

Pickleball Fundraiser Benefitting At Home In Darien

As enthusiasm for pickleball continues to surge nationwide, more than 80 participants gathered in November at Pickleball America in Stamford for a spirited fundraising event that benefitted At Home In Darien. The evening blended friendly competition with great food and a wide assortment of beverages, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere. Professional instructors were on hand to offer lessons, welcoming players of all skill levels. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and plans are already in motion for a 2nd Annual event in 2026.



Pickleball participant Michael Casolo prepares to hit a shot during the event

We would like to especially thank the following sponsors for their support and partnership, and for their help in making the event especially successful:

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RALLY SPONSOR

Bankwell

THE RESIDENCE
at Selleck's Woods

Healthcare Pathfinder
Your guide to managing healthcare
In Memory of Judy and Paul Rodriguez

FOX HILL
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Since 1902

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Astria DARIEN

2026 At Home In Darien Board of Directors



Seated (L to R): John Bassler, John Keating, William Carney, Sally Laird

Second Row (L to R): Marcia Cleary, Ali Ramsteck, Barbara Jessup, Kerwin Mayers, Stefanie McDermott, Sue Okie, Debra Parnon, Chris Jones

Back Row (L to R): Jim Metzger, John Hess, Amanda DeMaio, Ian Webb

Missing from Photo: Frank DeLeo, Frank Gallagher, Deirdre McGovern

At Home In Darien is proud to announce our 2026 Board of Directors, a dynamic and dedicated group committed to strengthening our mission and expanding our impact. We are especially excited to welcome six new Board members whose energy, ideas, and passion for serving seniors are already making a difference. Together, this talented leadership team is focused on identifying and pursuing new activities, services, and programs that will deepen connections and enhance the lives of Darien's older adults. With their enthusiasm and commitment, we look forward to a year of growth, innovation, and meaningful engagement across our community.

**Thank You,
PVUSA!**



A big thank you to PVUSA and founder Matt Hogan for their generous support of **At Home In Darien's** November pickleball event. Matt and his team donated outstanding pickleball gear that was given away as free raffle prizes for participants, adding even more fun and excitement to a wonderful event that will benefit Darien seniors.

Be sure to visit pvusa.com or follow them on Instagram at [pvusa_](https://www.instagram.com/pvusa_) to explore their professional-quality pickleball equipment. As a special bonus, you can enjoy **15% off your purchase** by entering the code **darien15** at checkout.

Thank you to Matt and the PVUSA team for helping make our event so special!

*our mission:
"Helping Darien seniors
live independently,
comfortably and with
dignity in their own homes
and the community as long
as possible"*

Darien, CT 06820
2 Renshaw Road

CONNECTING SENIORS TO COMMUNITY
**AT HOME
IN DARIEN**

At Home In Darien Membership Discount Program

At Home In Darien's Membership Discount Card program is a custom opportunity that benefits Darien seniors while supporting our local businesses. More than 40 local businesses currently offer special discounts when **At Home In Darien** senior members present their Membership Card—and the list continues to grow. From dining and retail to health and personal services, the program helps our members stay active, engaged, and connected to the community they love.

Darien Residents 60+: if you haven't received your card, please give us a call and we will provide you with your membership card, as well as a detailed list of the current discount for each business

Local businesses: if you'd like to join this growing network and welcome our members, contact us to learn how to participate.

We would like to thank the following businesses for their participation and continued support of this program:

Antonio's Italian Bistro
 Barrett Bookstore
 Robert F. Carroll, Esq.
 Darien Diner
 Darien Eye Care
 Darien Flowers
 Darien Plumbing
 Fabricare Cleaners
 Four Forks – Restaurant
 The Gardener's Center & Florist
 Karen Goersch, CPA, CRPC
 Gofer Ice Cream
 Hands on Pottery
 Hunan Kitchen Darien
 Kiko's Landscaping, LLC
 Little Thai Kitchen
 Live Well Physical Therapy, LLC
 Lou Iacono – Landscape & Masonry
 Mayflower Home Organizing
 Michael Joseph's

Museum of Darien
 NEAT Coffee
 Nedder & Associates – Law Firm
 Nielsen's Florist and Garden Shop
 North Star Wealth Investors, LLC
 Osborn Home Health Care
 Palmer's Market
 Paparazzi Italian Restaurant
 Salt Cave of Darien
 Shirley Sykes – Massage Therapy
 The Seana Method – Organizing
 Scena Wine Bar & Restaurant
 Sipsters
 Stenger, Law, P.C.
 Sweetgreen
 UPS Store
 Richard Williams, CPA
 Westy Self Storage
 YMCA
 Zuccherro Cafe



Senior Center Woodshop

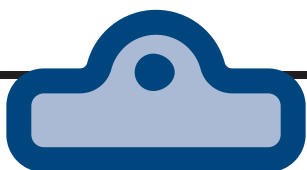


Tom Dempsey bringing some "TLC" to a wooden table repair

One of the many standout features of the impressive Darien Senior Center is its well-equipped Woodshop—a true hidden gem for our community. Open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the Woodshop is staffed by skilled volunteers who generously share their time and expertise to provide careful, high-quality repair and restoration of wooden furniture.

