



# Kent Newsletter



Friends and Neighbors,

As I began thinking about what I wanted to share with you this month, something struck me.

I have always used "friends and neighbors" as my opening salutation. I always thought it represented our community. Last night I was reminded of that again. Seeing so many families enjoying the Halloween festivities in the village, many here visiting because they heard it was "the best trick-or-treating" around, confirmed again for me that we are all Friends and Neighbors. (including the Brister family who came from Pawling to celebrate Halloween in Kent - I will bet they never thought they would also get photo-bombed by a Joy Brown sculpture.)

When we purchased our home in North Kent over 20 years ago, one of the first projects we wanted to complete was installation of a fence along our Route 7 frontage. We had two small kids and two dogs – it would make our home safer. It was over 400' of fence line, but my husband was up for the task. One May afternoon as he was working on the fence, a strong weather system came quickly over Skiff Mountain and brought an intense storm cell through, which resulted in an over 200-year-old Maple Tree coming down right along the fencing my husband had just put up. The mess was hard to fathom – a giant tree was now lying along the front of our house, limbs, leaves, and smashed fence debris was everywhere you looked.

To our surprise, within an hour there were a dozen or so people in our yard, chainsaws buzzing, helping get the enormous tree cut up and moved to the back of our property out of the way. We asked folks to take the wood, we tried to give them some cash just to thank them – not one would take anything. I remember one person saying, "nah, this is what we do here. Neighbors help neighbors."

Many of those neighbors became our friends.

I see this kindness and care all the time in Kent, and it's one of the most special things about our town. We're all so busy; the world is changed even from the 23 or so years since that tree came down in our yard, but we've all seen – especially during the pandemic - how we continue to show each other that same kindness and care.

Let's keep up the good work.

As always, remember,  
...take a breath,  
...give folks a minute,  
...assume some positive intent.

Stay well,

## COVID-19 Updates

**Vaccines and Booster Shots:** if you are eligible and have not yet been vaccinated, it's easier than ever to get it. Third "booster" doses of COVID-19 vaccines are now available to individuals aged 65 years and older, first responders, residents in long-term care settings, and those who have moderately to severely compromised immune systems. For anyone who got the J&J single-dose vaccine, second "booster" doses are available. Click the button below the State of Connecticut Vaccine portal for more information:

CT Vaccine Portal

**Testing Continues:** Free COVID19 testing is available at the Town of Kent Transfer Station.

- FREE drive-through testing is open to all
- No appointment needed
- PCR test results available in 24-48 hours
- CT residency is *not* required
- Insurance is *not* required
- Must have an email address to get test results
- Priority lane for First Responders

Mondays and Thursdays | 4:00-7:00p | until further notice

**Download forms to bring:**

[Consent form](#) | [COVID Testing form](#)

[Getting My Test Results FAQ](#)

Forms are also available on our [website: www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)

## Upcoming Dates of Interest

**Tuesday, Nov 2 | Town Hall closed for Election Day**

**Wednesday, Nov 3 | [Board of Education KCS Regular Meeting](#) | 5:00p**

**Saturday, Nov 6 | [Household Hazardous Waste Day](#) | TBD | 9:00a-2:00p**

**Tuesday, Nov 9 | [Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting](#) | 6:30p**

**Tuesday, Nov 11 | Town Hall closed for Veterans Day**

**Wednesday, Nov 17 | [Board of Finance Regular Meeting](#) | 6:00p**

**Thursday, Nov 18 | [Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting](#) | 7:00p**

**Wednesday, Nov 17 | [Conservation Commission Regular Meeting](#) | 7:00p**

**Wednesday, Nov 17 | [Region One ABC Committee Regular Meeting](#) | 7:00p**

**Tuesday, Nov 25-26 | Town Hall closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday**

Visit the [Town website calendar](#) for details and a complete schedule of meetings and

## Your Town Government

**Job Opportunities:** There are often opportunities for employment with Kent Town governments. Currently, three positions are posted:

- Transfer Station Attendant
- Highway Maintainer with CDL
- Kent Park and Recreation Director

All openings are posted to our [website](http://www.townofkentct.org) / [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)

## Civic Engagement

**The Kent Municipal Election is tomorrow, November 2, 2021:** To vote in person, the polling location at Kent Town Hall (41 Kent Green Boulevard) will be open from 6:00a- 8:00p.



