



*Columbia*  
VIEWS

Volume 7 • Issue 4  
Winter 2023

*Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT*





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welcoming new patients



Like the changing of the seasons, we have had some changes here with town staff. We bid a fond farewell to Andy Andrews, Department of Public Works Highway Foreman. Andy began working for the Town of Columbia 38 years ago as a general hand and progressed through the ranks to the position as Highway Foreman. In addition, Andy served as a Tree Warden. Andy took tremendous pride in many significant projects completed throughout the town, including the continued development of the Rec Park field complex, the major overhaul of the Columbia Lake beach, additions to the Beckish Senior Center and new firehouse, numerous school projects, countless paving and drainage projects, and many years working tirelessly through snowstorms plowing the roads. His dedication, expertise and unwavering commitment to the Town of Columbia and the community will be sorely missed. We wish Andy all the best in his retirement!

We welcome Kyle Pelletier who will be replacing Andy as the new Highway Foreman. Kyle brings to this new position demonstrated leadership and significant experience in the public works field.

At the time of this publication, Indigenous Peoples Day (Monday, October 9th) will have already passed, but this day provides the opportunity to build our knowledge of Indigenous groups in our area. Indigenous Peoples Day celebrates and honors indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. In Columbia, we share an important history with the Mohegans and their neighbors, the Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Nipmuc, and Lenape peoples.

Columbia presented "Columbia's Recognition of its First Peoples" in a dedication of the Samson Occom Memorial Garden in 2022. The recognition follows in its entirety.



*Above: Drainage work on the Little League field in July. Below: Mohegan dance.*



The significance of the garden exemplifies Mohegan Samson Occom's efforts to bring both worlds together through his writing and education.

Samson Occom (1723-1792) became a Christian convert and studied under the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock in his "Lattin School" here in Columbia from 1743 to 1747. Occom's achievements became the inspiration for Wheelock's founding of Moor's Indian Charity School in 1754, which aimed to educate Native American youth to become missionaries to their people.

In addition to his work as a Presbyterian minister, Reverend Occom used the English-style education he had received to become an advocate for Native American education and rights. Through his preaching and writings, he sought to bridge the wide gap between the very different English and Native cultures.

### **Columbia's Recognition of its First Peoples**

*"We stand together on lands which Sachem Uncas and his family used as a hunting and fishing preserve. These lands in Eastern Connecticut that encompass Columbia and neighboring towns were stewarded by Mohegan ancestors. We also recognize that our town has a highway that transects these lands, an Indigenous pathway connecting Connecticut's shore communities to the Connecticut tidal river in the northwest, used by Mohegans and their neighbors, the Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Nipmuc, and Lenape peoples. It registered the footsteps of the 90 or so Native students, boys and girls, from 11 tribes from eastern North America who came here to attend Moor's Charity School from 1755 - 1770."*

*From the Occom Garden Blessing Ceremony, September 25, 2022*

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



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On the cover: *Fall on Mono Pond*  
Photo by Paul Ramsey

## 2024 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

### 1st Q/24

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 1/5/24  
Mailed Week of 2/5/24

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 2/2/24  
Mailed Week of 3/4/24

### 2nd Q/24

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 4/5/24  
Mailed Week of 5/6/24

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 5/3/24  
Mailed Week of 6/4/24

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Columbia has been very blessed by the generous grants given to us through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and through the Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) program. These grants aim to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to our department. These grants help fire departments obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel.

This summer U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal came to Columbia to announce a \$136,000 grant for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department that allowed the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCUBA). This equipment protects fire fighters from toxic fumes.



U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (left, at podium) announces grant for Columbia VFD to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus, which is modeled by firefighter Jon Haddad at right.



On another good note, Senator Cathy Osten and Representative Tim Ackert just announced a grant award of \$250,000 to go towards a new replacement for our 1989 forestry vehicle. With the expansion of the Mono Pond State Forest to a new total of 600 acres we will be better prepared to respond to all kinds of emergencies from forest fires to lost or injured hikers.

A collage of photos showing people and dogs in a veterinary setting. In the center is the logo for Hebron Veterinary Hospital, which features a stylized building and the letters 'HVH' above the text 'HEBRON VETERINARY HOSPITAL'. The photos show a woman walking a dog, a woman examining a dog, and a woman sitting on the floor with a dog.