Whether you have a cherished chair that needs tightening, a table with a wobble, or a beloved piece that could use thoughtful attention, the Woodshop team takes pride in helping extend the life of your furniture. Donations are requested for all repair work, with suggested amounts discussed once your piece has been reviewed.

To learn more or to schedule a time to bring in your furniture, please call the Center at (203) 656-7490.



Free Home Safety Evaluations

At Home In Darien reminds local seniors that we offer **FREE home safety evaluations** to help you stay safe and comfortable in your home. Our team will conduct a thorough review of both the inside and outside of your home, identifying potential safety concerns such as trip hazards, lighting issues, railings, and other risks. When needed, we can also recommend trusted local professionals or organizations who can assist with any improvements.

A simple evaluation today can help prevent accidents tomorrow and provide peace of mind for you and your family.

Call AHID at **(203) 655-2227** to schedule your free home safety evaluation. It's easy—and could make an important difference in keeping you safe.

Volunteer Snow Shoveling

Each winter, **At Home In Darien** proudly offers a unique service to help local seniors stay safe: complimentary shoveling of public sidewalks after snow storms. While a few significant storms in late-February proved to be uniquely challenging, our incredible high school volunteer team answered the call with energy and dedication. Led by Shawn Rideout, these students gave their time and muscle to ensure that older neighbors and the broader public could navigate these sidewalks safely. We are also deeply grateful to Jennifer and Rodney Rideout for the many hours they devoted to organizing routes, helping coordinate volunteers, and managing the challenging cleanup process. All of these volunteers are true unsung heroes and their selfless commitment embodies the very best of our community spirit.



AHID Volunteer Snow Shovel leader Shawn Rideout taking a quick break from digging out senior sidewalks

Out & About Events

Launched in June 2025, **At Home In Darien's Out & About Eats** and **Out & About Trips** events have continued to create meaningful opportunities for seniors to gather and enjoy shared experiences—from dining out, attending concerts,

and visiting museums. Thank you to local restaurants Coromandel, The Granola Bar, and Molto for hosting our first **Out & About Eats** outings of 2026. As with all of our outings, participants not only enjoyed delicious meals, but also the camaraderie and connection that are foundational to these events. In early February, several members also enjoyed a special trip to see Disney's original

movie Fantasia at Stamford's Palace Theatre. The musical score was performed live by Orchestra Lumos, and the special marriage of symphonic music and animation did not disappoint!



Guests await a delicious lunch at Coromandel



Lunch at Molto was a big hit, with most guests bringing home leftovers!

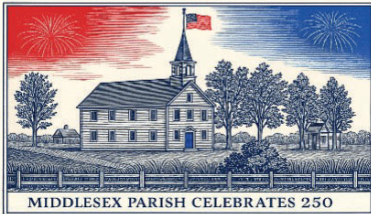
Participants enjoying the brunch banter at The Granola Bar

America 250 Celebration

Middlesex Parish Celebrates



Join us for events commemorating America's founding



May 2

Experience the Revolution!

Colonial Demonstrations at Museum of Darien - 10 to 1
 Revolutionary Reenactment at Mather Homestead - 2 to 4
 Walk through History at Highland Farm - all day

June 13

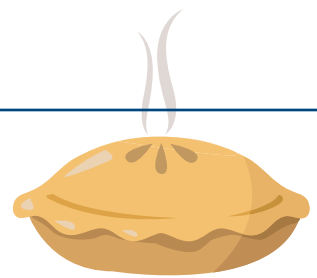
Revolutionary Road Trip!

Visit 13 historic sites throughout Middlesex Parish - now Darien & Rowayton/Norwalk from 1 to 4 pm

More information at middlesexparish250.org

Darien's history reaches back well before the American Revolution, making the upcoming America 250 celebrations especially meaningful for our community. What was once known as Middlesex Parish—today's Darien and Rowayton—played an important role in the region's early story. To honor this remarkable heritage and the nation's 250th anniversary, the Middlesex Parish 250 Committee is organizing a variety of special events throughout the area. These programs will offer residents and visitors opportunities to reflect on our shared past, learn more about the people and places that shaped our town, and celebrate the enduring spirit of our community. Everyone is encouraged to join in this historic commemoration, and **At Home In Darien** will of course be available to provide transportation for any Darien senior looking to attend any of these events.

