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VIEWS

Volume 2 • Issue 1
Winter 2018

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I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy New Year. The Town of Columbia has been my home for over 30 years and I am very proud to serve as your First Selectman. I look forward to leading our Board of Selectman (BOS) with a definitive vision for our town's future. We face challenging times, but with a common sense foundation, deliberate foresight, innovative cost saving strategies, and strong fiscal responsibility we will work to maintain our town's growth and quality of life for our residents now and in the future.

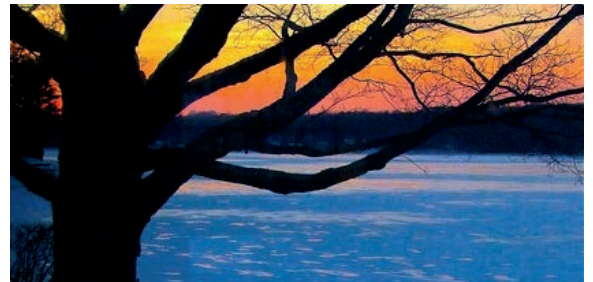
Communication is paramount to me and as your First Selectman I feel strongly that my job is to listen closely to residents and business owners; taking seriously your concerns and addressing them with our community's best interest at heart. Putting the town first is something I share with our past First Selectman, Carmen Vance. She gained the trust of the people by listening and doing what's best

for the town. She was successful in keeping taxes low and maintaining a great quality of life for the residents of Columbia and it was an honor to have had the opportunity to work with Carmen and I wish her the best.


I have served the town in other capacities as a Selectman for the past 4 years, as well as a committee member for the Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC), which has afforded me the necessary experience needed to face the challenges to come. This experience has provided me with a strong understanding and familiarity with the budgeting process, financial planning, monitoring internal controls, accountability policies, and long term financial goals. My first goal will be to keep costs down through innovative strategies, such as sharing of services with other towns and reviewing regional partnerships. I am confident that we have the teams in place that will work together to continue to serve the Town of Columbia for years to come.

I look forward to serving the Town of Columbia and would like to extend my invitation to anyone to share their ideas or concerns with me.

Sincerely,
Steven Everett
First Selectman



Photos courtesy of Town of Columbia



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2018 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

2nd Q/18

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 4/6/2018
Mailed Week of 5/7/2018

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 5/11/2018
Mailed Week of 6/4/2018

3rd Q/18

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 7/6/2018
Mailed Week of 8/6/2018

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 8/3/2018
Mailed Week of 8/27/2018

4th Q/18

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 9/28/2018
Mailed Week of 10/22/2018

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 11/2/2018
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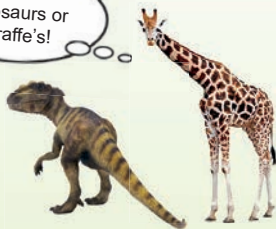


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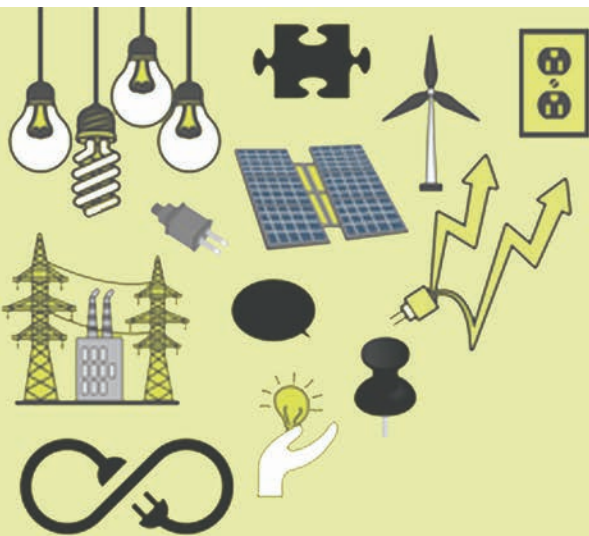
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Dear Residents of Columbia,

I am optimistic that 2018 will be a better year. We are digging out from our first Major Winter Storm with a great job by our Public Works and Facility Departments. We have started our budget process and look forward to our citizens, boards and commissions thoughts. I'm optimistic because Columbia is positioned very well to continue on the path of being one of Connecticut's best towns to live in. Working with our town's and city's advocacy groups to advise the General Assembly on ideas to enact sweeping changes to tax structure and spending that would make Connecticut more competitive. We will also look to reduce spending at the municipal level, promote service-sharing and help find ways to diversify revenues to shift away from our over-reliance on property taxes.

With that in mind we are proud of the capital projects that are in this year's budget that will improve the energy efficiency of our buildings. The Town Hall is now completely re-sided and looks fantastic. We installed all new LED lighting in the Town Hall and Beckish Senior Center with a no interest loan that will be paid back from the savings in electricity over the next four years. This also qualifies us for a \$5,000 dollar energy efficiency grant.

We have just signed a purchase power agreement contract with Greenskies to build a Solar System on the roof of Horace W. Porter School. The system will generate 341,000 kWh/year and reduce our cost of purchasing electricity from about 13 cents to 5.2 cents /kWh. This generation rate is locked in for the next twenty years and will save Columbia from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 dollars. To help our students incorporate the clean technology of this project into their curriculum we are installing a flat screen inside the school showing the annual carbon offset and real-time monitoring of the PV Array to track performance throughout the day.

Flanders River Road Bridge is now rebuilt and ready for decades of use. Our Columbia Lake Beach project is moving along. Public Works and James Blair Landscape and Design are doing a beautiful job bringing our facility up to handicap standards and creating a more level beach for our enjoyment. As soon as the weather warms up Jim is confident that we will be back to laying pavers. The beach project committee chose pervious pavers so that surface water will be filtered as soon as it contacts the sidewalk, helping to protect the lake and reduce run off erosion.

