



Columbia
VIEWS

Volume 6 • Issue 1
Winter 2022

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It is with great sorrow that we lost Edith Prague, a beloved member of our community on December 16th. Edith was persistent in her advocacy for the elderly, working people, and her constituents.



Edith Prague served as the co-chairwoman of the legislative Labor Committee, commissioner of the Department on Aging, served in the Senate from 1995 until 2013, and four terms in the State House of Representatives. Prior to her election to the state House of Representatives in 1982, she served on the Columbia school board and the Saxton B. Little Library Building Committee.

She served as the state's commissioner on aging that oversaw senior citizen issues, including Medicare, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, home meal delivery, health insurance counseling and home care. Edith's efforts to lower drug costs, expand access to long-term care and home-based care were some of the highlights of her tenacity to protect the people she served.

Edith will be dearly missed for her dedication to all who needed her help and the citizens of Columbia that she represented with pride.



Steven M. Everett
First Selectman
severett@columbiact.org
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On the cover

Utley Brook. Photo by Paul Ramsey.

2022 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

2nd Q/22

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 4/8/2022
Mailed Week of 5/9/2022

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 5/6/2022
Mailed Week of 6/3/2022

3rd Q/22

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 7/8/2022
Mailed Week of 8/8/2022

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 8/4/2022
Mailed Week of 9/5/2022

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an Epic Magazines LLC Publication

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Special thanks to

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Executive Assistant • Town of Columbia
Millie Ramsey
Volunteer Human Interest Collaborator
Town of Columbia

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As we head toward our short Legislative session this February, we still have an ongoing pandemic and a major workforce shortage. We hope that our legislators focus on raising our living standards by supporting our businesses and their employees. According to our new CBIA “Connecticut Business & Industry Association’s board chair Rina Patel, Connecticut needs to stay relevant to today’s need, otherwise we’re going to fall behind.



Workforce development will be the key focus in 2022, with efforts to boost skilled labor training and incentives for licensed trade jobs.

The Great Resignation and labor shortage have impacted Connecticut in significant ways. Despite tens of thousands of available jobs reported by employers, there are almost 100,000 fewer people participating in the state’s labor force compared to Feb. 2020, before the pandemic took hold in Connecticut, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

So the question is how are we going to work together with the government organizations and businesses, the governor and state to rebuild the growth of Connecticut. We will need to focus on labor shortage, economic development, small business relief, improving taxpayer return and property tax restructuring and relief.

COLUMBIA PRESCHOOL

Porter Pals Preschool Lottery Registration

If you have a child who will be turning 3 or 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2022 and would like them to be considered for the lottery, please go to www.columbiapublicschools.org and click on Student Services. Under the Student Services tab, please click on Preschool Porter Pals. There will be a link to register your child. We will be holding the Lottery on Thursday, March 31. If your child will be turning 5 prior to Dec. 31, 2022, then your child is eligible for Kindergarten and not Preschool. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deborah Dupuis at (860) 228-0585.



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- Robert Gildersleeve, MD, FACOG
- Lesley Gumbs, MD, FACOG
- Veronica Helgans, MD, FACOG
- Yvette Martas, MD, FACOG
- Devon Root, CNM, WHNP-BC
- Stephanie Welsh, CNM, DNP

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Homeowners applications now accepted

The Homeowners program will start accepting applications again as of February 1, 2022. 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 2021 to our office, once they are completed, or all your income information if you do not file income taxes. We cannot accept paperwork before February 1st. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 860-228-9555.

The revaluation notices are coming out in December. If you want to dispute or discuss your value, please make an appointment with eQuality immediately after you get your notice. Their number will be in the letter that is sent to you with the new value. You will book and informal hearing with them. Please do not delay as we have a small window of time to get values set for the next Grand List. We cannot extend the time per State statute.

