

# Columbia VIEWS

Volume 5 • Issue 3  
Summer 2021



*Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT*



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On June 8, 2021, the Annual Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 was approved with no mill rate increase. We continually focus our efforts on providing a balanced and responsible budget while maintaining the quality of life for the citizens of Columbia. During COVID we took the opportunity to make some updates to the Senior Center, Town Hall, Maintenance Facility, Rec Park, and Town Green Memorial walkway. The Town Administrator will go into more detail on these updates in his piece for the Columbia Views.



If you wish to review the recently passed budget documents, you can find them on the Finance Departments page on the Town's website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org), or copies are located in the Town Clerk's office and the Town Administrator's office.

Looking forward we are considering long-range plans for the town's infrastructure. Currently our buildings are well maintained and in great shape. As the town expands,

we look to continue the improvements at Rec Park as part of our long-range plan to accommodate the needs of our residents. In addition, an important part of the town's infrastructure is our emergency services. We continue to fund and support those services at a sensible rate.

I am proud of the town's past and where we are going. We live in a wonderful town, and I look forward to the future ahead.

Just a reminder, if you want to receive town news via email or emergency alerts via cell phone, email and home phone, please sign up on our website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org).

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett  
First Selectman  
[severett@columbiact.org](mailto:severett@columbiact.org)  
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*On the cover*

Sculling on Columbia Lake  
Rowing his shell is Columbia resident  
Tim Carcia. Photo by Paul Ramsey.

## 2021/22 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

### 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

### 1st Q/22

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## Columbia Views

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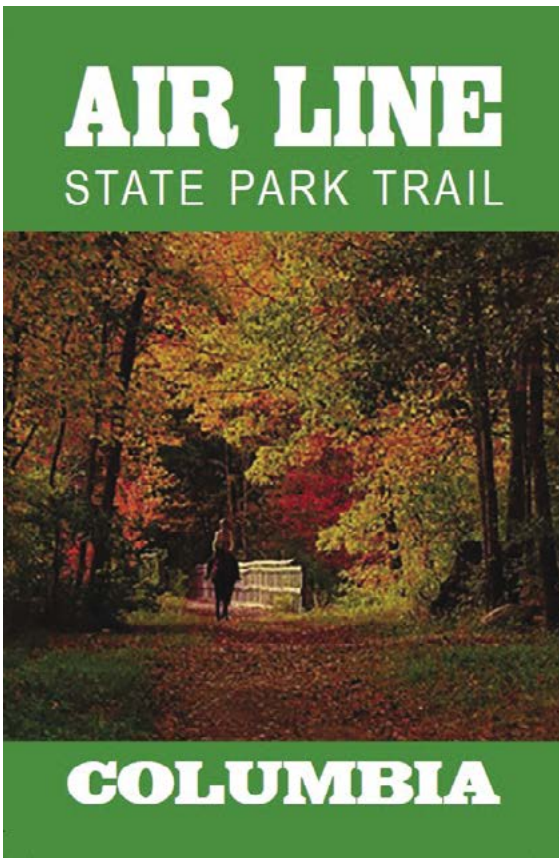
**Special thanks to**

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

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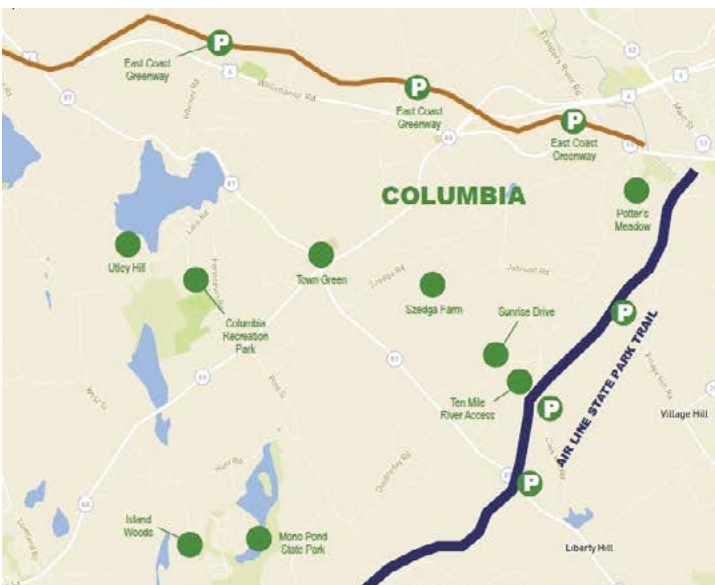


Why is Connecticut poised to benefit from the recent shift in our economy coming out of COVID? We have the perfect location centered between Boston and New York, lower cost of housing, easy access to Bradley International Airport, great colleges and universities, plus a calmer pace of life. Public and private sector officials have been working to promote Connecticut as a desirable home base for rising early-stage companies such as Enko Chem that recently moved their new headquarters and research facility from Boston to Mystic, CT. Enko develops environmentally friendly pest controls that are harmless to plant life and other organisms. This is also showing the continued testament to the bioscience industry.



Both the state and towns are returning to pre-pandemic normal by focusing on increasing support for businesses, restaurants, and tourism. The Eastern Regional Tourism District received a grant for the promotion of regional and town assets along the CT Airline trail through the Regional Marketing Partnership program. The program provided the funds for Columbia and several other towns located in Eastern CT to produce a beautiful and convenient pocket-size z-fold brochure. The brochure highlights Columbia's local trails and venues

Continued on page 4



**ATTRACTIONS IN COLUMBIA, CT**

Visit Columbia to shop, relax and enjoy. Come peruse through antique and vintage shops, unwind and savor local craft wines, complete that dream garden by visiting the local nursery and garden center, pick up fresh organic produce or meats from local farmers, or relish a night under the stars listening to great music during our summer series.

