

“I wish you all the joy you can wish”

William Shakespeare – The Merchant of Venice

The cacophony generated by radio, television, computer and telephone seems more and more to interfere with our ability to feel the positive that is directed toward us every day. If we are fortunate enough to wake up early, the sunrises of late have been spectacular. If we manage to be out and about for the equally colorful sunsets, we might stay out for the starry nights where Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury and Venus have all been visible this month. With the leaves fallen we can see farther into the woods to spot that elusive doe. And...Hooray—the mosquitoes are gone. Take an outdoor breath this weekend. You'll find some joy.

Town Hall News:

Beginning on Monday, November 30 the procedures for visiting and doing business at the Town Hall will be adjusted for the safety of patrons and staff. Town Hall will continue to be fully staffed, and we are available to you as always, but the entrance will now be from the Elm Street (Auditorium) entrance, where you will be greeted and asked to sign in. Just one visitor at a time per office. We encourage you to do as much business as you can by mail, phone or online. If your business necessitates that you visit, please call to schedule assistance.

We will continue to re-evaluate based on the local and state infection rate, and to adjust our procedures as necessary. Please monitor this website for up-to-date information, and bear in mind that our primary concern is for your health and safety, and ours. We will do our best to minimize the inconvenience to visitors.

Testing News update:

Free COVID-19 testing continues in Old Saybrook on a daily basis, with the exception of Thanksgiving Day. Community Health Center has established a permanent testing site for both symptomatic and asymptomatic residents in Old Saybrook. Testing will continue to be available from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM at Saybrook Point by the Mini Golf Course. No appointments necessary, but the average wait time is 2 hours, so think about arriving early. Due to high demand the number of cars in line will be assessed beginning at noon. Lines may close early if demand exceeds CHC ability to test everyone in line before closing. CHC staff will advise those already in line when capacity for the day has been reached and your patience and flexibility is appreciated. The COVID-19 PCR Test is the most reliable test and takes 2-3 days for results to be available.

In addition to this, CHC is working to establish another testing site in our area with a location yet to be determined.

Go to www.chc1.com to view all locations and hours of operation for Community Health Center COVID-19 testing sites, complete your registration form in advance to bring with you and to find additional details about the testing and view a video of the testing process.

CT CARES Small Business Grant Program:

- One-time \$5,000 Grant is still available
- Small Businesses (less than 20 FTE's) can apply
- For more details and eligibility requirements follow this link:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/CT-CARES-Small-Business-Grant-Program>

Deep River/Chester Lions:

The Deep River/Chester Lions Club will be selling Connecticut-grown Christmas trees at the Deep River Hardware Store once again. The trees will range between 5 and 8 feet tall and will be priced at \$45 each. Varieties are Fraser fir, Concolor fir, Douglas fir, and Blue Spruce. All the proceeds will be used for the annual free Turkey Dinner for Deep River and Chester senior citizens, to be held takeout-style on January 9, 2021. The Christmas tree sale begins the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 27. Hours will be Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 – 5; and Sunday, 9-4.

COVID Alert CT:

Connecticut has launched COVID Alert CT, an exposure notification app that can let you know if you have been exposed to COVID-19 – all without disclosing any of your personal information. In order to slow the spread of COVID 19 it is important that as many people as possible make sure the app is on their phone. This app is only as successful as the number of people who download it. The app is available in multiple languages, and is available both on Android and iPhone.

Find out more and learn how to download or set up the app at ct.gov/covidalertct.

Local, Local, Local:

Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday season (regardless of the fact that Christmas decorations have been spotted at larger department stores since Halloween). I am asking that we all think twice before clicking on that Amazon purchase and take a walk downtown to visit our own local merchants. If ever there was a time to “keep it local” this is it. I’m certain that most of our merchants have a web presence if you wish to shop from home or will accommodate your needs over the telephone.

Here come the holidays:

I know that my Thanksgiving traditions are suffering this year, and I expect that most everyone’s are. I wish you all the joy you can wish, but please be careful. We know what we need to do to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors safe. COVID fatigue is real, our stress levels are real, and will continue to rise, and while there is a glimmer of light around the corner, we have not reached it, and, in fact, we have a long row to hoe. Hang in there. Look past the noise and remember the message:

Wear your mask, wash your hands, watch your distance.

We have the strength to carry on, and while our patience has been stretched, seemingly, to its limits, those limits will be tested further during the holiday weeks now approaching. We will endure the hardships yet to come just as we have during the months thus far. We will carry on because we must. We bear that responsibility to ourselves—as well as to our friends and neighbors. It is the combined strength of our Community that will bring us through the pandemic identified as COVID-19.

In the best of times, the Holidays are bitter-sweet. As we gather with those closest to us, we are reminded of lost loved ones. With the list of invitees pared for health’s sake, we need to communicate with missing guests. It is important to call our family and friends both far and wide. We should check in with our neighbors, especially those folks who we cheerfully wave to as they pass by, but whom we scarcely know.

We will get through this together, we are Deep River.

Be safe, be well, be kind
Peace
Angus

“I drink to the general joy of the whole table”
William Shakespeare - Macbeth