Volume 7 • Issue 3 Summer/Fall 2023



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FROM THE OFFICE OF STEVEN M. EVERETT, FIRST SELECTMAN

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence and Columbia's patriotic spirit was in full force this year for Columbia's annual Fourth of July Parade! John Adams of Massachusetts, a leader of the American Revolution and the second U.S. President wrote the resolution for independence "will be celebrat-

ed, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other."

That tradition holds true to this day, especially in Columbia as the theme this year was "Let Freedom Ring." Parade participants represented this theme with great enthusiasm! The floats that best represented this theme included in 1st Place - Tiny Trotters Silver Equestrian Center,



in 2nd Place - Baptist Fellowship Church and in 3rd Place - Boy Scouts Troop 162.

We had fire engines from the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department and other local fire departments, the Lebanon Town Militia, the Columbia Historical Society sported a vintage truck and the Connecticut Blues Fife & Drum Corps provided music for the parade.

I would like to thank the Columbia Lions Club for all their efforts in planning and organizing the parade and thank you to all the participants for making this a wonderful community tradition.

Enjoy the summer and be safe. Steven M. Everett, First Selectman severett@columbiact.org 860-228-0110

FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MARK B. WALTER

The two projects highlighted below are examples of the importance on providing our residents with collective solutions to help make our communities a better place to live.

Farm Building Tax Exemption

Jason Arico, from the Conservation and Agriculture Commission (CAC), presented to the Board of Selectman this month a proposal to help preserve farming as vitally important to retaining Columbia's rural character and quality of life with the Farm Building Tax Exemption. The enabling legislature, CGS Section 12-91, states municipalities may provide a tax incentive to support economic sustainability of existing farms and encourage economic development by providing an exemption from property tax on farm buildings used exclusively for agriculture

CAC's presentation stressed the importance of promoting economic and environmental sustainability for local farmers that ties into the conservation and development goals of the Town of Columbia's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The Farm Building Tax Exemption would support the POCD's six-point benefits of agriculture that include economic, fiscal, rural, environmental and food security.

The First Selectman, Steven Everett and the Board of Selectmen were unanimously in agreement to support Columbia's farmers and their operations by voting to bring this limited exemption from property tax to the Town for a vote.

Horace W. Porter School Indoor Air Quality Improvement Project

The Chairman, Christopher Lent of the Horace W. Porter HVAC Building Committee presented to both the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen the detailed search to hire a design engineering firm to provide complete design work for Indoor Air Quality System and related renovations and improvements for the Horace W. Porter School. Silver Petrucelli and Associates was the lowest bidder that offered a project schedule that could support the timely submission of a State Grant application in the Fall of 2023.

The selected firm will provide comprehensive Architectural/Engineering services (including civil and environmental) for the preparation of complete drawings, specifications, estimates, State submittals, contract documents, construction oversight and related services.

Please call or stop into my office for any updates to these projects or if you have a question or concern on another matter.

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator 860-228-0110 townadministrator@columbiact.org

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On the cover: Foggy Mooring Photo by Paul Ramsey

2023-24 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

4th Q/23

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 10/2/2023

Mailed Week of 10/23/2023

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 11/3/2023

Mailed Week of 12/4/2023

1st Q/24

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline x

Mailed Week of x

HEBRON: Ad Deadline x

Mailed Week of x

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Town of Columbia

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Happy Summer from the Town Clerk's Office!

It has been a busy couple of months in the Town Clerk's office. In May and June, we were issuing transfer station stickers and registering dogs.

Municipal Election

Municipal elections will take place on November 7, 2023. Absentee ballots become available on October 6, 2023 through the close of business on November 6, 2023.

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 (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.

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

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

COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB

COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Slate of Officers for The Columbia Lions has been approved for the year 2023-24.

President - Matt Sternat 1st Vice President - Wes Burnham 2nd Vice President - Brendan Keenan Treasurers - Dick Mlyniec and Tom Egan Secretary - Tim Anderson Town Liaison - Jim Blair

The Columbia Lions awarded two scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,200, to Madeline Ross and Elle Gaucher. Both winners are graduates of E.O. Smith High School. Madeline will attend UCONN and major in mechanical engineering. Elle will attend Springfield College and pursue a degree in Physician Assistant Studies. The two scholarship awards were the result of a competitive selection process and were based on both academic performance and a demonstrated commitment to community service.