Come explore Columbia's interesting history and events. Learn about Kocumbeau's Army that marched through Columbia and camped at Columbia Lake, visit the c. 1754 Moor's Indian Charly School and more local history.



**TRAILS AND HIKING**

Columbia is very fortunate to have many public trails including the Airline Trail and the Hop River Trail. Loop Trails include Mono Pond State Park, Island Woods, Sledge Farm, Potter Meadow Preserve (Joshua Trail), Gurnise Drive Preserve, Ten Mile River Access, and Columbia Town Green. The trails offer diverse habitats and beautiful views, scenic watercourses, wildlife observation, and landing to enjoy.



**Columbia**

Columbia is nestled in the crossroads of Connecticut's eastern highlands, its richest trails in agriculture are maintained with rolling hills and beautiful country vistas.

Attractions, dining, and outdoor activities can be conveniently accessed from Route 6, 66 and 87, a short ride to nearby Willimantic and Hebron provides more opportunities for shopping and dining.

[www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org)

**WHERE TO EAT**

Columbia offers a variety of dining experiences. Options include the Main Moose, a classic American roadside restaurant, as well as additional eateries for both breakfast and lunch, and a full-service Italian American Bakery. Some restaurants are accessible from the trails or a short drive. Use the scan code for a listing of Columbia restaurants.



**TRAIL ACCESS**

- AIRLINE TRAIL** - Access points are at various road crossings. Lebanon has a large parking area on Leonard Bridge Road (at end of Pine St.), other parking areas are limited to 2 or 3 cars.
- HOP RIVER** - Access points are at various road crossings (parking is limited), and designated parking is located at Mackey's (219 Columbia Ave. Ht 66).
- MONO POND STATE PARK** - Main access point is at the boat launch off Hunt Road.

For additional copies of this map, please email [townadministrator@columbiact.org](mailto:townadministrator@columbiact.org)

*Continued from page 3*

along the Airline and Hop River trail systems that both residents and visitors alike can enjoy. We would like to also thank the Main Moose for their generous gift towards the brochure. Please stop by Town Hall to pick up the new trail map.

Columbia has not been sitting still during the last 15 months of COVID, as Steven mentioned in his article. I am proud of how hard our departments and employees have been working to improve the look and functionality of our buildings and to service your needs. Our town campus saw a beautiful addition to the walkways around our Town Green Veterans Memorial that provides improvements for handicap access and reduces slips and falls from the previous stamped concert walkway. The Town Hall received an upgrade to the conference room so that we can now hold hybrid virtual meetings and you will notice improved signage and a newly painted interior. The Beckish Senior Center is now fully open with a new water fountain, ice machine, interior new paint, and an improved food bank. We are very proud of the talent

of our Public Works department in their skills at building a new road and parking lot at Rec Park and refinishing the walkways. The new courts at Rec Park are in full use and the new soccer fields and softball field are finally being enjoyed by the kids. The maintenance facility has been finished as a joint facility for our School and Town.

Our gardens at the library, town green, Moor's Indian Charity School and Occum herb garden, History Place, Beckish Senior Center, Murphy House, and the Old Yard Cemetery, all owe a big thanks to Millie Ramsey, Ingrid Wood, Kathie Tolsdorf, Joan Hill, and Justin Holbrook plus our public works employees again for their tireless efforts at making our town shine.

Please thank all of these volunteers and keep your ideas coming, we are determined to make Columbia the best town in Connecticut to live!

Thank you,

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator  
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Columbia, CT

August 13<sup>th</sup>

6:45pm

No day-of registration	Start & Finish at Rec Park	First 100 people get T-shirt
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Register by:

\$20 July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$25 July 4 <sup>th</sup> -Aug. 7 <sup>th</sup>	\$30 Aug. 8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>
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Columbia Parks & Recreation 860-228-8513 recdirector@columbiact.org

COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION

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**WE'RE BACK!!** 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, Dog Licenses, Transfer Station stickers, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage licenses, Fishing and Hunting licenses, etc. Please call our office at 860-228-3284 if you have any questions.

### **MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Municipal elections will take place on November 2, 2021. Absentee ballots become available on October 1, 2021 through the close of business on November 1, 2021.

### **ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Voting by Absentee Ballot is a two step process. The first

step is to fill out an ED-3, Application for Absentee Ballot. The application can be picked up in the Clerk's office or downloaded from the Town's website [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) (Departments – Registrar of Voters – Select Absentee Ballots on the right side of the screen, then click on the link under the heading Absentee Ballot Applications). When they become available, an absentee ballot will be issued. The absentee ballot application with an original signature must be on file with the Clerk in order for your vote to be counted. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding voting by absentee ballot.

Robin M. Kenefick, *Columbia Town Clerk*

Gail C. McGrath, *Columbia Assistant Town Clerk*

## FIRE MARSHAL

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This reminder is coming to you a bit early, but it's never too early to refresh ourselves on fire safety.

Fire Prevention week is October 3 – 9. We hope that you are able to spend time talking about fire safety in your home, place of business or at school. The fall is a good time to upgrade your smoke and CO detectors and to discuss your emergency exit plan, which should include a meeting place outside of the building. Also, if you have a fire, remember to never re-enter the building for any reason.

In the fall we should:

1. Take the opportunity to have your homes heating sys-

tem cleaned and serviced for the upcoming winter.

2. Clear combustible materials a minimum of 36" away from all heat sources, this helps reduce the risk of them being ignited.
3. Clean and service your wood, pellet or gas stove.
4. Reduce electrical extension cord use.
5. Check [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for other Fire Prevention Safety Tips.