Preschool Screenings

The Early Childhood Team of Horace W. Porter School is pleased to announce that we will conduct Preschool Screenings for Columbia 3-year-olds (turning 3 by July 31, 2022) and any 4-year-olds not previously screened. Please call Deborah Dupuis at (860) 228-0585 if you would like your child to be screened. All public-school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The early childhood team in Columbia offers preschool developmental screenings for current resident children. The purpose of this screening is to collect information about each preschooler's early development in the areas of cognition, communication, motor functioning, and social interaction. This will help us to determine whether your child needs any special services in order to prepare for school success.

If you have concerns about a child that has not yet turned 3, please contact the CT Birth-to-Three program at (800) 505-7000.

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Winter Wonderland

Winter can be a time of wonder. Sometimes I wonder how winter can be so beautiful and so disagreeable at the same time. But then, I wonder about a wide variety of things: I wonder if people realize how much the library has to offer. Sure, we have books, magazines, movies... but we also have music, Experience kits, traditional maker's space items and Saxton's Stuff. February's featured Saxton item is jewelry making supplies (make that special someone something special!)

And of course, there is always something to learn at the library. In January some learned how to make fish sauce delicious, while others learned how to protect their kids online. Please watch our website, visit the library, or sign up for our newsletter to keep up with all that's happening.

Last but not least, we at the library were reminded about lessons of support and community. Thanks to all who

participated in our Annual Giving Campaign. All of us at the Saxton B. would like to thank those who have participated. Your donations help us greatly.

If you haven't participated, there's still time! We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the library can also be considered when doing Planned Giving. Whether it be remembering us in your will, sharing your RMD to lessen a tax burden, or naming us as a beneficiary, these options help support the library and create a remembrance or leave a legacy.

We've had a busy winter at the library, and we anticipate Spring to be even busier! Beat those winter blues and come visit us at the library!

Su Epstein
Library Director
Saxton B. Little Free Public Library



Combine and get in on the surprise.

Anthony Raggi, Agent
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Snow Removal Rules:

- Make sure that your roadside trash bins stay on private property and do not venture out into the road.
The town is not liable for any damage as a result of bins that get damaged by passing traffic.
- Refrain from plowing and blowing snow into or across roadways or onto town rights-of-way. Doing so creates unsafe conditions for drivers and vehicles.
- Refrain from parking in town roadways or in Municipal and School Parking lots during snow events.
- Refrain from using snowmobiles, using all-terrain vehicles and engaging in snow skiing on town roadways.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

The Town Clerk's office is fully open to the public – no appointment necessary. We are here for those services you might need – Recording and Searching of Land Records, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage licenses, Dog Licenses, Transfer Station stickers, Fishing and Hunting licenses, etc.

Due to the continuing pandemic, the need for social distancing and for your convenience, a large white drop box was installed outside the doors to Yeoman's Hall. This box can be used to drop off items for the Town Clerk and is shared with other offices in Town Hall.

Fishing and Hunting

Sports licenses for 2022 are available for purchase in the Town Clerk's office and on the DEEP website as well. The DEEP invites you to go to their website <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CT-Outdoor-Guides> for downloadable PDFs of their fishing and hunting guides as they are no longer printing the magazine style guides.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us (860-228-3284) or reach out to us by email – Robin (townclerk@columbiact.org) or Gail (atownclerk@columbiact.org).

Robin M. Kenefick, *Columbia Town Clerk*
Gail C. McGrath, *Columbia Assistant Town Clerk*

Mailboxes:

Please check your mailboxes before the winter snow plowing operation begins. The town's policy is that if the snowplow itself hits the mailbox it would be repaired, replaced, or offer the resident a check for \$25.00 toward its replacement. Replacement will occur after the winter season and subject to Department of Public Works schedule. 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.

Sand:

Free sand (up to 2 five-gallon containers) is available to residents during the winter months located behind the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station. Residents must provide their own container for the sand. Transfer Station is open on Wednesday's and Saturday's from 8:00-4:00 pm.



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The Beckish Senior Center continues to stay open under the Covid protocols. Proof of vaccination is required to enter the building. Masks are required unless you show medical proof from a licensed medical clinician that you are unable to wear a mask. You must wear a shield instead. Masks/shields may be removed when exercising. Meals have been cancelled and no food is allowed in the center at this time. We hope to restart the meal program later in January.

