



Dr Alison Nicholes, DMD





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welcoming new patients



At the time of this publication, we have as a community and a nation been dealing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic for over a year. So much has changed for our community, but we are seeing some positive changes. More than half of CT adults are now vaccinated, CT



schools are reopening, and capacity restrictions have been lifted for business and restaurants.

As of April 12th, all Town departments are open to the public without an appointment. We ask that residents wear masks when entering the building, use hand sanitizer at the entrance, and observe social distancing guidelines. We continue to encourage residents to use on-line services and the drop-boxes at Yeoman's Hall and Town Hall for tax payments, correspondence, permits, Transfer Station stickers, dog license, etc.

The annual budget process is in full swing with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education budgets presented to the Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (Fi-PAC). FiPAC is currently holding their budget workshops to discuss and deliberate on the proposed budget and will hold a public hearing to gather citizen input. After considering all input, FiPAC will recommend its proposed budget to a Town Meeting for final vote and approval.

FiPAC and Board of Selectmen meetings are being held by utilizing remote access. Please check the Town of Columbia's website at www.columbiact.org for login information. The Public Hearing and Town Meeting will be held at Horace Porter School gymnasium. Please check the website for dates and times.

With warmer weather Rec Park's pickleball, tennis and basketball courts are being fully used. I look forward to games at the new softball fields and encourage all our residents to enjoy all that Rec Park has to offer. I would like to thank the Department of Public Works for their work on the back parking lot at Rec Park over the winter. They have done a tremendous job handling the tree removal, parking lot foundation, and the preparation for final milling and topcoat. In addition, Public Works created handicap accessibility from Szegda Farm's parking lot to the garden, so all can enjoy the garden.

Steven M. Everett First Selectman severett@columbiact.org 860-228-0110

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## 2019/20 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

3rd Q/21

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 7/2/2021

Mailed Week of 8/9/2021

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 8/6/2021

Mailed Week of 9/6/2021

4th Q/21

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 9/29/2021

Mailed Week of 10/18/2021

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 11/5/2021

Mailed Week of 12/6/2021

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#### **Executive Director & Co-Founder**

Bryan A. Perry baperry@epicmagazines.com

#### Sales Associate

Paul Ramsey • paul@epicmagazines.com

Josie Guillemin • josie@neprintingnetwork.com

#### Art Director

Russell Shaddox

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Jennifer C. LaVoie Executive Assistant • Town of Columbia Millie Ramsev Volunteer Human Interest Collaborator

Town of Columbia

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As Steven Everett mentioned we are now open to the public without an appointment, which is a good sign that we are turning a corner. The latest Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) COVID-19 Update reports that the total weekly case count has



Ann Dunnack and Ron Szegda

leveled out over the past three weeks. There is, however, still a significant risk of community transmission with most member towns at the Department of Public Health Red Alert level. Contact tracers continue to report clusters associated with, workplaces, youth sports, and transmissions linked to small social gatherings. We urge everyone to keep wearing masks and practice social distancing.

On the positive side, to date, the EHHD has administered 8,100 doses of COVID-19 vaccine. As of April 14th, 47% percent of the total EHHD population has received one dose of vaccine.

Please get vaccinated to help protect yourself and your fellow citizens. For more information go to the State website portal at https://portal.ct.gov/Vaccine-Portal.

The Town of Columbia is accepting donations to assist those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations may be used for food supply, fuel assistance, protective equipment and other social

services that will benefit those affected by COVID-19. Donations can be made by check, payable to the Town of Columbia or online at https://Columbia.recdesk.com/recdeskportal.

The Beckish Senior Center provides a local MOBILE Foodshare EVERY OTHER THURSDAY from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM and FoodShare has a drive-thru food distribution at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT., Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 1:00.

The Salmon River Watershed Partnership will be undertaking a new venture in 2021: Creating a long-term vision for a path forward towards sustainable management and funding. Columbia is a supporting watershed partner with SRWP. SRWP manages watershed resources, focusing on water quality, land-use management and preservation, and outreach education. Funding for the Partnership allows for the hiring of a part-time watershed coordinator, summer interns, monitoring equipment and outreach materials.

In the SRWP 2021 Annual Newsletter, Pat Young, Watershed Coordinator explained their new vision; "In 2008, a

steering committee, the Salmon River Watershed Partnership, was formed when The Nature Conservancy was awarded a Long Island Sound Futures Fund Grant to conduct a comprehensive land-use evaluation for the watershed towns. Upon completion of that project, it was agreed that the Partnership should be continued, and municipal funding has provided for a part time watershed coordinator and summer interns who, along with many volunteers, conduct water monitoring, outreach and education, resource mapping and provide other municipal project support as needed.

With a higher emphasis on working regionally and collectively to protect local rivers and water quality and to ensure long-term viability, the steering committee is entering a new phase of long-term planning. With funds already secured, the committee, along with town and community representatives, will begin work with the same firm that conducted the earlier study, Horsley-Witten Group, to identify long term goals, committee management options

and funding opportunities.

For updates, please visit the SRWP website at http://www.salmonriverct.org/and Facebook page at Salmon River Watershed Partnership@10towns.

I would like to welcome Jason Nowosad in the position of Facilities Manager and Dan Johnson in the position of Facilities Maintainer. In addition to the position of Facilities Manager, Jason also serves

as the Town of Columbia's Building Inspector. Jason's knowledge and expertise in each phase of building construction coupled with his understanding of operations and management will be an asset to the Town.

Dan brings over 10 years of experience in the construction field as well as a wide variety of skills in facilities maintenance.

Stay informed with emergency alerts and Town news by signing up through the Town's website at www. columbiact.org.

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to call the Town Administrative Office at 860-228-0110 or email us at townadministrator@columbiact.org.

I would like to thank Ann Dunnick and Ron Szegda for the tour of Ron's beautiful land and their help with improvement plans for the Szegda Community Farm land.

