in street. Get rid of electric bikes and scooters on sidewalks & streets. Electric bikes are motorized vehicles and should have lights on front & back of them. Age limits to use them.	7/23/2025 7:11 PM
41	None	7/23/2025 7:00 PM
42	No	7/23/2025 6:48 PM
43	The large signs at intersections re: concert nights, Darien Fest, 5k races and other events are very effective. The Christmas decorations at the Plainfield & 75th intersections were very nice.	7/23/2025 6:09 PM
44	NA	7/23/2025 6:02 PM
45	Highly satisfied!	7/23/2025 5:58 PM
46	None	7/23/2025 5:56 PM
47	Appreciate all the efforts of those running the city operations. The City of Darien is doing well.	7/23/2025 5:19 PM
48	Move some events back to the community park. Enforce e-bike rules for the neighborhood. Too many close calls where people could get hurt.	7/23/2025 5:08 PM
49	Everyone at the village is just great especially the receptionist who answers the phone	7/23/2025 5:02 PM
50	Keep up the good work!	7/23/2025 4:57 PM
51	Can we please bring a Trader Joe's grocery store to Darien?? :)	7/23/2025 4:55 PM
52	We need more green infrastructure (i.e., tree planting) in our parks and neighborhoods.	7/23/2025 4:31 PM

Darien Communications Survey 2025

53	Thank you for smoothing out the sidewalks!	7/23/2025 4:15 PM
54	The Mayor is doing an excellent job. I always enjoy his opening statement.	7/23/2025 4:03 PM
55	Non	7/23/2025 4:01 PM
56	You do a great job!	7/23/2025 3:58 PM
57	It's great that the Mayor has commentary in each edition.	7/23/2025 3:52 PM
58	what happened to having recycling events? Have to go ut of our own town to participate. More social events - as in concerts and movies in park as do surrounding towns. Better parks as in surrounding towns.	7/23/2025 3:47 PM
59	Darien did beautiful landscaping of the meridians at 75th and Cass, and Plainfield roads.	7/23/2025 3:43 PM
60	NO MORE NEWS FROM THE MAYOR!!! I feel he uses all the platforms for his own vanity. Every once in a while is fine, like around holidays and stuff like that would be nice, but I don't need to see his face and a quote from him. All of his posts are too long, I'd rather be informed about Darien and DuPage rather than have the mayor talk about himself.	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
61	Stop sucking up to the Q Bar management	7/23/2025 3:41 PM
62	Thumbs up	7/23/2025 3:39 PM
63	None	7/23/2025 2:43 PM
64	Automatic text messages	7/20/2025 2:52 PM
65	More about how the city works, who to contact, maybe highlight a certain area each week/month.	7/19/2025 9:12 PM
66	None	7/19/2025 6:50 PM
67	Enforce city ordinances. They should be consistent and not subject to interpretation.	7/19/2025 6:06 PM
68	I love living in Darien. Darien Connections is good for providing information. Wish social media would be better.	7/19/2025 10:26 AM
69	Communication from Darien is good.	7/18/2025 7:29 AM
70	Make the city more bikeable for all persons and would suggest somehow connecting it to Argonne, making it more walkable and bikeable.	7/17/2025 9:45 PM
71	All good	7/17/2025 8:55 PM
72	None	7/17/2025 7:39 PM
73	I think having a "citizen of the year" award should be changed. How about "20 great neighbors you should hear about!"	7/17/2025 7:00 PM
74	None at this time.	7/17/2025 5:51 PM
75	None	7/17/2025 5:44 PM
76	Focus the mayor on economic development. 75th street is becoming a desert for business development from the abandoned TGIF to Lemont road.	7/17/2025 4:44 PM
77	I would like to include the police blotter in the city bulletin. It used to be included but now I only see it in the Patch.	7/17/2025 4:20 PM
78	Nothing to add	7/15/2025 11:02 PM
79	Keep up the good work	7/15/2025 3:23 PM
80	N/a	7/14/2025 10:54 PM
81	Texts in emergency situations would be good. Tornado, flooding, etc. Even liked the accident info, only problem was I'd get the same text over and over, but thought the program was a good idea. I'm more likely to see a text than an email	7/14/2025 10:15 PM
82	I feel that the variety of ways the city keeps residents informed provides options for everyone.	7/14/2025 10:09 PM
83	General feedback... over the last 6 mos or more... the news letters and articles in the Patch	7/14/2025 9:28 PM

Darien Communications Survey 2025

give residents a feeling that there is a lot of tension with Darien government bodies... not all on the same page.