## Hebron Veterinary Hospital

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Dr. Kimberly Mordasky  
Dr. Jaime DeLeon

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## Municipal Elections

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

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 reg-

istration. 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.

## Fishing and Hunting

We would like to remind you that Sports licenses (fishing and hunting) for the 2024 season become available for purchase in December 2023. A perfect Holiday gift for the sportsperson in your family!

Have a Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday Season!

Robin M. Kenefick, *Columbia Town Clerk*

Gail C. McGrath, *Columbia Assistant Town Clerk*

## 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, 2024. The last day to pay without a penalty is February 1, 2024.

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, 2024: 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 2.99% for credit and debit cards.

- Go to [www.columbiact.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:taxcollector@columbiact.org) for information on the process.

Happy Holidays!

**Call today for your FREE market analysis!**

# MCD TEAM

Of Century 21 AllPoints Realty

17 MAIN STREET • HEBRON, CT 06248



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860-208-0324



**Michele Dumaine**

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**Storytime Walk through Rec Park:** Looking for a way to exercise both your mind and body at the same time? Starting in early October, we will have a 'Story' along the walking path. Prepping for the Halloween season, our first story will be Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. As you walk the path, take time to stop at each post along the way to read a 'page' of the story. Before you know it, you will have a loop completed and a story enjoyed. Share with a child, enjoy yourself ~ just right for everyone. The stories will change as the seasons change and 'brain teasers' will be implemented over time as well. Stay tuned for our programming along the walking trail at Rec Park!

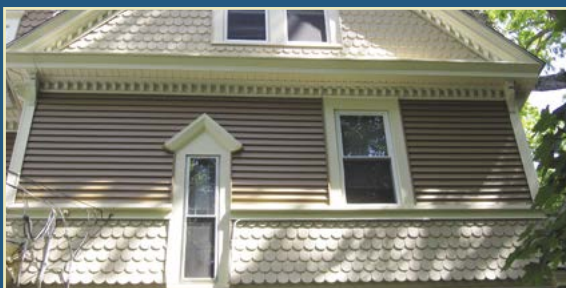
**Upcoming events you will want to keep watch for:** Winter Wonderland coming to Rec Park in December and the Polar Plunge at Columbia Lake in January. Follow us on our Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/columbia\\_parks\\_rec/](https://www.instagram.com/columbia_parks_rec/)) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100044438104765>) for updates on programs and future events. Would you like to receive information on all our events directly to your email? Subscribe to our Mailchimp by emailing us directly at: [recdirector@columbiact.org](mailto:recdirector@columbiact.org).

### Preschool Screenings

The Early Childhood Team of Horace W. Porter School is pleased to announce that we will conduct Preschool Screenings for Columbia 2-year and 9-month-old (turning 3 by December 31, 2023) and any 4-year-old not previously screened (and not turning 5 by December 31, 2023). 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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NOTE: Our office has relocated to 45 Laurel Lane  
Columbia, CT from the Landmark Building

# REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

## Municipal Election

November 7, 2023  
6am-8pm  
Yeomans Hall  
323 Route 87, Columbia

## Voter Registration

- The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, October 31, 2023.
- Register online at [voterregistration.ct.gov](http://voterregistration.ct.gov), stop in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours, or contact the Registrars of Voters.
- The Registrars of Voters will be holding a voter registration session in Yeomans Hall on Tuesday, October 31st from 9am-8pm. ID and proof of residency required.
- If you miss the registration deadline, Election Day Registration will be available at Yeomans Hall on November 7th, 6am-8pm. ID & proof of residency will be required.

## Absentee Ballots:

- Absentee Ballots are available now through close of business on November 6th. To obtain an Absentee Ballot, you must first fill out an application. You can find an application on the Registrars of Voters website, or contact the Town Clerk at (860) 228-3284.
- Completed Absentee Ballots must be received by 8pm on November 7th. They can be returned via mail, Ballot Drop Box outside Town Hall, or to the Town Clerk's office. Absentee Ballots cannot be accepted at the polling place.

Please contact the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk with any questions.