The public hearings to watch for include the budget, the Rec Park master plan just completed, and the options, methods and costs of controlling phargmites australis, recently discovered in Columbia Lake.

To better stay informed please sign up for our Town email blasts and the emergency Everbridge warnings of major emergency challenge facing our town located at the bottom of the Towns homepage.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new employee's; Jennifer LaVoie, Executive Administrative Assistant (see our Employee Spotlight article in this issue); Marcy Littlefield, Assistant Assessor; Margaret Verizzi, Dispatcher/Program Assistant; Sherry Major, Per-diem Van Driver & Floater Kitchen Help at Senior Center; Robert Raiola, Part-time Van Driver; Florence Polek, Floater; and Millie Ramsey who will be our Columbia Views liaison. In upcoming issues we will highlight our new employee's in our Employee Spotlight feature.

Please stop in anytime, I look forward to meeting more of Columbia's residents!

Mark B. Walter

Town Administrator



Columbia Lake Beach project

Up Front and Personal with Jen LaVoie

An Interview by Millie Ramsey

Jennifer LaVoie, is the Columbia Town Administrator's new Executive Assistant. Jen joins a "warm and welcoming Town Hall staff" and is excited to meet the many people who stop in or call with questions covering everything from road closings to eagle sightings in Columbia.

Her previous employment at GEI Consultants in Glastonbury did not give her the opportunity to have as much personal contact with the public as she would have liked. So far she has met "some very kind and warm citizens" and looks forward to meeting many more. She is confident that she and Mark Walter will work well as a team; being supportive of the many needs of town residents.

Jen graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in English after being a stay at home mom for her three adult children. During those years she ran her own private, full time home daycare - fieldtrips and all!

Jen and her husband Brian, the DPW Operations Manager for the town of Mansfield, reside in Coventry with their children and three dogs: a Great Dane and two German Short-haired Pointers. Jen enjoys cooking, baking and follows famed chef Anthony Bourdain, Parts Unknown series. In her short tenure in Columbia she has already learned how "integral Columbia Lake is to the heart of the community." As an avid paddle boarder, she can appreciate those sentiments. Jen is a voracious reader; enjoying many different genres of books from authors such as, Gabriel García Márquez, Salman Rushdie, John Irving to Shakespeare and the early classics and has aspirations of writing a novel. In her spare time Jen "loves, loves" biking on the rail trails throughout the state.

Jen invites townspeople to stop in, and is excited about the opportunity to learn more about the town of Columbia and its residents.



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Information & Reminders from the Assessor's Office

The Homeowners program will start accepting applications again as of February 1, 2018. Please go to the Town of Columbia's website at www.columbiact.org under the Town Assessor's Office page and click on Elderly and Totally Disabled Benefits for more information. If you are already in the program you will receive a letter from us reminding you to file. If you are not already in the program, you will need to bring a copy of your 1040 income tax forms for 2017 to our office once they are completed or all your income information if you do not file income taxes. This year's maximum income limit for married couples is \$43,000, and for unmarried filers it is \$35,300 which includes your social security income. If you have any questions feel free to call us at 860-228-9555.

TAX OFFICE

Columbia residents are able to view and pay taxes online. To find your bills online, go to www.columbiact.org. When you are on the Town of Columbia home page look for Pay Taxes Online in the far right column (you may need to scroll down) click on View/Pay Tax Bills. On the next page click on the View/ Pay button again. The search criteria will need to be written exactly how the tax bill is written. Enter your last name, a space, and then your first initial. Select the option you want and click on search. (Service fees apply to tax payments only.)

You can also utilize this site during income tax time to look up your payment history. First locate your bills using the instructions above.

- Before selecting search, click on the button that says IRS Payment Records for year 2017.
- A page opens showing a list of tax bills.
- Click on the IRS button in the far right of the green bar, this will populate a check in all bills paid in 2017. You may need to remove the check from records that are not yours.
- Click on the view IRS button that will appear just above the IRS square you previously checked.
- The system will pull up a list of payments made in 2017.
- Please keep in mind the system is set up to find tax bills as they are printed. You may have to look under any other names you receive bills under.

To see payments other than those paid in 2017 follow the directions in the first paragraph and locate the bill you want to look at. Then hover over the icons in the Option column and click on the one that says Tax Payment History. Here you will see payments made on this account.

If you have any problems using the system please contact the Tax office at 860-228-0230 and we will gladly assist you.

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Administrative Office		Mon-Thur 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-0110
First Selectman	Steven Everett	Fri 8 am-Noon	
Town Administrator	Mark Walter		
Executive Assistant	Jennifer LaVoie		
Assessor's Office		Mon-Wed 8 am -4 pm	860-228-9555
Assessor	Mary Lavallee	Thur 8 am -6 pm	
		Fri 8 am -Noon	
Beckish Senior Center		Mon-Fri 8-3	860-228-0759
Director	Bernadette Derring		
Social Services	Yolanda Irizarry		860-450-7400 x7418
Building Department		Mon-Wed 8-4	860-228-0440
Building Official	Jason Nowasad	Thur 8-6	
Zoning Enforcement	Connie Kisluk	Fri 8-Noon	
Town Planner	Paula Stahl		
Sanitarian	Glenn Bagdoian		
Inland Wetlands Agent	John Valente		
Administrative Assistant	Cindee Hodge		
Board Secretary	Terri Lasota		
Fire Marshal/Burning Official	Michael Lester		
Animal Control			
	Nancy Yale		860-337-1222
Finance Department		Mon-Thur 8 am - 4:30 pm	860-228-8423
Finance Director	Beverly Ciurylo		
Fire Department			
To report a fire			911
Non-emergency calls			860-228-9602
Fire Chief	Peter Starkel		
Public Works Department		Mon-Fri 6:30-3	860-228-4270
Director	George Murphy		860-234-2195
Facilities Manager	Bud Meyers		
Recreation Department		Mon-Wed 8-4 Th 8-7	860-228-8513
Director	Marc Volza	Fri CLOSED	
Registrar of Voters		Varies	860-228-0110
Republican	Kate Morrison		
Democrat	Karen Butzgy		
Resident State Trooper			
	Gregory DeCarli	Mon-Fri 6:30-3	860-228-9846
	Dispatch		860-465-5400
Tax Collector's Office		Mon-Wed 8-2	860-228-0230
Tax Collector	Carol W. Price	Thur 8-6 Fri CLOSED	
		<i>extended hours in January and July</i>	
Town Clerk's Office		Mon-Wed 8-4	860-228-3284
Town Clerk	Robin M. Kenefick	Thur 8-6 Fri 8-12	
Transfer Station		Wedn 8-4 Sat	860-428-1482
Attendant	Michael Stewart	Sat 8-4	