84	None	7/14/2025 8:06 PM
85	no comments at this time	7/14/2025 8:01 PM
86	There should be links that lead to services for childcare, eldercare, food banks, homeless resources, transportation etc.	7/14/2025 7:42 PM
87	NA	7/14/2025 6:34 PM
88	much , much less mayoral editorials/opinions	7/14/2025 5:37 PM
89	More info regarding local events	7/14/2025 5:36 PM
90	N/A	7/14/2025 5:01 PM
91	More information is better than not enough information	7/14/2025 3:02 PM
92	None	7/14/2025 2:51 PM
93	Nothing	7/14/2025 2:43 PM
94	Just keep up the good work keeping Darien residents in the know.	7/14/2025 2:27 PM
95	Mention beach pickup dates each newsletter.	7/14/2025 2:14 PM
96	NA	7/14/2025 2:02 PM
97	The Mayor's writings are boring. I find his remarks to be more about himself and not about Darien.	7/14/2025 1:39 PM
98	Overall city does a good job trying to communicate..just spread across too many platforms...	7/14/2025 1:36 PM
99	keep up the good work!	7/14/2025 1:26 PM
100	Keeping citizens more aware of crimes that are happening (happened) & more patrols south of I55.... Also, less "gambling" places & more restaurants that aren't chains. More fine dining establishments. Thank you .	7/14/2025 12:34 PM
101	Mayor's letter is too long	7/14/2025 12:08 PM
102	Nope	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
103	Keeping up with local activities is easy and don't have to from sites to site	7/14/2025 11:53 AM
104	none	7/14/2025 11:40 AM
105	Trim the mayors comments. They should have some direct connection to city business. He is a Great mayor, does a very good job but long winded on topics with no direct connection to city.	7/14/2025 11:36 AM
106	Thank you for polling Darien citizens for feedback.	7/14/2025 11:33 AM
107	Less touchy feely info from mayor and more substance from council	7/14/2025 11:29 AM
108	Please stop the mayors section where he uses the city communication to preach to the people.	7/14/2025 11:25 AM
109	Why doesn't the village utilize Nixie? Facebook and other social media postings are moot as I do not use those outlets on my phone.	7/14/2025 11:14 AM
110	Please STOP with the tracking links in email. Just provide direct links. You don't need to track everything we click on and many of us BLOCK tracking links so we can never even use your links provided in emails.	7/14/2025 11:02 AM
111	None	7/14/2025 10:53 AM
112	None	7/14/2025 10:34 AM
113	Proud to be a resident of Darien	7/14/2025 10:25 AM
114	Keep working on renting the empty store fronts and attracting new business. Stop adding more	7/14/2025 10:18 AM

