



Columbia VIEWS

Volume 5 • Issue 4
Fall 2021

Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT



Hebron Center DENTISTRY

Dr Alison Nicholes, DMD

Dedicated
to the
Details



hebroncenterdentistry@gmail.com
www.HebronCenterDentistry.com
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welcoming new patients



I want to take a moment to give thanks to all the residents and employees that helped us come out stronger from this pandemic. This is your town and it is meant to work for you; we encourage input and feedback from the public. Please feel free to contact us at publicinput@columbiact.org or at townadministrator@columbiact.org and my office will assist you in any way we can. That is how things change, public input is the path needed to give us your individual thoughts and ideas.



One thing we learned is that the Town's social services had to be rebuilt and increased to handle the crisis in a way that residents preferred. Our Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring and her team focused on food delivery, transportation, and individual personalized calling to track needs and give moral support. See details of the reopening on the Senior Center page of this issue. Our Community Social Services Coordinator, Katie Wilt, had her hours increased to handle the added uncertainty and new challenges facing our residents. Katie is a wealth of knowledge and should be your first call to learn of the many resources available to you through AHM Youth and Family Services, the Veterans Administration, the State Social Service agencies, and many other sources.

Veterans should check with our Assessors office to make sure they are receiving the added exemptions authorized by the Board of Selectman for Gold Star parents and spouses, 100% disables Veterans and tax exemptions for motor vehicles of disabled veterans.

Improvements were made to all of our parks to enhance and increase outdoor activities. I have been impressed with how much pickleball and basketball we are now playing. The walking trails are being used at record levels and the new playscape is a hit for our kids and grandchildren.

Automation is now coming to the Building and Land Use department with the addition of PermitLink that will allow residents to fill out and submit a permit online from the comfort of your home. This tool will also give digital access to the information our employees need to perform their jobs from the field. We will be able to better track and approve a permit to immediately travel to the next department for sign off.

We have completed a long project of digitizing our Town Ordinances for the Town Clerks of-

vice. This will improve the remote access to our ordinances and update them to be in compliance with Connecticut State Statutes and laws.

This year our employees finished a conversion to a new website. I hope you find it easier to navigate and make it your first stop to staying current with all that is happening with Columbia. Make sure you sign up for our digital newsletter and email blasts to stay on top of our news at

www.columbiact.org and click on the "Notifications" tab. Remember to send us any great photos for us to share on our website at townadministrator@columbiact.org.

We are proud of our business community for coming out of the pandemic with many improvements such as a big investment in the Columbia Plaza, The Main Moose, Columbia's Kitchen, The Thunderbird Café, Lee's Stir Fry, Motta's Bakery and the Heartstone Farm & Winery. For such a small town we have some of the best places to eat and socialize.

As we plan for the future, we look to continue financial responsibility and enhance the quality of life for those that reside in Columbia.

My door is always open please call to arrange a convenient time to get together.

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

An advertisement for Edward Jones. The top half shows a woman and a man sitting at a table with a laptop, looking at the screen. Text overlay reads: "You're Retired. Your Money Isn't." Below this, it says: "To learn about the different options for your retirement accounts, call my office today." The bottom left features a small portrait of Jeanne Nuhfer, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a patterned jacket. To her right is her contact information: "Jeanne Nuhfer, Financial Advisor, 205 E High St Ste 2, East Hampton, CT 06424-2010, 860-342-2486". The bottom right features the Edward Jones logo and tagline "MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING" along with the website "edwardjones.com" and "Member SIPC". A vertical text "IRT-4395F-A" is on the left side of the ad.

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On the cover

Szegda Farm.

Ron Szegda's farm on Rt.66, one of the last working farms in Columbia.

Photo by Paul Ramsey.

2022 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

1st Q/22

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 1/10/2022
Mailed Week of 2/10/2022

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 2/4/2022
Mailed Week of 3/4/2022

2nd Q/22

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

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

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www.columbiact.org

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Special thanks to

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

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The Board of Selectmen held their first public hearing on October 5, 2021, in Yeomans Hall on the first allocation of the \$1.6 million in federal funding provided through the American Rescue Pan Act (ARPA) grant. The Town of Columbia will receive two ARPA disbursements over two years but have until the end of 2026 to spend all the funds.