If you have any questions regarding fire safety, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 860-228-0440 to schedule an appointment.

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

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### **Motor vehicle adjustments**

In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof. The first is a copy of the vehicle plate return receipt that you get from DMV when you return your plates. The second is something that shows how you disposed of the vehicle. Accepted proofs are a copy of the bill of sale, an out-of-state registration, an insurance statement that specifically states your vehicle was removed for sale or because it was sold, stolen or totaled. You can also submit a junked vehicle statement from the junk yard or a copy of your purchase agreement if you traded in a vehicle and bought a vehicle with lower value

### **Renters Program**

The Renters Program runs until October 1st so please call us or come in if you are interested in this program. You must be 65 or older or totally disabled. Please call us to find out what is necessary to file an application or you can go to our website at [Columbiact.org](http://Columbiact.org) under the Elderly & Totally Disabled Benefits line item for further information.

If you have any questions regarding the above programs you can reach us at 228-9555.



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AHM's Executive Director, Tressa Giordano recently shared; "we are thrilled to once again offer in-person programs for local children, youth, young adults, families, and seniors. We have building improvements in place at AHM's Community Center to create a Covid-Safe environment for all ages. As we move through the summer, more services and events are being added to the schedule."

**Mental Health Services:** In addition to all of AHM's school-based mental health services, AHM's Clinical Director Megan Aldridge also shares: "While our outpatient clinical services have been available virtually throughout this past year, we are excited to add in-person options for children, young adults, and families. We are now offering both in-person and telehealth sessions for therapy. The SMART Recovery Support Group for family members will continue to meet virtually, with in-person groups resuming soon. Please call the office at 860-228-9488 or check the AHM website for more details about availability and to discuss the best fit for your family."

**Family Resource Center: A Summer First Steps in Music at Burnt Hill Park in Hebron**

This program is for children ages birth-5 and parents or caregivers. It is a researched early childhood music program and is facilitated by Mallory Kokus, a musician and music teacher trained in this method, and includes singing, dancing, movement games, and instruments! Held at Burnt Hill Park on Fridays, 7/30, 8/6, and 8/13 from 9:30-10:15.

Rain dates will be Mondays. The fee is \$45 per family. Please register online at <https://ahmyouth.org/first-steps-in-music-registration/>

**The Health Matters Program** welcomes residents of all ages from the towns of Andover, Columbia, Hebron, and Marlborough for in-person programs in the newly renovated Health Matters Wellness Room at the AHM Center, 25 Pendleton Dr. in Hebron. According to Jennifer Boehler, Coordinator for Health Matters: "We are offering a variety of art, music and food-related activities for our July/August calendar. Visit [ahmyouth.org](http://ahmyouth.org) > Health Matters to learn all about what is being offered."



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# Welcome Dr. Nick Stevens!



Nick Stevens, DMD

Raised in Columbia, CT

Graduate of Windham High School

Graduate of  
Eastern Connecticut State University

Graduate of Western University  
College of Dental Medicine



1581 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

[www.JStevensDDS.com](http://www.JStevensDDS.com)

860.456.3214

Property taxes on the Grand List of 10/1/20 will become due and payable July 1, 2021. Real estate and personal property taxes (other than registered motor vehicles) may be paid in two installments if the total tax due is over \$250.00. The second installment of these taxes will become due Jan 1, 2022. All Motor Vehicle tax, the first installment of Real Estate and Personal Property tax will become delinquent on August 3, 2021. Mail must be post-marked on or before August 2, 2021, to be considered paid on time.

If taxes are not paid on or before Aug 2, 2021, interest is charged at the rate of 1½% per month (18% per year) from

the due date of July 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.

Taxes may be paid by mail or put in one of the drop boxes outside of the Town Hall; or online via [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) and service fees apply. The Tax Collector's office hours in the Town Hall, 323 RT 87 Columbia in July & Aug 2nd, MON thru WED 8AM to 4PM, THURS 10AM to 6PM and FRI 8AM to 12PM.

Tax bills will be mailed on June 29, 2021 and will be available online on July 1, 2021.

COLUMBIA OPEN SPACE

*Mono Pond State Park Expansion Fundraiser at Heartstone Winery*

Columbia Open Space Committee has been working on conserving the southwest corner of Columbia for many years. It takes time to engage the public and the government in large projects. I am delighted to inform you that we have acquired half of our goal: 500 hundred of the 1000 acres we seek are protected.

How did we pay for this land? Certainly, the generosity of the people of Columbia played a role. The Town of Lebanon contributed too. Most of the funding came through the State of Connecticut's allotment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The USDA Forest Service leverages royalties from offshore oil and natural gas to preserve our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and American Indian schools and distributes this revenue to the states through the LWCF.

However, it was The Trust For Public Land (TPL), a national organization with a Connecticut field office since 1986, that made all the difference. TPL provided the pro-

fessional expertise that Columbia lacks to accomplish the real estate negotiations, mapping, appraisals, surveys, legal services, and grant writing services. Fulfilling their commitment of creating parks and protecting land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

Columbia Open Space will host a fundraiser for the Connecticut field office of The Trust For Public Land at HEARTSTONE WINERY on Saturday, October 9, 2021, from 3 to 6 PM.

Please join us!



## BECKISH SENIOR CENTER

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Hello Columbia Seniors,

After the 15-month pandemic forced closure, the Beckish Senior Center is finally open to the public. Starting in July, the Center will be open five days a week with lunches offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. All regular activities, (pre-pandemic) will resume including billiards, cards, movies, Zumba, etc.