Darien Communications Survey 2025

	fast food restaurants and smoke shops.	
115	There used to be a link on the city's site where we could request police to monitor stop signs, speeding, etc at specific locations. That link is no longer there.	7/14/2025 10:03 AM
116	Ask for community input,	7/12/2025 6:33 PM
117	The city does a good job in communications. I would like to see more on the bidding process for large purchases that is approved on the city council agendas. Perhaps the notice could go out when bids are open for bidding, the closing of bids and the award bid. There are many very pricey items being purchased with no backup information. How are trucks, consulting contracts, cement replacement, tree maintenance, etc being approved and what bidding process was followed.	7/12/2025 10:37 AM
118	Thank you!	7/11/2025 2:42 PM
119	Great communication !	7/11/2025 10:43 AM
120	As a disabled person I am very upset that we are being targeted and our lives made more difficult to live in Darien. There is the ongoing removal of the sidewalk sections at street corners that I have to find out about after they have been removed and I am put in unsafe situations. Then the reason given is a lie because I was told that it was for safety yet the community park where the occurrence is the greatest for the non disabled and is the most used continues to be present at approximately 506 71st Street, and now I can no longer use our parks because I cannot walk and my motorized chair has been banned. These decisions, poor communications about them, and the obvious discrimination Does Not make Darien a nice place to live.	7/11/2025 7:54 AM
121	Make financial information easier to obtain and understand.	7/11/2025 7:37 AM
122	Shorter articles on enews.	7/10/2025 9:27 PM
123	Hopefully, somebody hears us.	7/10/2025 6:31 PM
124	Thanks for all that you do to keep me "in the Darien loop!	7/10/2025 6:13 PM
125	keep up the good work	7/10/2025 5:19 PM
126	Get a new Mayor. This one is a jerk.	7/10/2025 4:54 PM
127	Bring back the Darien magazine	7/10/2025 4:46 PM
128	It would be great to do more drive in movie events this fall	7/10/2025 4:40 PM
129	Keep up the good work.	7/9/2025 12:39 PM
130	Great job! Thank you for the time and effort it takes to compile and send these out!	7/7/2025 12:51 PM
131	None	7/6/2025 5:51 PM
132	It's time for the city to realize that it's starting to flip to more younger families. Everything is Lions Club and Rotary Club.	7/4/2025 10:33 AM
133	I appreciate these updates. We don't have kids and we work outside Darien, so we have limited ways of knowing what is happening in our own community. The weekly e-newsletters help keep us informed. We enjoy these.	7/4/2025 8:19 AM
134	None	7/4/2025 8:05 AM
135	You are doing fine with the letter, sometimes the mayor's opening lines are too long but, his personal touch is nice to read	7/4/2025 6:50 AM
136	I heard the website is being redesigned. I think this will help a lot with being able to find information more easily. Right now it's difficult to find what is happening.	7/3/2025 5:27 PM
137	No more digital signs!! They make the town look like trash. No one actually gets information from them. I drive the Cass & Plainfield corner everyday and I NEVER read the sign. But I do roll my eyes in disgust that the city council was swindled by the company that sells them. No more please!!	7/3/2025 4:42 PM
138	What is/are the Darien Connections Newsletter(s)? I am aware only of the eNewsletter.	7/3/2025 4:40 PM

Darien Communications Survey 2025

139	Many months, a specific group is recognized and celebrated by being mentioned in the Darien Connect newsletter. In a brief email search, I found mention of Hispanic, Asian & Pacific Islander, Immigrant & African American Heritage Months. However, I found NO mention at all recognizing June as LGBTQ+ PRIDE month. Failure to recognize and celebrate the diversity and resiliency of this group marginalizes cherished members of the Darien community. They deserve better.	7/3/2025 4:06 PM
140	Nothing/Thank you for caring about getting information to the citizens of Darien.	7/3/2025 3:28 PM
141	Attempt to keep public well informed on all aspects of major issues.	7/3/2025 3:23 PM
142	Feature more community family events. There are 5 houses for sale on my block b/c the elderly are moving out and younger families moving in. Darien needs to highlight and have more family events. Let's be honest the times are changing and Darien needs to move forward not stay stagnant.	7/2/2025 10:27 AM
143	Darien needs a actual meat market not a grocery store but an actual meat market with a butcher	7/2/2025 7:58 AM
144	None at this time	7/1/2025 5:55 PM
145	n/a	7/1/2025 9:08 AM
146	Patrol more ticket speeders. nO e-bike scooters to anyone under 16 yrs of age. They have NO maturity ,no basic common sense & NO business on these machines	6/30/2025 6:22 PM
147	Offer up a survey on 911 calls and city services.	6/30/2025 5:39 PM
148	None	6/30/2025 3:47 PM
149	Get rid of Robert Taft. Robert Taft is a white supremacist. We do not want Robert Taft influencing the governance of our town. Get rid of Robert Taft.	6/30/2025 3:44 PM
150	I would like to thank the Police Department for the work they put into a recent fishing event, "Copers and Bobbers. I live next to the pond where it was held. It was a beautiful event to see so many families enjoying spending time together and getting familiar with the police department at the same time. Hope those police officers that planned it received the thanks they deserve.	6/29/2025 2:20 PM
151	Shorter articles	6/27/2025 12:40 PM
152	PLEASE do something about car parking across side walks!!!! Almost always the same people and homes.. Can you please issue warning tickets at first to help correct this issue. I push a handicap person in a wheel chair and big pain to go thru the grass. I went in the street and got hit by a child riding a electric scooter, that ended that!!!	6/27/2025 11:28 AM
153	Great service! We appreciate it very much!	6/27/2025 10:43 AM
154	What's going on with e-bikes, crime not theft at Walmart.	6/27/2025 9:13 AM
155	My alderman, Gerry Leganski, has a ward/neighborhood email distribution list he uses to communicate as well. This is helpful for things specific to our neighborhood and also appreciated.	6/27/2025 9:13 AM
156	I always look forward to reading the Mayor's opening remarks. I appreciate his insights and comments.	6/26/2025 9:02 PM
157	See answer to question #14.	6/26/2025 7:08 PM
158	More police patrols on streets	6/26/2025 5:58 PM
159	Get rid of the mayors essay in the news letters. Those are a waste of time and not relevant.	6/26/2025 4:36 PM
160	All positive feelings on communication - just want to see if there are other methods our neighbors use to keep residents informed	6/24/2025 8:28 AM
161	Make modifications to improve the city's web page.	6/23/2025 4:05 PM