## Registrars of Voters

Karen Butzgy – Democratic  
Gayle Mulligan – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113

[registrar@columbiact.org](mailto:registrar@columbiact.org)  
[columbiact.org/registrar-voters](http://columbiact.org/registrar-voters)

<b>William P O'Brien</b> <b>Judith Szegda Ortiz</b>	Board of Selectmen	<h1>Vote for the Democratic Team November 7</h1> 
<b>Violet "Louie" Szegda</b> <b>Christine Sposito</b> <b>Stephania Dawiczky</b>	Board of Education	
<b>Richard Szegda</b> <b>Judith Jordan</b> <b>Sonia Duarte</b> <b>James Chakulski</b>	Financial Planning & Allocation Commission	
<b>Tom Currier</b> <b>Walt Tabor</b> <b>Daniel Tomczyk</b>	Planning & Zoning	
<b>William Petrone</b> <b>Wendy McDonald</b>	Board of Zoning Appeals	
<b>Nancy Hammarstrom</b> <b>Stanley Rosenstein</b>	Alt. Board of Zoning Appeals	

Paid for by the Columbia Democratic  
Town Committee, Judy Ortiz, Treasurer



Today our country is divisive and politically contentious. In contrast, Columbia has a long standing, special culture that we need to acknowledge and protect. Our local politicians have worked hard to encourage discussions on varied topics. Universal agreement is not desirable, as it indicates a lack of diversity in viewpoints. While individual needs may not be addressed and shared visions are not always created, thoughtful and considerate discussion provides the foundation for democratic governance. The leaders in Columbia respect each other's opinions, even when they do not universally agree. Many of our leaders and elected officials strive to maintain that respect, while encouraging strong and robust political and civic debate.

As chairs of the Columbia Democrats (CDTC) and Columbia Republicans (CRTC), we understand that the cornerstone of continuing this culture depends on open discussion as, well as civic engagement. Regardless of one's politics, it is our duty to understand the basics of our local government and participate in different town activities. One of the first steps you can take is meeting the candidates who are asking for your vote on November 7th and engaging them in constructive dialogue.

Earlier this year, both of our groups participated in an event at the Beckish Senior Center where the public could hear from our town elected officials and learn more about our local government. With the November 7th municipal election approaching, the CDTC and the CRTC are again working together on another co-sponsored event. This time we will host a meet and greet where you will meet both Democrat and Republican candidates running for different Town of Columbia commissions. There will also be time for Questions and Answers. Please attend, October 28th from 2 to 4pm at the Beckish Senior Center. We look forward to showcasing our differing visions in a way that fosters the culture of respect in Columbia. Keep an eye out for future CDTC and CRTC co-sponsored events and civic engagement opportunities.

Susan Spiggle  
*Chair, Columbia Democratic Town Committee*

Justin Riendeau  
*Chair, Columbia Republican Town Committee*



## COLUMBIA REPUBLICANS

### VOTE November 7<sup>th</sup>



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

## 2023 Slate of Municipal Candidates

### Board of Education

Michael Maziarz      Paul Zator

### Financial Planning & Allocation Commission

Stephen Cooke

### Planning & Zoning

Marnie Kagerer      David Holcroft

### Planning & Zoning, Alternate

Ed Madrak      Larry Preston

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Rich Napolitano

### Board of Assessment Appeals

Keith Peck

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The Beckish Senior Center has had a busy year. Seniors have been coming back to enjoy each other's company. Our fitness classes resumed in April. The Tai Chi classes are going strong with a break in August and September. Everyone has returned for our Line Dancing classes, that are packed with energetic dancers of all levels from beginner to advanced. The Women's Group planned several trips this year, going to Harkness Park for a picnic lunch and scenery, Enders Island in Mystic to explore the grounds and their beautiful gardens, and a trip to the famous Rien's Deli for the best New York style deli sandwiches and pies. The Quilting Group had a few trips to various quilting stores throughout Connecticut. A popular annual trip to the Big E on Connecticut Day and The Lake Winnepesaukee Turkey Train was a great success! The senior center offered a Boston Whale Watch trip where seniors were able to visibly see many whales and many different types of fish and aquatic life.

