

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



"You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins."

– Jim Stovall

Our spring issue of Darien Connections is dedicated to "Celebrating Our Business Community," and is our way of saying "thank you" to all the businesses that make Darien a "Nice Place to Live."

Communities are successful at meeting the needs of their residents, when they demonstrate an appreciation for all the contributors who strive, on a day to day basis to not only succeed individually, but to work for the betterment of the community at large. Our goal is not only to celebrate our business community, it is to tell you, our residents, the intricate role our businesses play in the financial success of the City of Darien. We hope to show you how our city staff works diligently to maintain our current business community, while working to enhance that community with business entities that enhance and add to our ever changing population.

Here at the City, we believe very strongly in the value of teamwork, not only within our staff, but with all elements that impact our city's success. We are firm believers in Steve Jobs' statement that "Great things in business are never done by one person; they're done by a team of people." Our Darien business community is a part of that team, and by reaching out to them with our new Business Liaison representative as well as strengthening our Darien Chamber of Commerce, we are working to create a stronger team that will be even better suited to meet the needs of our entire community.

We ask you to join us in celebrating our Darien businesses by shopping local and take advantage of the fine business entities within our community. By your efforts you are strengthening our Darien Community, and working to keep Darien a "Nice Place to Live."

We hope you enjoy this issue and gain a better understanding of the great business opportunities within our city.

Sincerely,
Joe Marchese
Mayor

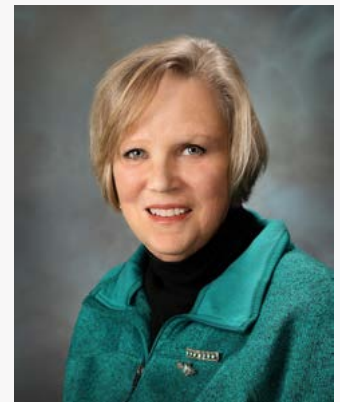


CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

2023 Citizen of the Year - Deborah Coulman

The City of Darien's 2023 Citizen of the Year Committee congratulates Deborah Coulman as this year's recipient. A banquet was held in Deborah's honor on March 3.

Deborah gives freely of her time and talents to so many causes within and around the City of Darien. Her willingness to be available to serve and help others at many times proves she is truly a role model for all to follow.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| A NICE PLACE TO DO BUSINESS | 2 |
| DARIEN BUSINESS BY THE NUMBERS | 2 |
| HOW THE CITY HELPS BUSINESSES | 3 |
| YARD WASTE INFORMATION | 3 |
| CONTACT INFORMATION | 4 |

Darien - A Nice Place to do Business

Here in Darien, we take great pride in the fact that we work hard to build a vibrant business community. We have all the amenities you would expect from a modern city but with the hands-on attention of a small town. With Darien you get the best of both worlds. Please take a few minutes to learn why Darien is a nice place to do business.