2025 Goal Setting Survey Results

Resident Communication

	Schauer	Stompanato	Kenny	Leganski	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren	Ragona	Marchese
Direct Connect	A+	B	A	A	B+	B	B	A	A	A
Website	A	A	B+	B	A (new)	B	B	A	B	A
Newsletters	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	A	E	A
Cable Station	n/a	A	n/a	B	C	C	?	A	D	C
Staff Customer Service	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	A	C	A
FaceBook	C	B	B+	n/a	B	-	B	n/a	n/a	B
Twitter	C	B	B	n/a	B	-	?	n/a	n/a	C
NextDoor	?	B	A	n/a	n/a	-	C	n/a	n/a	C

Schauer – the cable station is really not accessible. I have Comcast but dish customers don't. I think DC is an A+. I think we should put communications of important events on the new electronic board. I do not use NextDoor.

Stompanato – we do a great job of getting information and our message out but it still seems like many residents do not have any idea what is happening in the city. Don't have a solution for that and it's certainly frustrating.

Kenny – Some of our social media cover photos are a bit too large; which makes it tricky for residents to find key information or link page. Can we adjust the sizes so everything is easier to navigate?

Leganski – nice improvements with the website and I like the changes with our cable station utilizing QR codes. Would like to include other organization events like the park district on the station

Sullivan – DC consolidation better – was too lengthy & perhaps trade off mayor message 2x month – have police chief take 1x; need more social posting; add Instagram

Gustafson – cable often does not work

Belczak – we should do more with Facebook and NextDoor. I'd give DC an A if more people would sign up. I cut my cable so...

Coren – I do not use social media

Ragona – I do not have 'city' cable; I have direct tv

Marchese – our emphasis on transparent communication is what is responsible for our reputation as a 'nice place to live' motto. Letting people know weekly through our DC as well as our periodic newsletter provides residents with the most up to date information we have and it is reflected in how highly they perceive the city and staff.

Municipal Services

	Schauer	Stompanato	Kenny	Leganski	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren	Ragona	Marchese
Street Repair	A+	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Storm Water Management	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Street Cleaning	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A
Parkway Tree Care	A+	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Snow Removal	A	A	A	A	A++	A	A	A	A	A
Brush Pick Up	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
Sidewalk Maintenance	A++	A	A	B+	A	A	A	A	A	A
Multi-Year Planning of Municipal Capital Projects	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

Schauer – Muni services is outstanding. Sidewalk maintenance program is A++! Street cleaning is an issue because we rent the cleaner so we can't do it immediately when leaves fall.

