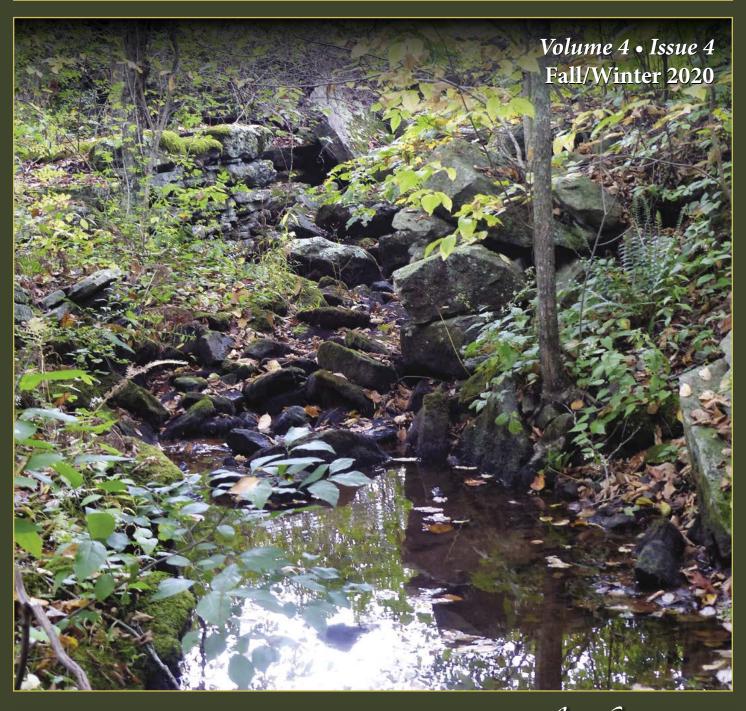
Columbia VIEWS



Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT



Dr Alison Nicholes, DMD Dr AJ Fennell, DMD







welcoming new patients



It has been a difficult year so far, but we have a lot to be proud of and while it has been challenging dealing with COVID constraints, we have pulled together as a town. The response from the community in helping others has been tremendous. The Town has received gener-



ous donations towards COVID relief. The donations are to assist those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations may be used for food supply, fuel assistance, protective equipment and other social services that will benefit those affected by COVID-19. Our Town staff has not missed a beat to provide our residents with the services that they need while balancing the safety of the public and the employees and I thank them for their dedication. I would also like to commend the school's ability to adapt under very difficult circumstances and providing our students with a quality education.

Despite the COVID pandemic, we have moved forward with many projects. As Mark Walter discussed in his piece for the Columbia Views the Rec Park expansion has moved forward with some important and vital improvements to Rec Park.

As we move forward, we have had some important changes in personnel in high level positions. With the retirement of DPW Director, George Murphy and Facilities Manager, Bud Meyers those positions are crucial to fill. We have filled the Director of Public Works position and will be filling the Facilities Manager's position soon. We would like to welcome Beth Lunt as the new Director of Public Works. A bio for Beth is on page 26. We have also created a new position for a Community Social Services Coordinator, and we would like to welcome Katie Wilt. Katie's bio is also located in the publication on page 25.

At the time of this publication, fall will be upon us and planning for winter is right behind. Hurricane season lasts from June to November with the peak season from mid-August to late October. Our Emergency Management team and DPW crew are prepared to work closely with Eversource in case of power outages and downed trees. In early August we experienced Tropical Storm Isaias that caused major power outages in Columbia. Each storm provides us with lessons learned on how to improve our response.

• We have stepped up our efforts to reach all our residents who might need help during a power outage and encourage residents anyone with a medical con-

- dition or a disability that may require additional help to notify us. Please contact the Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring at 860-228-0759.
- We work closely with the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department in conjunction with our Emergency Management team and continuously update and review our emergency procedures.

We encourage the public to visit the Town website at www.columbiact.org for up-to-date information and I will also be providing updates on the Town of Columbia YouTube channel and on our Facebook page @Townof-ColumbiaCT.

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett First Selectman

severett@columbiact.org 860-228-0110



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ON THE COVER: See photo description on page 4. Photo by Paul Ramsey.

2021 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

1st Q/21

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 1/8/2021

Mailed Week of 2/8/2021

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 2/12/2021

Mailed Week of 3/8/2021

2nd Q/21

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 3/5/2021

Mailed Week of 4/5/2021

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 4/9/2021

Mailed Week of 5/3/2021

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Town of Columbia

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With only three months until the new year I cannot believe how different this year has been. I want to thank all our employees for continuing to provide the service that our town residents rely on. I am proud of the fact that every resident received the



services they needed. We remain available to help you by phone or appointment. Just call the department and discuss how best to serve your needs.