Men Making Pies



At Home In Darien was delighted to receive several delicious no-bake pies made and donated by over 20 members of the Darien High School Football Team as part of their annual tradition, "**Men Making Pies.**" AHID delivered the pies to some very appreciative seniors in our community, bringing plenty of smiles along the way. Special thanks to Michelle Sini, Director of Football Operations for Darien Football, for her dedication in coordinating this wonderful program and for thinking of AHID and our senior members. We are grateful for the kindness and community spirit shown by these wonderful student athletes.



Some of the DHS football players hard at work




Jennifer Glossoti holding one of the delicious pies

Senior Day at Swap Shop

At Home In Darien is pleased to partner with the Darien Swap Shop to offer a special **Senior Day program** for Darien seniors. On the third Tuesday of every month, seniors can reserve exclusive 30-minute shopping time slots to browse the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station. Space is limited and all participants must have a current Darien dump sticker to enter the Transfer Station. Parking is also limited, so advance registration is required. To take advantage of this special opportunity, seniors need to sign up through **At Home In Darien** to reserve their time. It's a fun and easy way to discover great finds at the Swap Shop!



At Home In Darien provides the following free services to all Darien residents age 60+:

-  Transportation within Darien, Stamford, Norwalk and New Canaan, Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m; Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Half-Price Taxi Voucher Program.
-  Telephone referral, advice and counsel.
-  Communication and Programs — *Out & About* newsletter.
Monthly calendar of events.
Monthly blog.
Membership Cards that provide discounts with local businesses.
Social and educational programs.
-  Handy Services —
Volunteers including Friendly Visitors, Shoppers, Helpers, Callers, and Drivers along with seasonal services such as snow shoveling of public sidewalks and leaf raking.
Referrals to discounted vetted property and home maintenance services.

TAXI ANYONE?

At Home In Darien transportation services are safe and trustworthy, but are available only on weekdays. Our Half-Price Taxi Voucher Program allows you to arrange transportation for yourself on-demand, around the clock, 365 days a year! Taxi rides are 50% off the regular price for Darien seniors 60+ and residents with disabilities. For example, a booklet of taxi vouchers worth \$25 is available for purchase for only \$12.50. Simply pay the taxi driver with your vouchers.

Over 100 Darien residents currently take advantage of this program!

To purchase vouchers, residents must bring proof of age or disability. Please call **At Home In Darien** at **203.655.2227**, or stop by the office at 2 Renshaw Road, for more information.

MESSAGE FROM AT HOME IN DARIEN

Dear Friends,

As we welcome this Late Winter/Early Spring edition of *Out & About*, all of us at **At Home In Darien** are energized by the meaningful momentum we built in 2025 and excited about what lies ahead. Our focus remains clear: to expand services and create new opportunities that better engage seniors with one another and with the broader community. Combating isolation, fostering friendships, and strengthening connections are at the heart of everything we do.

In the year ahead, we are committed to being bigger and better—broadening our offerings and deepening our impact. Much of this growth is made possible by our remarkable and ever-growing team of volunteers whose dedication, compassion, and generosity fuel our mission every day. Through their efforts, we will continue to introduce innovative

programs and responsive services that meet the evolving needs of our members.

We look forward to keeping you updated as this journey continues and as our network grows stronger than ever. In the meantime, we hope you are staying safe, warm, and connected as we navigate the final stretch of winter together.



Debbie Parnon
President of the
Board of Directors
At Home In Darien



Chris Jones
Executive Director of
At Home In Darien
Chris@AtHomeInDarien.org

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Thank You, Darien, for Supporting At Home In Darien



At Home In Darien is deeply grateful for the unwavering support of the Darien community. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we rely on the generosity of our residents to fulfill our mission of helping seniors live independently, comfortably, and with dignity in their own homes. Your contributions enable us to provide essential services such as transportation, friendly visits, and community engagement programs that enhance the lives of Darien's older adults.

We are proud to be primarily funded by private donations, and there are many easy ways to give. You can make a secure donation online at our website, ensuring that your gift immediately supports local seniors. Another impactful way to contribute is through a bequest in your will or trust. These planned gifts not only create a lasting legacy but are also exempt from estate taxes. If you have an IRA and are aged 70½ or older, you can donate part of your required minimum distribution directly to **At Home In Darien**, reducing your taxable income while supporting a cause you care about. Of course, traditional donations by check are always welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our seniors. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to our mission. Together, we are strengthening our community and ensuring that Darien's older adults thrive.

To donate or learn more, please visit our website at <https://athomeindarien.org/>

Make sure you know what's going on around town... subscribe to our monthly calendar of events!

Stay connected this spring and make sure you know what's being offered around town...subscribe to our monthly calendar of events! Call **203.655.2227** to request to receive it by mail or email. You will also receive our BLOG notifications where we share important information on various subjects of interest.