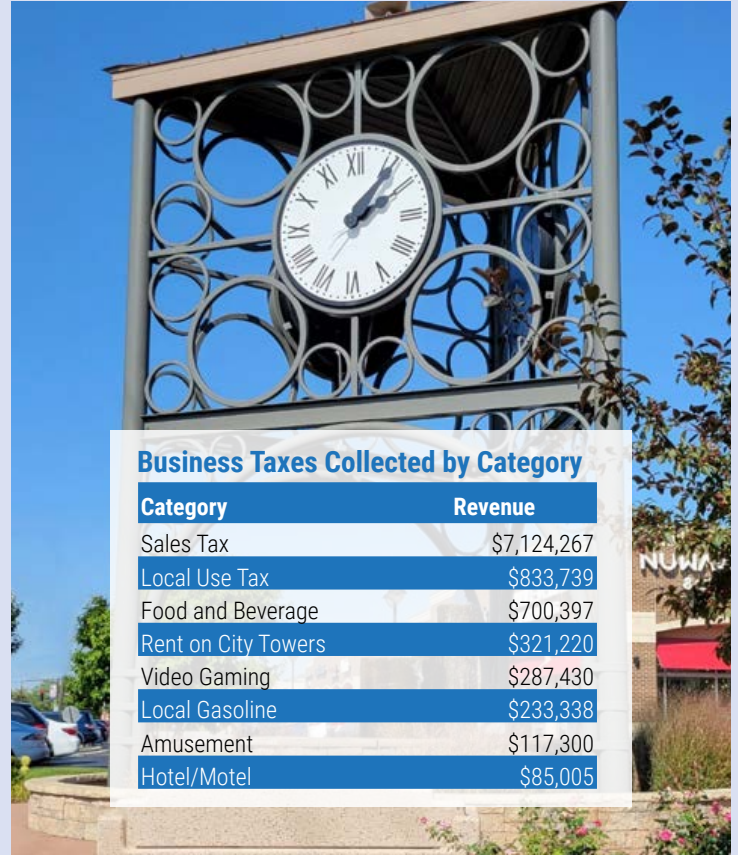


Scan here to watch the video



DARIEN BUSINESS BY THE NUMBERS

Business land use in Darien accounts for approximately **6.5%** of our total land use and provides approximately **11%** of the City's property tax revenue. While that may seem like a small number, the economic benefits of the local business community are substantial. The City receives significant revenue from the local business community made possible from all of the residents and visitors using businesses in Darien. The following **\$9,702,696** revenues were generated from taxes collected from our business community in 2022:



Business Taxes Collected by Category

| Category | Revenue |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Sales Tax | \$7,124,267 |
| Local Use Tax | \$833,739 |
| Food and Beverage | \$700,397 |
| Rent on City Towers | \$321,220 |
| Video Gaming | \$287,430 |
| Local Gasoline | \$233,338 |
| Amusement | \$117,300 |
| Hotel/Motel | \$85,005 |

These revenues account for **54%** of the City's general fund revenues, which provides for police, streets, community development and administrative services.

REASONS TO SHOP LOCAL

Support future growth

Shopping locally is the best way to show pride in your city and help protect the businesses that make our city unique.

Supports your local community

By shopping locally, you are directly contributing to your local community. Your money is going straight into your city – helping it to thrive.

It creates local jobs

By supporting local businesses, you are in turn helping your local economy by creating more jobs. Even a small business needs enough hands to help it sell its products and services, which is why the more we support them, the more jobs will be created and the better off our local communities will be.

Reduces environmental impact

Transportation is a big reason why. Because local businesses make more local purchases, less transportation is required. In turn, you're contributing less to pollution, traffic congestion, habitat loss and resource depletion.



SALES TAX REVENUE

Sales tax represented **73.4%** of all business taxes collected in Darien in 2022. Below each sales tax category is broken down in terms of sales tax collected. This helps to show why shopping local is so important to our community!



Sales Tax Revenue by Category

| Category | Revenue | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Drugs & Misc. Retail | \$1,378,445 | 19.4% |
| General Merchandise | \$1,209,177 | 17.0% |
| Drinking and Eating Places | \$1,058,509 | 14.9% |
| Food | \$934,972 | 13.1% |
| Lumber, Bldg & Hardware | \$926,083 | 13.0% |
| Automotive & Filling Stations | \$864,764 | 12.2% |
| Agriculture & All Others | \$513,910 | 7.2% |
| Apparel | \$164,271 | 2.3% |
| Furniture and Household | \$45,070 | 0.6% |
| Manufacturers | \$20,018 | 0.3% |



Mayor Joe Marchese joined representatives and staff of Home Run Inn Pizza (7521 Lemont Rd.), and the Darien Chamber of Commerce members for a ribbon cutting and grand re-opening celebration following the restaurant's recent renovations.

HOW THE CITY HELPS BUSINESSES

The City of Darien views its partnership with the business community as critical to the success of the City and its residents. It is contingent on the City to provide those services which facilitate a business's success, whether it is applying or renewing their license, to assisting an incoming business with their business development plans.

The City has acted to assist businesses, both new and incoming through our Economic Incentive Program. When Chuck's Southern Comforts selected Darien as a location for a new restaurant, the City provided them with economic assistance that facilitated their eventual opening and successful tenure. During the COVID crisis, the City assisted restaurants and bars by returning their Food and Liquor payments from a six month period during 2019. This payment allowed each of these businesses to reopen in June of 2020, and allowed Darien to maintain each of its restaurants and bars.

WHAT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?

Economic Development is programs, policies or activities that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for the Darien Community. Though economic development priorities vary, economic development strategies often aim for common, positive results, such as: keeping current businesses and seeking new businesses that complement our current business environment; insure more productive use of property, specifically, examining current vacant land offerings as well as the redevelopment of under used business centers; and promoting our community's assets to businesses seeking to relocate to our community. The City established an Economic Development Committee in 2019, which has assisted City staff in developing and carrying out our economic strategies.