Patrick Stone is Columbia's newest Lion. Patrick was inducted into the club on June 12, 2023, accompanied by his sponsor, Lion Jim Blair. Patrick is known to many here in Columbia and is the owner of Columbia CrossFit fitness center.

Anyone interested in joining the Columbia Lions or inquiring about Lions activities should email Lion Wes Burnham at Columbia.Lions.Membership@gmail.com or call Lion Mike DiRaimo at 860-228-8241.





What a great summer!! The Columbia Leos have been very busy but also got to enjoy some time off! Back in April Our Annual Variety Show was a huge success! We were able to donate \$4700 to our causes including Camp Rising Sun, Relay for Life, and Smilow's Child Life Program. The event, held at Yeoman's hall drew a large crowd who enjoyed exceptional local talent. Many thanks to all who helped donate time, talent and money to make this event successful. Special thanks The Columbia Congregational Church for allowing us to sell tickets at their monthly breakfast, Bill and Melissa Rood of November Sound for not only performing but providing the sound system! And of course The Town of Columbia and The Columbia Lions for their unwavering support!

In June we installed our new officers: President Morgan Bonaiuto, Vice President Lucy Provost, Secretary Maya Roldan and Treasurer Corynn Tarbell. We also inducted new members Anya Gilchenok and Anne Tigeleiro. The club is looking forward to a busy 2023-24 season!

July and August had some high notes also! The Leos led The 4th of July Parade carrying the theme banner: "Let Freedom Ring". The skies parted, the rain held off and fun was had by all! The Leos are planning on helping out

at some community events in August also! Remember to try to make the Community Breakfast at The Columbia Congregational Church on August 12th and make sure to get your tickets to The Lions BBQ on August 20th!

And, of course The Leos are always looking for new members! If you would like to work in your community, meet new people and be part of the largest service organization in the world, Lions International, we would love to have you! Our only requirements are that you must be between 12-18 years of age, and be a Columbia resident. The Leos meet in the Porter Band Room with our first meeting tentatively scheduled for September 5th at 6:30 PM. Please email Advisor Jim Blair at jbland15@ earthlink.net if you would like to participate, need more information or get details regarding meetings, etc.

The Columbia Leos wish to thank all who have stepped up and helped us with our causes. Our club is inspired by those in our community who help us to live by our motto: "We serve". Thank you so much for your support!

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



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Mission: build more diverse, equitable and vibrant communities

Immediate Goal: increase our membership in Columbia

There is so much to love about Columbia! We want to help make it even better. Come join us!

We are looking for Columbia residents who share our passion. Members are working to support town efforts to make housing more affordable. We have helped identify resources for town employee training about Juneteenth. We can do so much more with your help.

CoDE (Coalition on Diversity and Equity) began in July 2020, in Hebron, following the death of George Floyd and the first-ever rally for racial justice in Hebron. This group of volunteers grew into a nonprofit organization with volunteers from Hebron, Andover, Marlborough and Columbia.

We are personally invested in our communities, building friendships, raising families and taking part in town organizations and committees. We work to raise awareness of how diversity improves the quality of life in our communities.

To date, CoDE has:

- hosted Community Conversations about creating housing choices, equity from a faith perspective, and how to be an ally
- offered an intensive educational series on systemic racism
- organized the area's first Juneteenth celebration
- sponsored a workshop by Debby Irving, author of Waking Up White, to increase understanding the impact of race and gain skills in talking about race
- participated in the development of Hebron's Affordable Housing Plan

Please contact: Rhonda Kincaid rkmkincaid@yahoo.com 860-228-0145

Pat Shimchick pmshimchick@icloud.com 860-228-9731

For more information: www.code-diversity.org and Facebook: Coalition-on-Diversity-Equity-Code