Updates from the Town Clerk's Office

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

An elector with a permanent physical disability, who is unable to appear in person at their poll on Election Day, may file an absentee ballot application along with a doctor's certificate (on letterhead) with the Town Clerk. This will place the elector on the Permanent Absentee Ballot list. A copy will be forwarded to the Registrar of Voters so that the permanent status can be noted on their registration. Throughout the year, for any election, primary or referendum, the Town Clerk will automatically mail an absentee ballot to the elector as soon as they become available. Please contact our office at 860-228-3284 if you have any questions.

BIRTHS-DEATHS-MARRIAGES

Certified copies of vital events such as births, deaths and marriages are available from the Town Clerk. A request application and positive identification are necessary to obtain a certified copy. There is a fee of \$20.00 for each certified copy requested.

PROBATE COURT

Probate Court for Columbia is located in Manchester at 66 Center Street. Michael M. Darby is Probate Judge. If you have any questions, you can call their office at 860-647-3227, Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

DOGS

If you are new to Columbia and have not registered your dog with us or you have a new dog that is at least six months of age, please stop in to obtain a license. Bring with you an updated rabies vaccination certificate and a spayed/neutered certificate, if applicable. Please visit the Town Clerk page for more information on Dog Licensing

FISHING AND HUNTING

Sports licenses are available for purchase in the Town Clerk's office and on the DEEP website as well. Opening Day for Fishing is April 14, 2018. Please visit the Town Clerk page for more information on Sports Licenses.



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Implementing Columbia's Plan of Conservation and Development: **Business Signage**

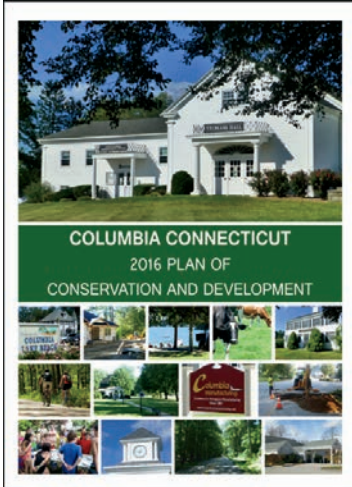
Columbia's Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is continuing to implement Columbia's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), the master plan for Columbia's future growth and conservation. This is a long-range plan developed with input from residents, property owners, business owners, Boards and Commissions and adopted by the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2016. It outlines the vision for future business and housing development and identifies important natural and community resources that should be considered for conservation.

Economic Development is an important component of the POCD, with a goal for Columbia's existing businesses to be able to grow and prosper, and at the same time, create opportunities for new businesses to establish in Town.

Signage regulations affect all of our businesses. Recently the PZC revised the zoning regulations for business signage. The new regulation streamlines the approval process for businesses, gives options for the businesses to choose the types and sizes of signs that best fit their needs, and allows options for non-permanent signs. With the new regulations, town staff can approve most sign applications, and there is provision for the PZC to consider signage for unique situations.

All zoning regulations are on line at ColumbiaCT.org under the Planning and Zoning Department, Section 62: Sign Regulations are on page 82.

The PZC is also working on other business regulation revisions to further implement the Economic Development goals for Columbia.



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News from the Public Works Department

- Please check your mailbox before the winter snow plowing operations begin. The town's policy is that if the snowplow itself hits the mailbox it would be repaired, replaced or an offer to the resident a check for \$25.00 toward its replacement. However, if the snow that is discharged from the snowplow knocks down your mailbox the Public Works Department will not repair or replace it as determined by the Director of Public Works.
- Residents who need sand during the winter months may obtain it at the Transfer Station on Wednesday and Saturdays during normal Transfer Station business hours. As in the past, residents may take a maximum of two five-gallon pails per storm event. The sand box is located behind the swap shop.
- Snow plowing regulations are governed by state statute Sec. CGS 52-558, which covers liability for placing obstructions in roadways. Residents should be aware of the following regulations.
 - A. No person shall lay, throw, blow, place or plow or cause to be laid, thrown blown, placed on or into any public street or way any snow or ice from any private property, or public right-of-way. If, in the removal of snow or ice from any such property, sidewalk or way, it is necessary to temporarily place snow or ice on any public street or way, such snow or ice shall immediately be removed from the public street or way by and at the expense of the person causing such deposit.
 - B. No person in the process of clearing any property, or way as defined above shall:
 1. Leave the surface of adjoining public ways any less clear of snow and ice than such person found the public way just previous to commencement of clearance.
 2. Plow or deposit snow or ice on the side of embankments to public ways so as to narrow or decrease the width of the traveled portion of the public way as it existed just previous to such person's clearance.
 3. Plow or deposit snow and ice on that portion of the public way right-of-way that adjoins another persons' property without the consent of the Town.
 4. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the official snow removal operations of the Town of Columbia and the State of Connecticut.
 5. The penalty for each violation or offense shall be \$75, and each and every twenty-four hour period of failed or neglect to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed a separate offense or violation.
 6. Please do not place Recyclables or Trash cans for collection by a contractor in the road during snow events.
- Lastly, all residents are reminded to refrain from allowing children to play in snow banks on the side of the road. They make an attractive environment for children to play and plow drivers may not see the presence of small children playing, especially if it is snowing. This also applies to joggers during snow events. Please, let the plow drivers do their job without the worries of seeing pedestrians during a snowstorm.