The Town of Columbia's Transportation Program continues to run accommodating those seniors and disabled persons 18 and over, who need rides for medical appointments, shopping, social/wellness, and any type of errands. The operation runs Monday through Friday, 8am to 3pm. Please contact Flo or Lisa at 860-228-0759, extension 2. The following rules apply: You and your caretaker must always wear a mask during the ride. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you are feeling sick on the day of your ride. We will make every effort to reschedule your ride. Sanitizer and masks are

available on the van and car if needed.

All regular activities are scheduled. Due to the spike with Covid 19 and the new variant, Omicron, the Computer Literacy classes that were to be scheduled in January are postponed. Zumba classes are on hold as well. We will reassess at the end of January in hopes to schedule both in February.

AARP Tax preparation will begin every Thursday from February 10th through March 31st here at the Beckish Senior Center. Please call to make your appointment with a tax professional. The appointments will not be in person. You will be asked to drop off your information and return in 1 hour to pick up your completed tax return. Prior to your appointment a form will need to be filled out to start your tax return. If you have any question do not hesitate to call the center at 860-228-0759.

Happy New Year to all and stay safe and healthy!

Bernadette Derring

Director, Senior Services & Transportation



(860) 228-8512

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In the last issue of the Columbia Views, I said that the delta variant had altered the plans for the Columbia Seniors. I really thought that by now things would be settling down. But the omicron variant has again changed what we can do in the near future. While the Beckish Senior Center is still opened, some activities are curtailed, and additional safety precautions are in place.

I can report that we had a wonderful time honoring our servicemen and women for Veterans' Day by providing lunch following the town's remembrances. We were also able to view some enjoyable movies during the months of November and December.

We hope to be able to have our Annual Tag Sale sometime this spring. Please watch for more up to date information in the Gem and by sign outside the Senior Center.

I miss seeing all of you. It is important for all of us to take care of ourselves and each other as we go through these frustrating and difficult times. Things will get better, and I look forward to a full and predictable schedule of activities soon.

Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund

The following people/organizations made donations to the Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund 2021. This fund is sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church and is used year-round to help Columbia residents. We thank them for their generosity in helping their neighbors in need.

Debby & Mark Smith
 John & Debbie Bailey
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 Anonymous
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 Velvet Welch
 Diana & Andrew Sadlon
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AHM YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Happy New Year from your friends at AHM. Check out just some of our upcoming programs:

- Tasks for Columbia Seniors – for help around your home with projects such as spring cleanup. TASKS jobs are available for students by calling Patricia Sciglimpaglia-Vigue, 860-324-1820.
- SMART Recovery Groups for young adults and their families are confidential and offered virtually.
- Family Counseling Services for Columbia families with children from birth to age 26 are available. To schedule, an appointment call the AHM offices at 860-228-9488.
- Student Support Services at Horace Porter School supports the social and emotional well-being of your child/children. Cheri Rivard Lentz assists students and their families that are experiencing personal problems or issues that are interfering with their ability to have a successful school experience.
- Play and Learn Groups for Columbia adults and children ages Birth-5 on Mondays and Thursdays offer crafts, playing, and circle time. Registration is \$85/family for a 12-week session starting the week of

1/10/22 on Mondays from 9:30-10:30 and Thursdays from 10:00-11:00. Register at: <https://ahmyouth.org/play-and-learn-at-ghs-registration/>

- First Steps in Music Class for children Birth-5 and Adults at AHM, 25 Pendleton in Hebron, will be held on 8 Wednesdays, starting 1/19-3/9 from 9:30-10:15. Registration is \$125. This is a Family Developmentally appropriate and researched early childhood music program with singing, movement, rhythm, and instruments. Please register here: <https://ahmyouth.org/first-steps-in-music-registration/>
- Messy Play for little ones for children 18 months-5 years and adults at Gilead Hill School on Fridays from 10:00-11:00 on, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, and 2/18. Various sensory play activities for children to enjoy with their adults! Registration will be on the AHM website shortly.
- KinderRHAMa Preschool Registration for 2022-2023 School Year to be held online starting on 3/28/22. Please go to the AHM Website. Please register at www.ahmyouth.org for any of these programs please see