We Serve

Columbia (CT) Lions

Annual Chicken Barbeque

When: Sunday, August 20, 2023

12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Rec Field

Hennequin Road Columbia, CT

Tickets: \$15 adult

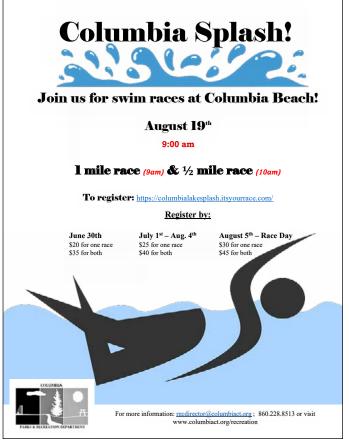
\$13 seniors 62 and over

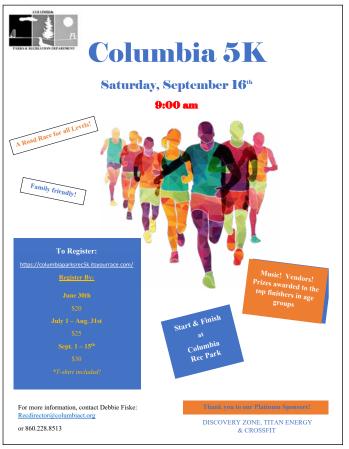
\$10 child

Purchase: \$1 more at door

To purchase tickets call Brendan Keenan @ 860-228-1854 or Mike DiRaimo @ 860-228-8241

Proceeds from this event help fund the many programs and charities sponsored by Columbia Lions





Summer is flying by, but the fun isn't over yet. Mark your calendar and join the fun for our main events happening in August and September. Wednesday, August 16th, the band Cover2Cover will close out our summer concert series. Come early to get your spot and partake of food and beverage from Jayy's Little Red Trailer and Columbia Package Store. Jumping Cow Ice Cream will be joining the fun this time around too. Pack up the whole family, bring chairs and blankets and enjoy a summer evening of live music, food, beverage, and community spirit.

Two additional events we hope you will be a part of one

way or another are our Columbia Splash! August 19th https://columbialakesplash.itsyourrace.com/. and Columbia 5K Road Race, September 16th - https://columbiaparksrec5k.itsyourrace.com/. Both events are for all skill levels and promise to be festive and full of good vibes. If swimming and running is not your forte, get involved as a volunteer or sponsor. We need you! Contact the Parks and Recreation Department with questions on how to get involved: recdirector@ columbiact.org or 860.228.8513.

A special thank you to Casella who is donating reusable water bottles for our road race.











2022

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June was an exciting month at the senior center. The Rose Marrotte Art Show was held from June 5th to the 9th. Winners were:

Painting

1st place: Kim Kordonowy – "Paisley Pete" 2nd place: Barbara Cordell – "Summer Respite"

3rd place: Kathy Tolsdorff - "The Inlet"

Popular Vote: Kim Kordonowy – "Paisley Pete"

Photography

1st place: Vincent Audette – "Painted Wagon" 2nd place: Susan Audette – "Low Tide, Maine"

3rd place: Alice Mellor - "Water Lily" Popular Vote: Alice Mellor - "Water Lily"

Woodcarving

1st place: Michael Sobel – "Woody Woodpecker" 2nd place: Gene Levesque - "Monhegan Island"

3rd place: Elaine Clark – "Polar Bears"

Popular Vote: Gene Levesque – "Monhegan Island"

Ouilting

1st place: Glenda Murphy – "Serappy" 2nd place: Jeanne Dumphy-"Magical Lake" 3rd place: Joyce Fallon – "Kaliedoscope"

Popular Vote: Patricia Muckenstrom – "Feathered Star"

Katie Wilt, the Social Services Coordinator, hosted a talk with John Schwartz, the Recovery Center Manager at CT Community for Addition Recovery. Katie also hosted a session with SERAC on QPR-(Question, Persuade, Refer) and Narcan training.

Smile Solutions Dental Excellence, a regional family Dental Practice, hosted a talk on xerostomia or "dry mouth".

State Senator Cathy Osten visited the center and gave an update of what has been happening in the legislative office.

The Columbia Senior Organization held their annual din-

ner and dance with the band called the Columbia AllStars.

A discussion was held, led by a TVCCA Registered Dietitian, on Eating Well for Bone Health.

July will be a memorable month. The Recreation Department, Social Services, and the Senior Center will host an Intergenerational Health & Wellness Day on July 17, 2023. Bring your family and friends to Rec Park to enjoy a funfilled time doing various activities for all ages. Walk, run,

play and relax while you create opportunities for all generations to build friendships, reduce social isolation, increase understanding, boost mental wellbeing, and to simply feel valued and part of your community.