- Absentee ballots are available through 4:00p on Monday. Please note that COVID-19 is an acceptable reason for requesting an absentee ballot.
- If you are not registered, Connecticut has Election Day Registration (EDR). Please be aware that this takes from 5-20 minutes and you will be registering and voting in the Registrar's office on the Second Floor of the Town Hall.
- Complete information about voting, the candidates, and obtaining an absentee ballot is on the [Town of Kent](http://www.townofkentct.org) website.

Questions about the election may be directed to the [Kent Town Clerk/ townclerk@townofkentct.org](mailto:townclerk@townofkentct.org)

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**Kent First Selectman Debate:** Kent Memorial Library hosted a virtual debate of the four candidates for First Selectman on Wednesday, October 27. A link to a recording of the debate is on the [KML website](http://www.kml.org).

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**Are you an organization in Kent looking for volunteers?** We are working to compile a list to make available to the residents of the Town looking to get involved. Please email the [First Selectman](mailto:First Selectman) with the name of your organization and a contact person.

## Happenings Around Town

**Veteran's Day Ceremony November 11th:** As is the tradition in November, The American Legion Hall-Jennings Post #153 will hold a ceremony to honor Veterans at the Kent Veteran's Memorial on Maple Street on the 11th day at the 11th hour. Commander and Adjutant Brent Kallstrom will lead the ceremony, which will include an invocation and prayer by the Reverend John Heeckt of the First Congregational Church of Kent, a rifle salute by the Legion honor guard, the playing of Taps by piper Don Hicks, and other speakers. Father Douglas Worthington of St. Andrews Episcopal Church will close the ceremony with a prayer.

Post #153 veterans will also be at Davis IGA on November 6th and 7th collecting donations to support American Legion Charities.

# Did You Know?



Bull's Bridge is one of only three remaining covered bridges in CT? The iconic one-lane covered bridge which crosses the Housatonic River south of town center, dates back to 1760. One of George Washington's horse's fell through the bridge while it was still under construction, and the Kent Historical Society has documents in their collection supporting that several hundred pound sterling was spent to recover the horse from the falls below. The current bridge dates back to 1842, when it went under a complete renovation. It features a Town's Lattice Truss design patented by architect

and engineer, Ithiel Town, one of the most influential architects and engineers of the early 19th century.

The covered bridge was once part of a major highway from Hartford to Newburgh, New York on the Hudson River. In 1972, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.



In the image above, you can see how Bull's Bridge actually lets out onto a small island where the river splits briefly. *(Can you spot the spooky rock that looks like he's ready to gulp down the entire river?)*

## Town Updates

**Birch Hill:** There are no updates regarding the proposed 85-bed substance use disorder treatment facility on the property at 46 Maple Street. The Town of Kent continues to monitor developments.

**Cell Tower:** Homeland Towers has received approval for their Development & Management Plan over the summer. Plan documents can be found at the bottom of the Docket 488 page on the CT Siting Council website. They plan to have the tower up by summer of 2022.

**Streetscape:** In comments back from CT DOT upon review of the submission of our bid package documents, the Town is working with town counsel on a few permanent easements that will be needed.

**Federal Tribal Recognition:** Currently, there are no updates to report.





*Photo credit: Lazlo Gyorsok*

## Quick Links

[Town Of Kent](#) | [Discover Litchfield Hills](#) | [Kent Affordable Housing](#) | [Kent Chamber of Commerce](#) | [Kent Center School](#) | [Kent Community Fund](#) | [Kent Emergency Management](#) | [Kent Historical Society](#) | [Kent Land Trust](#) | [Kent Memorial Library](#) | [Kent Park & Rec](#) | [Kent Volunteer Fire Dept](#) | [Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy](#) | [NW Hills Council of Governments](#) | [Region 1 Schools](#)

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visit our website: [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)