We are especially proud of all the great work from our Department of Public Works and Recreation Department on the improvements at Rec Park. The photos included show off the new pickle ball and basketball courts, the

new road around the outside of the park for improved safety and new guard rails and parking lots.

We always appreciate your thoughts and feedback as our parks continues to develop. Please forward any ideas to Steven Everett or myself (publicinput@columbiact. org, townadministrator@columbiact.org, or severett@columbiact.org). This is how our new improvements to the playground occurred. Our local girl scout troop did research and learned that static electricity from the plastic slide can affect cochlear ear implants. To solve this the girl scouts presented their ideas to Steven Everett and the Board of Selectman who supported the new slide and additions to the playground that will give access to children with ADA needs.

We are now starting to design and cost out various projects at Rec Park, which include, a maintenance garage, bathrooms with handicap access, concession stand, and pavilion. When we are all done, we hope to have a park that is an asset that sets our town apart and compliments our great beach, lake, and new Mono Pond State Park.

These outdoor assets are the perfect answer to hobbies and activities that help in our COVID environment.

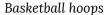
Please call anytime, I am willing to meeting to hear your ideas.

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



Rec Park playground







New railings



Softball field entrance

Don't forget!! The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2021. The last day to pay the second installment without a penalty is February 1, 2021. 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 8:00-6:00 and closed on Friday. Town Hall is currently open by appointment only. Please call 860-228-0230 to schedule an appointment.

The Tax Office has extended hours during the tax collection month of January and February 1, 2021: Monday

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through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 8:00-6:00 and 8:00-12:00 Friday. Please visit the Town website at www. columbiact.org for up to date information.

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. To find your bills online, go to www.columbiact.org. On the Columbia home page (you may need to scroll down) click on the view/pay square and on the next page click on view/ pay square again. The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. Enter your last name, a space, and then your first initial. 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. 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!

ABOUT THE COVER

The Cover Photo is of the mill on the town-owned Oberlander property--soon to be known as the Mint Brook Preserve. It was developed by John Tuttle after his purchase of the land in 1823, and sold in 1833 with "a saw and shingle mill in good repair". It may have been improved by Enos Gates, a stone mason, who owned it and operated the saw mill in the 1840's. In 1855 it was bought by James Leland of Killingly whose family had a patent for a lathe that could turn irregular surfaces. Leland used the water power and also steam power to operate a factory making axe helves, handles for other tools, and spokes. After his death, the factory manufactured spokes until 1874 when it appears to have been discontinued.

Joan Hill



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



SAVINGS UP TO \$5.000 OFF MSRP!!









The Columbia Republican Town Committee Invites You to Support a Local Business, Enjoy a Glass of Wine and

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Tim Ackert, Candidate for CTs 8th General Assembly District Steve Weir, Candidate for CTs 19th Senate District

HEARTSTONE October 25th FARM & WINERY 468 Route 87 in Columbia

2 to 4 o'clock

Ask questions, get information and express your views

It continues to be business as usual in the Town Clerk's office for those services that you might need - Recording and Searching of Land Records, Fishing and Hunting licenses, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage licenses, Dog licenses, Transfer Station stickers, etc.

Admittance to the Town Clerk's office is by appointment only. Please call our office at 860-228-3284 to set up an appointment.

For your convenience, a large white drop box has been installed outside the doors to Yeoman's Hall. This box can be used to drop off items for the Town Clerk and is shared with other offices in Town Hall.

Fishing and hunting:

We would like to remind you that Sports licenses (fishing and hunting) for the 2021 season become available for purchase in December 2020. 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 Asst. Town Clerk

FARMER'S MARKET

Molly's Market is a traditional style farmer's market that is taking place at Heartstone Farm and Winery in Columbia CT. From 3-6pm every Thursday August 6th-October 29th you will find fresh home grown products from local farmers. Vendors include Field Engineer Farm, Wilkinson Farm, Cambera Farm, Granny's Pie Factory and more. Molly's Market is still looking for more vendors to join the market. If you are interested send an email to mollysmarketct@gmail.com for more information. Be sure to check out the Molly's Market's Facebook page and Instagram @mollysmarketct for everything from getting to know the market's vendors, to recipes and farming tips.



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Countryside Realty of Hebron Ranks #1 in 2019!

Countryside Realty, of 30 Main Street in Hebron. ranks #1 for the 9th straight year in number of homes SOLD in total for Hebron, Lebanon, Columbia, and Andover!*

Everyone at Countryside Realty credits their success to an emphasis on preparation, relentless focus on customer service and a deep understanding of the market. Countryside Realty would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to their clients for their loyalty, referrals and repeat business throughout the years.