FIRE MARSHAL

Reminders from the Fire Marshal: **Winter Fire Safety**

It is important to be aware of potential winter fire hazards around your home. Alternate heating ashes should be disposed of properly. Keep combustibles away from all heating sources, as they typically dry quickly and could start a fire. Smoke alarms and CO detectors need to be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly. Test these devices by pushing the test button for 5 to 10 seconds. Batteries should be changed at least twice a year. Changing your batteries at the same time you change your clocks for daylight saving/standard time is a good way to help you remember. All devices should be completely replaced every ten years.

Columbia Conservation Commission Hosts Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker



Many of us dream big dreams, but so few of us actually achieve them. Come meet Lydia Walter, a young woman who followed through on her dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail. Over 2,100 miles from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mount Katadin, Maine.

Please join us on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 3:00 PM in Yeomans Hall. Lydia will speak about her experiences on the Appalachian Trail, and show some of the equipment she carried along the way. She will share photos of the beautiful scenery and will answer questions. Refreshments will be served.

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7 Wildwood Dr. Columbia

Fantastic opportunity to own in desirable Island Woods! This unique home has an open floor plan accentuated by the freshly refinished hardwood floors. There is plenty of room with both a living room and family room on the first floor, along with a bonus room that could be a home office, work out room,

or even another bedroom. The two first floor bedrooms feature vaulted ceilings, large closets and ceiling fans. The spacious master bedroom also has vaulted ceilings and a ceiling fan with exposed beams, sliders to private balcony, walk in closet, and a huge master bath with both a hydro tub and shower. The private yard features professional landscaping, fire pit and shed. The home has central air, cedar closet, and is wired for a generator. Don't miss this one! **\$319,900**



232 Mansfield Ave. Willamantic

Cape with open living room/dining area and fireplace, large family room with hardwood floors side to back deck nice level back yard. Type of Financing available cash, FHA 203K FHA Case # 061-296066. LBP addendum required **\$95,000**



10 Cards Mill Rd. Columbia

Great home with loads of acreage! This cute ranch home with newer windows, pellet stove and water heater, offers over 9 acres perfect for nature lovers, farmers, horse lovers, or just someone who values privacy. There is a restorable outbuilding with electricity already there and a concrete pad. This spacious three bedroom home also offers a nicely finished lower level perfect for a home office, work out area, or rec room. There is even a fenced kennel for dog lovers. **199,900**

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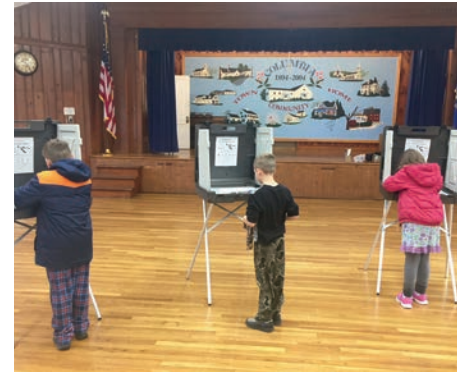
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Registrar of Voters: Mock Election

On Friday, December 8th, the Registrar of Voters held a Mock Election for the Horace W. Porter 2nd grade class. The students' simulated voting experience began by checking in with the official checker. The students then voted on a customized ballot featuring a question they created in their social studies class. The Yes/No question was "All holiday celebrations will occur on Saturdays". The results from the mock election were 22 Yes votes and 12 No votes. The students really enjoyed seeing the voting process first hand. The Registrar of Voters office is looking forward to sharing the election process again with future classes.



Should our State need to hold a Primary this year, it will occur on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Primaries in CT are "Closed Primaries", meaning that only voters registered for the Party which is holding the Primary may vote. So only registered Republicans can vote in the Republican Primary and only registered Democrats can vote in the Democratic Primary. The deadline to transfer registration from one party to another, and still be eligible to vote in the Primary of the new party (Democratic or Republican), is May 14, 2018. If you are currently registered as Unaffiliated or not currently registered to vote, you can enroll in a Party anytime up until noon on August 13, 2018.

Did you know?

- There is a difference between Independent and Unaffiliated. The Independent Party is a recognized Minor Political Party in the state of Connecticut. Whereas, Unaffiliated means you are not registered in any Party.
- In Columbia, there are currently 3920 registered voters, of which 1273 are registered Democrats and 973 are registered Republicans. 150 are registered in various minor parties and the remaining 1524 are Unaffiliated.

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>> Upcoming Events

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Calendar of Columbia FY 18-19 Budget Process

Below are scheduled budget events. All meetings are open to the public. Any changes to the calendar due to weather or unforeseen events will be on the Town's website www.columbiact.org

Date	Time	Location	Process
02/06/18	7 pm	Town Hall Conference Room	BOS Regular Meeting – with Budget Workshop (tentative)
02/13/18	7 pm	Town Hall Conference Room	BOS Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop
02/20/18	7pm	Town Hall Conference Room	BOS Regular Meeting - with Budget Workshop
03/14/18	7pm	Town Hall Conference Room	FiPAC Special Meeting – Budget presentations by Superintendent & Town Administrator
03/21/18	7pm	Town Hall Conference Room	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop
03/28/18	7pm	Town Hall Conference Room	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop
4/04/18	7 pm	Town Hall Conference Room	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop (tentative)
04/25/18	7pm	Town Hall Conference Room	Public Hearing on budget with FiPAC Special Meeting to follow
5/15/18	7pm	Town Hall Conference Room	Annual Town Budget Meeting (called by BOS). Per charter must be held between 2nd Tues of May and 1st. Tues of June

Staycation on Columbia Lake!



