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Community news: Darien Arts Center is under leadership of new executive director, and more

Staff Reports

Sep. 8, 2022



Singer, and songwriter Griffin House is performing at the “Barnraiser 3.0” outdoor picnic style fundraising event at the Mather Homestead. The event will support the homestead’s upcoming restoration projects.

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Darien Arts Center selects new leader

George Colabella is the new executive director of the Darien Arts Center, its board of directors has announced.

“We are very excited for George to join the DAC family. George has embraced our organization and is hard at work collaborating with our creative directors, staff and board members in bringing our mission to life,” said Carolyn Cavolo, DAC board president.

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Colabella will take over the overall execution of the mission of the DAC as well as the strategic, developmental and operational responsibilities at the arts nonprofit.

“I am honored and humbled to be part of such a dynamic and creative organization,” Colabella said. “As the Darien Arts Center touches the hearts of so many, I am proud to be a part of this family.”

Colabella has more than 30 years of experience and expertise as a nonprofit executive and fund development specialist. As principal of Colabella & Associates, he has conducted strategic planning for numerous organizations in the tri-state area.

He has particular expertise in board recruitment and training, staff development, organizational management, financial planning and fund development, the DAC said.

Colabella has demonstrated success in the areas of major gifts, capital campaigns, annual giving and donor cultivation.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Canisius College and a master’s in psychology from Hunter College-CUNY, as well as post-graduate training in management. He is a nationally certified nonprofit executive and the author of

two published books.

Founded in 1975, Darien Arts Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, promoting and providing the means of artistic expression in dance, music, visual arts and theater for members of the community of all ages.

For more information about DAC's classes and special events, visit darienarts.org or call 203-655-8683.

Barrett Bookstore to host author for book launch

Barrett Bookstore will hold a book launch event at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 20 featuring Amanda Craig's new book, "Who Are You & What Have You Done With My Kid: Connect with your tween while they are still listening."

Craig, who holds a doctorate and is a licensed marriage and family therapist, will lead a discussion and be available to sign her book, which will be for sale at the event.

Light refreshments will be served at the bookstore at 6 Corbin Drive.

RSVP by emailing Page Berger, the store's marketing and events director, at pbbarrettbooks@gmail.com.

Town to host 9/11 memorial observation

The Monuments and Ceremonies Commission of the town of Darien is hosting its annual September 11th Memorial Observation Ceremony at 8:25 a.m. Sunday.

The ceremony will take place at the town's 9/11 Monument in the courtyard behind the Middlesex Middle School, 204 Hollow Tree Ridge Road. The event commemorates the 21st anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in which nearly 3,000 people were killed.

For more information, email committee Chair Terry Gaffney at 06820mayparade@gmail.com.

Mather to host Barnraiser 3.0 benefit event

Singer and songwriter Griffin House will perform at the Mather Homestead's "Barnraiser 3.0" event to raise funds for its upcoming restoration projects.

The outdoor picnic-style fundraiser will be held on the lawn at the homestead. It is set for 6 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 1.

The event will feature food from men's clothing store Fine & Dandy along with entertainment by House, who recently moved to Darien after years in Nashville. His newest – and 11th – album, "So On And So Forth," was released March 4.

Tickets, which are \$175 each, are available at www.matherhomestead.org/barnraiser-2022.

For more information on the Mather Homestead, visit www.matherhomestead.org.

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Selleck's Woods names resident care director

Sheryl Bilyard, who is is a registered nurse and certified dementia practitioner, has been appointed as the new resident care director at the Residence at Selleck's Woods.

Bilyard has more than 20 years of experience in the senior living industry and is also certified in infection control.

She earned an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a graduate degree in nursing from Fairfield University.

According to LCB Senior Living, owner and the operator of the senior living community at 1 Parklands Drive in Darien, Bilyard brings 10 years of management experience from acute hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities to her new role.

She previously was the nursing/care director for both Benchmark Senior Living and Maplewood Senior Living.

Bilyard will be responsible for resident intake and care plan management; coordination among residents, their families and third-party healthcare professionals; and overseeing nursing staff and day-to-day care operations at the

community.

LCB Senior Living is a leading senior housing operator and developer with roots that go back to 1994. Headquartered in Norwood, Mass., the LCB team was among the region's first providers of modern senior living. The company owns and/or operates communities throughout New England and the mid-Atlantic states, offering independent, assisted and reflections memory care living options.

Expert on coercive control program to speak

A program about narcissism and coercive control, which will be hosted by Strong Savvy Women, is set for 7 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Hayvn women-centered coworking space in Darien.

The program, "Invisible Abuse: Understanding Narcissism and Coercive Control," will feature expert and advocate Christine Cocchiola, who helped to make Jennifers' Law a reality in Connecticut.

The groundbreaking legislation, which was passed in 2021, expanded the definition of domestic abuse to include emotional abuse.

Registration is required through www.eventbrite.com/e/invisible-abuse-understanding-narcissism-coercive-control-hosted-by-ssw-tickets-409344830407. Space is limited. The cost is \$20, which covers admission, snacks and drinks.

Women's health practitioner Isabel Bogdan is the event sponsor. Her company, belev.co, specializes in bringing a transformational approach to health care.

The Strong Savvy Women group meets the second Wednesday of each month at Hayvn. The group also provides education and support for single divorced, divorcing or widowed women in the area.

For more information on Strong Savvy Women, visit freedomwarrior.info/strong-savvy-women/ or contact Amy Polacko at amypolacko@gmail.com.

Written By
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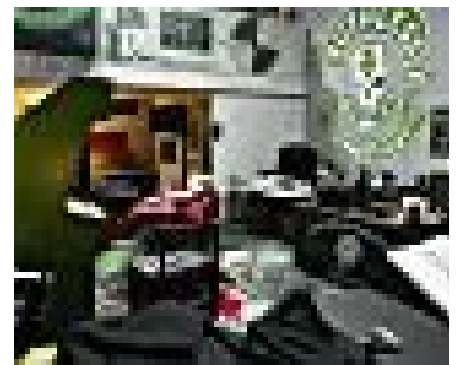
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