The goal of the public hearing process is to make sure residents are given an opportunity to offer feedback on the best use of the funding and learn how the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC) are working to use the ARPA funds.



The ARP plan allocated \$65.1 billion to municipalities throughout the country. Connecticut towns and cities will be receiving \$2.55 billion statewide, with \$1.56 billion to general government and an additional \$995 million to boards of education. Eligible uses for the funding are separated into five categories:

- 1) Support Public Health Response
- 2) Address Negative Economic Impacts
- 3) Investments in Water and Sewer
- 4) Broadband Infrastructure
- 5) Replace Loss of Revenue

Town of Columbia's proposed projects address improvements to air quality, increase handicap access and outdoor recreation facilities and improve remote training instructions.

The projects proposed in the first allocation of funding are as follows:

- Concession Stand/Handicap Bathrooms/Storage at Recreation Park: \$200,000
- Columbia Volunteer Fire Department HVAC: \$18,800
- Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Plymo-vent (Truck Exhaust Exchange) System: \$12,000
- Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Audio/Visual System Upgrade: \$27,600
- Town Hall HVAC Upgrade: \$45,000

TOTAL ARPA GRANT BUDGET (First Allocation of Funding): \$303,400

First Selectman, Steven Everett, Town Administrator, Mark Walter, and Finance Director, Beverly Ciurylo met with Congressman Joe Courtney, a member of the House Appropriations Committee and his offices grant liaison

to discuss possible projects for the funding. A wide range of projects are still being vetted for the proposed funding plan and will be brought forward after more clarity on funding rules are released. Areas being considered include an emergency generator for the Senior Center to enable the Senior Center to remain open as a heating and cooling facility during major power outages and to have a safe potable water supply; emergency equipment for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department; emergency communication radios upgraded to the State high band frequency to increase communication capabilities of our first responders for both Public Works and Fire and Am-

bulance, and lead removal and repairs to the interior of the Moor's Charity Indian School Museum.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Administrator's Office at 860-228-0110, or email at townadministrator@columbiact.org.



Hebron Car Wash

860.228.Wash

P.O. Box 727
18 Liberty Drive
Hebron, CT

Municipal Election

Municipal elections will take place on November 2, 2021. Voting will be in Yeoman's Hall between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots become available in the Clerk's office on October 1, 2021 through the close of business on November 1, 2021

Permanent Absentee Ballots

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

Dogs

If you are new to Columbia and have not registered your dog with us or you have a new dog that is at least six months of age, please stop in to obtain a license. Bring

with you an updated rabies vaccination certificate and a spayed/neutered certificate, if applicable.

Fishing and Hunting

We would like to remind you that Sports licenses (fishing and hunting) for the 2022 season become available for purchase in December 2021. A perfect Holiday gift for the sportsperson in your family!

Births-Deaths-Marriages

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

Probate Court

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

Have a Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday Season!

Robin M. Kenefick
Columbia Town Clerk

Gail C. McGrath
Columbia Asst. Town Clerk

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Bazaar and Craft Fair

Saturday, November 6th

10AM to 3PM

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325 Route 87 Columbia

- Craft Booths
- Baked Goods
- Handmade Items
- Take a Chance
- Deacon's Diner (Possibly Take Out)
- Serving from 11AM to 2PM
- Our famous Corn Chowder, Salad, Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Pies, Cider, Coffee and Tea

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3-8	\$80
9-12	\$90




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2021



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860-228-3952

Marlborough
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860-295-8003

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Chris Rice, Service Manager
contact@tireandbrakeclinic.com



Can a fire truck or ambulance fit in your driveway? Is your house clearly numbered?

In an emergency one of the first things you can do to help us, is to make sure your house is clearly numbered so we can find you. Less mentioned and equally important, especially if you have a long driveway, how well is that driveway maintained? Can a fire truck or ambulance fit in your driveway? We can handle a few small potholes, but if our fire trucks and ambulances can't get to your house it could seriously delay our ability to help you when seconds count. See the Town of Columbia's zoning regulations for minimum driveway and access requirements for new construction.

<https://www.columbiact.org/planning-zoning/page/zoning-regulations-and-map>

Help us help you!

Please maintain those driveway clearances left, right, and overhead.