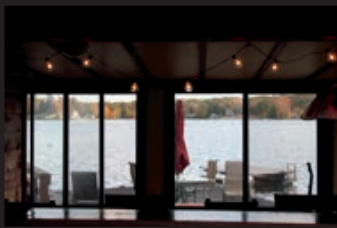
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Cathyann Schulte and Michael Thompson, "The Mother and Son Team" and owners of CountrySide Realty in Hebron, have been awarded Five Star Real Estate Agents* yearly since 2009. The honor is given to agents that score high in client and industry peer research.

Cathyann and Michael are ranked as Top Selling Agents for Columbia, Hebron and Lebanon with almost \$10 Million in sales in 2016.

They credit their success to relentless focus on customer service, strong work ethic and emphasis on preparation. Cathyann and Michael would like to send a Sincere "Thank You" to their past and present clients for their Loyalty, Trust, Referrals and Repeat Business throughout the years!

*Based upon research conducted by Crescendo Business Services.

Seniors on the Go

The Columbia Senior’s Organization (Inc.) wishes our fellow Columbia seniors a great start to this New Year. We are busy with many upcoming events and activities, and hope to see you as we stay active and socialize with each other – we are “seniors on the GO”.

During the winter months of January and February we will be viewing the Jesse Stone movies starring Tom Selleck. The movies will be shown on Thursdays at 1:00 and run from January 4 through March 1. With our movie we will be enjoying “stone soup.” So please bring an item for the soup pot – potato or veggie or meat or pasta or ... (the stone is already taken). If there is snow on Thursday, we will show the movie on Friday at 1:00.

In April we will be having our annual tag sale. We will have a great selection of items for you to choose from. If you have gently used items that you wish to donate, please call the Beckish Senior Center at 860-228-0759. We will also be serving lunch – hotdogs and sandwiches. We could also use extra hands if you are available.

The activities for the spring are “in the works” and our annual BBQ and Spring Fling on June 2nd, so keep your eyes open for information. Each spring we gather for a great lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs with salads and dessert.

The Columbia Senior Organization would like to thank the Town of Columbia, CONA, the Commission on Aging, and the Beckish Senior Center for all the work that they did to facilitate the arrival of our new van. We are all so excited to see it on the road. It is a wonderful addition to the many senior services that are provided in this town.

We hope to see you for some of these events. We sponsor trips, movies, a quilting group, and many other activities. You can check on dates, times and the occasional cost by calling the Senior Center at 860-228-0759 or checking in the Beckish newsletter, *The Gem*.

Beckish Senior Center

Did you realize that you don’t need to have an expensive membership or drive 15 minutes to find a place to exercise, socialize and enjoy good meals? Check out the listing of activities offered weekly at our very own Beckish Senior Center. You will be delighted. Call 860-228-0759 for more information about each activity. Everyone is welcome to come and participate in all there is offered at the Beckish!

*Class is NOT held when ECSU students are on break.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:30 Zumba	9:30 Women’s Club	9:00 Strength & Balance	9:00 Chair Yoga	9:00 Zumba
10:30 Ping Pong	9:30-12 Wood Carving	9:30 Men’s Group/Cards		
12:00 TVCCA Meals	9:30 TOPPS Weight Management	12:00 TVCCA Meals		12:00 TVCCA Meals
1:30 Yoga	1:30 Open Pool	12:45 Bridge	1:00 Mahjong	1:00 Quilting, Open Pool
1:30 Computer Class*	1:15 Silver Sneakers	1:00-5:00 Poker		1:15 Silver Sneakers
	1:30 Open Pool			
	7:00 Line Dancing			6:30 Setback Night

**Free movies/popcorn is also shown on varying dates throughout the month.

**Special meals by Natalie are served on selected Tuesdays each month.

First Class Travelers: Columbia Transportation Van

The Town of Columbia's Transportation Program has finally hit the road. This long-awaited 14 passenger van equipped with 2 standard wheel chairs and a lift arrived on Wednesday, November 22, 2017. This van is truly a blessing to the Town of Columbia as we are now able to transport Columbia resident's age 60 and over and disabled adults 18 and over. As we get older, it becomes more and more difficult to get from point A to point B. Mobility issue and disabilities come into play as we age; some may lose their ability to drive due to eyesight and cognitive issues. As a result, many seniors struggle to get out of their homes and to make scheduled appointments. The seniors miss out on their favorite activities and soon become isolated from friends and family. The Columbia's Senior Van will make favorite activities, events, and errands possible again.

The Senior Transportation Program Schedule:

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays - 9:30am to 2pm

Transportation is provided for doctor appointments, shopping, banking, and lunch and social/wellness trips. All riders must be ready fifteen (15) minutes prior to pickup time. The vehicle ends transporting at 2:00pm. Please call Margaret Verizzi, the Dispatcher/Program Assistant at 860-228-0759, and press option 2 to schedule your ride. If the Beckish Senior Center is closed due to weather the van will not run. Closings will be posted on WFSB channel 3. In case of delayed opening or early closing please contact the van dispatcher to confirm van use by calling 860-228-0759.



January 11th Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Trip information is updated monthly in the GEM Newsletter available at the Beckish Senior Center, Town Hall, Saxton B. Little Library, and many local businesses. The Newsletter can also be found on the Town Website along with other general information at www.columbiact.org.