Continued on page 13



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Owning a home generator is almost a modern-day necessity in order to provide backup power to operate our homes during outages. To safely operate your generator, it is extremely important to follow all of the manufacturer's instructions for installation, operation, and maintenance. Typically, generators are run outside in open air and away from your house. This will ensure that the generator runs at the proper temperature and the exhaust does not enter your residence. Never refuel a generator while it is running or if the exhaust or engine is hot. Also, do not leave the generator running if no one is available to monitor its operation.

Having working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are always essential, especially when operating a generator. The manufacture date on the alarms should be checked to ensure that they are less than 10 years old. If older than 10 years, replace the entire device, as the sensitivity diminishes in these alarms over time. Batteries for these alarms should also be checked and changed on a regular basis.

Mike Lester
Fire Marshal
Town of Columbia

AHM YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 12

the website at <https://ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center/> or contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org or Laura Beeler at laurab@ahmyouth.org for more information.

Upcoming programs and events include: Performing Arts for children, Nature and Adventure Day, as part of the annual Maple Festival; RUNA, a night of Celtic music on Saturday, April 23rd. Visit www.ahmyouth.org for more information.



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COLUMBIA TOWN DIRECTORY

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Administrative Office:			
First Selectman	Steven M. Everett	Mon–Thur 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-0110
Town Administrator	Mark B. Walter	Fri 8 am – Noon	
Executive Administrative Assistant	Jennifer C. LaVoie		
Assessor's Office:			
Assessor	Mary Lavallee	Mon–Wed 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-9555
Assistant Assessor	Marcy Littlefield	Thur 8 am – 6 pm	
		Fri 8 am – Noon	
Beckish Senior Center:			
Director	Bernadette Derring	Mon–Fri 8 am – 3 pm	860-228-0759
Van Dispatcher/Program Assistant	Flo Polek		
Van Dispatcher/Program Assistant	Lisa McDonald		
Social Services:			
Community Social Services Coordinator	Katie Wilt	Mon & Tues 8:30 am – 5 pm	860-228-1008
Building Department:			
Building Official	Jason Nowasad	Mon–Wed 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-0440
Zoning Enforcement	Connie Kisluk	Thur 8 am – 6 pm	
Town Planner	Paula Stahl	Fri 8 am – Noon	
Sanitarian	Glenn Bagdoian		
Inland Wetlands Agent	Isabelle Kisluk		
Administrative Assistant	Terri Lasota		
Board Secretary			
Fire Marshal/Burning Official	Michael Lester		
Assistant Burning Official	Stephen Postemsky		
Assistant to Building Official			
Animal Control:			
Animal Control Officer	Marc Volza		860-337-1222
Facilities Department:			
Facilities Manager	Jason Nowasad	Mon–Fri 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-4270
Facilities Maintainer	Daniel Johnson		860-228-4270 ext. 111
Finance Department:			
Finance Director	Beverly Ciurylo	Mon–Thur 8 am – 4:30 pm	860-228-8423
Accountant/Payroll Specialist	Lisa Rose	Fri 8 am – Noon	860-228-8423
Accounting Assistant	Jill Swenson		860-228-8423
Fire Department:			
To report a fire			911
Non-emergency calls			860-228-9602
Fire Chief	Stephen Postemsky		
Assistant Fire Chief	Jeff Lewis		
Deputy Fire Chief	Scott Haddad		
Public Works Department:			
Director	Beth Lunt	Mon–Fri 6:30 am – 3 pm	860-228-4270
Recreation Department:			
Recreation Director	Marc Volza	Mon–Wed 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-8513
Assistant Recreation Director	Anyka Fegan	Thur 8 am – 7 pm	
		Fri CLOSED	
Registrar of Voters:			
Democrat Registrar	Karen Butzgy	Varies	860-228-0110
Republican Registrar	Kate Morrison		
Resident State Trooper:			
	Gregory DeCarli	Mon–Fri 6:30 am – 3 pm	860-228-9846
	Dispatch		860-465-5400
Tax Collector's Office:			
Tax Collector	Carol W. Price	Mon–Wed 8 am – 2 pm	860-228-0230
		Thur 8 am – 6 pm, Fri CLOSED	
		<i>extended hours in January and July</i>	
Town Clerk's Office:			
Town Clerk	Robin M. Kenefick	Mon–Wed 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-3284
Assistant Town Clerk	Gail McGrath	Thur 8 am – 6 pm	
		Fri 8 am – Noon	
Transfer Station:			
Transfer Station Attendants	Tristan Kandolin	Wed 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-4270
	John Ciurylo	Sat 8 am – 4 pm	



