

Spring/Summer Guide Available

Signs of spring are everywhere; daffodils and tulips have sprouted, the sidewalks on Main Street are filled with walkers, Little Leaguers are getting ready for opening day and the Memorial Day parade is coming soon. Because you responded so positively to our winter guide, your town officials have worked on a Spring/Summer guide to help you have a safe and enjoyable warm weather season. It is ready to be distributed at the town hall and electronically on our website, www.townofdurhamct.org.

You will find safety information about a number of seasonal topics from grill safety to fireworks to lightening storms. There is also timely information from the Tax Collector, the Town Clerk, the library, the transfer station, emergency management and more.

There are several chapters in the guide that I would like to emphasize. Many of you are thinking of putting in pools. Please make sure that you contact the building department and acquire all the necessary permits and approvals. It is so important that all the safety measures required by the Connecticut Building Code are in place. Talk to the building department about your new or old pool because it is the responsibility of the owner to make sure it is code compliant. The guide also includes safety tips for swimmers.

Please carefully read the chapter on mosquito and tick safety from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention. There is great concern that because of the declining bat population, the occurrence of viral infections spread through mosquitoes will increase dramatically. We live in an area where Lyme disease is prevalent. It is not only important for you to do all you can to prevent tick bites but to recognize symptoms of Lyme disease. Most cases of Lyme disease can be cured with antibiotics, especially if treatment is begun early in the course of the illness.

You may have heard the news this week about the outbreak of swine influenza. The CDC reports 40 confirmed cases in the US, 28 of which are as close to Connecticut as New York City. You can find more information at www.cdc.gov/swineflu or contact our local health department if you have any concerns.

The health department and the emergency management department work closely with the CDC to disseminate timely information related to public health concerns. In May, the Town of Durham will participate in a Cities Readiness Initiative to provide mass dispensing of Strategic National Stockpile assets (medications) in case of a bio-terrorism or pandemic event.

Make an effort to read the new Spring/Summer Guide. I want to thank all the town officials who contributed. If there is a topic you would like to see included, please contact my office. The electronic version can be easily updated as needed. Enjoy the warm weather and stay safe!