Suggestions are always welcome; they should be addressed to the Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring at 860-228-0759 or 188 Route 66 Columbia CT 06237.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped the town receive this wonderful new gift. The Commission on Aging, Cathie Rowe, Jill Livingston, Maggie Ewald, Edith Prague, Lynn Buonocore, Paula Cahalan and Millie Ramsey. Natasha Nau, the previous Town Administrator, Dean Toepfer, Senator Cathy Osten, State Representative Tim Ackert, Columbia's Town Administrator Mark Walter, First Selectman, Carman Vance and so many other community members. Thank you for all your hard work, it truly has paid off.

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Baptist Fellowship

- Services at 9:00 AM Sundays.
- Youth activities for all ages on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM.
- We will be having a free winter carnival for the community on Sunday February 25th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.
- There will be indoor games, crafts and a build your own “Olaf the snowman” competition.

Columbia Congregational Church

10AM Sunday Worship Service with Church School and Nursery.
All are Welcome!

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 10th
Community Breakfast/Parish Hall
8AM-11AM

7PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
February 14th

Friday, February 16th
WAIM Spaghetti Dinner
5:30PM – 7:00PM/Parish Hall

MARCH

Saturday, March 10th
Community Breakfast/Parish Hall
8AM-11AM

PALM SUNDAY
March 25th
10AM Palm Sunday Worship Service
With Palm Parade and Walk of Reflection.

MAUNDY THURSDAY
March 29th
7PM Worship Service with communion

GOOD FRIDAY
March 30th
7PM Worship Service

APRIL

EASTER
Sunday, April 1st
6:30AM Sunrise Service at Camp Asto Wamah
10AM – Easter Worship Service with Living Cross

Saturday, April 14th
Community Breakfast/Parish Hall
8AM-11AM

The Board of Christian Concern of the Columbia Congregational Church is primarily a mission committee. The Board has several fundraisers during the year to help with meeting the needs of our local charities. One of our monthly seasonal missions is to plan a menu for and serve it to the occupants of Willimantic’s No Freeze Shelter. The members of our church congregation sign up to donate a crock pot main dish, as well as a salad, vegetable, sandwiches, bottled water and desserts. The BOCC board members then take the meals to the shelter and serve these meals. Anyone in our Columbia Community who loves to cook, or would be willing to donate any of the above mentioned items would be welcome to do so. The meal is scheduled for the second Saturday of each month, November through March.

Contact Holly Weston at 860-428-5895 for further information.

Our Belated Holiday Greetings to You!

Warm Wishes from the following residents and friends of Columbia, who in lieu of sending Holiday cards within town, have raised \$954.00 for the Columbia Congregational Church’s “Neighbors in Need Fund”.

John & Debbie Bailey
Rick & Elaine Carone
Anne Cobb
Betty Dunnack
Pat & Ed Gallagher
Mahlon & Cathy Gilbert
Janice Knight
The Pearce Family
Pastor Betsey Polglase
Belle Robinson
Debby & Mark Smith
Andrea Stannard
Jack & Madge Vining
Holly & RJ Weston and Family
Merton R. Wolff
Ingrid Wood

Thank you all for your support from the members of the Board of Christian Concern, Columbia Congregational Church!

The Epiphany of the Lord-January 7, 2018



Parish Communities

Church of the Holy Family

St. Columbia Church

Pastor: Reverend Michael Phillippino

Deacon: Benedict LoCasto

Mass Schedule:

Saturday (Vigil Mass) 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Parish Information:

Mailings: P.O. Box 146, Hebron, CT 06248
Parish House: 860-228-0096
Office: 860-228-0096 ext. 2
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fax: 860-228-1629
Website: www.holyfamilyhebron.org
Church Hall: 228-3195

Administrative Assistant:

Roger Demers
860-228-0096 ext. 2
parishadmin@comcast.net

Reconciliation:

Thirty minutes prior to Daily Mass and
Saturday 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment.

Baptism:

Pre-Baptismal class may be required. Baptisms
are held on the first Sunday of the month at
the Church of the Holy Family or St. Columba
Church.

Holy Day of Obligation:

As announced



Father Michael Phillippino is the Pastor of our church communities: St Columba in Columbia and the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron.

He comes to us from St John's Parish in Middletown, CT. He is a Bostonian originally from Taunton MA. He can be reached at 860-228-0096 x1
Or his email at:
Phillippino.michael@gmail.com

Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
(Memorial Day to Labor Day No 11:00 a.m. Mass)

Daily Mass:

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Information:

Mailings: P.O. Box 146, Columbia, CT 06237
Office: 860-228-3727
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fax: 860-228-8777
Website: www.saintcolumbacatholicchurch.org

Parish Secretary:

Jan Collard
860-228-3727 ext. 4
sec.stcolumba@sbcglobal.net

Reconciliation:

Thirty minutes prior to Daily Mass and
Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. or by appointment.

Marriages:

Arrangements are to be made 1 year in advance.
Marriage preparation program required.

Columbia Historical Society: Annual Meeting and Katherine Hepburn Presentation

The Columbia Historical Society invites residents to the Annual Meeting, potluck dinner and Katherine Hepburn presentation on April 27, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. This event will be held at the Columbia Congregational Church, 325 Route 87, Columbia, CT.

Natalie Belanger is an educator at the Connecticut Historic Society and will present information about Katharine Hepburn, from Hartford to Hollywood. With a stage and film career that spanned six decades, Katherine Hepburn is an American icon. She was born and raised in Connecticut, had a career in stage, film, and television that reflected the changing role of women in a broader society. This story of her life-long ties to Connecticut offers a complete picture of how Hepburn evolved into an independent woman and Oscar winning movie star. Please bring a favorite dish to share.

For more information about the Society's programs visit its website at Columbia-history.org.