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William P. O'Brien

Kevin M. O'Brien

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The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes became due on January 1, 2022. The last day to pay without a penalty was February 1, 2022. Taxes not paid on or before February 1, 2022 will be charged interest at the rate of 1½% per month (18% per year) from the due date of January 1st. The minimum interest charged is \$2.00 (per vehicle). Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or interest per CT State Statute. Bills are not sent for this second installment, please put a reminder on your calendar!

Regular office hours for the TAX OFFICE: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and closed on Friday.

Mailing address for tax payments:

Town of Columbia
Dept # 347
PO Box 150512
Hartford, CT 06115-0512

Drop boxes for payments and correspondence are located at the right side of the entrance of the Town Hall and in front of Yeoman's Hall. The drop boxes are emptied at 8:00AM each weekday, weekend tax payments are processed on Monday. Please be aware that tax payments put in the drop box after 8:00AM will be processed the next day the Tax Office is open.

You can view and pay taxes online. Service fees for tax payments are, .95 cents to use a bank account and 2.95% for credit and debit cards.

To find your tax bills online:

- go to www.columbiact.org and click on the Pay Taxes Online tab.
- on the next page click on the square that says VIEW/PAY TAX BILLS.
- the search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written - last name, space, and your first initial.

To look up your 2021 tax payments, follow the directions at the bottom of the Tax Collector's page. You can also utilize this site to look up your payment history. Locate your bill using the instructions above, then hover over the icons in the option column and select tax payment history. If you have any problems using the online system, please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org and we will gladly assist you.

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COLUMBIA LEOS CLUB

Winter has set in, but the Leo's are hard at work! We are conducting a Fuel Drive to assist The Town of Columbia Fuel Assistance Program. We kicked this off with an in person collection at The Beckish Senior Center and will continue through March. All donations will go directly to help Columbia residents in need. If you would like to help, please send checks made payable to The Town of Columbia (Fuel Assistance in the memo) and mail them to: Town of Columbia 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237.

In the spring we look forward to helping the town with an Easter Egg Hunt, and The Lion's Pancake Breakfast. Please stay tuned and check the board in the center for details. As of now we also are scheduling our Variety Show in person at Yeoman's Hall on Saturday, April 30 at 7PM! Again, stay tuned as all things during this pandemic may be subject to change.

President Maddy Ross is spear heading a drive to get new members! Our members are 12-18 years old, and Colum-

bia residents. If you are in that age group, and would like to join our team of volunteers, please email Advisor Jim Blair at jbland15@earthlink.net. Our members enjoy working as a team to serve our community, Columbia. And we have fun doing it! Joining The Columbia Leo's also makes you part of Lion's International, the largest service organization in the world! Being part of this organization gives you opportunities to serve your community: locally, statewide and beyond! If this sounds like something for you, don't hesitate to reach out.

The Columbia Leos would like to thank the Town of Columbia for its unwavering support. Thank you for helping us to serve our community, together we can make a difference!

Contact Information:
Lion Jim Blair, Advisor
860-428-2916
Jbland15@earthlink.net

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Board of Assessment Appeals

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- the search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written - last name, space, and your first initial.