According to The Greater Hartford Association of Realtors and the Connecticut MLS

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The Assessor's Office is currently performing inspections on building permits and developing an updated personal property list. Below are a couple of 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 2, 2020. 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) this includes registered out of state that are not currently on our list, please let us know and we will 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 vehicle. 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.

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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email: Law@donaldpcianciesq.net

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

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



If you happened to be unfortunate to have a fire in your home, here are a few safety tips to help you in preparation of this tragic time.

- 1. Get out of the home.
- 2. Notify all other occupants and account for everyone once outside.
- 3. Call 9-1-1 and give the dispatcher good information.
- 4. Never re-enter the dwelling for anything.
- 5. When the Fire Department arrives, communicate if everyone is accounted for and any special hazards, i.e. guns, ammunition, propane gas or lost pets.
- 6. Remain calm.

Preparing for a House Fire

- 1. Have working smoke alarms that are less than ten (10) years old.
- 2. Exit plan and outside meeting place.
- 3. Practice fire safety.

Hebron Car Wash 860.228.Wash P.O. Box 727 18 Liberty Drive Hebron, CT

Things you may want to have stored at a remote location

- 1. Copy of current Insurance information.
- 2. Extra set of car keys.
- 3. Change of clothes.

What will happen after the fire?

- 1. There will be a Cause & Origin Fire Investigation.
- 2. You will need to contact your Insurance Agent/Company.
- 3. Be mindful of signing any contracts for cleanup services.

Mike Lester, Fire Marshal 860-228-0440 firemarshal@columbiact.org

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Columbia volu	inteer Fir	e Department	
REFLECTIVE A ORD Please complete	ER FO	ORM	ER
Name Address City, ST Zip Phone Number			_
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Mail to: Columbia Volunteer Fire Department 20 Box 26 Columbia, CT 06237	T I C A L	Brackets	



OUR PATRIOTISM RUNS DEEP IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT.

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Army Veteran. Connections Officer. State Senator.

"People ask me why I serve, why I work so hard for eastern Connecticut. It's because I believe in our people."

Cathy Osten gets things done. She's authored bipartisan laws to lower taxes for veterans and seniors, created thousands of good jobs with our manufacturing pipeline, protected coverage of pre-existing conditions, and expanded PTSD coverage for police and first responders.

STATE SENATE

FIGHTING FOR EASTERN CONNECTICUT

- Ensure that we never again need to rely on foreign countries for essential medical supplies
- Invest in Connecticut medical supply manufacturing to make masks, gowns and medicine
- Reined in in the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs by holding companies accountable
- Led to fight to provide PTSD coverage for police and fire fighters, and approved their contracts
- Created more technical school programs to train workers and provide access to good careers

VOTE ROW A · TUESDAY, NOV 3—in person or by absentee

AHM Youth and Family Services, the youth service bureau for the Town of Columbia has continued serving local residents throughout the pandemic.

Cheri Rivard-Lentz, LMFT is AHM's point person in Columbia, once again this year. Ms. Rivard-Lentz serves as AHM's Student Support Services Counselor at the Horace Porter School. New school services will include a small pilot program for the peer mentoring program (using technology to connect elementary and middle school students). Also being offered virtually will be a kindness/ anti-bullying initiative. Plans are being considered to offer a virtual internet safety and home alone safety program.

Throughout the pandemic, AHM staff member Brendan Grimm has been helping at the Senior Center in Columbia with food deliveries and community projects.

Columbia families can continue accessing AHM's counseling services, and the SMART recovery groups for young adults and families who are struggling with addictions. For a complete list of times for SMART recovery meetings, please visit www.ahmyouth.org. To schedule, a counseling appointment call the AHM offices at 860-228-9488.

There are still openings for Columbia families in the AHM Family Resource Center, including the KinderRhama program as well as Play and Learn Groups.

AHM SERVICES FOR SENIORS

AHM/Columbia TASKS Program

The Columbia TASKS program is once again assisting town seniors in need of help around their homes. TASKS is for Columbia seniors in need of outdoor yard work. The program is paid for through the Town of Columbia and AHM Youth and Family Services partnership. If you are a Senior who is registered in the TASKS program in Columbia, you can call the AHM offices to coordinate teenagers helping with yard work. There is no cost to Columbia seniors that use this program, but this service is prioritized for individuals who are either financially unable to afford to pay for help to perform outdoor yard work or whose health prevents them from doing so.

Due to COVID, only yardwork is permitted at this time. Call 860-228-9488 to register and to schedule a job with Brendan Grimm, the coordinator for TASKS.

Columbia teens and families can participate in the Juvenile Review Board as an alternative to being diverted from Juvenile Court for certain criminal or non-criminal offenses.

