Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Universal source control, or the wearing of face coverings (masks) that completely cover the nose and mouth at all times by everyone when in public or any time a person is within 6 feet of someone not living in their household, has been the most important mitigation strategy implemented during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The reason for the recommendation that everyone wear face coverings for source control is often misunderstood, and arguments against the widespread use of loose-fitting cloth or other style face covering masks are often misguided. Where and when individual compliance with face coverings has been good, infection rates have tended to be low and outbreaks have been less frequent and small enough to be controllable. In contrast, when compliance with face coverings is poor, outbreaks can spread widely, and community infection rates can increase very quickly.

As we all know, we are currently in a drought. I have met with our open burn official, and the town will not be issuing any burn permits until conditions improve and it is safe to do so. Please do not burn during this time as this could result in out-of-control fires posing a threat to lives and property.

All of our schools have been open now for several weeks. Things are running smoothly, and all protocols seem to be achieving the intended results. I will continue to update should there be any changes. I hope you are enjoying the fall weather and looking forward to the bright foliage this year.

Thought of the Day: "It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!"

Winnie the Pooh

Jim Brinton
First Selectman