COLUMBIA FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Prevention Week is October 3 – 9. This year's FPW campaign, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!" works to educate everyone about the different sounds the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms make. Knowing what to do when an alarm sounds will keep you and your family safe. When an alarm makes noises – a beeping sound or a chirping sound – you must take action.

What if someone in my home is deaf or hard of hearing?

There are smoke alarms and alert devices that alert peo-



ple who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices include strobe lights that flash to alert people when the smoke alarm sounds. Pillow or bed shakers designed to

Continued on page 13



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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Colebrook Village
at Hebron

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COLUMBIA TOWN DIRECTORY

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

The Assessor's Office is currently performing inspections on building permits and developing an updated personal property list. Below are upcoming tasks you may want to list on your calendar if applicable to you.

Personal Property

This notice is to remind all taxpayers who file a declaration for personal property to please do so no later than November 1st annually. If not filed in a timely manner, per state statute a 25% penalty shall be applied. If you own a business or have unregistered motor vehicle(s) that are not currently on our list, please let us know and we will email, fax, or mail you a declaration.

Supplemental 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 or registration cancellation receipt that you get from DMV when you return your plates or from online. The second is something proving you got rid of the ve-

hicle. Generally 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. If you traded a vehicle and kept the same plate do not bring us any documentation because DMV will automatically process it.

Revaluation

Revaluation Questions and Answers are provided on the Assessors page on the website (www.columbiact.org) under the Revaluation tab.

Please contact our office if you have any questions. 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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 State Farm General Insurance Company
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State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
 State Farm Lloyds
 Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company
 Winter Haven, FL

2001301



TAX OFFICE

Don't forget!! The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2022. The last day to pay without a penalty is February 1, 2022. Bills are not sent for the second installment, please put a reminder on your calendar!

Please feel free to leave payments or correspondence in the drop box at the right side of the entrance of the Town Hall or in the drop box in front of Yeoman's Hall. The drop boxes are emptied at 8:00AM each weekday; weekend tax payments are processed on Monday. Please be aware that tax payments put in the drop box after 8:00AM will be processed the next day the Tax Office is open (see hours below).

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

The Tax Office has extended hours in the month of January and February 1, 2022: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and Friday 8:00-12:00.

Mailing address for tax payments:

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


Columbia residents can view and pay taxes online, service fees for tax payments apply, .95 cents to use a bank account and 2.95% for credit and debit cards.

- Go to www.columbiact.org
- On the home page click on the pay taxes online tab.
- On the next page click on to view/pay tax bills.
- The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. Enter the last name, a space, and then the first initial of the first name.

You can also utilize this site during income tax time to look up your payment history. Locate your bill using the instructions above, then hover over the icons in the option column and click on the one that says tax payment history. You will also find written instructions on the pay taxes online page. If you have any problems using the online system, please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org and we will gladly assist you.

For those seeking an immediate clearance for DMV due to delinquent taxes please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org for information on the process.

Happy Holidays!



Hebron Veterinary Hospital
43 West Main Street
Hebron

Dr. Kimberly Mordasky
Dr. Jaime DeLeon
Dr. Jennifer Scudder

860.228.4324
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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.

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-  Horace W Porter PTO and Parent Community
-  Horaceporterpto@gmail.com
-  https://www.columbiapublicschools.org/horace_w_porter.php
-  Join us by sending an email
-  Paypal for payments only: porterptotreas@gmail.com

AHM Online Holiday Auction

Are you looking for that perfect holiday gift? Look no further. AHM will be hosting its second annual online Holiday Auction, November 17–December 1. This year will feature for area businesses, a scrolling 24/7 advertising logo display. We are also looking for donations of new items or gift cards to feature in the auction. All proceeds will support mental health services for Columbia, Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough children. To learn more go to: <https://ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/holiday-auction/>

Children's Theater

AHM will be offering a theater experience for children in grades K-6 this fall in partnership with Playhouse on Park. The program will take place in the performing arts hall at 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron. Watch for more details on the AHM website: www.ahmyouth.org.

TASKs for Senior Citizens

Are you a Columbia senior citizen who could use help around your home? AHM may be able to provide you with some assistance with yard work, garage decluttering, and more at no cost. Contact AHM's main number to speak with the TASKs Coordinator, Patti Scigliampaglia-Vigue, pattis@ahmyouth.org at (860-228-9488). We are also

looking for TEEN WORKERS for the TASKs program.