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237 860-228-0110



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**JUNE** is dog licensing month in Connecticut. Dog license renewals will be mailed out in the month of May to all owners who registered their dog(s) the previous year. New licenses must be obtained before July 1, 2021 to avoid a penalty. The license year for your dog runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Whether you are renewing your dog's license in person or through the mail, if their rabies vaccination has expired, please provide us with a copy of their current rabies vaccination certificate. If your dog has been spayed or neutered, include a copy of the veterinarian's certificate as well.

PLEASE NOTE - If your dog's RABIES VACCINATION expires in the month of JUNE, you will not be able to renew the dog's license for the new year (which begins on July 1, 2021) until we receive a current rabies certificate.

Due to the continuing Coronavirus pandemic and the need for social distancing, the following options will be available with respect to licensing your dog in Columbia. We will be accepting registrations BY MAIL or BY DROP BOX to limit the number of people in Town Hall. Remember to make your check payable to: Columbia Town Clerk and include a stamped self-addressed envelope with the appropriate amount of postage for the return of your dog's new tag.

If you are new to Town and have not registered your dog, contact us. Dogs six months of age or older need to be licensed. License fees are \$8 for altered dogs and \$19 for unaltered dogs. Licenses will be considered late as of July 1 and a late fee of \$1 per month per dog thereafter will be assessed.

Sports licenses for Fishing and Hunting for 2021 are available for purchase online at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing and www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. For further information or assistance, contact the Town Clerk's office.

The DEEP has a Family Fishing Day on May 8, 2021 - no license requred. There are also Free Fishing License Days on June 20 and August 14, 2021 - You can get a one day license to fish for free on these days!

Please contact us at 860-228-3284 if you have questions.

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



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Summer is a time for enjoying the warm weather with family and friends. Here are a few fire safety tips to keep in mind as you get ready to experience your favorite seasonal outdoor activities.

- 1. Make sure your cooking grill is clean and in good working condition before use. Keep your grill at least 5 feet away from combustible materials.
- 2. Do not store propane tanks in your home, car, or garage.



- 3. Campfires should never be left unattended. While your campfire is burning, be sure to store water nearby, supervise children and pets around the open flames, and don't throw garbage into the fire. Aerosol cans and other types of garbage can potentially explode and become dangerous projectiles.
- 4. Remember that fireworks are illegal in the State of Connecticut. Novelty items such as party poppers, snakes, smoke devices and anything that emits a flame are also not legal for private use. Only sparklers and fountains, which are non-explosive and non-aerial, are legal in Connecticut.
- 5. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted at a state approved site by Connecticut licensed pyrotechnicians.
- 6. Possession of Illegal Consumer Fireworks is in violation of C.G.S. 29357(d) issued on a Misdemeanor Summons. Possession of Explosives (M-Class Devices and Display Fireworks) is in violation of C.G.S. 29-348 and is a felony arrest. Manufacture of Bombs is in violation of C.G.S. 53a-80a and is a felony arrest.





The Renter's Relief program will begin April 1 and will run through October 1st. You will need proof of rent payments and utilities paid in the 2020 calendar year.

#### Motor vehicle adjustments

In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof because the tax is a car tax not a road tax.

- The first is a copy of your motor vehicle plate return receipt.
- The second is something proving you got rid of the vehicle. For a list of accepted proofs look on the assessor's website or call the office.
- If you traded a vehicle and kept the same plate do not bring us any documentation because DMV will automatically process the adjustments.

#### **Income and Expense Forms**

Connecticut General Statute 12-63c requires all owners of rental real property to annually file an Income and Expense form with the Assessor's Office by June 1st. The information filed and furnished with this report will remain confidential and is not open to public inspection. Any information related to the actual rental and operating expenses shall not be a public record and is not subject to the provisions of Section 1-19 (Freedom of Information) of the Connecticut General Statutes. All properties that are rented or leased, including commercial, retail, industrial, land and residential properties, except "such property used for residential purposes, containing not more than six dwelling units and in which the owner resides" must file and in the case of a non-residential property that is partially rented and partially owner-occupied.

In accordance with Section 12-63c(d), of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, any owner of rental real property who fails to file this form or files an incomplete or false form with intent to defraud, shall be subject to a penalty assessment equal to a Ten Percent (10%) increase in the assessed value of such property.

The Assessor's Office is open Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursdays 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. until Noon. Our telephone number is 228-9555.







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#### Garden tour: Back to our roots

To honor and promote our agrarian history the Columbia Historical Society has organized a Garden Tour for Saturday, June 26, 2021. Held rain or shine, the tour is free to the public. Preregistration is required as spaces will be limited to the first 50 registrants. Reserve your garden map and registration bracelet by contacting CHS member Millie Ramsey at millieramz@gmail.com or 860 729-5472. More information about the tour will be on the CHS website: www.columbia-history.org. Registrations will not be accepted after June 1st.

Share the joy of gardening and community as you visit eight diverse gardens which may be visited at your convenience beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

Highlights of the tour include a Master Gardener who will share her journey to create everything from a pollinator garden to a vegetable garden-- while dealing with invasive plants and landscaping challenges on one of Columbia's older homesteads.

Experience a Colonial Revival Garden, an old-world apple orchard with ancient stone walls and a Japanese

Pond Garden on land that has been owned by members of the same Columbia family for over 250 years.

Another gardener describes their gardens as a highly intensive food forest centered around maximum productivity with minimal effort. Tour their year-round heated greenhouse and a covered composting facility. Learn more about growing microgreens!

Visit a family-owned Christmas Tree Farm where you will see both perennial and annual gardens, a vegetable garden that feeds four families, and a variety of other gardens which highlight perennials and annuals, shade loving plants, flowering shrubs, and ornamental grasses.

Enjoy a stroll through a landscape designer's sculpture gardens where you will find a collection of unusual plants from nurseries that she works with.