As of May 19, 2021, the Governor lifted the mask mandate for fully vaccinated people. Masks are optional if you are fully vaccinated. Masks are required if you are not fully vaccinated and stay on while in the senior center.

I know you are all very eager to travel and get out and see more of what life may offer. Starting in late August or early September, day and overnight trips are being planned. Please stay tuned for more information.

The Beckish Senior Center will also use the Town's Van to take seniors to lunch, ice cream trips, music at a park, plays, and more. If you have any suggestions for trips, please feel free to share your ideas.

## SENIORS ON THE GO

---

June and July have brought some long-awaited news. We can meet together again! It is great to see people at the senior center again; to get together for lunch; and to plan events for the summer and fall. Before I talk about all of that I would like to thank the town and the Beckish Senior Center for all they did to keep the citizens of Columbia well throughout the last 15 months.

The Columbia Seniors' Organization is up and running. We will be showing movies on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 1pm. We get to see a good movie, visit with friends, and enjoy some movie snacks. I hope you can join us – it is a great way to cool off on a hot summer day.

This fall we will have another Birthday Party event for our seniors who are over 90 years old. This event was a great success a few years ago and we want to do it again. Keep your eyes open for information about date and time.

Our transportation program is running full steam ahead! We are available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. If you need a ride to and from medical appointments, running errands, shopping, hairdressers, and more, please contact Margaret or Lisa at 860-228-0759 ext. 2.

Our van driver, Pat Morris, is currently displaying her artwork throughout the senior center. Please stop by to say hello, we will welcome you back, and you can enjoy Pat's beautiful artwork. Her work will be on display through the end of August. You may find Pat's biography at <http://PatMorrisArtist.com>.

I am so thrilled to have everyone coming back to the Center. It will be wonderful to catch up with everyone's lives. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,

Bernadette Derring

*Director, Senior Services & Transportation*

The big event for this summer will be our annual tag sale. We will be having the sale on Saturday, August 28, from 9am to 2pm here at the Beckish Senior Center. We will be selling housewares, small appliances, craft merchandise, jewelry, tools, games, toys, and small yard tools such as sprinklers and rakes. We will also feature a bake sale, and food for lunch. We are looking for donations for our sale- they can be brought to the center on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9am-11am, August 16th – 27th. If these times are not workable, please call the center at 860-228-0759 or Sheran Smith at 860-228-9543. We will try to accommodate your particular circumstances.

Remember that it is important to stay active, meet with old friends and make new friends. For all our other activities and events, please check the Beckish newsletter, The GEM, for the latest updates and information on all the activities that take place there.

Columbia Troops 162B and 162G would like to congratulate the newest members of the Order of the Arrow (OA) from our troop. In April of this year five of our scouts took part in the “Ordeal Weekend” at JN Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford where they gave a day of service projects and were inducted into the Order of the Arrow. The OA is an honor society in scouting that focuses on giving service to their scouting community. Two scouts from troop 162B were inducted, Mark Bacon and Austin Crim. Three scouts from 162G were inducted, Loriann Bacon, Krycia Harlow and Ava Johnson.

In 2019 Columbia started a female BSA scout troop, linked to the boy’s troop. Each troop has its own scoutmaster but shares assistant scoutmasters and troop committee members. Both troops are chartered by the Columbia Lions Club and meet weekly on Thursdays during the school year. Our troops are active in the community with food-drives throughout the winter during the pandemic, collecting bottles and cans at the Transfer Station, helping to keep



the trails at Szegda Town property neat. We are hoping to bring back our annual metal collection in the future as well. Our troop is open to both boys and girls aged 11 to 18 who enjoy camping, hiking, summer camp and outdoor activities. Contact the troop for more information about joining by emailing [columbiactroop162@gmail.com](mailto:columbiactroop162@gmail.com).



# COLUMBIA TOWN DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT		OFFICE HOURS	PHONE
<b>Administrative Office:</b>			
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		
<b>Assessor's Office:</b>			
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	
<b>Beckish Senior Center:</b>			
Director	Bernadette Derring	Mon–Fri 8 am – 3 pm	860-228-0759
Van Dispatcher/Program Assistant	Margaret Verizzi		
<b>Social Services:</b>			
Community Social Services Coordinator	Katie Wilt	Mon & Tues 8:30 am – 5 pm	860-228-1008
<b>Building Department:</b>			
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	Flo Polek		
Fire Marshal/Burning Official	Michael Lester		
Assistant Burning Official	Stephen Postemsky		
Assistant to Building Official			
<b>Animal Control:</b>			
Animal Control Officer	Marc Volza		860-337-1222
<b>Facilities Department:</b>			
Facilities Manager	Jason Nowasad	Mon–Fri 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-4270
Facilities Maintainer	Daniel Johnson		860-228-4270 ext. 111
<b>Finance Department:</b>			
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
<b>Fire Department:</b>			
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		
<b>Public Works Department:</b>			
Director	Beth Lunt	Mon–Fri 6:30 am – 3 pm	860-228-4270
<b>Recreation Department:</b>			
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	
<b>Registrar of Voters:</b>			
Democrat Registrar	Karen Butzgy	Varies	860-228-0110
Republican Registrar	Kate Morrison		
<b>Resident State Trooper:</b>			
	Gregory DeCarli	Mon–Fri 6:30 am – 3 pm	860-228-9846
	Dispatch		860-465-5400
<b>Tax Collector's Office:</b>			
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>	
<b>Town Clerk's Office:</b>			
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	
<b>Transfer Station:</b>			
Transfer Station Attendants	Jacob Osborne	Wed 8 am – 4 pm	860-228-4270
	Tristan Kandolin	Sat 8 am – 4 pm	
	John Ciurylo		





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## Summer at the library

I write this during a heat wave, and our Summer Reading Program is in full swing. If you haven't yet – kids and adults – be sure to drop in and register! There's still time to enter for some great summer reading prizes and earn pet food donations with our Read To Feed collaboration with the Our Companions Animal Sanctuary in Ashford.