Youth and Family Counseling

You are not alone. If your child, teenager, young adult, or family members need mental health counseling, we are here for you. All counseling appointments are confidential and are now being accepted by calling the AHM offices at 860-228-9488. If you or a loved one are struggling with an addiction, please visit our AHM website, www.ahmyouth.org for links to weekly SMART Recovery support groups".

AHM Family Resource Center

There is still room for Columbia children in Play and Learn groups held at Gilead Hill on Mondays and Thursdays! The groups are for children ages Birth-5 and caregivers and include activities, crafts, and circle time, information on child development and parenting topics, and a chance to meet other families! Masks are required for children ages 3 and up and for adults. Groups will start the week of 9/27. Here is the link to register: <https://ahmyouth.org/play-and-learn-at-ghs-registration/> Please contact Becky Murray at 860 573-1260 or beckym@ahmyouth.org with any questions.

25 Pendleton Drive Hebron, CT 06248. Phone (860) 228-9488. Fax (860) 228-1213. www.ahmyouth.org



2021 Slate of Municipal Candidates

First Selectman
Steven Everett

Selectman
Chris Lent Lisa Napolitano

Board of Education
Lauren Haberman Dr. Rachel Riendeau


Financial Planning & Allocation Commission
Jeff Viens Kelley Peck Art Rowbotham

Planning & Zoning
Robert Powell Justin Riendeau

Planning & Zoning, Alternate
Ed Madrak Larry Preston

Zoning Board of Appeals
Keith Peck

Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate
Jason Belval



Paid for by Columbia Republican Town Committee, Lisa Napolitano, Treasurer

Local government affects every resident in a profound way, let your voice be heard!
Check us out online at <http://columbiartc.org/> or follow us on Facebook at Columbia CT Republican Town Committee

Continued from page 7

work with your smoke alarm also can be purchased and installed. For more information go to fireprevention-week.org and go to the page on Fire Safety for the deaf or hard of hearing section.

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 system 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 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.

Michael Lester, Fire Marshal, Town of Columbia

Municipal Election

November 2, 2021

6am-8pm • Yeomans Hall

- The deadline to register to vote is October 26th. Register online at voterregistration.ct.gov or contact the Registrars of Voters.
- If you miss the registration deadline, Election Day Registration will be available at Yeomans Hall on November 2nd, 6am-8pm. ID & proof of residency will be required.
- Absentee Ballots must be received by 8pm on November 2. They can be returned via Mail, Ballot Drop Box located outside Town Hall, or to the Town Clerk's office. Absentee Ballots cannot be accepted inside the polling place.
- Please contact the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk with any questions.

Registrars of Voters

Karen Butzgy – Democratic

Kate Morrison – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113 • registrar@columbiact.org

FAIR MINDED AND NON-PARTISAN

RE-ELECT ROB HELLSTROM TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN



- » Rob has served on the Board of Selectmen for 12 years, 4 years as Deputy Selectman. He understands the strengths and needs of our town.
- » Rob is a strong proponent of open space, conservation and has given generously of his time and talents to this end.

- » Rob has been owner and operator of Rob Hellstrom Land Surveying LLC for over 30 years.
- » Rob and his wife Ginny have lived in Columbia since 1977 where they raised their two sons.
- » Rob coached soccer for over 8 years and was president of the Columbia Windham Soccer club for 2 years.

- » As an experienced land surveyor, Rob is familiar with nearly every land parcel in Columbia. This experience has proven invaluable to the Board of Selectmen when making decisions on land use issues, including the purchase of open space parcels.

I have learned a lot during my 12 years on the Board of Selectmen. I don't have any hidden agendas or alliances; my loyalty always lies in the Town of Columbia as a whole. Columbia voters can count on my continued commitment to preserve and enhance our rural character while being fiscally responsible.

—ROB HELLSTROM

Paid for by Columbia Democratic Town Committee, Judy Ortiz Treasurer

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Something new?