The Columbia Senior Organization hosts themed monthly game nights such as Soups & Games, Snacks & Games, and in October a Taco & Game Night! A function in September featured Joby Rogers, a gifted entertainer whose talents gained him international recognition. Rogers is the only Mi-

chael Jackson Tribute Artist to appear on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine. Joby was personally chosen by Michael Jackson as his #1 choice of Michael Jackson Tribute Artist after reviewing 116 of the top impersonators in the world.

Beginning Thursday, October 5, Robin Barros, founder of the Spirit of the Lotus in Columbia, and trained in Integrative Manual Therapy will begin Reiki from 10 am to 3pm. Reiki is an energy healing technique that promotes relaxation, reduces stress and anxiety through gentle touch. Reiki practitioners use their hands to deliver energy to your body, improving the flow and balance of your energy to support healing. Please sign up at the senior center to attend these weekly sessions. For more info, please visit our newsletter online.

The Beckish Senior Center is growing everyday with new trips, events, educational classes and so much more. Please see the Gem, the Beckish Senior Center's newsletter at <https://www.columbiact.org/senior-services/page/beckish-senior-center-newsletters> for further information.

Bernadette Derring  
 Director of Senior Services & Transportation  
 Town of Columbia's Municipal Agent for the Elderly



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**HIC#0652082**

## Permits

If you have taken a building permit out from 10/1/2022 to 9/30/2023, please send pictures with a paper stating the date on it, to show that either the work has not been performed, or at what status the work currently is. This includes work that was COD. Please submit pictures to mhawley@columbiact.org by November 1, 2023. This is in lieu of physical inspection. If you prefer a visit just email me and we can schedule a date and time. Please be patient with my reply as I am inundated with responses this time of year. I will reply.

## 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.

## Renters Program

The Renters Program ends October 1st but you may submit for an extension if you were under the care of a physician until December 15, 2023. Please contact the office for more details.

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.

## Property Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings

A new property tax exemption for farm buildings was adopted on September 29, 2023 and will become effective October 20. Applications can be filed from October 20, through November 1. The exemption is as follows:

### Section 1. Title

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as "An Ordinance Providing a Property Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings."

### Section 2. Legislative Authority.

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the provisions of Section 12-91(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as it may be amended from time-to-time.

### Section 3. Findings and Purpose.

The Town of Columbia finds that the preservation of farming and farmland is vitally important to retaining

Columbia's rural character and quality of life, as well as promoting economic and environmental sustainability. Therefore, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 12-91(c), as amended, the Town of Columbia seeks to protect, preserve and promote the health, welfare and quality of life of its people by providing a tax exemption for certain farm buildings.

### Section 4. Applicability and Benefits.

(a) For a farmer who qualifies for the farm machinery exemption under Connecticut General Statutes § 12-91(a), any building used actually and exclusively in farming, as "farming" is defined in Section 1-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, including for any building used to provide housing for seasonal employees of such farmer, upon proper application being made in accordance with this section, shall be exempt from property tax to the extent of an assessed value of one hundred thousand dollars.

(b) This exemption shall not apply to any residence of any farmer.

(c) Annually, within thirty days after the assessment date, each individual farmer, group of farmers, partnership or corporation shall make written application to the Assessor for the exemption provided in subsection (a) of this section, including therewith a notarized affidavit certifying that such farmer, individually or as part of a group, partnership or corporation, derived at least fifteen thousand dollars in gross sales from such farming operation or incurred at least fifteen thousand dollars in expenses related to such farming operation, with respect to the most recently completed taxable year of such farmer prior to the commencement of the assessment year for which such application is made, on forms prescribed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The farmer should be prepared to provide the assessor with proof of farm income and expenditures such as an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Schedule F (form 1040) and or profit and loss statement from farming. Failure to file such application in said manner and form within the time limit prescribed shall be considered a waiver of the right to such exemption for the assessment year. Any person aggrieved by any action of the Assessor shall have the rights and remedies for appeal and relief as are provided in the general statutes for taxpayers claiming to be aggrieved by the doings of the Assessor.

