

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



As we enter the last quarter of our year, Darien continues to distinguish itself as a forward-looking community, balancing thoughtful economic development with a steadfast commitment to maintaining the exceptional city services our residents have come to expect. As we look forward into 2026 and beyond, our focus remains on fostering responsible growth that benefits both our residents and our local economy. Our recently completed Darien Strategic Plan will be our guide as we transition into 2026.

Continued economic development is a key driver of the high quality of life in Darien. New and thriving businesses not only bring vitality to our community—they also generate crucial revenue through sales taxes. This allows us to keep our Darien property rate among the lowest in DuPage County, thus making Darien a more affordable place to live while enhancing the quality services our residents have come to expect. Such a practice is a “win-win” for both residents and the business community.

Let’s next discuss our excellent city services—at the heart of our city’s success are the dedicated professionals who serve Darien every day. Our Police Department is comprised of highly trained and committed men and women, guided by exceptional and experienced leadership that sets high standards for professionalism, integrity, and community engagement. Their dedication to keeping our community safe is unwavering. In the future, we will continue to enhance their work through necessary training, acquisition of modern and up-to-date equipment, as well as hiring only those who meet the “Darien model.”

Equally outstanding is our Public Works Department—widely recognized as one of the best in DuPage County. Whether it is through our proactive streets program, our comprehensive backyard drainage program, or our outstanding snow removal efforts, their work ensures that our infrastructure is well maintained and our neighborhoods remain safe and accessible year-round. In the future, we will continue to look for ways to increase our services to our residents with efficient and cost-effective programs that will demand continued training as well as our cost-effective purchase of equipment that serves to meet our need to maintain our growing infrastructure.

Our commitment to our residents goes beyond these essential services. We will continue to invest in enhancing the community experience through programs such as our popular summer concert series, as well as our working hand-in-hand with a variety of local service, business and social organizations; such partnerships help to enrich the lives of all who live here and they further our shared goal of making Darien truly, “a nice place to live.”

Together, through thoughtful planning, strong leadership, and a shared sense of community, Darien is poised for a bright future—one that honors our values while embracing progress

Sincerely,

Joe Marchese
Mayor



E-BIKES AND SCOOTERS

On August 4th, the Darien City Council unanimously approved an ordinance governing the operation of bicycles, low-speed electric bikes, and personal mobility devices on public property. Many other communities in the Chicago metropolitan area have also adopted similar regulations. Communities establish e-bike ordinances to address safety concerns and regulate the use of these increasingly popular vehicles. E-bikes can travel at higher speeds than traditional bicycles, potentially posing risks to both riders and pedestrians. Regulations help manage speed, designate appropriate areas for riding, and clarify rules for parking and usage. For questions regarding the ordinance, please contact Deputy Chief Austin Jump at 630-353-8314.

If you observe operators of bicycles, low-speed electric bikes, and/or personal mobility devices not complying with the new ordinance, please call 911 to report this activity. You can view the ordinance on the website, darien.il.us.

Scan code to view flyer.



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13359.77	14016.76	1494.89	12901.21	12625.01	13686.73	213.05	12941.58
925.61	1232.46	1046.6	1152.52	1210.19	2180.86	2100	1938.61
2990.29	3408.59	445.21	3400	2956.12	3779.39	325.32	3003.2
340.83	445.02	491.75	442.9	443.92	603	774.39	696.84
8953.85	8323.28	228.76	5744.81	4654.11	6468.39	3983.6	6088.4
1675.65	1859.25	78.12	1914.77	1830.85	2268.69	1165.45	2480.94
911.7	860.27	13.35	979.59	847.94	1067.62	1163.01	1107.32
482.46	561	5.83	515.79	558.06	645.75	549	589.68
419.47	390.96	39.2	403.78	402.73	329.75	367.56	313.65
57.72	80.6	4.7	87.88	35.36	74	85.28	56.68
1.24	0.99	1.2	17.86	1.88	1.37	1.3	0.71
1	0.75	1.2	0.25	3.70	2.5	0	2.5
196.66	313.82	14			710.8	794.06	738.56
173.81	308	2.03			153.71	119.41	121.48
					0.19	0	7.47

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

The City of Darien's financial management of the public's money is a critical part of what we do and we work hard to make it transparent. If you want to know more about how the city uses your money, here are some resources:

- **City Budget**

The annual city budget is one of the best ways to see how your money is allocated. The budget development process is extensive and in-depth, includes a series of discussions between staff, the City Council and the public, and includes a review of each line item in the proposed budget. The city's budget meetings are shown on cable television and available on the city's website.