Learn more about a locally owned CSA (Community Sustained Agriculture) on a small family farm that is beginning the third year of its program. Learn why soil health is so important.

See how raised beds can make gardening accessible to wheelchair users and see Columbia's Community Garden.



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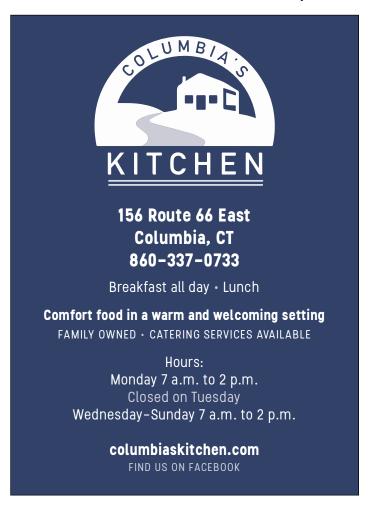
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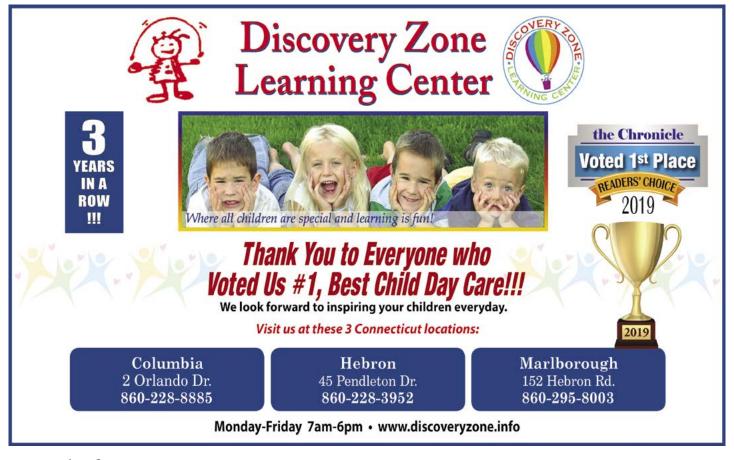
Happy Spring! We hope you all have been healthy and have been able to find vaccine appointments.

We want to thank you for your interest and inquiries as to when we will take donations and have another book sale. As people are just getting vaccinated and many of our volunteers are older, we have decided that May is still too early to have a sale and take donations. We are in discussions about doing something this summer and what that looks like logistically. Please stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates.

As many of you know, the Library is open limited days and hours again for browsing. We have turned over our BookNook and currently have a selection of Fiction, Romance, History, Biographies, Memoirs, Autobiographies, YA, Kids and Books to Movies to choose from and will be putting out weekly genres for you to browse and buy. The prices are the same as our regular book sales unless otherwise noted; \$1 Hardcover, .50 Paperback, .25 Children's. You can leave your money in the box on top of the children's bookshelf. The Library cannot make change so please have the exact amount. We hope you will all stop by our BookNook during the Library browsing hours of Tuesday 2-4 and 5-7, Wednesday 11-1 and 4-7 and Saturday 2-4. Please maintain social distancing of one browser at a time and observe the Library Covid protocols.

We want to thank you again for your donations last year, even though we were unable to hold book sales, due to your generosity, we were still able to uphold our mission of supporting the Library. Thanks to you, we were able to contribute to the cost of their PPE's, sanitizing products and changes they had to make due to Covid. Although in a different way, the Library operated normally all year through online programs, curbside pick-ups and limited browsing hours. We hope for your continued support this year through your memberships and donations and we look forward to serving our community again soon! Have a happy summer!

Laurie Rogers, Secretary of FOL



In early March I had the honor of virtually meeting with the Columbia Lions. I spoke of what the Library had been doing behind the scenes during the pandemic and our future plans. In times of crisis, one just does what is needed. However, as the light at the end of the tunnel grows brighter, it's time for reflection.

When the world went into lockdown, Library staff went into motion. Not as first responders, that's not our role. But as secondary responders. Libraries serve the second round of assistance: we supply reliable information, we help rebuild, we offer direction for well-being, we provide support services.

For the first month, Library staff worked remote, we expanded our electronic offerings, both material and informational. We set up systems to keep in contact with patrons who would miss our normal bi-weekly interactions. We developed unique processes to allow us to safely work in the building, staffing it for our normal 51 hours a week, and providing 6-day a-week access to materials, while striving to keep everyone safe and follow health protocols.

Unlike some other towns, SBL never had to close completely because of a staff contagion, never got that sickening call from the health department that we might have caused illness. Though Covid did affect us all personally and we did as a staff experience the virus, we avoided the worst affects through diligence.

What many have not realized, is that behind the scenes, we have used literally gallons of sanitizer and disinfectant, and dozens of boxes of gloves. We've learned that even "food safe" disinfectants can bleach book covers and eat holes in plastic spray bottles over a months' time. We've learned that most of our workspace are not actually 6 feet away from other workspaces, nor is the space between our book aisles.

What we did not realize is how much of a family we are amongst ourselves and with you, the Columbia community. We have learned this lesson in many ways over the past year. We've learned it with the clearly heartfelt thanks we have received over the phone and in notes. We've learned it through the financial responses not only through our annual campaign, but from donations left in envelopes in our drop box or quickly passed along as we handed back faxed documents through a door or a window. We learned it through the small gifts left for us in our shed. (Thank you for the chocolates!)

These small acts of kindness and support have meant more to us than words can say. We have tried hard to provide service and keep everyone safe. Are there things in retrospect we might do differently? Of course, there always are. But we can only hope we will never again have to implement the lessons learned, and we take from the past year that none of us are alone in our community. We work together, even if we are distanced.

Thank you again to all who supported us, expressed words of encouragement, gave us cards and chocolate.