Initial Adopted

Special Town Meeting: September 19, 2023

Adopted: September 19, 2023

Published: September 29, 2023

Effective: October 20, 2023



### Heating Assistance

With the winter season approaching, a reminder that there are resources for heating assistance:

The State of CT Energy Assistance Program: Applications for the 2023-24 energy assistance program are underway. This program is available regardless of heating source. Gross income cannot exceed \$41,553/year (single) and \$54,338 (couples). There is no asset limit. Documentation needed: last four weeks of gross income and utility bills, as proof of rent/mortgage. If you are receiving cash assistance or SNAP you can provide benefit documentation instead of proof of income. If you are new to the program DSS requires your Identification and Social Security cards for everyone in the household as well as income and utility bills.

To apply please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-100/kwilt@Columbiact.org or visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Economic-Security/Winter-Heating-Assistance/Energy-Assistance---Winter-Heating/How-To-Apply>.

Columbia Fuel Bank: Residents must apply for all other eligible programs first. Must provide verification of income and meet with a social worker. This is a once a year grant for heat or electric emergencies. Please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 if you are in need of assistance.

### Senior Wellness Series

“The More You Know” Wellness Series meets every second Friday of the month at the Senior Center. This free program has covered topics such as integrating hope into

our thoughts when we feel concern, coping strategies when feeling stress, how to keep an open mind when communicating, tips on talking to a loved one who may be misusing substances. We are building a community that believes in “being kind to your mind” and “mental health is just as important as physical health”. Come join us!

To make suggestions, share ideas or get involved in future prevention work for the Town of Columbia please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 or [kwilt@Columbiact.org](mailto:kwilt@Columbiact.org).

### Medicare Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for Medicare begins October 15 and ends December 7 with changes effective January 1. If you are looking to switch your Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare Part D plan, call Senior Resources to speak with a CHOICES certified counselor. This a free unbiased service. You will be asked to provide an accurate list of your medications so that a counselor can find a plan that best suits your needs. Contact them at 860-887-3561 and ask for a CHOICES counselor or visit <https://seniorresourcesec.org/choices-medicare-counseling/>

### GARDENERS WANTED

Looking for gardeners and helping hands. Are you interested in helping to beautify the Town of Columbia? Working with our town, we are looking for volunteers to adopt gardens throughout our community. Each team of volunteers would be responsible for spring start up, planting, regular weeding and fall clean up. If this is something you think you would be interested in helping with, please contact Nancy at 860-933-0930.



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## COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



### 2nd Saturday Community Breakfasts

Nov. 11 Dec. 9 Jan. 13 Feb. 10



325 Route 87  
860 228 9306



Share Food and Joy with  
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**NEW TIME: 7:30 AM to 10 AM**

All you can eat; Special Rates for Families  
with Children



Buffet includes design-your-own omelets, Belgian waffles, corned beef hash and two other meats, hash browns, scrambled eggs, fruit and home baked goods. Lots of choices!





### Bell Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday December 17th 2:00 PM

Columbia Congregational Church, 325 Rt 87

Followed by **Crafts Cocoa & Candy Canes**  
Holiday food & fun for all Ages!



Join us for one or both of these free events!

## Church School

**will be meeting**

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**during the 10 a.m. service.**

Once a month, we will have a special activity!

If you have any questions or interest in joining us,  
please contact the church office at 860 228 9306  
or [ccchurch@snet.net](mailto:ccchurch@snet.net)




All Are Welcome

SIMPLE SUSTENANCE OFFERINGS 2023-2024			
Nov	19	Butternut Squash Soup	Cranberry Apple Bread
Dec	17	Chicken Rice Veggie Soup	Eggnog Bread
Jan	28	Chicken Brunswick Stew	Corn Bread (Incl. GF)
Feb	25	Mulligatawny	Mozzarella Parmesan Bread
Mar	24	* Pierogis, Apple Sauce, Carmelized Onions *	
Apr	28	Corn Chowder	Molasses Brown Bread
May	26	Zuppa Toscana	Sun-Dried Tomato Basil Bread

ORDER and PAY one week prior to PICK UP date above

ORDER forms available at church or email: [ccchurchfair@gmail.com](mailto:ccchurchfair@gmail.com)

OR Order online with PayPal at [https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page\\_id=16952](https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page_id=16952)





Welcome to autumn at Columbia's local library! After an incredibly busy summer, we're easing into the coziest time of year, perfect for curling up with a good book.