I'm sure many of us are feeling tired and that things are 'getting old.' Here at the Saxton B. we've felt that same way... which is why for a while now, we've been trying some new ideas! In the past few months, the Library has launched a new monthly email letter, Discover! Straight to your inbox is, what we hope, some interesting information, opportunities for involvement, and curated resources! Recent topics have ranged from Asian American and AAPI History to Zoos. Upcoming topics include NaNoWriMo, the history of cookbooks, and some perhaps unfamiliar holidays.

We have also introduced Experience Kits. For example, in our Origami Kit you'll find an incredible video that shows an artist who folds paper into caricatures, a how-to book, and some paper. Check it out and see where it leads you! In another new development: we introduce

Saxton's Stuff! Ever have something you need just once or for a limited time, but you don't want to purchase it yourself? Check in with us! We might have it. Saxton's Stuff is continually growing, and currently includes diverse items such as a black light (for your Halloween?), an inflator (is your basketball flat?), a knife sharpener (Thanksgiving turkey anyone?) and more.

Stop in the Library to see what Saxton Mouse has up his sleeve next, check out Karen Foss's photography in our Main area, and our next Way Back Gallery, featuring the products of our community and collaborative art projects.

We look forward to seeing you, and please follow our website for information: www.columbiaclibrary.org

Su Epstein
Library Director
Saxton B. Little Free Library

FRIENDS OF THE SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY

Hello, Fellow Columbia Residents,

We at Friends of the Saxton B. Little Free Library (FOL) hope you all had a fabulous summer!

At the end of June we mailed out our annual membership forms. We'd like to thank all who have continued to support Friends of the Library through their memberships and monetary donations throughout this time of Covid.

On August 14, we held a one day sale to explore how re-opening for a sale would go. While we definitely appreciate all who came out to browse and buy, due to difficult logistics experienced during that book sale, we will not be holding our November Sale. We continue to explore options and brainstorm out of the box ideas to try to accommodate our patrons as best as we can while being Covid responsible.

In June, July, October and November we took book donations by appointment on scheduled days and will look to

take more after the first of the year.

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.

FOL is 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 and as soon as we resume to a level of being able to utilize our volunteers again, we will definitely find a place for you.

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".

Stay warm this winter!

Laurie Rogers
Secretary of the Friends of Saxton B. Little Free Library

Beckish Permanently Reopened

The Beckish Senior Center is permanently reopened to the public and all activities are in place. Proof of vaccination is required to enter the building. If you are unvaccinated you need to show a negative COVID-19 test dated within 5 days. Masks are required unless you show medical proof from a licensed medical clinician stating you are unable to wear a mask due to medical conditions. In this case we will have you wear a shield. The only times masks can be removed is when you are exercising or eating. These rules and guidelines are put in place, so we do not have to open and close depending on the transmission rates or zones of Columbia. Please find my newsletter online at www.columbiact.org or at the Senior Center, Teds Supermarket and Town Hall.

Columbia's R U OK Program

The Beckish Senior Center is starting the R U OK Program. It is a FREE service that establishes a prearranged time for participants to receive a regular phone call inquiring about their welfare. This program is to keep seniors who prefer to live independently safe and to pro-

vide them with the added security of being monitored for safety. During the call participants are asked "Are You OK?" If they answer "yes" they may simply hang up and continue with their day. If a concern is expressed, the volunteer caller will determine the nature of the concern and if some sort of response is necessary. Unanswered calls or busy signals are called back. If there is still no response after a preselected number of missed calls, the volunteer caller may request that an officer be dispatched to the location for a safety check.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please call Bernadette at the Beckish Senior Center at 860-228-0759 ext. 1 to be added to the list. Select a day of the week and time you would like to be called. We have many local volunteers in Columbia to help with this new program, and we are looking forward to getting it started. Your health and safety are our number one concern, let us help you stay safe and connected.

Bernadette Derring

Director of Senior Services & Transportation

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

SENIORS ON THE GO

The delta variant has certainly changed the "best laid plans" of the CSO. With the Beckish Senior Center closed through the middle of September, our summer and fall projects had to be changed and/or postponed. Hopefully we can celebrate with our 90+ year old citizens in the spring. Also, our tag sale will be moved to early spring as well.

One activity that is up and running is our movie afternoons. During November and December, they will occur every other Thursday afternoon at 1:00. During January and February, there will be a theme to the movie selections which will run every week for those months. Please check the Gem newsletter for the latest selections and dates.