Su Epstein, Library Director 319 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237 P: (860) 228-0350 | F: (860) 228-1569 Email: staff@columbiactlibrary.org

#### INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

We all like to send John Valente best wishes for a very happy retirement. John's guidance and encouragement has helped Commission Members and coworkers, and we all have been so fortunate to have his expertise to rely on. John will be missed, but I know his retirement is the right thing at this time. May all your travels be adventurous, thrilling, and exhilarating! Happy Retirement John and may the next phase of your life bring you all that you seek and more.

The Inland Wetlands & Watercourses has updated the application procedures and process, application for permit, and permit fees. You may obtain the documents at www.columbiact.org, or by calling the office at 860-228-0440. Please be reminded that any construction or repair of any structure IN or OVER Columbia Lake (such as a seawall or dock) also REQUIRES APPROVAL from Lake Management Advisory Commission and the Board of Selectmen prior to Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission approval.

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

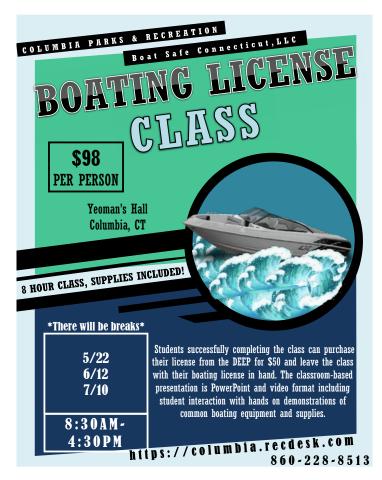
The AHM Youth and Family Services Board of Directors sends best wishes to the residents of Columbia. As a public charity serving your community, our call to action since day one of the pandemic is that: "we are here for you". The AHM board, staff, and volunteers are committed to helping local residents navigate these incredibly challenging times through access to Mental Health, Prevention, Youth and Family Development, and Juvenile Justice Programs.

The following is a sample of some upcoming programs that as residents, you can access:

- For senior citizens, to schedule youth workers to assist with home projects through the TASKs program, or for families to schedule an appointment for Child, Youth and Family counseling call the AHM offices at 860-228-9488.
- For teens, young adults, and families to attend the SMART Recovery Groups visit www.ahmyouth.org for the schedule or call 860-228-9488.
- For young families, AHM's Family Resource Center,

(FRC) will be offering Play and Learn groups at Veteran's Park in Hebron-Thursdays Starting 4/29-6 sessions \$25 for the 6 week session, (10:30-11:30 on Thursdays, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27 and 6/3). Rain Dates will be Fridays at the same time. The FRC will also be hosting First Steps in Music at Burnt Hill Park-Tuesdays, starting 5/4 -4 sessions \$60 per family for the 4 weeks from 10:45-11:30 on Tuesdays, 5/4, 4/11, 5/18, 5/25. Rain Dates will be 6/1 and 6/8. FRC Play and Learn groups will be at Gilead Hill School-Wednesdays, 6 sessions starting 4/28 \$25 for the 6 sessions from 10:15-11:15 on 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, and 6/2. The 2021-2021 KinderRHAMa preschool registration will open to on March 29th at 10am.

- Check our website for details about our spring youth theater for grades K-6, and our summer youth theater for grades 7-12.
- AHM staff are planning an in-person preschool summer camp and in-person Health Matters programs so be sure to check out our website for updates: www. ahmyouth.org







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SAVINGS UP TO \$5.000 OFF MSRP!!



2020 FORD F-150 SAVINGS UP TO \$8,000 OFF MSRP!!



2020 KIA FORTE SAVINGS UP TO \$3,000 OFF MSRP!!



SAVINGS UP TO \$5.000 OFF MSRP!!



2020 KIA SORENTO SAVINGS UP TO \$5.000 OFF MSRP!!







The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department continues to be an integral part of the Columbia community and though the pandemic has dampened our efforts to have community members in the firehouse for events, we have offered free 9-volt batteries on two Sundays this month as a drive-in service and are maintaining an active Facebook page to help share important information. The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department has responded to more than 140 calls since January 1, 2021.

In this issue, the Department is proud to share profiles of two members - both written by the members themselves.

#### **Lieutenant Jerry James**

Once upon a time, there was a little boy who dreamed of playing baseball in the major leagues with all the neighborhood kids. This dream came to an end when an unfortunate "take-out slide" at second base went wrong and was poorly executed one afternoon. So, a different dream needed to take shape...and at that moment, a dark-haired girl named Linda came into my life along with younger brother (who wanted to become a firemen).



This started the 46-year (so far) career in the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department when Jim Jensen and I joined the department together to get our feet wet helping out the Town of Columbia residents when the worst times of their lives came about. It was March of 1976 when we both joined the "group of old geezers" who sat on the front of the firetrucks and watched the traffic drive by the 166 Route 66 fire station. Little did we know that someday both of us would advance up the chain of command in both our firefighter lives; Jim in the Willimantic Fire Department, leaving Columbia in 1978 and attaining the rank of Captain and me in the CVFD attaining the rank of Chief.

All the training, responding to calls, taking words of advice, doing the grunt work (sweeping the floors, emptying the garbage, shoveling the snow) all paid off in 1991 when I was elected to six 2-year terms of Fire Chief. During this time, I chaired the building committee that successfully constructed (within budget) the current firehouse. Along the way, fire training classes and EMS medical training led to appointments by previous Chiefs of the CVFD to the positions of Engineer, Lieutenant, Captain and election of Deputy Chief under Chief Lou Scotti. While doing these duties on the operational side of the department, I also helped the business side of the CVFD by being treasurer, fill- n secretary, and vice-president who handled recruitment and membership. All this time, volunteering whenever available, has been part of my life in the Town of Columbia. Be it coaching my children in their athletic activities or keeping the financial books of the now defunct Columbia Recreation Council, spraying water during the winter on the old hockey rink at the Recreation field or Jerry Dunnack's pond. Helping in any way possible has been the theme throughout my "career" in town, first at home, then wherever needed!

