

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Darien is more than just a nice place to live; it is, in my opinion, "the best place to live."

As residents who regularly read my weekly columns know, I often write from a perspective of personal reflection. Throughout my career as an educator, counselor, and volunteer, reflection has always been an important tool in evaluating my work, measuring my progress, and identifying opportunities for growth. Today, I continue to rely on that same practice as I reflect upon my service as your Mayor and the journey over the past seven and a half years. I am proud to present this State of the City Address, which covers many accomplishments in each city department.

As I reflect on these accomplishments, it is evident that progress is never achieved by one individual alone. Each success has been the result of partnerships among residents, City Council members, city staff, local businesses, community organizations, and countless volunteers who have generously dedicated their time and talents to our city. Together, we have strengthened our sense of community, improved the services we provide, and enhanced the quality of life enjoyed by our residents.

State of the City – Finance and Administration:

One of the earliest major challenges we faced occurred in fall 2019 when concerns emerged regarding ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions from the Sterigenics facility in neighboring Willowbrook. Rather than standing on the sidelines, Darien joined forces with neighboring communities, elected officials, environmental advocates, and a dedicated group of concerned citizens.

In March 2020, Darien and the rest of the world found itself confronting the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Restaurants and businesses were forced to close or significantly alter their operations. Recognizing the hardships faced by our restaurant community, the City returned more than \$400,000 in food and liquor tax revenues to local establishments, helping them to reopen in June of 2020. Due to the city's strong financial position, these rebates did not affect any city services. I am proud to say that because of the resilience of our business owners and the support provided by the City, Darien did not lose a single restaurant during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While these events stand out as defining moments, they represent only part of the progress we have achieved together over the last seven and a half years; we have also achieved significant progress in many other areas that directly impact the daily lives of our residents.

- **Economic Development and Fiscal Strength** – Darien continues to build upon a strong economic foundation. Sales and use taxes are estimated to exceed \$8,874,000, which is the highest ever. All revenue directly related to the local business community is estimated to exceed \$10,500,000.

SUMMER EVENTS



On behalf of the City of Darien and the Darien Business Alliance, thank you to our sponsors, food vendors, and our Business EXPO participants who helped make the Summer Concert Series and the 38th Annual Darien Fest so successful!

Thank you to Carriage Greens Country Club for hosting this year's Summer Concert Series on their beautiful grounds! We also wish to extend thanks and appreciation to Hinsdale South High School Administrative Staff, along with the Hinsdale Township High School District 86 Board for all their assistance with the planning and execution of the 38th Annual Darien Fest! Special thanks to Marching Band Director Matt Goeke and the members of HSHS Marching Band for their outstanding performance at the opening ceremonies on Friday night!

We have received several compliments regarding hosting this annual event on Hinsdale South H.S. grounds and look forward to our return next August! And last but not least, thank you, residents of Darien for your participation and support of our Community Events!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TREE INVENTORY & MGMT GRANT	2
NEW POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCED	3
POLICE USE OF TECHNOLOGY	3
YARD WASTE/FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION	4

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR continued from Page 1

- **Communication, Transparency and Engagement** – We enhanced our city website, introduced a city newsletter distributed three times a year and improved the layout and design of our weekly Direct Connect e-newsletter.
- **Redevelopment and Investment** – We have successfully advanced the redevelopment of the Chestnut Court Shopping Center, helping to revitalize an important commercial corridor and attract new investment to our community.
- **Community Recognition and Volunteerism** – I initiated the Darien Community Action Team, which brought together representatives from each of our service, civic, social and educational groups. In 2020, the “Heart of Darien” award was established to honor individuals who provided a service or a heroic action.
- **State Level and County Leadership** – In 2019, the city renewed membership with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, an advocacy group that prioritizes and speaks for DuPage County municipalities. During our membership, I have served as Vice-President and President of the conference and continue to serve on its legislative and intragovernmental committee. Your city council has also served on numerous committees. The city is now a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, which represents 275 municipalities throughout Northern Illinois. Participation in each of these organizations has brought recognition and a voice to the City of Darien.

State of the City – Municipal Services and capital projects:

- **Enhanced Public Works Services** – Our Public Works Department continues to improve and expand services that enhance our residents’ quality of life. Programs such as our rear-yard drainage program, ditch repair program, free brush pickup, and street maintenance and repaving directly address neighborhood concerns and improve property conditions. Public

As we look toward the future, our goal remains clear: to keep Darien strong, safe, financially sound, and forward-thinking. Together, we will continue building a city that honors its proud history, embraces progress, and remains focused on opportunity, service, and quality of life for every resident. Thank you for your trust, your support, and the privilege of serving this remarkable community. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I remain grateful for the opportunity to work alongside all of you as we continue building an even brighter future for Darien. Because of our people, our partnerships, and our shared vision for the future, Darien is more than just a nice place to live; it is, in my opinion, “the best place to live.”

Works staff have taken great steps in the transformation of our city with our beautified medians, tree program and our enhanced holiday decoration program. Beyond these programs, our snow removal operation remains one of our most efficient and responsive programs in DuPage County.