The CSO is privileged to be able to host our Veterans' Day Luncheon in conjunction with the town's events for honoring our veterans. Since there is a pandemic related maximum capacity for the Senior Center, it is imperative that those planning to come please register with the Senior Center by calling 860-228-0759.

On Friday, December 31st, we will have our annual holiday Potluck Luncheon and White Elephant Grab Event.

Continued on page 18

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As the weather cools and the bothersome bugs disappear, now is the ideal time to take advantage of the many open spaces in Columbia. The columbiact.org/recreation site has a link to Trails and an amazing map showing a wonderful array of outdoor opportunities in our community. The Hop River Trail, accessible from Hop River Road, and the Airline Trail with parking at Pine St, Chesbro Bridge Rd, Rt 87, Cook Hill Rd (Lebanon), and Village Hill Rd (Lebanon), offer a level, stone-dust surface beautifully suited for hiking and easy biking.

Perhaps the crown jewels for hiking in the Town are the trails at Columbia Recreation Park on Hennequin Rd, Szegda Farm on Szegda Rd, and of course the newly expanded Mono Pond State Park (see Columbia Views, Spring 2021). Rec Park adjoins Joshua's Trust's Utley Hill Preserve, and its Yellow Trail is a 2-mile path that includes creeks, rock formations, a wonderful walk along Utley Brook, and the usual twists and turns of a forest path. A junction with the White Trail (1-mile loop) leads

to beautiful woodlands on the westerly side of Utley Brook with views of Utley Swamp. The White Trail can also be reached via the Lake Road Access Path on Lake Rd across from Erdoni Rd.

Szegda Farm has essentially two areas. The Upper Trails provide a very nice exposure to woodland hiking (Purple blazes) and a rocky hilltop leading through a cooling Hemlock stand (Yellow blazed), which form a highly recommended and easy combination. The Lower Trails consist of the Blue-blazed Quarry Trail and the Red Multi-use trail following old farm roads and offering opportunity for easy access to a variety of habitats. Both areas are great for snowshoeing. (Links to maps and trail guides are at the bottom of the above web page).

Open space means different things to different people, but the opportunity is rife for a wide variety of enjoyable activities. The trails of Columbia change character with the seasons, and we urge you to explore them throughout the year.

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As we continue to progress through the pandemic and head into winter months, there are programs available to help with utilities, heat, and rent.

Programs to Help with Utilities, Heat, and Rent

UniteCT – Rent, and/or Electric Utility Payments

For tenants and electric utility customers affected by the pandemic: Up to \$1,500 toward last six months of electric bills and up to \$15,000 in rental assistance may be available.

Eligibility: Available to CT residents with incomes below 80% of the HUD AMI (area median income) who have either a rental or electric utility unpaid balance due to COVID-related reasons. 80% AMI for Columbia is as follows:

- Household of 1: \$54,950
- Household of 2: \$62,800
- Household of 3: \$70,650
- Household of 4: \$78,500
- Household of 5: \$84,800
- Household of 6: \$91,100

Apply: Online at www.bit.ly/UniteCT or contact Access Agency for help applying at 860-450-7400 ext. 7420

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) – Heating Benefit

Helps pay for heating costs. Available to all heating customers (electric heat, gas heat, oil, kerosene, etc). Households with heat included in their rent may also qualify.

Eligibility: NO ASSET LIMIT THIS YEAR!! Households with incomes up to 60% of the state median income may qualify. 60% of the state median income is as follows:

- Household of 1: \$39,027
- Household of 2: \$51,035
- Household of 3: \$63,044
- Household of 4: \$75,052
- Household of 5: \$87,060
- Household of 6: \$99,069

Apply: In person or by phone by calling Access Agency for an appointment at 860-450-7400

New Start – Eversource Arrearage Forgiveness Program

Payment plan through Eversource that helps to eliminate arrearages.

Eligibility: Households with incomes up to 60% of the state median income may qualify (see above income chart). Customer must have an arrearage of at least \$100, and the arrearage must be at least 60 days old. Customer makes monthly payments based on averaged usage; arrearage is reduced by 1/12th until there is a zero balance.

Apply: Contact Eversource at 800-286-2828 or contact Access Agency at (860) 450-7400 for assistance.