Our biggest news of the season is that we have a new Library Director, Julie Styles! Julie brings many years of library experience to Columbia, most recently serving as Library Director at Kent Memorial Library in Suffield. Julie has also worked as the Assistant Director of Public Service at Hartford Public Library and Professional Development Coordinator at the CT State Library, among other positions. Stop in to SBL any time we're open to welcome Julie to her new role in Columbia - we're very excited to have her join our team!

For events for adults, we have a variety of activities coming up! Learn about CT's Fisher cat on Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30pm - Paul Colburn, a Master Wildlife Conservationist, will teach us all about this elusive mammal. We'll also be holding our second annual Holiday Cookie Swap on Monday, December 11th at 2:00pm - you bring the cookies, we'll provide the cookie boxes and hot cocoa!



For kids, we have a variety of craft programs coming up! In November, we'll be making Veggie Print Tea Towels, perfect for gifting or for the Thanksgiving table. Then, in December, first we'll make our own Holiday Cards; then, on the Winter Solstice, we'll make Star Candle Holders in a program for all ages (including adults!). Registration for these programs is not yet open, but follow us on Facebook

for all the details.

There are two easy ways to make sure you don't miss a thing at SBL. First, you can follow us on social media - we have an active presence on Facebook, and we're expanding our reach on Instagram. Second, you can subscribe to our monthly programming newsletter - you'll get updates on all our exciting news, including programs, new services, and more. Visit our website at [columbiactlibrary.org](http://columbiactlibrary.org) to sign up.

We hope to see you at SBL soon!

Cait Orloski, *Adult Services Librarian*  
860-228-0350  
[columbiactlibrary.org](http://columbiactlibrary.org)

## ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILIES WE SERVE

Greetings and Happy Fall! We would like to say a big thank you for the generous support of local families through the Columbia social service program. Through your donations we were able to provide back to school items for 20 children in our community.

Donations were made by Saint Columba Church, The Columbia Congregational Church and the many, many

generous Columbia residents. Our hearts have been touched by your readiness to fill the gap where it needs to be filled. We will be continuing outreach through 2023 with Thanksgiving and Christmas. We look forward to and appreciate your continued support.

Debby Smith & Nancy Millerd

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# COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The members of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department elected a new Chief and Deputy Chief on July 12, 2023.

Chief Scott Haddad moved to Columbia in 1996 and joined the CVFD in August that same year. An EMT and firefighter, Scott first served in an appointed role as Lieutenant in 2001 and in 2007 rose to the rank of Captain. In 2009, Scott was appointed Assistant Chief and was then elected Deputy Chief in 2020 where he served until his recent election to Chief.

Chief Haddad brings a wealth of experience to his new leadership position. While he brings familiarity with the CVFD and its members, he has strong ties to the Columbia community where he and his wife Becky have raised two sons. Chief Haddad worked at Tolland County 911 Dispatch Center from 2004 – 2016 and is currently em-



ployed at the University of Connecticut as the Manager of the Public Safety Emergency Communications Center.

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Lewis joined the CVFD in 1992 and has held many officer positions in the department. Deputy Chief Lewis is a firefighter and an EMT.

Jeff grew up in Columbia and has lived here with his wife Kim while raising two daughters – one is now a sophomore at SCSU and the other is a junior at E.O. Smith High School.

Both Chief Haddad and Deputy Chief Lewis hold great pride in the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department being an entirely volunteer service. Both will focus on maintaining the highest levels of training for all members, ensuring emergency services are of the highest quality and working to bring new members into the ranks.

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RE10-6-23



Season's Greetings!

November 2023 marks the 48th 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.

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, Christmas gifts, supermarket gift cards and holiday supplies..