Stompanato – I believe our municipal service department is doing a remarkable job. Very little resident complaints and great response to the few that come in.

Kenny - Our city services are really well run. I rarely see any issues. When residents do reach out, things usually are handled pretty quickly.

Leganski – continue the grinding program in lieu of sidewalk replacement unless absolutely necessary. Program has been accepted by residents.

Sullivan – love grind for sidewalk; street/crack fill needs evaluation at end of season especially on streets where construction took place

Gustafson – great job by the team.

Belczak – Municipal services does a great job – seriously don't know where they could improve

Coren – New sidewalk leveling has received many positive comments.

Ragona – I believe that ALL of the above are important to our residents

Marchese – Our staff is always extending itself to our public and in many cases, they go beyond in meeting the needs of our residents. We appear to always be looking for better and more efficient methods of performing each of our maintenance responsibilities.

Administration and Finance

	Schauer	Stompanato	Kenny	Leganski	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren	Ragona	Marchese
City Audit Process	A+	A	A	A	A	A	A	X	D	A
Monthly Financial Reports	A+	A	A	A	A	A	B	X	B	B
City Budget Process	A+	A	A	A	A	A	A	X	A	A
City Financial Management	A+	A	A	A	A	A	A	X	C	A

Schauer – great oversight and controls across the board

Stompanato – Again, with a small staff we accomplish great results. Reports are always timely, accurate and complete.

Kenny – I just want to say I’m really happy with the Admin/Finance team. They always give clear answers to my questions, clear they are doing a great job with the audit, reports, and overall finances.

Leganski – the accounting department does a great job

Sullivan – excellent all around!

Gustafson – great team

Belczak – I’d like to see more information (quarterly?) regarding how the current fiscal year is doing compared to previous years and if there are budget items (both income and expenses) that are running over or under budget

Coren – City staff does a great job. I will not grade since I am partly involved.

Marchese – We need to continue to remain vigilant in monitoring our city finances as we face possible mandates from the state that could impact our financial wellbeing.

Police Services

	Schauer	Stompanato	Kenny	Leganski	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren	Ragona	Marchese
Responding to Emergency Calls	A	A	n/a	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Promoting Police Community Engagement	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	D	A
Proactive Crime Prevention	A	A	B+	A	A	A	A	A	C	A
Traffic Enforcement	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	E	A
Police Staffing Level	A	A	B-	A	A	A	A	B	B	A
Information Provided to the Public	C	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	D	A

Schauer – we used to get text messages on major incidents in the city. I have not gotten one in a while. We should re-focus on that. Biggest issue with police is to start building a transition plan in case Chief Thomas retires. We have not in the past taken a recommendation for a replacement from retiring chief. In this case, we should.

Stompanato – Have heard nothing but praise. Recent awards presentation at our council meeting was very enlightening, great success stories shared on all the great work our officers do.

Kenny – difficult for an alderman to grade responsiveness of emergency calls. Being proactive is everybody's grade not just our officers. In a perfect world, we would hire more police officers but that is not easy.

Leganski – need to bring back the police texts. Very well received in my ward.

Sullivan – need alert system/text; add chief into DC

Gustafson – great leadership & team

Belczak – no complaints

Coren – At full staff level is appropriate. I understand the challenges getting there.

Marchese – Darien's police force is one of the best trained and most efficiently run departments in DuPage County. Chief Thomas is a 'data driven' leader who bases decisions on objective information. Our officers extend themselves to our residents throughout the course of their responsibilities.

DARIEN BUSINESS ALLIANCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

	Schauer	Stompanato	Kenny	Leganski	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren	Ragona	Marchese
Memorial Weekend Carnival	A	A	A	A	n/a	B	B	A	F	A
Summer Concert Series	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	E	A
Darien Dash	A	A	n/a	A	n/a	B	A	A	B	A
Oktoberfest	A	A	n/a	A	B	B	B	A	F	A
Darien Fest	B	A	A	B+	n/a	B	B	A	A	A
Business Outreach	A+	C	A	B	B	-	B	X	D	C
Business Events	A	C	-	B	See below	B	B	X	C	B

Schauer – I only say Darien Fest a B because I would like to see it back at Darien Park. I think it was great we brought DBA under the city.