For questions or assistance regarding the above programs, please contact Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator at kwilt@columbiaact.org or 860-228-1008.

SENIORS ON THE GO (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 16

We enjoy a great time together and have many laughs over the grab bag gifts and gifts. Please consider joining us for the festivities.

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.

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COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

November 2021 marks the 46th year of the annual Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund. Many families have benefited from your donations in the past, and your continued generosity is greatly appreciated. This year has been especially hard for all of us. Your donations are needed more than ever to help your neighbors in need.

The idea behind the Cardless Holiday Fund is to contribute to the fund instead of sending cards to your friends and family in town. Your name will then be listed in the Town of Columbia quarterly newsletter Columbia Views.

The purpose of the Cardless Holiday Fund is to help Columbia families in need. These situations present themselves more often than we would like to believe, and as government programs have been reduced, the need for the local community to respond has become greater. Join your neighbors in continuing or even increasing your support

This past year alone the fund has been used to help with holiday food baskets for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, back to school supplies, emergency food supplies and help with electrical bills.

Thank you for your continued caring and God Bless You!
Sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church

Mail to: Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund, c/o Mark Smith, P.O. Box 177, Columbia, CT 06237

Please accept my donation of \$_____ to the **“Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund”**

Donations accepted online at the following link: columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page_id=1335. Please check the box for specific fund and choose and the Cardless Holiday Fund from the list.

_____ Do not list my name in the Columbia Views **OR**
_____ I would like my listing in the Columbia View to appear as (names only please):

(Please print clearly)

Please make checks payable to the **“Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund”**
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Greetings from the Columbia Leos! We hope everyone had a great summer! The Columbia Lions held their Chicken BBQ after a year's hiatus. We were extremely proud to be able to help them with this event. It was a great success! Thanks Lions and thanks to all who bought tickets!

The fall is really the start of our year, and we've got some plans! The Leos will be holding Food Drives on October 23 and November 20. All those donations will be given to the Town of Columbia Food Pantry. We will also be collecting gently used coats and winter apparel through the month of November, culminating with The Lions Gazebo Lighting! The coats are given to WAIM. We will put out more info as to where and when we are accepting donations, stay tuned!

Our President Maddy Ross has gotten us off to a great start! Maddy and all the Leo members are looking forward to a great year! In addition to our fall campaigns, we are planning our annual Variety Show. Last year was on Zoom, and it was really awesome. It is available to watch on the Columbia Leos You Tube Channel, we encourage you to check it out if you can! We are hopeful that we

will be able to put on a full live production at Yeoman's in April 2022. We'll keep you posted!

President Maddy and Vice President Elle Gaucher made a great video talking about their experience with the Leo club and what it means to them. We will try to post that to our You Tube Channel soon. Maddy and Elle joined while they were in the 7th grade at Porter and are currently juniors at EO Smith. This is very typical, as our members are 12-18 years old, and Columbia residents. If you are in that age group, and would like to be a member of our team of volunteers, please email Advisor Jim Blair at jbland15@earthlink.net. Our members enjoy working as a team to serve our community, Columbia. And we have fun doing it! If this sounds like something for you, don't hesitate to reach out.

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

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




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More Than Just a Pretty Picture

The Town of Columbia is grateful to Mr. Ed Tollmann for the Ed Tollmann Deltiology Collection, a remarkable gift, a selection of early 20th century postcards and images of Columbia. Some may not fully appreciate Ed's close ties to Columbia as his family once resided on Lake Road. He is well known as former President of Lebanon Historical Society Museum & Visitor Center in Lebanon, Connecticut for many years. Ed shared his reminisces as a young man growing up in Liberty Hill and Columbia as he showed me his Columbia photos and postcards.

The Ed Tollmann Deltiology Collection touches on many different stories, including the story about the medium of postcards and postcard collecting. Known as deltiology, postcard collecting is the third most popular hobby in the United States and Europe. Sometimes likened to Instagram, these images and brief content capture a glimpse of changes in our town's early 20th century history. "Columbia postcards are rare and now hard to find", Ed told me.