- **Annual Financial Report**

State law requires that local governments undergo an annual audit of their financial statements by independent certified public accountants. In summary, independent auditors conduct municipal audits in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. The audit provides reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

- **Annual Treasurer's Report**

Pursuant to Illinois State Statute, the city publishes an annual Treasurer's Report in a local newspaper. The report details the amount paid to all individual vendors whom the city paid more than \$2,500 during the year and a listing of employee salaries grouped into categories. It also provides a summary of the annual revenues and expenses from the annual financial report.

- **Employee Compensation**

The city maintains a list of employee's salaries and benefits available for review on the city's website.

- **City Council meeting reports**

City Council meetings are scheduled twice per month. Every meeting includes a list of expenses to be approved by the City Council. Additionally, the City Treasurer provides a monthly report to the public, showing all year-to-date revenues, expenses, fund balances and cash available in each fund.

The city maintains a special Transparency List on the city's website. The information above is available for review at www.darien.il.us; select the government drop down box and click on Financial Transparency (or scan here).



CITY OF DARIEN/HINSDALE SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The City of Darien and the Administration of Hinsdale South High School created a unique experience for students who might have a desire to explore the role of local government. The Local Government Internship Program was offered during the summer of 2025, and was worth 1/2 credit to the three students participating in the program.

The program was conducted three days per week over a six- week period. The students attended three days per week for a four- hour time period. Students were exposed to the following aspects of local government:

- Public Safety (Police Department)
- Municipal Services (Public Works)
- Community Development / Economic Development
- City Administration (Finances/Budget)
- Government Operations/Elected Officials (Structure of City Council)
- City/Business Relationships

Our three interns had an opportunity to meet with business leaders within the Darien Community to explore different career areas, and to hear how the business community interacts with city government. During week five of their internship, Stephanie, Monika and Shahmeer had an opportunity to meet with elected officials at the state, county and local levels, who provided them with different perspectives of leadership.

At the conclusion of the experience, our three students worked to develop a Capstone Project that required them to develop a plan to enhance some aspect of city government or our business community. At the conclusion of their internship each student provided a recap of their internship as well as presenting their Capstone Project to the Darien City Council and later to the District #86 Board of Education.

COMMUNICATION SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all of the residents that participated in the Darien Communication Survey online. The total number of residents responding was 530, noting that individuals may not have answered some of the questions. Overall, residents indicated they were satisfied with the city's communication, with 83% relying on our weekly eNews, Direct Connect.

For results of the survey scan here:



MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT - KEEPING YOU AND YOUR HOME SAFE WITH STORMWATER MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

Underground utilities can be a mystery to the typical homeowner. While many residents are not familiar with the functions of city-owned storm sewers and open ditch drainage, they remain an essential element in minimizing the impacts that storms and flooding may have on your property.

Darien experienced some heavy rainstorms this past summer. The fall season also produces heavier rainfalls. The city implements numerous stormwater mitigation projects annually.

The City of Darien's stormwater management plan covers a broad spectrum of best management practices including street sweeping, storm sewer cleaning, open ditch maintenance, building regulations, residential rear yard assistance programs and more. In addition, the city must follow the EPA's stormwater requirements as outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES).

Utilizing best management stormwater mitigation practices, the city performs the following:

DITCH MAINTENANCE

In 2007 the City Council initiated the commencement of the Ditch Program to restore approximately 27 miles of ditch infrastructure which are open ditches that carry water from neighborhoods to drainage outlets. The remainder of the program was completed in 2022. This work included replacement of infrastructure and restoration of ditches to convey stormwater.

STORM SEWER, CATCH BASIN AND STORM INLET CLEANING

Municipal catch basin and storm sewer maintenance prevents flooding and water pollution by clearing debris, sediment, and other blockages from the system. This involves regular inspection of the catch basin exterior and interior, scheduled cleaning and sediment removal using tools like vactor trucks. Proactive maintenance ensures the system functions efficiently, protecting property and public safety.