We are optimistically looking to Fall for cooler temperatures, but also we hope for continued return to “normalcy.” We welcome you to join any one of our six adult book groups, two kids book clubs, weekly Stitchers meet-up, and bi-monthly Writers group. Expect a return to our Tuesday night adult programming and Thursday night children's programming. Library staff is looking forward to our Iceland in My Heart program on September 21st!

We even have a couple of new initiatives to share: Expe-

rience Kits and Saxton's Stuff. Our Experience Kits offer you a package of a couple of books or video on a topic and the means to engage in the topic hands-on! One of people's favorites is the Scrabble Kit, that includes a video on competitive Scrabble and a travel game board for your own at-home enjoyment. Saxton's Stuff is an odd collection of things you might on limited occasion need, but don't want to purchase. For example: Traveling out of the country? Borrow Saxton's plug adapter. Glasses need a fix? Borrow Saxton's eye glass repair kit.

Stop in the Library to learn about our new programming and see all that we have to offer!

Su Epstein, *Library Director*

319 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237

P: (860) 228-0350 | F: (860) 228-1569

Email: [staff@columbiactlibrary.org](mailto:staff@columbiactlibrary.org)

## COLUMBIA COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

As part of the Local Prevention Council Grant awarded to the Town of Columbia to prevent the use and harm of e-cigarettes, commonly referred to as vaping, the Park and Rec playground has new signage to make it clear the playgrounds are smoke and vape free. For quick facts on the unknown risks of e-cigarettes visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html?s\\_cid=OSH\\_emg\\_GL0004#why-is-nicotine-unsafe](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html?s_cid=OSH_emg_GL0004#why-is-nicotine-unsafe)



Thinking of quitting? Call or chat with an expert. Get free, personalized support from a tobacco cessation expert by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-877-44U-QUIT, or chat with an expert online using the National Cancer Institute's LiveHelp service.

Considering getting the COVID-19 vaccine but haven't yet? Even people who were eager to get the vaccine had questions, i.e., What if I don't get my second dose exactly 21/28 days from my first shot? Nothing wrong with wanting more information! When it comes to your health, you deserve an opportunity to discuss concerns with a medical provider. Reach out to your doctor today! For answers to frequently asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination

visit:

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html?s\\_cid=10493:cdc%20covid%20vaccine:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html?s_cid=10493:cdc%20covid%20vaccine:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21)

To schedule an appointment and get connected with a ride, call the Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line at 877-918-222. The COVID-19 vaccine is free and rides can be free, too!

Please reach out to me with any questions or for more information on the above-mentioned programs. I can also

be contacted 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

My typical office hours are Monday and Tuesday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Contact me by phone at 860-228-1008 or email at [kwilt@columbiact.org](mailto:kwilt@columbiact.org).

Wishing wellness among you and the community.

Sincerely,

Katie Wilt, *Community Social Services Coordinator*

# COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department is led by officers whose expertise, experience and dedication to the work of a volunteer fire service is at the heart of what makes the department run smoothly and successfully. The CVFD's Lieutenants include five members who bring varied skills to their roles.

Lieutenant **Brian Dunn** is a lifelong resident of Columbia and currently lives in town with his family. He has been a member of the CVFD since November, 2002 and is certified as an EMT, Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Fire Instructor 1. Brian is a Systems Engineer at IT Direct in West Hartford and when he is not working, at the station or caring for his young children, he enjoys exploring photography. Brian's work at the CVFD is based on his desire to be part of something bigger than himself and to give back to the community.

**Fred Vanston** has been a CVFD member since January, 2008 and holds the office of Member-At-Large as well as the position of Lieutenant. Since January, 2020, Fred has been employed as a full-time firefighter in Mansfield; he holds certifications as an EMT, Instructor 1, and has been trained in Cold Water Rescue, Hazmat Operations, and trained as a firefighter at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Fred comes from a long line of firefighters and after earning a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineer-

ing from UMass Amherst, Fred moved to Columbia in 2007. Unbeknownst to him, the town had a Volunteer Fire Department and Fred quickly became a member and began to pursue his interest in servicing others through his membership.

Lieutenant **Tom Doyle** joined the CVFD in April 2012 and is certified as an EMT and an EMS-Instructor and completed his Q License training to drive fire apparatus. Tom joined the department in an effort to help others and to give back to his community. Tom holds the elected position of President of The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, overseeing administrative activities within the CVFD. Tom has taught at Horace W. Porter School for 14 years, has coached recreational sports in town and served as President of the Little League.

**Kara Bowen** has lived in Columbia since 1992 and joined the CVFD in April, 2015. Aside from her appointed position as a Lieutenant, she holds the elected office as the CVFD's Treasurer. Kara has earned her certification as an EMT, Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2 and has received her Q License. Kara holds a Bachelors Degree in Accounting and joined the department when she was a stay-at home mom to her now 13 year old son. Kara is grateful for the opportunity to serve the community and to a member of dedicated group at the CVFD.

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One of the frustrations of a local historical society is the difficulty in acquiring early furniture made by someone in the society's area of interest. The chest-on-chest in the Lebanon Historical Society's new exhibit, *Made in Lebanon*, is one of a few Lebanon examples of early furniture in their collection.