Harvesting Stones: A documentary That Tells a Timeless Story of Courage and Community

The Columbia Historical Society will hold a screening of Harvesting Stones on March 11th at 2 pm at the Beckish Senior Center, 188 Route 66 in Columbia.



This documentary tells the stories of Jewish farmers who came to eastern Connecticut from the 1890's to the mid 1900's. It tells a tale of how Jewish families were able to escape religious persecution and Holocaust horrors. It follows how these families from Europe were able to establish new lives on farms in Colchester, Lebanon, Moosup, and Plainfield. The film makes a connection between the Jewish farm families, their impact on the towns and cities where they lived and worked, and the lessons and legacies they left behind.

The German-Jewish philanthropist, Baron Maurice de Hirsch created a fund in 1891 that was used to assist Eastern

European Jews who were fleeing Russian pogroms. He wanted to offer Jews an opportunity to learn farming so that they could support themselves and get them out of the teeming tenements of the cities. The Jewish Agricultural Society (JAS), a subsidiary of the Baron de Hirsch Fund, was formed in 1900. The JAS acquired land in several states and provided agricultural training for the new farmers. The fund settled about a thousand Jewish farmers in rural Connecticut.

Please join us on March 11th as we view a compelling story about how people overcame adversity and prospered while learning new skills.

John Little Homestead Site Archaeological Survey: State Archaeologist Dr. Brian Jones

By Ingrid Wood. Town Historian

On June 27 – June 30, 2017, the Town of Columbia and State Archaeologist Dr. Brian Jones sponsored an archaeological survey at the “John Little Homestead Site” in Recreation Park on Hennequin Road. Active participants included Horace Porter School students and their teachers, members of the Friends of the State Office of Archaeology (FOSA), Columbia Historical Society, Connecticut Historical Society, and other students and parents from Columbia. The goal was to assess and document findings from a very early colonial Connecticut homestead, barn and pastures, anticipating future Recreation Park Master Plan renovations.

The large house (now a ruin) built in 1740, was a wedding gift to John Little Jr. and Mary Sampson, by his father John Little, Sr. (originally from Marshfield, Massachusetts). Lebanon deeds reveal John Little Sr. purchased this 40 acre parcel in Lebanon’s Second Society with “appurtenances thereon”, presumably with structures of some sort, in 1723. Dr. Brian Jones was curious as what these other features might be and conducted a LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey in late April. Ann Dunnack and I invited Horace Porter School to participate.

His survey revealed one large house with a nearby well, a possible smaller house, a barn, a road, and a lane to several well-defined gated stone wall-lined pastures. This larger house had fallen into disuse by the mid-1800s, yet the Little families in Columbia continued to live nearby and build houses and barns in the parcels adjacent to this large family homestead.

This ruin, on Town land in Recreation Park, was jumble of granite and gneiss cut stone, covered with bittersweet and other vines in June. George Murphy and his men from Town of Columbia Public Works Department helped clear it. The Town archives contained a letter from Lyndon Little which described this original homestead site with its immense center chimney still standing in 1972. But this letter gave no explanation for why this large house was abandoned by mid-1800.

The “dig” findings will be presented by Dr. Jones this coming spring after the laboratory analysis and historical land records have been analyzed...

To find out more about these findings, stay tuned to the next issue of Columbia Views!



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The Columbia Board of Education

Calendar of FY 18-19 Budget Process



Mark Your Calendar

>> Upcoming Events

Below are scheduled budget events for the Board of Education. All meetings are open to the public. Any changes to the calendar due to weather or unforeseen events will be on the Horace Porter School website <http://hwporter.org/>

Date	Time	Location	Process
1/22/18	6:30 pm	Library Media Center (LMC) Conference Room	Budget Subcommittee
2/5/18	6:30 pm	Library Media Center (LMC) Conference Room	Budget Subcommittee
2/5/18	7:30 pm	Horace W. Porter Cafetorium	Public Input on BOE Budget
2/21/18	6:30 pm	Library Media Center (LMC) Conference Room	Budget Subcommittee, LMC (meeting to be held as needed)
2/26/18	7:00 pm	Horace W. Porter Cafetorium	Public Hearing BOE Budget
3/5/18	7:30 pm	Horace W. Porter Cafetorium	Regular BOE Meeting, BOE Budget Approval

The Columbia Board of Education in its first Future Needs Survey received feedback on what our Community believes to be the components of a highly successful school district. From that feedback and responses from our First Focus Group we are now ready to consider several future options including:

- Whether Porter School should continue as a PK-8 school.
- Whether the Board should consider tuitioning out middle school students to another district as we do with our high school students.
- Whether the Board should replace our two designated high schools with a single designated high school beginning in 2023

This survey is just one component in soliciting feedback. The Board will be planning additional public meetings and forums during this school year.

Please complete the survey which can be accessed on line at: <https://www.research.net/r/ColumbiaCT2017>

Paper copies of the survey will be available at Town Hall, Saxton B. Little Library, The Beckish Senior Center and the Columbia Post Office.

HORACE PORTER SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

The PTO is busy planning fun events and fundraisers for the upcoming months.

- We will host a LuLaRoe fundraiser in the cafe on January 26 from 6:00-8:00. Come shop beautiful clothes and support our school.
- We had so much fun at our Turkey Bingo in November that we have planned 2 more. Everyone is welcome to join us, this is fun for the entire family. The cost is \$5 per person. Valentine Bingo will be February 9 from 6:00-8:00 pm and Star Wars Bingo on May 4 from 6:00-8:00 pm.
- Join us on February 22 from 6:30-8:00 at our summer camp open house. You will have an opportunity to learn about some of the local camps available in our area for your children. In addition we will have a mini golf and ice cream social the same night. This is a great jumpstart for your summer camp planning.
- Our third annual parents night out Dan will be held on March 10 from 7 PM to 11 PM at Georgina's restaurant in Bolton. This has been an epic event the last two years. Be sure to join us and not miss out. For tickets email Nelisa.