In accordance with Section 12-110 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Columbia Board of Assessment Appeals will hold a public meeting for the purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of real estate, personal property and motor vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2021 and the Supplemental Grand List of October 1, 2020. **Taxpayers appeals will be heard on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 starting at 7:00 p.m. Due to precautions for COVID-19, the meeting will be conducted via Zoom virtual platform by appointment only.**

Applications and supporting documentation (examples include, but are not limited to, real estate appraisal, bill of sale for real estate purchase, vehicle bill of sale and/or repair bills, photos showing condition of vehicle, and photo of odometer reading) must be received in writing no later than **February 21, 2022**. The BAA uses N.A.D.A. Guides for vehicle pricing. Applications must be completed in their entirety. Appointment confirmation and Zoom meeting instructions will be emailed to applicants who have filed applications in a timely manner. Applications are available in the Tax Assessor's Office or at www.columbiact.org.

Completed applications may be filed in the Town Hall drop box outside the front door (make notation "BAA application" on application envelope) or mailed to: Board of Assessment Appeals, Assessor's Office, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237.

.....
Please print or type

Application to Appeal Grand List of: 2021 & SUPL 10/01/20 GL List #:

Appeal for (check one) Real Estate Personal Property Motor Vehicle

Property Owner:		Property Description:	
Name _____	_____	Make _____ Model _____	_____
Address _____	_____	VIN # _____	_____
City/State/Zip _____	_____	Location _____	_____
Appellant:		Mileage _____	
Name _____	_____	Reason for Appeal:	
Address _____	_____	_____	
City/State/Zip _____	_____	_____	
Correspondence & Contact:		Appellant's Estimate of Value:	
Name _____	_____	_____	
Address _____	_____	_____	
City/State/Zip _____	_____	_____	
Telephone No. _____	_____	Attach documentation of Value, if applicable	
Signature of Property Owner or Duly authorized Agent:		EMAIL Address: _____	
_____		Date: _____	
(Attach proof of authorization)			

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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, JOSIE KOVAL

Josie Koval celebrated her 100th birthday at her home at 32 Sleepy Hollow Rd in Columbia on August 2, 2021 with her family and friends who came from near and far. Josephine Mazzola was the 6th child born to Vincenza and Michele Mazzola of Willimantic. Josie's father owned a grocery store on Main St. in Willimantic and the family lived upstairs. Her parents had immigrated from Palermo, Sicily at the turn of the last century and knew the value of hard work. Although her father could not read or write, he was good at numbers and ran a successful business.

Josie can remember first coming to Columbia Lake as a child in her father's truck as he delivered groceries to residents around the lake. At that time she met the LaFleurs who owned a restaurant at the beach that served the many seasonal residents. Josie has a vivid memory of spending a summer at the lake when she was twelve years old. She, her mother and three sisters had worked hard and saved enough money to rent a cottage on Route 87 which is now owned by the Stephens family.



At that time the cottage was a store called Kum-sum-mor. They sold incidentals, fresh fruits and vegetables, and prepared delicious meals for local residences. Josie also has strong memories from that time of swimming across the lake with her cousin Gloria Mazzola.

Josie married John Koval in 1939. They bought a cottage on Columbia Lake in 1957 from Mrs. Kashork who lived on Sleepy Hollow Rd. They had told her they would always have a room for her at the cottage, but sadly she passed away that May before they had moved in. The cottage was renovated several times and has been Josie's full-time home for over 60 years. Her husband Johnnie, passed away in 1999. The Kovals have had many years of wonderful memories at this home and Josie feels very fortunate

to still reside at beautiful Columbia Lake.

This piece was written as a result of conversations with Josie Koval during the summer of 2021.

-Sharon Ladd

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EXPIRES 4-30-22

Pastor Michael Phillippino, of the Parish of the Good Shepherd, blessing animals for the feast of Saint Francis at the church of the Holy Family, Hebron, CT



Blessing of the Animals at Parish of the Good Shepherd

In a tradition that goes back over 700 years, Christians worldwide celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis with a blessing of animals and prayers for creation. On October 10th and 11th, Pastor Michael Phillippino, of the Parish of the Good Shepherd, blessed animals for the Parishioners of the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron and St. Columba in Columbia.