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:  
[https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page\\_id=1335](https://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 Views to appear as (names only; please print clearly):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please make checks payable to the "Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund"



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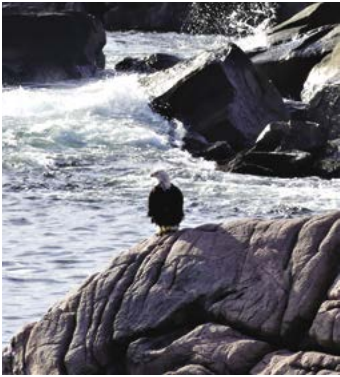
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**Hebron**  
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860-228-3952

**Marlborough**  
152 Hebron Rd.  
860-295-8003

Monday-Friday 7am-6pm • [www.discoveryzone.info](http://www.discoveryzone.info)

## ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIOS



### Artists' Open Studios at the Beckish Senior Center

Paul Ramsey—Photography

Kim Kordonowy—Painting

Also: Xiaohong Song—Painting

Nov. 24, 25, 26 and Dec. 2, 3

## OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

If you weren't at the Heartstone Winery on August 17th, you missed a great party! Columbia Open Space Committee held a fundraiser for the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the non-profit that has been helping Columbia conserve additional forest in the Wells Woods section of Mono Pond State Park.

In recent years, through the combined efforts of the Town of Columbia, TPL, and the State of CT, we have added 600 acres of the 1000-acre goal. Trust for Public Land and a Trails Grant from the State of CT will fund a master plan for multi-use trails for the public to enjoy.

Trust for Public Land is a national non-profit land trust that aids municipalities, land trusts, and national parks to conserve land. TPL's motto, "Land for People," says it all. TPL owns no land: they help conserve Open Space by providing funding and professional expertise, and then turn the land over to the people.

Currently, TPL is working with the State of CT to fund and develop a master multi-use trail system in Mono Pond State Park, including the Town-owned land in Wells Woods. This will provide trails for hiking, equestrian use, as well as mountain biking, and bow hunting, while protecting the sensitive wildlife areas. The trail system will connect to the Airline State Park.

Trust for Public Land provides, without cost, the expertise most municipalities lack to conserve land: Land use lawyers, appraisers, land surveyors, mapping experts, trail planners, and negotiators. Their funding comes from donations from the public, charitable foundations, grants, and partnerships.

To learn more about Trust for Public Land, or to donate to the Trust for Public Land, please go to [tpl.org/support](http://tpl.org/support). If you want your donation to be applied to our project, select Connecticut.



From left, Friends of Mono Pond Tom McGrath, Honor Lawler, and Kim Bradley.

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**Fri. 8am–5:30pm                      244 Rte. 6**  
**Closed Sunday                      Columbia, CT 06237**

**Visit us at: [www.mottasbakery.com](http://www.mottasbakery.com)**



**National Take-Back Day**

AHM Youth & Family Services' Coalition for a Healthy & Empowered Community (AHM CHEC) in partnership with the Connecticut State Police is hosting National Take-Back Day on Saturday, October 28th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at RHAM High School (85 Wall Street, Hebron). Medications should be in the original container with the name crossed off and please no sharps. The first 50 cars will receive a free SAFE Rx Locking Pill Bottle to keep medications safely stored; paid for by the Local Prevention Council (LPC) Grant.

**Screenagers**

AHM is also hosting the viewing of the two Screenagers documentaries created and directed by Dr. Delaney and Lisa Tabb. Screenagers The Next Chapter: Addressing Mental Health in the Digital Age on Wednesday, November 18, and Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age on December 7. Students in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to attend; residents from any town are welcome. Admission is free! For more information about the films please visit [www.ahmyouth.org/pro](http://www.ahmyouth.org/pro)

grams-services/prevention-programs/. This program is funded through the Drug-Free Communities Grant. Please RSVP to [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org) with the number of adults and youth attending.

**Health Matters Programming**

Health Matters is a mind and body wellness program, all classes are held in AHM's Wellness Room. This Fall, get creative with Vision Boards, Calligraphy, Cupcake Decorating, and more! To view the lineup and register, go to: <https://ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Program>

**Holiday Auction**

Our annual online auction supports the programs and services which we provide to our community, such as family counseling, recovery groups for young adults, family resource center programs, performing arts programs, mentoring, and the CHOREs program for seniors. Last year this fundraiser brought in over \$10,000! This year, AHM's Holiday Auction will take place November 13-27, 2023. To stay up to date and view our amazing items go here: <https://ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/holiday-auction/>