Pickleball, Yoga, Walking Path, Disc Golf, Yard Games,

Plein Air! Soft Serve Ice Cream and Coffee Truck, Vendors for all ages - Live Music and more...

And don't forget about the trips we offer through Friendship Tours. Check with the Senior Center or go on-line at https://www.columbiact.org/senior-services/page/ beckish-senior-center-newsletters.



Sweethearts at the dinner dance.







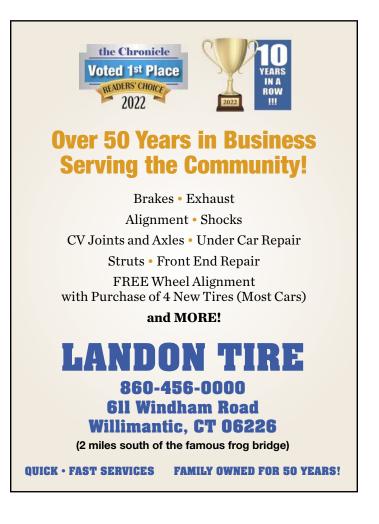
Summer is in full swing, and many groups are taking a break from their yearly schedules. The Columbia Seniors Organization ais looking forward to a busy fall with events in each month. In September we will be having a potluck luncheon with the Sunshine Singers from Hebron providing the entertainment. In October we will learn about beginning to trace our genealogy. In November we will be honoring our veterans as well as having our annual Harvest to Holly Fair. It will be a busy fall season.

The Columbia Seniors' Organization /CSO is a group of citizens in Columbia that work to promote a healthy, productive, and vibrant life for our seniors. Our goal is stated in our mission statement-"The mission of the CSO shall be to build a community of respect and support for the senior residents of Columbia by promoting their dignity and independence through programs and services which will enhance their talents, interests, and potential." Along with the many activities of the Beckish Senior Center, we work to provide additional

programming that will give seniors a chance to meet other senior citizens in town and to find new activities to broaden their knowledge and interests.

We are looking for people who would like to join our organization. Good news-it's free! Post pandemic we are hoping to get back to our usual routine of a monthly members meeting after lunch on the first Friday of the month with birthday cake to honor those with birthdays that month. We have a program committee to plan our events, an art committee that sponsors art classes, the Rose Marrotte Art Show as well as contests and trips with an arti focus. Some of the other activities that happen on a regular schedule here at the senior center are bridge, set back and pool, quilting, senior book club, movies, women's group, and wood carving. The senior center is a very busy place (thank you Bernadette) Please consider joining us in whatever capacity that you can. Together we will all learn, socialize, be active and enjoy our time together here in Columbia.





Who knew that using flood lights, outdoor lighting and streetlights could be dangerous to wild animals, especially migrating birds? We thought night lighting keeps us safer. Research indicates It does not. Meredith Borges, Yale Divinity School student, and Co-Chair of "Lights Out, CT", gave a talk explaining the hazards of night lighting at the Saxon B. Little Library in January. Her mission was to let people know how lighting has harmed nocturnal animals, pollinator insects, and migrating birds.

Eighty percent of the world's birds migrate two times a year over many days as part of their normal life cycle, and 60% of those migrate at night. We humans depend on roadmaps and GPS to navigate, but birds have evolved a navigation system that relies heavily upon cues from the bright stars and the moon. Night lighting creates a "sky glow" that obscures those cues. This disorients migrating birds, resulting in two negative outcomes. Taking even a short "wrong turn" or detour on a journey thousands of miles long can critically deplete the fat stores upon which the birds rely to fuel the journey to their breeding grounds. Additionally, when disoriented birds land in brightly lit urban or suburban areas, they do not land in places that are safe for them. The worst threat to them is caused early in the morning when they crash into large windows in brightly lit buildings, or when they land in places where they are unlikely to find food, they need to finish their journey. Ms. Borges said research shows the population of migrating birds, including our warblers, juncos, orioles, and hummingbirds, has decreased by 25% since 1970.