The chest is made of cherry and birch in a "high rural style" relating to furniture made in Colchester and Norwich. The secondary woods are chestnut, poplar and pine. It stands nearly 7 feet tall and 44" wide. While it has had damage to drawer

edges, a replaced flame finial and finish, it is in excellent overall condition. It must have been quite impressive in the farmhouse in Lebanon Crank.

The chest was made sometime between

1760 and 1779, most probably by Peter Newcomb. At that time, the Newcomb family home was near the intersection of the roads to Windham and Hartford, now Rts 6 and 66. Peter was the second of three generations of Lebanon joiners [furniture makers]. He had inherited tools from his father and passed his own to his son, William. Peter's will also gave this chest to his daughter Jemima in 1779.

In an 18th century rural estate, a good bed and its furnishings was usually the most valuable furniture. However, this chest was listed at 20% more than the best bed.



Our current exhibits include:

*Made in Lebanon*

*Working Water*

*Explore Revolutionary Lebanon*

*The Land & People of Lebanon*

*The Doctors of Lebanon*

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[www.historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org)

Jemima married a Capt. Gideon Clark of Lebanon 1787 and this chest continued by marriage through the Clark, Isham and Gillette families to the late 20th Century.

The Lebanon Historical Society Museum has many interesting exhibits and is open year 'round, Wed.–Sat. from 12pm to 4pm. The Museum is open to the public, offers free admission, and is handicapped accessible. [www.historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org).

Brian Bartizek

## FRIENDS OF THE SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY

### *Hello, Fellow Columbia Residents,*

We at Friends of the Saxton B. Little Free Library(FOL) hope this finds you and yours safe, healthy and beginning to resume some normalcy. Although we were not able to follow through with our normal activities of book sales, book nook sales, online sales and taking in book donations this past year, your memberships and generous monetary donations helped us to fulfill our mission to help support the Library.

Generally, our donations to the Library support music, movie and audio book purchases, museum passes and discount admissions as well as on-going Library programs for all ages. During this unprecedented time, we were glad to have helped with the cost of PPE and sanitizing products which contributed to keeping our Library operating all year long.

We began taking book donations again in June, on sched-

uled days by appointment and are planning to hold a one-day book sale August 7, both while observing safety standards for our patrons and volunteers.

We have continued to turn over our inventory in the Book Nook at the Library and hope you have all had a chance to peruse and shop our little area during Library hours. As the year moves on, we will be re-opening slowly and we greatly appreciate your patience and continued patronage. We are always in need of new volunteers so if you or someone you know is looking for volunteer opportunities, please contact us at FRIENDSOFSBL1@GMAIL.COM

Please “friend” us on our Facebook Page if you haven’t already. We can be found at “Friends of the Saxton B. Little Free Library”.

Have a lovely Summer!

Laurie Rogers, Secretary of FOL



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### Community paper shredding event

The Columbia Congregational Church is once again hosting a community paper shredding event on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

Hours this year will be SHORTER – 9:00 AM to NOON. – Next to the old firehouse on RTE 66.

Don't miss your opportunity to donate to the mission work of the church and clear out your years of accumulated papers.

Staples and clips DO NOT need to be removed. If you

have questions call Michele at 860-228-9306.

### 2nd Saturday Breakfasts

2nd Saturday Breakfasts will resume on September 11, 2021, 8:00am-11:00am.

Appropriate Social distancing and mask wearing guidelines will be followed.

Watch for information on the center of town sign board.

Check the Columbia Congregational Church web site for further updates.



## Be a part of the Colebrook family.

This June, Colebrook Village at Hebron is celebrating our third anniversary – and we have our residents to thank for that! We are currently accepting reservations, but hurry, availability is limited. Call to schedule a tour today!

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## *Eighth Grade Graduation*

It was what turned out to be a beautiful day on June 15th, 2021, when the 8th Grade Planning Committee transformed the Rec Park Pavilion into a magical Carnival for our graduating 8th grade class! This past year and a half has been hard on all our students, but in particular the students who were 7th graders in 2020 and then graduating 8th graders in 2021. Most of these students have been going to Horace W. Porter since their pre-school days. All they knew was Porter School and the traditions associated with moving up in grades. As elementary students they got to see “the big kids” in the middle school hallways finally getting their own lockers and moving from classroom to classroom...it’s so exciting!! As middle schoolers they got to join the Porter sports teams, become a member of the Honor Society, join band and drama, and earn a little more independence. Each year as they got closer to 8th grade and graduation, they looked forward to all the traditional 8th grade events. In a normal school year, they would fundraise for many different activities, and even the fundraising is a fun bonding experience. Typically, they would have a Santa’s breakfast, a wreath sale, dances throughout the year and many other fun events creating fond memories of their middle school years, not to mention a picnic at Holiday Hill, a 3-day New York City trip and the infamous semi formal dance to mark the end of the year.

Of course, with COVID restrictions the 8th Grade Planning Committee had to think outside the box...and boy did we!!! We reached out to our Columbia community and families for help and were floored by the outpouring of donations and volunteers. All their generosity enabled us to make this an event to remember! When students arrived, they were surprised with a Stilt Walker to guide them to the carnival. There were games galore where they could earn raffle tickets for a chance to win amazing prizes. There was also a fortune teller, DJ music, photo booth, cotton candy, popcorn, a surprise candy table, in addition to three carnival style food trucks. All the while, a slideshow played of the students documenting their growing years. A real treat was the entertainment provided by a New York City Contortion and Sideshow Act! Each student received a personalized “swag bag” filled with a sweatshirt of their future high school, a water bottle, as well as a Class of 2021 Carnival program complete with all our donors, benefactors and notes to our students from their



families! To close out the evening a special class toast was offered to the students followed by a cool beach ball drop as they listened to their class song, Beautiful Day by U2.