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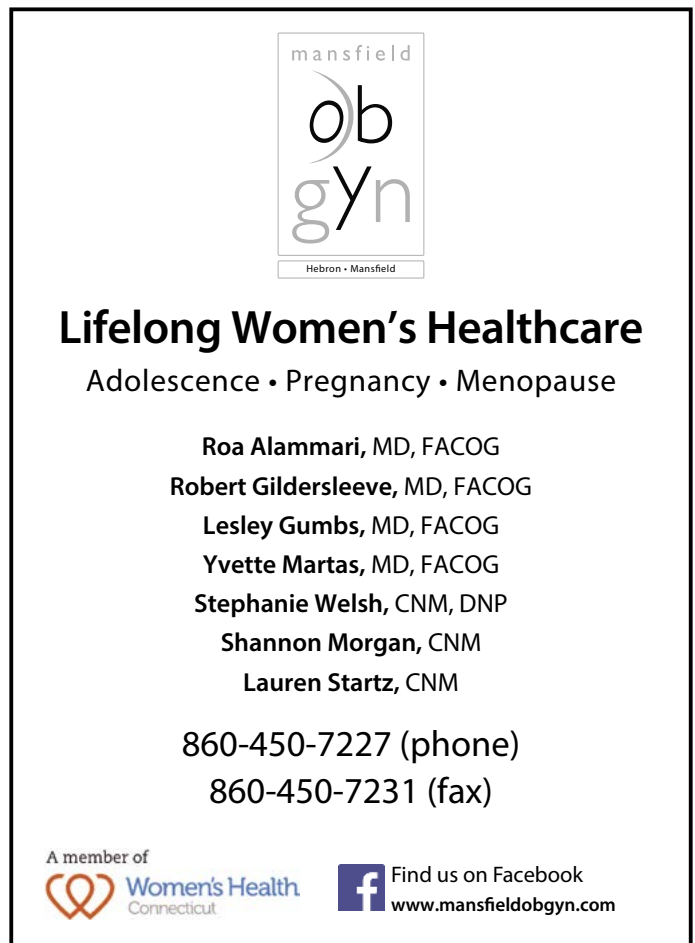
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## COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB

The Columbia Lions Club is pleased to announce that the annual Chicken BBQ held on August 20, 2023, was an impressive success. The Club served over 500 meals – both dine-in and take-out -- and netted a profit of \$4,000, which will be used to support community projects in Columbia and the region.

Members of the Columbia Leo Club and scouts from Troop 162 provided much-needed assistance throughout the day. Best of all, the weather was perfect!

The Lions invite members of the community to consider volunteering at our various fund-raising events, like the BBQ. Notice of Lions activities is regularly posted on the Town of Columbia newsletter.

Become a Lion! – The Lions need new members and fresh ideas. If you are interested in becoming a Columbia Lion, send a note to Lion VP Wes Burnham (wesleyburnham2000@yahoo.com) or Lion Mike DiRaimo (md6966@gmail.com).

## COLUMBIA LEOS

Happy Fall from The Columbia Leo's! The Leo's year began right after Labor Day and we're just getting started! We've helped with The Congregational Church Breakfast (and by the way what an awesome breakfast they have!) and The Rec Department with the 5 K Race. We'll be back at the Church to help them as they help us kick off our

One Warm Coat Drive in November. During the month of November we will be collecting gently used, clean coats, hats, scarves and mittens. The articles collected will go to WAIM in Willimantic. Look for collection boxes at Horace Porter School and Beckish Senior Center. The Coat Drive culminates with The Gazebo Lighting scheduled for November 26. Stay tuned for more info!

With President Morgan Bonaiuto guiding us, we will continue our campaign into 2024. After the coat drive and the holidays we'll be back at Columbia Congregational as we look to help the Town of Columbia Food pantry and Fuel Assistance Programs. Look for us on the second Saturday of the month in January and February. Come to breakfast, if you're able, to share fellowship and learn how you can help us out.

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 on either the first and third Mondays at 6:30 PM. Please contact Mr. Blair by the phone or email listed below to provide accurate meeting days and times, as they are subject to change. We'd love to have you sit in on a meeting!

The Columbia Leos would like wish everyone a safe, happy, healthy fall and holiday season!

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



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


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