#### Captain Joel Duffy

I moved to Columbia in 1999 with my wife, Megan, and our son, Bryan. In 2005, Megan and I joined the CVFD after watching some difficult rescues during Hurricane Katrina. We wanted to help our community. After our initial training, we both obtained our EMT certifications then I continued on to Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Fire In-



structor 1. During this time, we were trading off training schedules since we had our seven-year-old son at home. In too short of time, Bryan grew up and is now an active EMT and Firefighter in the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department. In addition to our volunteer work in Columbia, as a family we volunteer for the National Park Service at the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River as Swiftwater rescuers. Professionally, I am a computer network engineer for the University of Hartford. I enjoy making a difference in our community and helping those in need of our services. The members of our department train hard twice a week for many hours to be ready for the call when it comes.

I am proud to be a part of my fire department family. I cannot say enough about the professionals that we have volunteering for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

#### 240 years ago, when Rochambeau's army came marching through Lebanon Crank

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail (700-mile route the National Park Service calls "WARO") was created in 2009. A small segment goes through Columbia. It commemorates Wash-

ington's Continental Army and Rochambeau's French Army marches and maneuvers in summer and fall 1781, later aided by French naval forces under Admiral de Grasse at Yorktown, Virginia



in October 1781. Historians continue to analyze this surprisingly decisive British defeat which enabled our nation's independence.

Historic documents have come to light in recent years which show just what a high-stakes gamble the American Revolution was. A fledgling country with a mostly-funded-on-credit improvised standing army; short duration state militias; volunteer and impressed Native Americans, African American freemen and slaves; and Irish and German immigrants, and traitors like Connecticut's Benedict Arnold! All fought alongside each other under Washington's command. A tiny American navy included impressed British merchant ships. The new United States was overwhelmingly supported and financed by France; a former adversary turned staunch ally.

The trail to our nation's freedom starts in Newport, Rhode Island and passes through nine states and Washington, D.C., parallel to the marches and battles. Today 80% of WARO is paved as major streets in urban neighborhoods of east coast metropolitan "founding" cities, Hartford (1635) and Waterbury (1674) among them.

#### PARKS & RECREATION

#### **Beach Passes**

2021 season passes are available for purchase on May 1, 2021. Adult Season Pass Holders may purchase up to 4 Transferrable Guest Passes (TGP) per household at \$45 each or Guest Passes for \$ 5. ALL guests of season pass holders must be with their sponsoring adult at all times. All passes are sold at the Parks & Recreation Office. Only Day passes are sold at the beach. Family Max = \$120 excluding the TGP & Day Passes. For more info, visit https:// columbia.recdesk.com/recdeskportal.



But, most of the 120 twenty miles of WARO through Connecticut goes through rural areas similar to Columbia. In Columbia it starts from Willimantic/Windham's border near Old Willimantic Road, to Columbia Green, and then proceeds westward along Hartford-Norwich Road (historic Route 87) to Andover.

On June 21 - 24 Lebanon Crank's inhabitants witnessed Rochambeau's four infantry regiments of 4,700 professional soldiers and officers: the Bourbonnais, Soissonais, Saintonge, and Royal Deux-Ponts along with their 2,000 horses, artillery carriages, hospital and supply wagons pulled by 600 oxen. The entourage included teamsters, cooks, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and even young sons of officers who served as "musicians". Regimental "musicians" communicated by fife, drum, and bugles the detailed instructions of regimentation and battle to the troops. Teamsters and their teams were hired locally in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Rochambeau's goal was to convene with General George Washington and the Continental Army in Westchester, New York as a unified command to expel the British Army from occupied New York City - a goal Washington abandoned.

Against many odds, these truly intrepid men and some women overturned the indisputably superior professional British forces to achieve improbable victory on October 19, 1781, leading to our new nation's independence in the Treaty of Paris 1783. During the few next years, we will learn more about their stories when we celebrate our country's 250th anniversary, coming up in 2026.

Ingrid Wood, Town Historian

#### Thank-yous

While the Historical Society's programming has been on hold since last March, the Society has still been busy with work on its collection and has been the grateful recipient of a number of great new items. Our thanks go out to:

Kurt Lessenger: for a book he authored on the life of his father Max Lessenger

Anne Brady: for a canoe paddle she used during her years with the Columbia Canoe Club

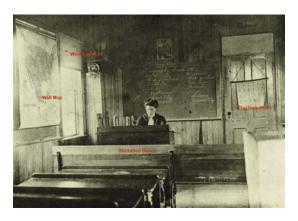
Beth Baumert: for a 2020 map of the Columbia Lake Association

Karen Scotti: for items about the 1995 visit of the Ivory Coast Special Olympics Team

Dorothy Sihvonen: for three Squier family scrapbooks

Andrea Stannard: for 7 household items ranging from a Colonial Era bed warming pan to a Victorian Era child's sled.

John & Mary Evans, Phillip Potter, Ed Mathieu, Boyd Tuttle, and Nelson Fields, all contributed their memories to



our Oral History Collection

Indian School Updates: A new look will be coming to the interior of Moor's Indian School in the next year, with additions to the staging of a circa 1915 one room school classroom on one side of the space, and exhibits covering education from the town's settlement through the 20th century on the other side. In order to lend authenticity to the classroom, we

are looking for the following items:

- 1) 4 or 5 tin lunch pails.
- 2) 6 vintage roller window shades.
- 3) a regulator style wall clock.
- 4) a vintage wall map and/or teaching chart.
- 5) an 8' wooden recitation bench with cast iron legs.

If you have any of these items you would like to donate or sell, or if you would like to make a cash donation toward this project, please contact Judy Ortiz (860.208.9881) or Joan Hill (860.228.2849) or you can leave a message via the CHS email, ColumbiaCtHistoricalSociety@gmail.com.