Thanks to new awareness of the harm from night lighting, Connecticut is one of several states that has proposed bills that would require state-owned buildings to reduce or change lighting from 11pm to 6am. What can you, as private citizens do to protect pollinator insects and especially our birds right away? We can turn off floodlights, turn off decorative lighting, or reorient lighting downward onto pathways. Where night lighting might be deemed essential, motion detectors would light up only momentarily when needed. The easiest, most economical thing to do is simply turn off outside lights. With a restored dark night sky, we can help protect endangered birds, and we humans might sleep better too.

-Kathy Tolsdorf





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Let's dive into the exhilarating story of Mr Lokee the remarkable Jack Russell Terrier born 9/25/2015, whose diving prowess has made waves in the dock diving community, including his historic win at the first-ever NADD Dock Diving Event at Westminster in the Elite Lap Dog Division.

Mr Lokee has consistently raised the bar for excellence in dock diving. With impressive progression, he went from an 8-foot jump in 2019 to an astounding 21-foot-4inch jump in 2022. Mr Lokee's consistent improvement demonstrates his unwavering commitment to mastering his craft.

One of Mr Lokee's most notable achievements was his historic win at the first-ever NADD Dock Diving Event at Westminster in the Elite Lap Dog Division. His exceptional performance earned him the well-deserved 1st place, cementing his name in the annals of dock diving history. This victory at Westminster elevated Mr Lokee's status as a true champion in the sport.

Behind Mr Lokee's success lies the expertise of his owners, John and Jean Hansen. With their background in fitness as the founders of Super Future Fitness, they understand the importance of training and nutrition in optimizing athletic performance. Applying these principles to Mr Lokee's regimen, they have provided him with the tools for success. Their commitment and knowledge have undoubtedly played a pivotal role in shaping Mr Lokee into the champion he is today.

Mr Lokee, the extraordinary Jack Russell Terrier, has left an indelible mark in the dock diving world with his remarkable achievements and unwavering determination. From his historic win at the first-ever NADD Dock Diving Event at Westminster to his impressive performances at regional and national competitions, Mr Lokee's journey embodies the spirit of a true champion. Guided by the expertise and dedication of his owners, John and Jean Hansen, Mr Lokee serves as an inspiration to aspiring Dock Diving dogs. As he continues to make waves in the pool, Mr Lokee's legacy as a champion at Westminster and beyond will forever be celebrated in the Dock Diving World.

Follow Mr Lokee on instagram @mrlokee_thejackrussell Written by John and Jean Hansen with assistance from Judy Ortiz.





Hellø

I'MSHANNON SLATE

I wanted to officially introduce myself. I am Shannon Slate, your local real estate expert and fellow neighbor over here on Erdoni Road.

My passion is matching people & families with homes they can live & grow in. Thinking of moving, buying, or both? I would be happy to help!

Born and raised in Columbia, I know the value of what our town has to offer, I am full of knowledge and I am ready to help strategically guide you through the entire buying and selling process.

If you ever have any questions about buying, selling, or investing I would love to chat!

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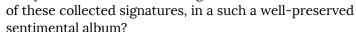
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Your Signature, Please

Some years ago Columbia resident Jan Thibodeau gifted to our Town's collection an item of Columbia's Victorian era. Jan had discovered an autograph album at a tag sale in which she immediately recognized Columbia's old familiar family names. As we later examined this curiosity together, we could see the 26 or so signatures of both men and women --- the extended Collins family, as well as Hutchins, Richardson, and Little family relatives dating from 1886 to 1892. Some short "morality" poems were written in carefully. Nearly all the handwriting was of an elaborate Spencerian script rarely seen today. What was the meaning



In New England, with relatively high rates of literacy, the discipline of penmanship as childhood character development had been firmly established in public grammar schools by 1820. But not all penmanship instruction was the same. For boys the hand taught was strong and muscular in lettering, conveying an authoritative masculine handwriting style expected in clerical bookkeeping, merchant letters, and receipts. Arithmetic was usually taught with the practice of this "merchant hand". By contrast, girls were taught the hand called Roman based on fashionable italic lettering. This was often taught alongside embroidery, sewing, and self-presentation skills. Girls were expected to use italic handwriting style for personal letters and correspondence.