Stompanato – I believe we have an opportunity to better engage with our Darien businesses and get them more involved in some of our events. Even if it's just putting together promotions based on the events. Maybe a week of special Darien Fest discounts offered the week of Darien Fest.

Kenny – Although I wasn't able to attend Oktoberfest this year and am typically in church on Sundays when Darien Dash takes place, I want to express my appreciation for all of the effort that goes into these events. April and Jessica put in an incredible amount of work to organize the carnival, the fest, the concert, and business outreach efforts that truly bring our community together. Their dedication helps make Darien we can all be proud to call home.

Leganski – need to increase our sponsorship participation at all city events. Have to promote local business more with our electronic marquee and other promotional events.

Sullivan – concert series very well managed; spend more on groups; Oktoberfest was fun but too long of a day; luncheon was nice but need better attendance

Belczak – The Memorial Day Carnival is solely to generate income (not that that's a bad thing), Concert Series are well attended and popular with the community. We really need 3 bands per day for both Darien Fest & Oktoberfest (too much dead time on the stage – maybe reach out to local talent for low cost additional entertainment)

Coren – too early to evaluate (x)

Marchese – Our Darien Business Alliance has made great strides over the last nine months. We always need to remember that we provide these activities for two reasons: 1) to provide a healthy entertainment venue for our residents and 2) to provide our businesses and non-profits with an opportunity to promote themselves at each of these events. Next year, we need to move away from individual business luncheons and concentrate on working with our business centers in promoting their individual business owners.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

	Schauer	Stompanato	Kenny	Leganski	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren	Ragona	Marchese
Property Maintenance Enforcement	A	A	B+	B	B	B	B	A	B	B
Building Permit Process	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Development Process	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	C	A

Schauer – I believe Dan has been great on all aspects of economic development.

Stompanato – Had the opportunity to apply for a permit on our new online platform and found it to be very easy and straight forward.

Kenny – Maintenance enforcement is not only a staff grade it's a community grade. Could always be better. I have observed the permitting process, and I felt it is well done. Staff in tandem with PZC has done a nice job over the years.

Leganski – low participation of residents using the on-line system to report violations. Residents are hesitant to report violations and stay anonymous.

Sullivan – property maintenance enforcement is getting better – glad elected officials are being notified

Belczak – I think we do a good job straddling our property maintenance enforcement between reactive & proactive. Building permit process is excellent. Development is improving but will always get a B until every open unit is filled

Marchese – We are streamlining these systems; issuing building permits and business licenses will become even more efficient with our on-line system.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

	Schauer	Stompanato	Kenny	Leganski	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren	Ragona	Marchese
Staff Responsiveness to your Questions	A+	A	A	A	A++	A	A	A	C	A
Agenda Memos & Back Up Material Distributed for Council and Committee Meetings	A+	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
Staff Responsiveness to Residents	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

Schauer – All things are good.

Stompanato – great staff, very responsive, friendly and informed. Again, I'm always amazed at what gets done for the size of our staff. Great job!

Kenny – staff is always professional, friendly, and prompt with answers to questions from elected officials, residents and vendors.

Leganski – answers are always timely and detailed. No issues.

Belczak – Getting memos for all of the other committees is a good practice as it keeps us well informed

Coren – Top notch!

Marchese – Being part of the daily staff operation provides me with an opportunity to see how the staff extends itself to our residents. Whether it is a phone call, office visit, or meeting with a resident or potential business owner, our staff always goes out of its way to communicate our message that we are here for our residents and businesses.