#### SENIORS ON THE GO

Spring is in the air!!! Trees are green, flowers are blooming, and everything looks fresh and new. It is such a wonderful time of year. Soon we will be able to get together, see each other, share a meal together and get back to the life we knew over a year ago. As I am writing this, I can't tell you when, but maybe when you read this, we will know.

The Columbia Seniors' Organization is already thinking about some possible first events. None of this can happen until the Beckish Senior Center re-opens. We need to follow all the guidelines that have kept us healthy through this pandemic. But wouldn't it be great to watch a movie together? Play Bridge? Get back in shape with some exercises? Have our Tag Sale? I can't wait. We will be ready when the time is right.

Keep your eyes open for signs on Rte 66 at the Senior Center. Also keep checking the town website for the latest information. We will get the word out whenever things can start up again. Until then - keep safe.

#### MARINE PATROL

To launch a watercraft at the Town of Columbia Boat Launch, the watercraft needs to be registered to a resident of the Town of Columbia. Registration, proof of residence and a boating license are required upon the initial inspection of a watercraft.

2021 MARINE PATROL SCHEDULE

Gate Monitoring:

May 15th &16th: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

May 22nd - September 2nd: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Weekends Only: September 18th - October 10th: 10:00 am-9:00 pm

**Boat Patrol:** 

Dates: May 29th - September 12th Weekends: 11:00 am - 9:00 pm Weekdays: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

BOAT LAUNCH GATE KEYS can be purchased online at www.columbiact.org under the Recreation Department RecDesk Program: Boat Launch Gate Key Application (recdesk.com), once registered you will be contacted to set a time to come pick up your key.

#### Explore 'Expanded' Mono Pond State Park

With substantial assistance from The Trust for Public Land and the State of CT DEEP, the Town has continued to acquire properties that should lead to a significant-

ly expanded Mono Pond State Park. While management details remain to be worked out, the opportunity exists for exploration and enjoyment of the Wellswoods area of Columbia. Several historic roadways, farm roads, and woods roads allow relatively easy access to beautiful woodlands extending to the Air Line State Park Trail in Lebanon. Now is a perfect opportunity for the adventurous hiker to explore this little-visited area of the Town. The accompanying map courtesy of The Trust for Public Land indicates some "trails" that follow old town roads or easy to follow woods roads. They allow access to Mint Brook Preserve, old foundations, several brooks and

Potential future phase(s) Parcel boundary Phase 1 (completed) Protected farmland - State PDR Mint Brook Open Space -- Town boundary County boundary streams, easily negotiated powerline clearings, and make up an exciting network to access a variety of experiences in the great outdoors. Please note that there is no signage in the area as yet, so a certain amount of map read-

Mono Pond State Park Expansion

••• Existing trail

Other protected, private, or public open space, or town-owned land

A suggested loop is to proceed down the unpaved Wellswoods Rd. a hundred yards or so to a right turn on a clear woods road. Turn left at the first opportunity after taking in the beauty of Mint Brook Pond (an unofficial name). The next major intersection is with an old Kinney Rd out

> of Hebron. There are old foundations nearby (CAUTION: they are extremely fragile and unstable). Go left to return to Wellswoods Rd; a left takes you back to the paved road.

> A slightly more ambitious route

might start at the Air Line Trail parking area on Leonard Bridge Rd. Go west about 1/4 mile to a spur to the right. In about 1/4 mile a very obvious right begins to ascend on a woods road, eventually reaching the old Kinney Rd. Go left, passing the powerlines to the intersection with Wellswoods. A left turn on Wellswoods eventually reaches the powerlines, which can be followed downhill to the Air Line Trail and a left back to Leonard Bridge.

If you would rather visit with a group on a guided hike, several will be offered on June 5 & 6. See https://www. ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend for more information and to register.

Ron Wikholm, for the Open Space Committee

#### COLUMBIA LEOS

ing, and sense of direction is in order.

Happy spring from the Columbia Leos! Winter hung on for a while, but warmer days are here! Throughout the winter we maintained the Food Drive for The Columbia Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is located at the Senior Center and is managed by Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring. Bernadette and her crew of volunteers have been doing an outstanding job since the start of the shutdowns back in March of 2020. Many thanks to her! As we have continued this drive, please know your donations are greatly appreciated. We were also able to get over \$2,000 donated to the Town of Columbia Fuel Assistance!

The Leos held their Annual Variety Show on April 24. It was via Zoom, and though not the same as being together with everyone in Yeoman's Hall, it was great fun! Thanks to all who participated, supported us, and helped further awareness for our causes this year. We will be giving checks to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation CT, Camp Rising Sun, and Relay for Life. Each one of these worthy charities holds a place in our hearts. Thanks to all who gave so generously. The show will be available to watch on You Tube. Please call or email Jim Blair using the contact info below.

The Leos are always looking for new members! Our only requirements are you must be between 12-18 years of age, and a Columbia resident. The Leos meet via Zoom

Continued on next page

Are you eager to serve the Columbia community?

- Would you like to help support the Columbia Food Pantry, the Town of Columbia's fuel fund, the Saxton B. Little Library, our scouting programs, and our neighbors in need?
- Would you like to experience the pride and satisfaction of community involvement that comes from hosting the annual 4th of July Parade, the Christmas Gazebo Lighting on the Town Green, and the annual Chicken Barbeque and Pancake Breakfast?
- Would you like to work with the Columbia Lions to respond to the urgent needs of others and build a community that is spirited, tolerant, and kind?

If so, you can realize your potential to make a difference by becoming a Columbia Lion.

Men and women over 18 years of age can become Lions by contacting Membership Chairman Brendan Keenan at 860-228-1854 or at columbia.Lions.Membership@gmail. com. Call today!

The Columbia Lions, in compliance with COVID protocols, currently meet by Zoom. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month starting in late September and going through the first week in June. Ask our Membership Chairman, Brendan Keenan, about how you can attend one of our meetings and study up close just what we do.