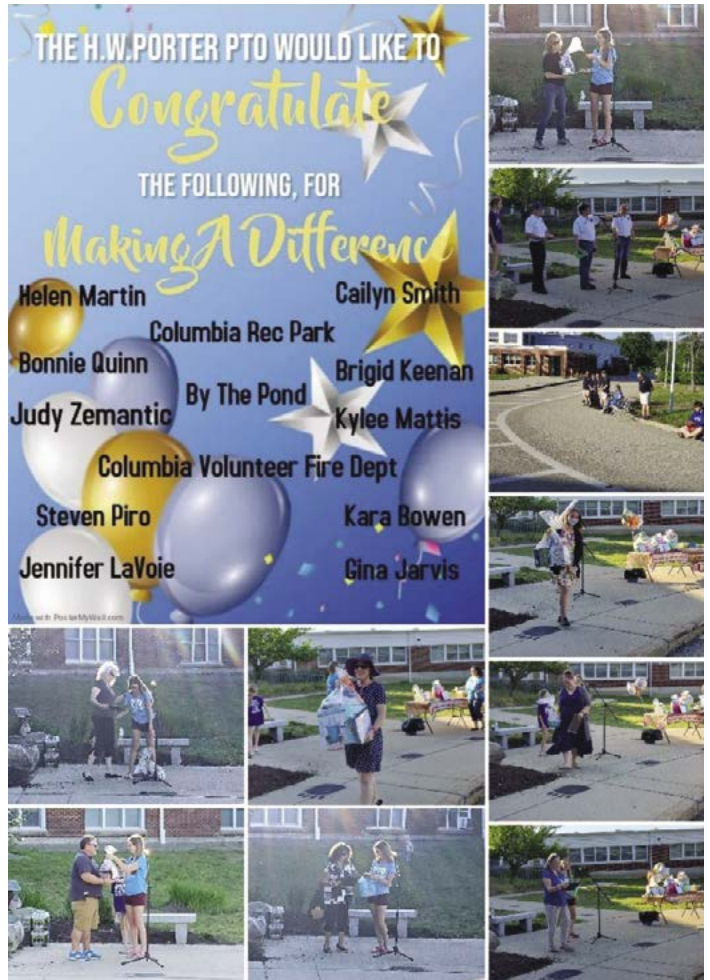
Our profound thanks goes out to all the generous donors and the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event a success. It would not have been possible without our friends, family, volunteers, and the Porter Community coming together to make this a memorable and special event for the Horace W. Porter class of 2021!!

Congratulations from the 8th Grade Planning committee: Karen Piro, Angelia Cichon, Courtney Provost, Kate Pierro, Karen Butzgy, Karen O’Hearn, Pam Orzolek

*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 December 31, 2021) 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.



The Horace W. Porter PTO recognized those who made a difference in the school and the community. The "Make A Difference" recipients help build a better community and school, hold the Columbia spirit, and shape the future. These recipients were nominated for everything they do. Congratulations to the following: The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, By The Pond, Columbia Recreational Park, Helen Martin, Cailyn Smith, Judy Zematic, Gina Jarvis, Jennifer LaVoie, Steven Piro, Bonnie Quinn, Brigid Keenan, Kylee Mattis, and Kara Bowen. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to this community!

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### New Donation

The Historical Society was delighted to recently receive a large collection of photographs, diaries, scrapbooks, posters and more, all the gift of June Squier who grew up in Columbia. June spent her first 20 years living in the Old Inn / Landmark Building which her parents owned from 1930 to 1963. She was also a member of the first class graduating from the Horace Porter School. Currently in the process of moving from Connecticut to North Carolina, she has been so kind as to entrust the Historical Society with her family archive that documents not only relatives going back to the mid 1800's but significant items relating to town history. We hope to conduct several oral history interviews with her as well, as she has so many stories to tell.



It may take a year or so to properly inventory and conserve all the items, and volunteers interested in learning about cataloging and archival methods are welcome to help out. This work would also be appropriate for a high school or college student interested in history in order to gain experience in the field.

### Upcoming Exhibit

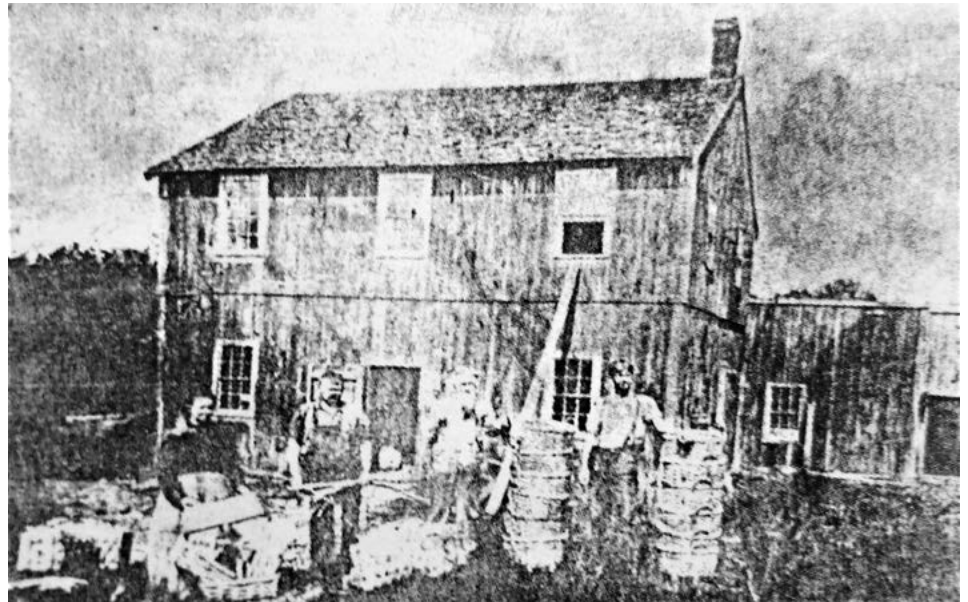
A new exhibit, Archaeology: Digging the Past will be opening at the History Place in late August. It will cover topics relating to archaeological

methods and will feature artifacts from sites explored in Columbia. It will also offer a number of hands-on activities suitable for all ages. During the course of the exhibit, speakers and videos about other sites will be scheduled, and participation in a public dig will be offered to anyone interested.