Top Priorities

Schauer – I believe we should identify as a city – all areas that need development or re-development; we need to identify and buy 2-3 acres of land for a future muni building; I think that since we are now 56 years old, we should identify any property, location, building, that needs to be fixed, improved or redevelopment. Example – TGIF building. I would reach out to Argonne and start a discussion with them about buying 3-4 acres of land that they are not using. They may give it away, may want money or we trade with for salt during winter (sounds like a stretch). However, anything to get for a future municipal services building is worth it. The fact is whether it is 10 years or 20 years from now, we will need a new muni building (we need it now but not a necessity). I believe the cost of the land will be a major block on getting a new building. Once we get land, getting a building will be easier.

Stompanato – 1) attracting new business and keep current businesses through extra support 2) ensuring our budgeting continues to take pensions into long-term planning – have we evaluated any potential large scale capital improvement projects due to age of city's infrastructure? 3) make sure we are putting enough effort into securing grant money for anything offered

Kenny – 1) police pension will always be on this list 2) some administrative staff is approaching retirement age and will need to be replaced in some fashion 3) encouraging small business to grow in Darien to attract bigger business, and families to thrive in our community

Leganski – 1) strengthen relations with local businesses and strip malls 2) police pension liability – line by line budget review 3) work with real estate community to know why families are moving to and out of Darien

Gustafson – new public service building

Belczak – 1) work with District 61 on a permanent solution to the traffic/safety issues regarding school pick up at all 3 schools 2) reinstate a city sponsored coach light program to increase viability and safety 3) continue to improve relations with the Darien Park District

Sullivan – 1) fiscal management – police pension & avoid increase in real estate taxes; 2) continued partnership with park district; 3) TIF chestnut court – developer plan; 4) relationship with carriage green owners perhaps have 1 concert of multiple – (2026)

Coren – 1) fully staffed PD & Muni Services; 2) try to get residents to use direct connect more; 3) be proactive in attracting businesses to Darien

Ragona – 1) roadways; 2) sidewalks; 3) public works continue good job with snowplowing, water main repairs & storm sewer maintenance

Marchese – 1) Economic Development – bringing in additional revenue to negate increased pension costs; 2) continue to monitor our financial health in order to assure that we can maintain current services to our residents; 3) it is critical that we maintain our awareness of what goes on at the state level and how it can impact our city. We need to continue our involvement in groups such as DMMC in order to make sure that we are aware of issues that impact us.

Suggestions you have to improve city services

Schauer – I think we should increase street sweeping – what is the cost to buy a sweeper?

Stompanato – 1) better utilization of the marquee sign on Plainfield and Cass 2) Utilize google forms or equivalent to conduct quick hit surveys and publish results 3) focusing DBA on seeing what our Darien businesses are looking for from the city to better serve the residents. Review success of DBA since initial launch

Kenny – 1) look at more ways to help our city staff grow developmentally encouraging them to stay working in Darien 2) take another look at the possibility of returning auxiliary positions 3) increase opportunities for elected officials to see first-hand what happens with staff on a day to day basis

Leganski – 1) use media to let residents see projects being completed and equipment being utilized 2) inform residents of all crime prevention equipment and techniques being utilized to protect our residents and keep our community safe. Bring back the police text system 3) continue to improve our cable station and Direct Connect.

Sullivan - 1)DBA fully integrate with Darien Business –provide clear directives and create multi-year plan & goals; 2) master succession plan for high level staff retirements 3) continue to improve communication & self promotion – increase frequency

Gustafson– 1) take over plowing for county 2) additional tree trimming 3) additional street sweeping

Belczak – 1) City services are outstanding however, we must be vigilant in seeking better ways to communicate with the residents. Far and away, the biggest complaint is “I didn’t know that”. This is more than a Darien problem it is a societal problem but we must continue to seek new and better ways to communicate with residents.

Coren – I think we do a pretty good job now. Sorry, no new ideas.

Marchese – 1) always look for ways to increase communication with residents, especially seniors. 2) build more bridges with community organizations and businesses. We need to work with businesses and assist them in understanding the need for their working together. We have many small businesses that can’t take time to promote themselves; we need to show them the advantages of working together for their individual benefit. 3) we need to examine additional ways to provide our residents an opportunity to interact with one another. Providing entertainment/craft fairs etc. Work to achieve this objective.