By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, pedagogical theory dictated that handwriting scripts reflected the moral character of the handwriting, and by extension, the writer. The norm was all handwriting scripts and signatures had to be distinguishable by gender, profession, and station in life. Thus handwriting of any sort, in letters, receipts, or even legal documents always conveyed meaning as to the writer's status and profession and nature of the document. So it is interesting to recall Rev. Eleazar Wheelock employed writing masters who taught penmanship to his Native American students (boys and





perhaps girls, too) according to these norms. Some of his students' penmanship samples of maxims and classical oratory were used to solicit funds for Moor's School, illustrating devout moral character training and ability to write in a conforming classical script of an educated young Englishman.

By 1848 Platt Rogers Spenser and Victor M. Rice introduced in New York State's school system a brand-new uniform style of penmanship instruction that became widely adopted in public schools throughout New England including business schools. The Spencerian Method simplified how letters were formed, words spaced, had clean and legible conformity,

and beautiful artistic flourishes. This style of handwriting script quickly became the new conforming model for all handwritten documents. But the question of authenticity and uniqueness of signature (as a reflection of moral character or identity of writer) remained.

Collecting signatures in autograph albums had already been a craze in England as early as 1820. This hobby was imported here after the Civil War. In America, the interest, apparently, was to collect signatures as a reflection of innate character and creative genius, as recommended by self-styled "graphologist" Edgar Allan Poe! Most Americans, however, remained highly skeptical of these ideas. Interestingly, at the end of this little autograph album is a pragmatic thought for the young signature collector. It reads "Purest love is felt, not spoken. Your Aunt Jane A. Collins. Columbia, Conn. May 30, 1889."

By 1900 the simpler, faster Palmer cursive writing method replaced the florid Spencerian method. The Palmer method was taught in Connecticut's public grammar schools until it was replaced by the Zaner-Bloser and D'Nealean cursive writing scripts. In 2010 the U.S. Department of Education declared that cursive handwriting instruction was no longer a part of the Common Core Standards, thus cursive handwriting is rarely taught to-

Ingrid Wood, Town Historian



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P.O. Box 210 45 Laurel Lane Columbia, CT 06237

NOTE: Our office has relocated to 45 Laurel Lane Columbia, CT from the Landmark Building

Fundraiser for the Trust for Public Land



and its work to develop trails throughout

Mono Pond State Park Reserve

Thursday, August 17, 2023, 4:00-7:00pm Heartstone Winery, 468 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Tickets include a glass of Heartstone Wine and a sumptuous Catered Buffet. Music by Bruce John.

To purchase Tickets @ \$60 each, go to, or mail a check to, the Town Administrator's Office, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237

Checks should be made payable to the Town of Columbia. Donations can be made at www.tpl.org/state/connecticut.

Lithium-Ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries power many parts of our everyday lives. While very useful, these batteries can be dangerous if not used correctly. It is important to educate yourself on proper use and disposal of these batteries to minimize any potential hazards. Here are a few tips that will be helpful for your home.

- Always use the charger that was supplied with the battery. Do not use any aftermarket chargers.
- Avoid damaging or dropping batteries.
- Do not overcharge batteries/charge batteries overnight.

- Follow the manufacturer instructions for battery charging, storage, and replacement.
- Keep batteries at room temperature and away from any heat source or direct sunlight.
- Never charge a battery or device under your pillow, on your bed, or near a sofa.
- Plug batteries directly into a wall electrical outlet for charging. Do not plug into a power strip.
- Store and charge batteries away from anything flammable.
- Do not dispose of batteries in the trash or regular recycling bin. Batteries can be recycled through the RBRC program by calling 1-800-8BATTERY or through the Call2Recycle website at www.call2recycle.org.

COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presentation Shows How Lives of Algonkian People Changed during **European Colonization**

The Columbia Historical Society is hosting a one hour living history presentation by re-enactor Drew Shuptar-Rayvis who will illustrate how life among the Algonkian people changed during the period when Native Americans first encountered the ways of European Colonists.

This event will be held on October 22, 2023 at 1:00. It will be held in front of Yeomans Hall and if it rains it will be held inside Yeomans Hall.

Contact Judy Ortiz at 860 208-9881 if you have any questions.









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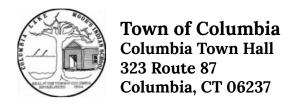
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