#### COLUMBIA LEOS (CONTINUED)

Continued from previous page

on the first and third Mondays of the month. Please email Advisor Jim Blair at jbland15@earthlink.net if you would like to participate.

The Columbia Leos wish to thank all who have stepped up and helped us with our causes. If not for the incredible generosity of Columbia residents, we would not be

able to do so much. We try to live by our motto: "We serve". Thank you for helping us to do that. When we work together, we truly make our community better.

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



Father Michael Phillippino and Deacon Ben LoCasto of The Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church Street in Hebron, process with donkeys to commemorate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The donkeys, Chewbacca and Dominique, were pro-



vided by a parishioner, Regina Molnar of Donifer Farms. Out of an abundance of caution during the Pandemic, the donkeys wore protective masks!

Photo, from left: Deacon Ben LoCasto and Father Michael Phillippino processing with donkeys on Palm Sunday at The Church of the Holy Family, Hebron, CT

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/

#### **BUILDING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT**

#### Generators: stand-alone (standby systems) & portable fueled with LP/gas: Additional information to be submitted with permit applications

- 1. The electrical permit must include the cost of the generator in the construction value.
- 2. The electrical and LP / Gas permit applications are to be submitted simultaneously.
- 3. The applicant shall include the following required documents when submitting the permit application(s):
  - a) Contractors' licenses and certificates of insurance.
  - b) The Type, make, and model of the transfer switch to be installed along with a cut/specification sheet.
  - c) The Type, make, and model of the generator to be installed along with a cut/specification sheet and clearance requirements for the generator.
  - d) If an 'automatic transfer switch' is proposed to be installed, a load calculation is required in order to show compliance with the capacity and rating requirements of Section 705 of the 2017 National Electrical Code (NEC).
  - e) A wiring diagram to show, in detail, the location of the new equipment and the existing equipment, the transfer switch location (before main or after main), wiring sizes and method. Also note: if a whole house transfer switch is being proposed to be installed ahead of the current main disconnect, details on the grounding and bonding arrangement

- are to be provided.
- f) If a permanent generator is being installed, a letter of proper operation is required for the final inspection and certificate of approval.
- g) At meter: socket label "MULTIPLE SOURCES"
- h) An accurate drawing/site plan showing the location of these components (generator & fuel tanks) in relation to the front, rear, and side yard property lines must accompany your permit application.

PLEASE NOTE: Columbia Zoning Regulations require zoning approval for placement of both the generator unit and LP tanks, respectful of the zoning setback requirements.

The Columbia Building Safety and Land Use Department is offering this handout as a representative of the typical information and/or questions that arise for a typical generator installation proposal. The Town assumes no responsibility for any errors, omissions that may be found or is missing from this handout. This is to be used as a supplement to the normally required information that is submitted on a permit application. The installer is required to follow all applicable codes and standards applicable to the installation. This handout cannot possibly cover all situations, set-ups, or configurations, not is it intended too.

Building and Land Use Department 860-228-0440 landuse@columbiact.org

#### We Have Good News!

The Beckish Senior Center will be holding a "gradual reopening" beginning Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Reservations for activities begin May 17th. The activities will only be available 3 days per week to start. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8am to 3pm. The Beckish Senior Center & Transportation Program will remain open Monday thru Friday 8am to 3pm. We will gradually open to 5 days a week in the coming months. We are excited about welcoming people back into the building and we will be reopening slowly, with caution. Our population is still the most at-risk group for contracting COVID-19 and complications arising out of being infected. Safety, for our members and our staff, will remain our highest priority. It is not only our biggest concern; it is our responsibility. To reopen, we must abide by state guidelines for three different sectors (per the Governor): Senior Centers, Indoor Recreation and Fitness Centers plus the Eastern Highlands Health District. We, more than anyone, wish we did not have to do this, but we are determined to follow the guidelines to keep everyone safe and healthy. Although it will not be the same Senior Center you left on March 10th, we are excited to offer opportunities for people to see each other and have fun.

Can I just stop by the Senior Center any time I want? Unfortunately, NO. Per the state guidelines, individuals must make an advance "reservation" to attend a program or service at the Senior Center. This is necessary for contact tracing in the event someone tests positive for COVID-19 and to keep track of the numbers of people in the building. For instance, if you want to speak with Margaret or Lisa our Transportation Dispatchers, you must call for an appointment. If you want to use our exercise equipment, you must call in advance to "register" to workout. If you want to play billiards, you must call in advance to reserve the pool table to play. If you want to take a fitness class, you must call in advance to reserve your spot. Each activity will have maximum attendance limits due to social distancing, the size of the room and the activity. Health department guidelines will limit your time at the Center to 2 hours.

MASKS: MASKS ARE MANDATORY. If you are unable to wear a mask, please call Bernadette at the Senior Center and we will try and make alternative arrangements for you to participate in programs or services virtually. Masks must be worn covering the nose and the mouth completely. Masks with ventilators are not acceptable, unless a paper disposable mask is worn over the ventilator mask.

Social Distancing: Everyone is required to maintain a 6-foot social distance while at the Senior Center (12 feet while exercising in the Fitness Center and during exercise classes). The floor will be marked appropriately for exercise.

Hand Sanitizer/Hand Washing: Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance of every room. Members are required to use the hand sanitizer prior to entering a room. In addition, please wash your hands, frequently, for a minimum of 20 seconds.

Check-In: Upon arrival at the Senior Center, all visitors will be required to "check-in" with a staff member/ volunteer. The check-in station will be in the main lobby. Persons will be required to scan their Senior Center membership card; this is necessary for contact tracing if someone tests positive for COVID and to keep track of the numbers of people in the building. Each person will be required to complete and sign a completed COVID-19 Assessment form and place it in the designated area.