RESIDENTIAL REAR YARD DRAINAGE ASSISTANCE

Throughout the year, the city receives complaints regarding drainage issues within easements. These complaints typically arise due to standing water caused by active sump pumps, improper grading, and mature landscaping. As a result, these areas often remain saturated throughout the season, making them difficult to mow and maintain, and creating ideal conditions for mosquito breeding.

To address these concerns, the city has established the Private Property Rear Yard Stormwater Management Assistance Policy, hereafter referred to as the Rear Yard Drainage Program. This program allows residents, multifamily and commercial property owners, and the city to collaborate in resolving nuisance ponding and drainage problems.

Projects completed under the program aim to eliminate standing water and provide positive stormwater conveyance within the rear yard easements. The program operates on a cost-sharing basis, with property owners contributing approximately 30% of the total project cost.

BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

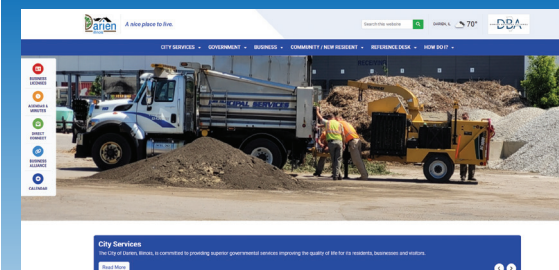
Over the last 30 years, building codes relating to stormwater management have significantly changed to ensure new construction does not negatively impact other properties. Current codes require stormwater management certification for certain developments, design requirements for stormwater facilities to prevent damage to adjacent properties, and regulations for flood proofing and elevating new structures. The ordinance also covers site runoff, requiring storage to control peak flow and maintain rates for developed areas. Many residential properties were developed prior to the stricter stormwater codes. Older subdivisions were designed to have the streets temporarily collect and detain water until the storm sewer system can handle the water.



SUMMER EVENT THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to all our Darien residents who joined us for our 37th Annual Darien Fest and summer concert series. It was wonderful to see family and friends come together to enjoy great entertainment, delicious food and a safe and welcoming environment.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of our hard-working food vendors, our Business Expo participants and our generous business sponsors, whose financial support added to the success of the fest and concerts. Special appreciation to the Darien Park District for the use of beautiful Westwood Park. Planning for next year's events is taking place now and we will share those details as soon as they are available.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

A refreshed and improved version of our website is now online! The updated site features a modern design, easier navigation, and enhanced functionality to better serve you.



Scan here to visit the site





1702 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL 60561
630-852-5000 • www.darien.il.us

CITY HALL HOURS:

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

CITY OFFICIALS:

Joe Marchese, Mayor • 630-353-8108 • jmarchese@darienil.gov

Bryon Vana, City Administrator • 630-353-8114 • bvana@darienil.gov

Dan Gombac, Dir. of Municipal Services/Community Development •
630-353-8106 • dgombac@darienil.gov

Greg Thomas • Chief of Police • 630-353-8351 • gthomas@darienil.gov

Check out the
**COMMUNITY
CALENDAR**

www.darien.il.us



IMPORTANT DATES



11
NOV Veterans Day



27 & 28
NOV Thanksgiving Holiday
City offices closed; refuse collection delayed

YARD WASTE AND FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

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



CONTACT LRS:

WWW.LRSRECYCLES.COM/DARIEN

844-633-3577

FINAL BRANCH PICKUP OF THE SEASON

The city's Public Works Branch pick up program is free for all single family homes and provides for the collection and disposal of branches from residential properties. Please stack the branches neatly by the curb on Sunday, October 26th. The chipper can accept branches up to 6' in diameter.

Branches are also accepted at the Municipal Services Facility, located at 1041 S. Frontage Road, through October 31, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**FINAL BRANCH
PICK UP OF THE
SEASON**

October 26

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

1710 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL 60561

Administrative/Non-Emergency Phone Number – 630-971-3999

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

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

UTILITIES

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

IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR SENIORS

Darien Park District	630-968-6400
Dial a Ride	630-719-6670
Downers Grove Twp	
Tax Assessor	630-719-6630
Indian Prairie	
Public Library	630-887-8760

STAY CONNECTED

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

Sign up for Direct Connect at

<https://bit.ly/DarienDirectConnect>

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

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

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



nextdoor



www.darien.il.us