The Church of the Holy Family and St. Columba Catholic Church, being a community of worshipers and Disciples of Christ, live the Gospel through prayer and service, bearing witness to God's love, compassion, and mercy. Each Parish remains separate and distinct, but at the same time share resources to better meet the needs of the people of God. Regardless of your past faith tradition, we welcome you to come as you are. We hope you will find one of our parishes will feel like home. Visit our websites at <https://holyfamilyhebron.org/> and <https://saintcolumbacatholicchurch.org/>

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kblais1@frontier.com

2022 Fred Gifford Memorial Scholarship Application

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
INC. • 167 ROUTE 66/P.O. BOX 26 •
COLUMBIA, CT 06237 • 860-228-9602

The Scholarship consists of four (4) individual awards of \$1000.00 each, given to two (2) young women and two (2) young men. All applicants must be residents of the Town of Columbia, CT, seniors attending secondary school or homeschooled, with plans to continue their education at an accredited post-secondary school or institution. The Scholarship Committee looks for students with a good balance of grades, involvement in school activities, outside school activities, community service and family values.

Applications must be submitted no later than April 15, 2022. The winners will be contacted by the committee and may be asked to attend a regular meeting of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

To obtain an application, visit the Columbia Volunteer Fire Departments website at columbiafire5.org and submit. Direct



**COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT**
EMTs and Firefighters Needed

- Are you a resident, live nearby, or employed by the town of Columbia Connecticut?
- Are you 16 years of age or older?

The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department needs you!!!
Certifications and experience not required for application
Please inquire about training

www.columbiafire5.org/volunteer
membership@columbiafire5.org
Message us on facebook @Columbiafire5

any questions to Mike Lester mlester@columbiafire5.org.

These Scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the people and businesses throughout our area. This Scholarship is administered by the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

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TOWN WIDE TAG SALE

*Columbia, CT Town Wide Tag Sale
Organized by By The Pond
and Notions Finds ReCreations and Design
All proceeds to benefit to Columbia Food Bank
Saturday June 25, 2022 8:00 am-3:00 pm*

So How Does this Work?

Simply submit your \$20 (non refundable) donation and registration form. You just set up at your home and sell, we will do the rest. Your sale and address will be added to a town map to highlight your sale to shoppers. Maps will be available the day of the sale to list and show all of the available sales.

Great Opportunity for: Small businesses, artisans, local sports teams, relay teams, church groups and clubs!

Have a local business you want to highlight? For a \$30 donation we will gladly add your business card to the map.

Turn your used goods into \$\$, use this as a fundraiser for your organization or to introduce your crafts/goods or business to a whole new market! Sell stuff-a-bag/everything for a dollar ... the possibilities are endless!!

Questions? Contact: Nelisa Reagan at nelisareagan@sbcglobal.net

Let's make this a great event for our community and food bank!

TOWN WIDE TAG SALE REGISTRATION FORM

Name/ Business name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Brief description of items for sale:

Mail registration form (and business card if applicable) and check payable to The Beckish Senior Center to:

Notions Finds ReCreations and Design 4 Szegda Rd
Columbia, CT 06237

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or visit us on Facebook
Horace W. Porter PTO and Parent Community.