If a person shows up with COVID-19 signs or symptoms, they will be asked to go home immediately. If a person Continued on next page 23





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860-228-0212 860-228-8487

www.tireandbrakeclinic.com

**Chris Rice, Service Manager** contact@tireandbrakeclinic.com Continued from page 21

presents COVID-19 symptoms while at the Senior Center, he/she will be asked to go home if they are able or ushered to a holding room and the health department will be notified. 911 will be called if necessary. The holding room will be sanitized after the person is removed.

Coats: The coat room will be closed. Please use your chair to hang your coat.

Visiting: Per state guidelines, people will not be allowed to drop-in and "visit" for hours. We will have established "visiting" times throughout the week and people will have to call in advance to reserve a seat to visit. The main lobby will not be available for sitting and visiting. There are a few seats set up in the main hall for individuals to sit and wait for their appointments with our staff, hairdresser, and podiatrist.

Billiards: You must call the Senior Center to reserve a play time. Four players maximum. No spectators. Bring your own cue stick (if possible). Players are responsible for washing/sanitizing the pool balls, bridge, pool table and cue stick if they borrow one both before they begin play and after ending the game.

Setback/Cards/Maj Jong: Unfortunately, state guidelines do not permit games that cannot be thoroughly cleaned (cards, board games, etc.) to be allowed in the Senior Center. It is also impossible to social distance (6feet) while playing card and board games.

Classes: Classes will resume gradually and will have space limitations based on the size of our rooms and social distance requirements. Participants will have to register for classes in advance. Be sure that you can attend each session before signing up; we do not want to see an empty seat that could have been filled by someone else.

Woodcarvers: Limit 15 per group at one time to ensure proper distancing. Please reserve your spot with the woodcarvers group. Call Bernadette for more information.

Chair Fitness Classes / Chair Yoga): These classes will have a limit of 15 students per class and chairs will be spaced 6 feet apart from each other. Please be sure to stay in your designated area during the class. Masks must always be worn during class.

Zumba Class: Limit of 15 per class. Members will remain

in a predesigned 12-foot square box and will be required to wear a mask while participating in the class activity. Mask breaks can be taken anytime outside. Zumba Gold will start Wednesday June 23rd at 9am. Pre-registration is required.

Meals/Eating/Drinking: Per state guidelines, the TVC-CA congregate meal program is not allowed to operate. We will have a coffee, tea, and water station available to use - one person at a time. After each use we will fully sanitize the drinking station. All other water fountains are not available.

Trips: We will not be offering trips until sometime in 2022 (hopefully). We do have our Senior Transportation Program that has been up and running since July 2020. If you would like to request a ride for medical, shopping, errands etc... please make an appointment or call Lisa or Margaret.

On May 13, 2021 Dr. Morgan, Podiatrist will be at the senior center by appointment only. He is here from 1-2:30 with appointments every 15 minutes. Please call the senior center to schedule your time. Dr. Morgan will be here every 10 weeks for your footcare.

On June 14, 2021, Lynn Shea will be here by appointment only for haircuts. She is here every 5 weeks from 8am to 12pm. Appointments are every 20 minutes starting at 8am and the last appointment at 11:40am. Please call starting May 13th to schedule your appointment.

The Beckish Senior Center staff is very excited to welcome you all back. We will be posting in the online newsletter the date, times, and programs available by May 1st so you can plan what you would like to attend. The reopening is "gradual", this will not be the new "normal", as we will continue to improve and expand our services. These guidelines are put in place for your safety and as well as my staff. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Bernadette Derring at 860-228-0759 ext 1. Please remember to call and make an appointment before arriving. All events and meeting will be by appointment ONLY.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Derring Director Senior Services & Transportation Town of Columbia

When the vaccine rollout began earlier this year, the limited availability of vaccines and the developing infrastructure for making appointments certainly made for some challenges (i.e., countless browser refreshes!!).

To support our town's vaccination effort, and along with the Senior Center, I reached out to hundreds of seniors age 65 and above. This gave me the opportunity to speak with many of you, most for the first time ever. While these conversations were often brief, they established the type of personal connection so much more common in pre-pandemic days. And, speaking with you all reinforced that progressing through the pandemic for more than a year is both relatable, and so personal.

Have questions about getting vaccinated? Let me know! Call me at 860-228-1008.

Additionally, contact me to:

- Talk with a social worker
- Receive guidance/advocacy with eligibility/benefits/ energy needs
- · Learn about what programs you may qualify for
- Get referrals to appropriate programs/services

A program change to highlight: The deadline for Energy Assistance 2020-21, has been extended. Additionally, some previously required documentation has been dropped. Didn't apply yet? Applied, but were denied? There's time to apply under the new criteria now.

#### **Program Date Changes:**

- Deliverable fuel deliveries extended to May 20, 2021.
- · Last day for application intake for all households extended to June 15, 2021.

#### **Program Flexibilities:**

- The liquid asset test is eliminated (Households previously denied due to liquid assets can have their applications re-determined.)
- Bank statements are no longer required.
- Social Security/Pension proof is not required if applicant was eligible for CEAP benefits within the last 2 years and verification had been provided.

To schedule an appointment to apply/reapply, contact ACCESS Agency at:

**ACCESS Energy Department** 

Phone: 860-450-7487 (Willimantic)

Email: shirley.riemann@accessagency.or

Have questions? Please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Stay safe and take good care.

Sincerely,

Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator kwilt@columbiact.org 860-228-1008

(Typical office hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm)

#### **Income Eligibility:**

Household Size:

| 1        | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5        | 6        | 7        | 8        |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Up To    | Up То    | Up То    | Up То    | Up To    | Up То    | Up То    | Up То    |
| \$37,645 | \$49,228 | \$60,811 | \$72,394 | \$83,977 | \$95,560 | \$97,732 | \$99,904 |

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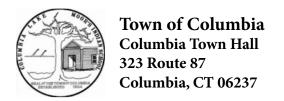
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