

## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



*"The spring season in life represents a powerful phase of renewal, growth and new beginnings...it signifies a time to cultivate new skills, embrace change, and step out of comfort zones to preserve fresh opportunities, creativity and personal transformation."*

As we welcome Spring to Darien, we are reminded that this season is a time of renewal, optimism, and new beginnings. It is a time of year when we begin to look at the world with fresh expectations, for ourselves, for our families, and for our community.

Much like the start of the baseball season, Spring represents a new chapter filled with possibility. We look ahead with anticipation, hopeful for what the coming months may bring. At the city level, we share in that same spirit. We look forward to the opportunities before us and to achieving the goals we have set for Darien's future. As I mentioned in my 2025 State of the City, we are on a strong foundation, and our future growth is only limited by our not exploring the possibilities that lie before us.

One exciting area of focus is the redevelopment of the Chestnut Court Shopping Center. The center owner is currently in discussions with several prospective business owners who are presenting creative and promising ideas for new establishments within the center. The addition of these new businesses, will not only bring new opportunities for our residents, but brings with it economic growth, enhanced services, and expanded opportunities for us to better serve our residents. We are enthusiastic about the potential this redevelopment holds for our community.

Spring also provides us with an opportunity to look forward to several historic milestones for our country, specifically the commemoration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, and the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. We have already begun planning and collaborating with local community groups and with surrounding communities to plan activities that reflect our shared pride and appreciation for our nation. These activities will also include commemoration of the 25th anniversary of 9/11, a time of remembrance of the loss incurred and the impact the event had on our country and on our day to day lives. Throughout the season, many of our cherished community events will highlight these special themes, including our Darien Dash in May, our Memorial Weekend Carnival, our Summer Concert Series, an expanded Darien Fest in August, and our Oktoberfest celebration in early October. Each of these gatherings offers an opportunity for us to come together in celebration, remembrance and community spirit.

As we step into Spring, we are ready to shed our Winter coats, say goodbye to the snow, ice and cold, and once again enjoy the beauty of our city. It is a time to come out of our homes, reconnect with neighbors, and celebrate the community that has given us so much. I hope you will join us in embracing this season with renewed hope, fresh dreams, and a shared commitment to making Darien an even stronger and more vibrant place to call home.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Spring season!

Sincerely,  
**Joe Marchese, Mayor**



2026

**Citizen  
OF THE YEAR**

The City of Darien conducts a search every year for an individual who has dedicated themselves to enriching our Darien Community through their participation in a social, service, educational or religious organization. This year, the committee selected **Deborah Uhlar**.

Deborah is not only noted for the remarkable longevity of her volunteer service, but for her selfless, generous, and immediate response to any person or organization in need. Just a few of the organizations that Deb volunteers with include: Girls Scouts, Meals on Wheels, CARS (Community assisted Rides for Senior), American Cancer Society, Darien Woman's Club and Darien Fest.

Darien is not just where Deb lives; it is where she has poured her heart, her time, and her values into the fabric of the community. Through countless acts of kindness, both acknowledged and silent, Deb has helped create a culture of care, generosity, and connection.

In addition to our Citizen of the Year Recognition, this year the city is also recognizing its Service and Volunteer Club and Organization honorees for their countless hours of service and dedication:

**2026 Service Club and Organization Honorees:**

- Darien Youth Club (DYC) – Mike Beringer
- Darien Woman's Club (DWC) – Marian Krupicka
- Darien Lion's Club (DLC) – Mike Falco
- Darien Garden Club (DGC) – David DeCuir
- Darien Rotary Club (DRC) – Pastor Eli Voigt
- Darien Business Alliance (DBA) – Jame Burke

Congratulations to Deborah and all of the honorees; we thank them for making Darien "a nice place to live."

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BUDGET PROCESS ..... 2  
 UPCOMING EVENTS ..... 2  
 POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT ..... 3  
 YARD WASTE/FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION ..... 4

# THE CITY'S BUDGET PROCESS

The annual budget is the city's most important document. Darien's budget performs four distinct roles. First, it serves as a financial plan, setting out how our resources will be allocated. Second, it is a management tool, allowing our staff to oversee the operations of the city within the limits set by the council. Third, it is a communications device, giving our citizen customers a clear understanding of how their tax dollars are used. Finally, it is a policy document, reflecting the priorities of the city's elected officials, recommendations from city staff, and resident input. The city is pleased to write that the annual budget, effective May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027, maintains the city's strong financial position. The following are budget highlights of the city's major departments/funds:

