

December 15, 2021

Good evening,

This is First Selectman Jason Bowsza reaching out to all residents of the Town of East Windsor.

The Town is in the throes of our fifth wave of COVID-19. Since the beginning of December, our 14-day rolling average has increased fourfold. Our case rate per 100,000 people has risen from 14.7 on December 1 to 63.2 today. We have had 98 confirmed positive cases of COVID in the last two weeks. It vitally important to stay vigilant, wear a mask, wash your hands, and get vaccinated.

Over the last few weeks, I've shared with you requests from our Community Services Department for hams, turkeys, gift cards and toys. Once again, our generous community answered the call. Thank you so much for your support. Because of you, we will be able to provide 209 families with holiday food baskets, and 169 kids with toys to open this year.

We also want to thank Broad Brook Elementary School for holding a food drive to benefit East Windsor Community Services. These donations will be included in tomorrow's holiday food basket distribution. Students and staff at the school donated more than 2,000 items. Thank you very much!

The Town is holding our annual Holiday lights contest. This is open to residents and businesses in East Windsor. A driving tour map will be available on the Parks and Recreation website indicating where all the participating lights can be found. Prizes for the best displays are gift cards to local restaurants.

I am delighted to share that the Town of East Windsor has received a DOT grant, which will provide 100% funding for a new senior bus, with the bus arriving hopefully in the spring.

Tomorrow, the Town will hold our Annual Town Meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:30pm in Town Hall.

There are two great community events taking place on Saturday. At noon, we'll be commemorating our Wreaths Across America event at Windsorville United Methodist Church. Later that night, we will be holding our annual Torchlight parade at 5:30p from East Windsor Middle School to Broad Brook Fire Department.

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, the East Windsor Lions Club will be hosting a blood drive from 1pm to 6pm at the Town Hall Annex. To make a reservation, please call 1-800-redcross.

Finally, on New Year's Day, the American Heritage River Commission will host there annual New Year's Day hike beginning at the end of Melrose Road at 1pm. This is one of the best heritage hikes in the state of Connecticut, and typically draws more than 200 people.

I wish you continued good health, and a wonderful holiday season.