HORACE W. PORTER PTO

BINGO

FEB. 11TH

H.W.P Cafeteria

GAMES - FUN - PRIZES @ 5:30PM

FACEBOOK: HORACE W PORTER PTO AND PARENT COMMUNITY

\$5 PER PERSON, \$20 FAMILY CAP, \$3 PER EXTRA CARD

PAYPAL: PORTERPTOTAGS@GMAIL.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL:
HORACEPORTERPTO@GMAIL.COM

H.W.P PTO is a registered 501(c)3 organization

The County Election

Next time you happen to be in Columbia's Town Hall take a peek into the newly refurbished Adella Urban Conference Room just outside Town Administrator Mark Walter's office. Daniel Johnson, Facilities Maintainer in charge of the Town Hall campus, applied his artistic renovation talents in transforming this conference room into an updated facility that better serves Columbia's technological needs, and that we can be proud of. Commemorative plaques, posters, quilts, and prints, many previously donated, now grace its walls. Of special interest is a recent gift by former Columbia residents Laura and Howard Bergenholtz, an engraved print, *The County Election* by 19th century artist-politician George Caleb Bingham (1811 – 1879) of Missouri and engraver John Sartain (1808 – 1897) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Frontier artist-politician and social commentator George Caleb Bingham was known as a pro-Union, anti-slavery "The Missouri Artist" during his lifetime. He received much acclaim and a following of 750,000 subscribers as a "Luminist-style" painter for the American Art-Union based in New York City, where his works were reproduced as popular engraved scenes showing American frontier life along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Though initially a self-taught portrait painter, he also painted Whig Party banners and campaign material for Henry Clay in 1844, as well as monumental history paintings such as *The Rule of Law for the New Orleans Courthouse*. Many of his paintings were unsigned. In 1846 Bingham ran for a seat in the Missouri state's house race which he lost, but ran again successfully in 1848. *The County Election* was painted in 1847 as a commentary on how local county elections were conducted in a frontier community. Bingham later commissioned Philadelphia engraver John Sartain in 1854 to rework his



original scene into a more broadly recognizable image about the election process in rural America. The artist reveals himself as a thoughtfully seated luminated figure in the center of this image while his political opponent is gladhanding electors, some of whom are drinking and playing games of chance. A banner at the entrance to the election hall reads "The Will of the People – The Supreme Law".

Bingham painted five other paintings in his election series: *Stump Orator* (1847), *Country Politician* (1848), *Cavassing for a Vote* (1852), *Stump Speaking* (1853), and *The Verdict of the People* (1854 -1855). Some of these were also commissioned as engravings. His most iconic painting is the *Jolly Flatboatmen* (1846), now in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. We thank Laura and Howard Bergenholtz for their thoughtful gift by this quintessential 19th century American artist.

Ingrid Wood, *Town Historian*



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2022-2023 BUDGET PROCESS

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Below are the 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 at www.columbiact.org.

To view the Board of Education Budget Process Schedule please go to the Board of Education website at www.hwporter.org.

DATE	TIME	PROCESS
12/06/21	N/A	Budget Forms available to Department Heads and Board Chairs
12/15/21	7 PM	Tri-Board Meeting between FiPAC, BOE & BOS
01/07/22	4 PM	Deadline for Budget submittals online by Department Heads and Board Chairs
01/11/22-01/24/22	N/A	Town Administrator meets with Department Heads & develops Budget
01/31/22	4 PM	Town Administrator delivers budget to BOS
02/01/22	7 PM	BOS Regular Meeting – with Review of budget highlights from the Town Administrator (tentative)
02/08/22	7 PM	BOS Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop
02/15/22	7 PM	BOS Regular Meeting - with Budget Workshop
02/22/22	7 PM	BOS Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop (tentative)
03/01/22	7 PM	BOS Regular Meeting – with Budget Workshop (BOS Budget Approval to go to FiPAC)
03/10/22	4 PM	Superintendent and TA deliver Budgets to FiPAC
03/15/22	4 PM	<i>Per Charter, last day for BOS & BOE to deliver budgets to FiPAC</i>
03/16/22	7 PM	FiPAC Special Meeting – Budget presentations by Super & TA
03/23/22	7 PM	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop
03/30/22	7 PM	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop
04/06/22	7 PM	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop (tentative)
04/13/22	7 PM	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop (tentative)
04/14/22	4 PM	Legal Notice for 4/27/22 Public Hearing is posted & published. Budget document made available on Website, Town Clerk and Library
04/27/22	7 PM	Public Hearing on budget with FiPAC Special Meeting to follow
04/27/22	4 PM	Deadline to advertise legal notice and public notice for Budget Meeting
05/10/22	7 PM	Annual Town Budget Meeting (called by BOS). Per charter must be held between 2nd Tuesday of May and the 1st. Tuesday of June

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