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Horace W. Porter School



January 2018

Please visit www.hwporter.org for more and updated information!

We are excited to announce that the Panthers' Lair has been opened!

The Panthers' Lair is a Teen Room concept where middle school students can earn time to spend here. Everything in the room was donated by Columbia Residents. Some of the things they can do are: Play Wii, play pool, play air hockey, play magnetic darts, play games, read and check out books, color, sit with friends and talk on beanbag chairs, listen to music and draw on the white board. The kids have loved their time in the Lair so far and can't wait to go back! Additional donations of games, puzzles, Wii or PS games, other items middle school students would enjoy are always welcome. Thank you!



Thank you to the National Junior Honor Society for making the **Panthers' Lair** sign.

New Staff Members:
 Rick Orzolek, Paraprofessional
 Kate Morrison, Building Substitute

Turkey Trot 2017!

Students run to fight hunger, these students give food donations for the local food pantry and then go for a run. They are pictured here with the Assistant Principal. Thank you to Mr. Piro for putting this together each year!



Horace W. Porter Community raised over \$530 for Connecticut Children's Medical Center on Pajama Day 2017!

We are excited to announce that the Panthers' Lair has been opened!

The Panthers' Lair is a Teen Room concept where middle school students can earn time to spend here. Everything in the room was donated by Columbia Residents. Some of the things can do are: Play Wii, play pool, play air hockey, play magnetic darts, read and check out books, color, sit with friends and talk on beanbag chairs, and draw on the white board. The kids have loved their time in there so far and can't wait to go back! Thank you! Thank you to the National Junior Honor Society for making a sign.

Panther Paws: Is an incentive program where students earn Caught Doing Good cards. Each month the Principal picks one name per grade and the elementary students have lunch. Here is the October crew—
 Keep up the good work!



Upcoming events

Boys and Girls basketball has begun
 After-School Clubs for kids:
 Robots and Coding
 Chibi Dolls
 Recorder Ensemble
 Disney Club
 Fun with Science and Nature
 Button Club
 Magic Club
 Lego Club
 Jewelry Club
 Creative Corner

This year's Drama Production is "Alice in Wonderland Junior"



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From The Saxton B. Little Library

In the Library, we've been busy, and our calendar for the next few months is filling up, too! If you know a little one under age two, join us Fridays at 10:30am for Baby Bees, a lapsit program with rhymes, movement, and free-play. For the toddler crowd, come to Story Time at 10:30am or 2:00pm on Tuesdays. If you're looking for something to do with the kids, children's programming occurs almost every Thursday evening. Coming up is Bingo for Books and a DIY gumball machine

We haven't forgotten the grown-ups! On February 21st, the Library will be hosting a presentation on Korean cooking. We'll learn about Korean culture and enjoy a full meal together. Space is limited, so be sure to act quickly. On April 3rd, come hear a curator from the Mark Twain House & Museum talk about the connection between Mr. Twain and Louis Tiffany. Be sure to sign up at the Library for both of these events!

But don't forget about the services we offer daily. Check out a book, movie, or even knitting needles to make the winter fly. From home, you can download an eBook or an eAudiobook for your commute. Come in to browse our art gallery, read a newspaper or magazine, check out a Wifi Hotspot to access the internet from home, or just say hello.

Did you know that the Friends of the Library (FOL) is a separate organization from the Library, but we are both non-profit 501(3)c organizations? Although separate, the Library is very grateful to our sister organization; through membership, book sales, and other events, they provide thousands of dollars to support us and save town funds. Thanks to the Friends, we can bring you museum passes, CLC DVD rentals, additional materials, programs, and more!

Currently, FOL is looking for a few good volunteers to continue their crucial work. Many positions are open for all kinds of skills from book sorters to leadership! If you're interested, contact the Library and we will get your information to the right people.



Stop in the Library to view local art work. Gallery shows change quarterly. Contact the Library if you'd like to be considered for a show.

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A Sweet Story, Part One

Submitted by Jack Sabine

Sabine's Sugarhouse, on Johnson Road in Columbia, had very humble beginnings. Our first season was the spring of 1978. Our maple equipment was comprised of four cement blocks and a ten-gallon oval enameled steel pan. The oval pan was supported on the ends of the blocks. There was room beneath the pan for a fire built from branches scavenged from the nearby woods. The sap came from a few of the larger sugar maples near our house. The holes were drilled manually with metal spouts and plastic milk jugs used to collect the sap. Our first season did not produce much syrup (perhaps a quart or two). It was strictly for our personal use. We had a lot to learn. Filtering, grading, and hot canning would come in the years ahead.



My biggest concern after our first season was boiling during bad weather. We needed a shelter to keep the rain and snow off the evaporator. I also wanted a larger pan to make more syrup. A larger pan would need a larger arch (firebox beneath the pan). By the sugar season of 1980, we had a three-sided shelter to cover our new 2' x 4' galvanized steel pan that sat on the side of a large steel drum. About a third of the side of the steel drum was cut away to provide a flat surface for the evaporating pan to sit on. There was a hinged door at one end and flanges for the smokestack at the other. The drum sat in an angle iron crossback and lined with firebrick to preserve the thin steel. In 1980 we tapped more maples and began filtering the finished syrup before canning. We produced two or three gallons that year and the notion of selling our syrup began to take hold.

Not much changed between 1980 and 1988, but the wheels of progress were still turning...

To find out what happened next, look for the continuation of this article in the next issue of Columbia Views!

We usually start tapping the trees in late February and end by April 1st. Sabine's is located at 72 Johnson Road in Columbia and we always have syrup for sale.



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