The postcard medium coincides with the evolution of photography and high-quality image transfer on specialty card stock, mostly in 1870s Europe. It is also thought to coincide with increasing literacy, use of cursive writing, and innovations in new types of writing pens and ink. At first, both European and US national postal services sold standardized pictorial cards with prepaid stamps. In 1898 US Congress authorized commercial printing of 3 ½ x 5 ½ inch postcards. Early postcards show the words "authorized by Act of Congress May 19, 1898".

"The Inn", postmarked July 18, 1905, is a black and white half-tone "view-card" example. It shows a small photographic image, publisher's mark and number, and white space for a brief message. The back of this early card back is undivided, reserved for the mailing address, 1 cent stamp, and postmark only. This is a commercially printed, "private

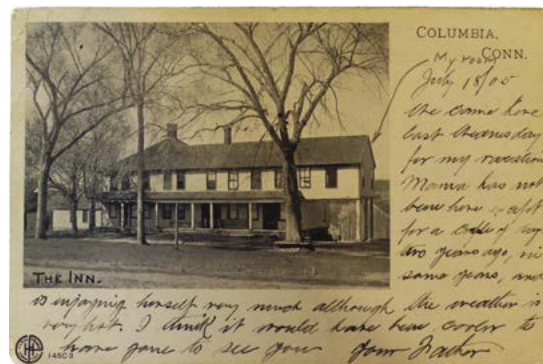
mailing" card by C. H. Pease Publishers, Canaan, Conn., compliant with international postal union "Post Card - Carte Postale" and 1898 US Congress mailing standards.

By 1907 standards changed as seen in another black and white half-tone "view-card" example, "Church and Town Hall, Columbia, Conn.". This image of Columbia Congregational Church, Yeomans Hall (c. 1901 - 1940), chapel, and elm trees published by H. W. Porter, Columbia, Conn. was printed by the Excelium Company, Germany. The picture occupies the front, but the 1907 US Congress-authorized divided-back "Post Card" has two sections --- for a message and for recipient address. This was postmarked October 13, 1911, Columbia, Conn.

Many American pre-WWI postcards were printed in Germany because of superior printing quality. American printed postcards from 1913 - 1930 typically show white borders, a feature to save ink, as seen in this postcard of the Saxton B. Little Free Library, Columbia, Conn., postmarked August 11, 1924. White borders persisted in texturized colored postcards from 1930 - 1945. "Scene from Utley Hill --- Overlooking Columbia Lake, Columbia, Conn", by Mankauf Card, was postmarked August 28, 1940, not long after Columbia Lake was bought by the town in 1933.

Collectors use secondary information to date and determine the provenience of the postcard. Ed reiterated "today Columbia postcards are a rarity". Collectors prize small-town scenes depicting social change in rural America; showing quaint buildings; immigrants, factory work, natural disasters, war, and calamities that profoundly altered our way of life...even if the collector had never set foot in our town! Most of all we thank Mr. Ed Tollmann for his generosity and thoughtfulness in helping preserve our history.

Ingrid Wood
Town Historian



Kim Kordonowy – Columbia Visual Artist

A new exhibit by Columbia artist Kim Kordonowy has been installed in the parish hall gallery of the Columbia Congregational Church. The exhibit features large charcoal drawings of a variety of dogs in motion. These drawings convey focused observation and deep appreciation of the movement and personalities of individual dogs. This exhibit will continue for several months; it is currently being enjoyed by folks attending Second Saturday breakfasts at the church.

A second opportunity to view and enjoy Kim Kordonowy's work will be an exhibit of her mixed media landscape paintings at the Saxon B. Little Library from December 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022. Mixed media is an approach Kim frequently employs in her work. Kim is an experimental artist who works in charcoal, watercolor, acrylic and oil. Her favorite expression is a multimedia process of embedding her sister's quilt scraps in her acrylic washes. Finished with oils. Her subjects are often animals.

Kim and her husband moved to Columbia in 2019 to be closer to their family. In addition to her Columbia exhibits, several of her pieces have been exhibited through the Spectrum Gallery in Centerbrook, CT. Kim is also an ac-



tive member of the Columbia Arts Council and has taught art classes at the Beckish Senior Center.

A graduate of The University of Missouri with a degree in interior design, Kim Kordonowy worked professionally while living in Missouri, was active in art organizations, had solo shows, received juried awards, conducted workshops and demos, and was a member of a dedicated exhibiting artists group.

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