- No projected real estate tax increase over the next 3 years. The city's entire property tax is allocated to the police pension fund. In addition to the property tax, the city allocated \$589,447 from other revenue sources to fund 100% of the annual required amount.
- Maintains a recommended three-month operating reserve of approximately \$4,500,000 in the General Fund.
- Provides funds to conduct Darien Fest, three summer concerts and one fall fest.
- Includes replacement of public works vehicles and equipment in accordance with the replacement guidelines.
- Continues the residential rear yard drainage assistance program.
- Continues all current core services provided by the public works department including, but not limited to: street sweeping, tree trimming 1750 trees, residential brush pickup, enhanced snow plowing operations, snow removal from established safety sidewalks, maintenance and fertilization of the city's previous beautification projects.
- Roadway repairs to approximately 5.2 miles of city streets including base/shoulder repair and curb/gutter replacement based on city road inspections and ratings.
- Revenues sufficient to continue capital projects and neighborhood improvements over the three-year budget period.
- Provides a \$500,000 reserve balance for emergencies or economic development incentives as directed by the council.
- Includes a building permit fee waiver. The fee waiver applies to permits such as fences, roofs, patios, driveways, and sheds.

## 2026 Budget Highlights

1. The city budget includes no property tax increase for the 17th year in a row.
2. The city's general fund revenues remain strong with sales and use taxes estimated to exceed \$8,190,000, which is the highest ever. All revenues directly related to the local business community is estimated at \$10,500,000. These revenues reflect a strong local business community that significantly contributes to Darien.
3. The 3-year Capital Projects budget includes approximately \$12,300,000 in neighborhood and public improvements.
4. The city maintains a strong financial position as recognized by Moody's most recent Annual Issuer Comment Report published on February of 2025.
5. No water rate increase. The city staff reviews the water rate annually to ensure that rates are sufficient to fund operations and system maintenance. The system is made up of water distribution, water storage and buildings/equipment. There are approximately 140 miles of water mains that bring customers over 815,000,000 gallons of safe and fresh water. The system includes three water towers that provide emergency water storage and keep the water pressure at required levels. The city also has vehicles and equipment needed to maintain the system, especially during emergency water main breaks. The city continually reinvests in the water system to maintain quality water for our residents and businesses.

# Upcoming Events

Mayor Marchese and the Darien City Council present the  
**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DARIEN DASH**  
CELEBRATING THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S.A.

**1 MILE, 5K & 10K**  
PLUS A FREE KIDDIE FUN RUN  
AGES 6 & UNDER

**SUNDAY ★ MAY 17, 2026**  
STARTS AT 8:00AM  
DARIEN SWIM & RECREATION CLUB  
1001 HINSBROOK AVE, DARIEN, IL

AWARDS FOR TOP 3 RUNNERS IN EACH CATEGORY

**REGISTER: DARIENDASH.ORG**

USATF | **darien dash** | CARA

**CITY OF DARIEN**  
**2026 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Mayor Marchese & the Darien City Council invite you to a **FREE Summer Concert Series**  
**CARRIAGE GREENS (NORTH PARKING LOT)**  
**6:00PM - 9:00PM**

**JUNE 25 FUZE**

**JULY 30 DICK DIAMOND & THE DUSTERS**

**AUG 27 HEART TO HEARTBREAKER**

- Enjoy food from local restaurants
- Bring your family, friends & your favorite lawn chair
- Bring cleaning supplies & canned goods to donate to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Food Pantry

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT**  
**WWW.DARIEN.IL.US**

Music • Food • Family • Fun

**38th ANNUAL DARIEN FEST**

**AUGUST 7-9 2026**

Daily Unlimited Ride  
Specials Provided by  
**Windy City Amusements!**

Presented by the City of Darien & the Darien Business Alliance  
www.darien.il.us

FRIDAY 8/7	SATURDAY 8/8	SUNDAY 8/9
<b>Opening Ceremonies:</b> VFW Present Colors HSHS Marching Band HSHS Cheerleaders 5:45pm - 6:00pm  <b>Windy City Carnival</b> 6:00pm - 10:00pm  Band: <b>Ocean's Rat Pack</b> 7:30pm - 9:30pm	<b>Windy City Carnival</b> 1:00pm - 9:00pm <b>Business EXPO</b> 1:00pm - 5:00pm Band: <b>Hinsdale School of Rock</b> 2:00pm - 3:00pm <b>BINGO w/ Cancer Smashers</b> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Band: <b>Whiskey Road</b> 4:30pm - 6:30pm Band: <b>Heartache Tonight</b> 7:30pm - 9:30pm	<b>Windy City Carnival</b> 1:00pm - 9:00pm <b>Business EXPO</b> 1:00pm - 5:00pm <b>My Dance Hub Live Performance</b> 2:00pm - 3:00pm <b>BINGO w/ Cancer Smashers</b> 2:00pm - 4:00pm Band: <b>Blind Reality</b> 4:00pm-6:00pm Band: <b>Grand Illusion</b> 7:00pm-9:00pm

**HINSDALE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL**  
7401 Clarendon Hills Rd, Darien

**REMINDER:**  
NO Pets, NO Bikes, NO Motorized Scooters or Bikes, NO Coolers and NO Outside Food or Beverages allowed inside the grounds.

# DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Darien Police Chief Greg Thomas presented the 2025 Police Department annual report at a recent City Council meeting. The statistical information in the report shows Darien continues to be an extremely safe community with low crime rates, modern crime prevention strategies, and a philosophical approach to policing called problem-oriented policing. Problem-oriented policing teaches police officers to be proactive in identifying underlying problems. This helps to alleviate crime at its roots and to focus on problems instead of on single calls or incidents.

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



Scan here to view the annual report on the website:

## 5 POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT TAKEAWAYS



- 1. Person crime increased slightly:** The frequency of crimes committed against persons increased slightly by 1.5%. There were 137 reported crimes against persons in 2025 compared to 135 during the same period in 2024.
- 2. Property crime decreased 12%:** Property crime decreased by 12.0% in 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. There were 353 reported property crimes in 2025, down from 401 in 2024, representing 48 fewer incidents.
- 3. Person & property crimes show decrease of 8.6%:** Total person and property crimes decreased by 8.6% in 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. There were 490 total reported crimes in 2025, down from 536 in 2024.
- 4. Traffic crashes increased slightly:** Traffic crashes on public roadways increased slightly in 2025 compared to the previous year. While more accidents were reported overall, it is important to note that there were no fatal crashes during the year.
- 5. 29 concerns reported:** In 2025, the Darien Police Department directly addressed 29 resident reported concerns including: speeding, passing a school bus and stop sign violations.

## CONCRETE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The City of Darien will be providing residents interested in replacing their driveway, apron and city sidewalk the opportunity to participate in the 2026 Concrete Replacement Program. Suburban Concrete, Inc. is the vendor for the program this year with pricing as follows:

Driveways:	\$20.00 per square foot
Sidewalks:	\$9.50 per square foot
Apron w/fiber mesh:	\$9.95 per square foot
Curb & gutter:	\$33.00 per lineal foot
Sealer:	\$5.00 per square foot

Residents may be able to obtain a lower price quote from a local concrete company. Suburban Concrete, Inc. may be higher as they pay employees prevailing wages established for DuPage County. Private companies may not be required to pay those same employee rates. Additionally, Suburban Concrete, Inc., uses a state designed cement mix of 4.6 (4.6BAG+145SLAG+WR) as others may use a less expensive/desired cement mix.

Residents interested in participating in the program should contact Diane with the City of Darien at 630-353-8102 to request a proposal. The deadline to participate in the program is June 30.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Being a great partner with the community is a priority for the police department. We try to do a number of events and activities relative to community engagement to maintain high trust with the community including the use of community meetings, social media and other outreach programs.

**CALL 911 FOR POLICE RESPONSE**  
(including NON-EMERGENCY calls)

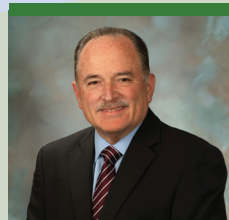
NOTE: If calling 911 for police service from a cell phone, tell the operator that you need the Darien Police. This will help the police respond more efficiently.

Get to know your

# Alderpersion



**WARD 1**  
Ted Schauer  
[tschauer@darienil.gov](mailto:tschauer@darienil.gov)



**WARD 2**  
Ralph Stompanato  
[rstompanato@darienil.gov](mailto:rstompanato@darienil.gov)



**WARD 3**  
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[jkenny@darienil.gov](mailto:jkenny@darienil.gov)



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**WARD 6**  
Eric Gustafson  
[egustafson@darienil.gov](mailto:egustafson@darienil.gov)



**WARD 7**  
Tom Belczak  
[tbelczak@darienil.gov](mailto:tbelczak@darienil.gov)





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

**CITY HALL HOURS:** Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**CITY OFFICIALS:**

- Joe Marchese, Mayor • 630-353-8108 • [jmarchese@darienil.gov](mailto:jmarchese@darienil.gov)
- Bryon Vana, City Administrator • 630-353-8114 • [bvana@darienil.gov](mailto:bvana@darienil.gov)
- Dan Gombac, Dir. of Municipal Services/Community Development • 630-353-8106 • [dgombac@darienil.gov](mailto:dgombac@darienil.gov)
- Greg Thomas • Chief of Police • 630-353-8351 • [gthomas@darienil.gov](mailto:gthomas@darienil.gov)

Check out the  
**COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR**

[www.darien.il.us](http://www.darien.il.us)



**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 DATES**



**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

**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](http://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, to ensure pickup as early as the following Monday morning. The chipping crew will make only one pass and may complete your street as soon as Monday morning.

**FREE BRANCH PICK UP DATES**

- April 20
- June 22
- August 24
- October 26

**WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT LOGS, STUMPS, ROOTS, GRASS CLIPPINGS, FLOWERS, WEEDS, PLANTS, LEAVES, LUMBER & ANYTHING IN BAGS OR OTHER CONTAINERS**

Branches are also accepted at the Municipal Services Facility, located at 1041 S. Frontage Road, May 1 through October 31, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**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/>