SUNDAY, MAY 21

**DARIEN SWIM AND RECREATION CLUB
1001 HINSBROOK AVE., DARIEN**

8:00 a.m. - FREE Kiddie Fun Run (ages 5 & under)

8:30 a.m. - 1 Mile, 5K and 10K
CARA Certified Course

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION AT DARIENDASH.COM

THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A key component of future business growth and economic development is land use planning. This is addressed in the City's comprehensive plan that was updated on November 21, 2022. Prior to the 2022 update, the plan was updated in 2006 and focused on numerous vacant or underutilized "key development" properties. Most of the key development properties identified in the 2006 update have been successfully developed. The priority identified in the 2022 update includes nine areas with a focus at redevelopment of existing commercial centers including mixed-use redevelopment. These areas include:

- **Area #1** - Southeast corner of 75th Street and Lemont Road intersection (Chestnut Shopping Center).
- **Area #2** - Area between and around 75th Street, Plainfield Road, and Clarendon Hills Road intersections. Area includes Darien Community Park, Hinsdale South High School, Tri-State Fire District, Indian Prairie Library, and the Sportsplex.
- **Area #3** - All four quadrants of 75th Street and Cass Avenue intersection.
- **Area #4** - Area adjacent to Cass Avenue along its east side, south of Concord Place (Darien Plaza).
- **Area #5** - Southeast corner of 75th Street and Lyman Avenue intersection (Darien Towne Centre).
- **Area #6** - Southwest corner of 75th Street and Lyman Avenue intersection (Marketplace at Darien).
- **Area #7** - Northeast quadrant of Interstate 55 and Lemont Road interchange (Oldfield Triangle).
- **Area #8** - Area adjacent to Route 83 along its west side, south of 67th Street.
- **Area #9** - Southwest corner of Lemont Road and 87th Street intersection.

View the City's comprehensive plan here:



DARIEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Darien Chamber of Commerce has been serving the Darien business community since 1974. The Chamber has a diverse membership consisting of professional businesses, community groups and nonprofit organizations from the City as well as the surrounding communities. The Darien Chamber, in concert with the City, strives to give area businesses ample opportunities to showcase their business and grow their customer base.

The City believes that by growing the Chamber, more businesses will have opportunities to share ideas regarding future business growth, which will in turn serve the needs of our entire business community.



**Darien Chamber
of Commerce**
YOUR CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY



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

STAY CONNECTED

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

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

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

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

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



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

UTILITIES

| | |
|--|---------------|
| ComEd | 1-800-EDISON1 |
| Nicor | 630-629-2500 |
| Comcast | 866-594-1234 |
| DuPage County Water (payment/billing)..... | 630-985-2905 |
| LRS (Garbage)..... | 844-633-3577 |

OTHER NUMBERS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Darien Park District | 630-968-6400 |
| Dial a Ride | 630-719-6670 |
| Downers Grove Township Tax Assessor..... | 630-968-2100 |
| Illinois Sec of State (Driver License) Naperville..... | 630-369-9010 |
| Illinois Sec of State (Driver License) Lombard..... | 630-629-0380 |
| Indian Prairie Public Library | 630-887-8760 |
| PACE..... | 847-364-7223 |
| Westmont Post Office | 630-968-0855 |
| Willowbrook Post Office..... | 630-323-3950 |

YARD WASTE AND FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

Starting April 1st through the second full week of December, residents can take advantage of weekly yard waste and food scrap collection services (composting) with Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS). These services are included in the monthly fee!

Yard waste generally includes leaves, grass cuttings, twigs, small shrubby 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**

BRANCH PICKUP PROGRAM

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

FREE BRANCH PICK UP DATES

- April 24th through 28th
- June 26th through 30th
- August 21st through 25th
- October 23rd through 27th



SUBSCRIBE TO DIRECT CONNECT

The City's Weekly E-Newsletter

If you like to keep up with what is going on in the City of Darien, subscribe today to receive Direct Connect, the City's weekly E-Newsletter. We provide news you need to know about refuse collection, and property maintenance reminders, let you know about new businesses in town, feature your favorite restaurants and share news from our partner organizations like the park district, library, and more!



Sign up today!