## Norman P. Little's Basketshop Factory

What happened to Norman P. Little's Basketshop "factory" formerly on Basketshop Road near West Street? As a young man Norman P. Little (1833 – 1915) learned the ash splint weaving techniques from neighboring Indigenous families. He may have even learned the craft from members of the extended Buck family of Chestnut Hill, once prominent among skilled basket makers in Eastern Connecticut. He too became an accomplished basket maker, so much so, that in 1857 he was asked to teach the craft as a guest instructor at a Rhode Island trade school. By 1862 Norman P. Little started a home business eventually employing 18 men who worked the trade in a two-story red frame building which once stood on Basketshop Road. From 1862 to 1910 this enterprise produced countless sturdy ash and oak splint baskets with interwoven oak wood handles --- made from local lumber. The cutting and processing of wooden splints was semi-mechanized using repurposed machinery from a water-powered mill. The finished baskets were transported by horse and wagon to Hartford and the Hop River Railroad Station where they were conveyed by rail to regional cities.

In 1910 Norman P. Little sold his company to one of his craftsmen, Abraham Lavietes of Shelton, Connecticut, who by 1911 had invested in a brand-new factory sited next to the Shelton railway called the Shelton Basket Company. The Shelton Historical Society states that Abraham Lavietes continued to manufacture according to Little's designs for sturdy, high-quality, interwoven wooden splint baskets of ash and oak. These industrial baskets were for "heavy-duty material handling" including: potato picking farms of Long Island, oyster-growing fisheries of Long Island sound, mushroom growers of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and asparagus growers of New Rochelle, Illinois. Other types of wooden splint hand-crafted baskets were sold to commercial laundries, designed for elegant railroad dining cars, grocery and meat markets, and chain-store shopping. Lavietes and his son Ray expanded the product line for sports vending in a special arrangement with Harry M. Stevens, America's foremost concessionaire (inventor of the ball park hot dog) who owned concessions at major baseball parks and race tracks from Maine to New Orleans.



In time, the Lavietes family expanded into new product lines for household use, such as laundry, kitchen bread, picnic, pie, flower and garden baskets, and specialty baskets for bicycles, ladies' handbags, and for cosmetics sales. According to the Shelton Historical Society, the Shelton Basket Company was well known as "the Tiffany of the basket industry" for their high-quality, hand-woven, beautiful oak and ash products.

As newer, cheaper wire and plastic products began to be mass-produced after WWII, wooden splint baskets fell out of favor. Mechanization in agricultural harvesting made manual picking obsolete. Ash and oak lumber, once readily available in Connecticut, became harder to find. And so, in 1960 Ron Lavietes sold the Shelton Basket Company to the Chippewa Indian Reservation of Hayward, Wisconsin who continued to craft baskets in the traditional way.

Ingrid Wood, Town Historian



Happy summer from the Columbia Leos! What a great summer it's been! The Columbia Lions were able to put on the parade again for Independence Day, having missed 2020. The Leos were proud to represent and lead the parade carrying the theme banner: "Peace, Friendship and Community". What a great theme! It was submitted by Alexander Volpe and seemed so appropriate for us coming off of 2020! It certainly is what the Leos are all about. We do our best to help foster community spirit as practice our motto, "We Serve". Thanks to Alex for his contribution!

In some very important news, Leo President Beth Tangarone was presented with "Leo of the Year 2021" for Multiple Districts 23 and the State of Connecticut! Leo Beth was very deserving of this honor, having distinguished herself as a Leo during her five years of service. Prior to being a Leo, she was considered an honorary "member" of the Columbia Lions. Her father Ralph Tangarone served as President at the same time as Beth! Leo Beth was an excellent role model for her peers and younger Leos. She led us through a very difficult in 2020 with her sleeves rolled up and a smile on her face! She will be missed as she has graduated EO Smith. We wish her much success as she moves on to the next chapter in her life. No matter where she goes, she will always be our "Leo of the Year"!

At our induction ceremony on June 14, we swore in our new officers with Leo Madeline Ross taking over as Pres-

ident. Maddy also sponsored her sister, Amanda, as a new member! Our other officers include: First VP Elle Gaucher, Second VP Morgan Bonnaiuto, Treasurer Luke Woodward and Secretary Lucy Provost. What a great team of hard workers! 2021-22 is going to be an awesome year!

The Leos held their Annual Variety Show on April 24 via Zoom. Here's an update on that: We were able to raise \$2100! Thanks to all who participated, supported, and helped further awareness for our causes this year. We gave \$700 checks to The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 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 Leos were meeting this past year via Zoom on the first and third Mondays of the month. We are looking at the possibility of meeting in person this year, location to be determined. Please email Advisor Jim Blair at [jbland15@earthlink.net](mailto:jbland15@earthlink.net) if you would like to participate. We are always looking for new members. Our requirements are ages 12-18, and Columbia residents.

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!

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