State of the City – Police Department:

- **Public Safety Excellence** – Public safety remains one of Darien’s greatest strengths. Statistically, our crime rate remains significantly below both state and national averages, reflecting the outstanding work of our police department and our strong partnership with residents and other local public safety agencies. Advances in technology and training, along with an increased number of officers, have assisted us in providing a safe and secure living environment for our residents.
- **Mental Health and Community Wellness** – Recognizing the growing importance of mental health services, we have added a full-time social worker to work in conjunction with our public safety program. This innovative approach assists first responders in addressing complex situations with compassion and professionalism. Since its launch, the social worker has received more than 500 referrals and has worked with over 400 individuals and families to connect them with resources and assistance. These efforts have helped strengthen the department’s ability to respond to complex community needs and provide meaningful follow-up support to residents in crisis or in need of services.

Mental health issues have always been a focus of mine, and this last year, I have accepted appointments as a member of the Better DuPage Health Council and the DuPage Council on Strengthening the System for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Care. My participation on each of these boards will provide Darien with a voice on critical mental health issues in DuPage County.

Mayor
Marchese's
complete State
of the City can
be found here:



TREE INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT GRANT

Earlier this year, the City of Darien received a \$53,000 Illinois Community Canopy Tree Inventory and Management Plan Grant through Trees Forever, with funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The grant supported a comprehensive tree inventory and long-term management strategy to ensure Darien’s public trees remain safe, healthy, and sustainable for years to come.

Davey Resource Group has conducted a complete survey of all public trees in Darien, located within street rights-of-way. The final inventory contains 9,004 trees representing 90 species entries. For more information, please contact us at trees@darienil.gov or call 630-353-8105.

DEPUTY CHIEF JUMP TO SERVE AS DARIEN'S NEXT POLICE CHIEF

Mayor Marchese has appointed Deputy Chief John Austin Jump as the next police chief for the City of Darien. Deputy Chief Jump will officially take his place as police chief on November 14, 2026. Deputy Chief Jump will succeed outgoing Chief Gregory Thomas who has served as an outstanding leader of the Darien Police Department for the past 11 years. Chief Thomas has provided exceptional service to our community and has helped establish the department's culture of professionalism, dedication, and excellence.

Deputy Chief Jump's professional accomplishments include serving as the Deputy Police Chief since 2025, Police Sergeant from 2019 to 2025, and as a Police Officer from 2009 to 2019. Jump holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. Deputy Chief Jump has received honors for Darien Police Lifesaving Awards, Mothers Against Drunk Driving Hero Award, and Merit SWAT Award of Excellence.

To learn more about the Darien Police Department, please visit the city's website at www.darien.il.us/city-services/police.



POLICE DEPARTMENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY KEEPS THE PUBLIC AND POLICE OFFICERS SAFE AND HELPS TO MAINTAIN A LOW CRIME RATE IN DARIEN

Police agencies around the globe are increasingly deploying advanced technologies like automated license plate readers (ALPR) and drones. Police department policies have also been updated to ensure these technologies are used for the intended purpose.

The Darien police department uses Flock Safety technology (ALPR) as an investigative tool to identify stolen or wanted vehicles and stolen license plates, to help locate missing persons, to assist in locating people with active warrants, to support suspect questioning and for stolen property recovery. Additionally, Darien police department utilizes real time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals. In an effort to ensure proper usage and guardrails are in place, they have adopted policies and usage statistics available to the public.

The police department also uses Urban SDK, which is a separate platform from the ALPR system and serves an entirely different purpose. It is a traffic analytics tool that provides data about vehicle speed and traffic volume on specific roadway segments. Urban SDK collects aggregate roadway data, including observed speed and traffic volume, organized by roadway segment and time period. This is the same type of data the department has historically obtained through traffic counters placed on roadways. This procedure, which required coordination between the police department and public works was labor intensive and included a long period of time before results were available. Urban SDK provides the same information more efficiently, allowing officers to respond to resident speed complaints with current data rather than waiting weeks for a manual count.

The Darien Police Department has also added drones to its public safety toolkit. This technology gives our officers an additional set of eyes in the sky, helping them respond to incidents more quickly and safely while continuing to protect our community.



Scan here for information on the Department's use of Flock Safety.



Scan here for information on the Department's use of the SDK system.



Scan here for information on the Department's use of drones.



The Darien Police Department is proud to remain at the forefront of law enforcement technology and looks forward to using these capabilities to help make our community even safer.



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

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

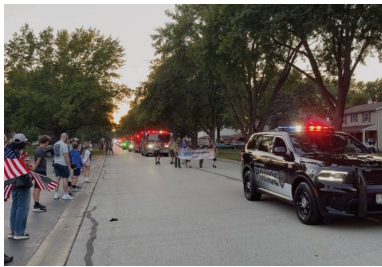
Comcast 866-594-1234

DuPage County Water (payment/billing) 630-985-2905

LRS (Garbage) 844-633-3577

REMEMBERING 9/11 - SILENT PARADE

Mayor Marchese and Willowbrook Mayor Trilla took part in a Silent Parade, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Sept. 11.



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/>

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

BRANCH PICKUP PROGRAM

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, Oct. 25. The chipper can accept branches up to 6 inches in diameter.

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

**FINAL BRANCH
PICK UP OF THE
SEASON**

October 26



nextdoor