The newest program available to Columbia residents is called Health Matters, a wellness initiative funded through a grant from the Cigna Foundation. For a complete list of fun weekly activities for all ages focused on mind and body wellness go to www.ahmyouth.org.

For Columbia seniors that are interested in having fall outdoor yard work completed around their homes, please contact AHM staffer Brendan Grimm at 860-228-9488. This program is specifically available to Columbia seniors who are no longer able to complete outdoor projects on their own and do not have the financial means to afford such work. AHM will pay local teens to complete this work for you.

Any questions about AHM Youth and Family Services please contact Tressa Giordano, AHM Executive Director at 860-228-9488.



A Proven Leader Working for Columbia

Since you elected me to serve Columbia, I have felt welcomed as part of the community. I have enjoyed sharing time with you at annual celebrations, community service events and working side by side on lake preservation efforts. I am honored to be included in local government, frequently meeting with residents, town leaders and school administrators to work on important issues.

I ask for your vote on November 3rd, so I can continue to support Columbia.



Eagle Scout award celebration in Columbia



Tim at the Beckish Senior Center



Columbia Lions Club 4th of July Celebration



Columbia ★ Coventry ★ Tolland ★ Vernon AckertForThe8th.com



Paid for by Ackert for the 8th, Wesley D. Shorts, Treasurer. Approved by Tim Ackert

As I am writing this note, I think about the times when I was able to say hello to all of you in person and ask how you are. I hope you all are doing well, keeping busyas busy as you like to, staying safe, and practicing social distancing. It was five months in August since we have been together socializing, playing games, or having lunch. I miss each of you and your daily life stories. The Beckish Senior Center is very busy with transportation services and food distributions.

In July, a new addition to the transportation services arrived at the Beckish Senior Center. Along with the bus, a new 2020 Ford Escape will provide transportation to seniors and disabled adults to and from medical appointments, shopping, or wellness visits. Please do not hesitate to ask for a ride for any reason. Please call Lisa or Margaret at 860-228-0759 ext. 2., who will be happy to assist you.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Senior Center's tables are full of non-perishable food items, toiletries, and goodies. We are busy shopping, sorting, packing, and distributing goods to our residents in need. Thank you to all the volunteers who participate in the program.

While the Corona Virus has affected our daily lives, our spirit keeps going. I am looking to find a way to stay connected to all of you. There are several possibilities I can think of for us to meet in town. Of course, at any gathering, we must practice proper social distancing and wear a mask.

Additionally, iPad's will be available soon to rent. With an iPad, you may Facetime or Zoom with your family and friends. These platforms allow you to see and speak with

SENIORS ON THE GO

"Hi" - it is such a simple word but when it is delivered in person it is not just simple but GREAT. I guess what I am trying to say is I miss seeing all of you. "Hi" is good in a magazine or in an email; better over the phone; but it is GREAT when it is said face to face. I want to say it at lunch, to friends on a trip with me, to my fellow card players, to the people in my exercise class, at a special event, or just in passing at the senior center. These occasions, and many more, will happen again, but we need to wait until it is safe. If there is one thing this moment in time has taught us, it is how much we need to be together. I hope that when the time comes, we will see more of you at the senior center because I miss you.

Sheran Smith

your family and friends. I will keep you posted when they become available.

I am visiting the possibility of re-opening of the senior center with limited capacity. Most Connecticut senior centers will not open until January 1, 2021. Many centers are curious to see how the school re-openings following protocols and guidelines. Only time will tell us and give us that answer.

We are all hoping that the virus passes quickly, and we can resume our lives. Please stay in touch with us. The staff will continue to reach out to all of you weekly. If you are not receiving wellness calls and would like to be on the call list, please call me at 860-228-0759 ext. 1.

I am sending this virtual hug and always thinking of you. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Derring Director Senior Services & Transportation Municipal Agent for the Elderly



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Election

November 3, 2020 6am-8pm Horace W. Porter School

IN-PERSON VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE

- The deadline to register to vote is October 27th. 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 Horace W. Porter School on November 3rd, 6am-8pm. ID & proof of residency will be required.
- Absentee Ballots must be received by 8pm on November 3rd. They can be returned via Mail, Ballot Drop Box 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 Kate Morrison - Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113 registrar@columbiact.org Hello Columbia Residents and Happy Fall!

We at Friends of the Library hope you all had a wonderful summer, stayed healthy and are ready for a beautiful Fall!

The Friends of the Library Board has deliberated on the logistics of having a November sale and taking donations again. Unfortunately, at this point we still feel unable to do either. We are truly saddened to have to come to that decision as we miss our patrons and members very much. We are committed to keeping not only our volunteers safe, but all of you as well and with the small space we have, we simply cannot create a plan that we feel comfortable will do that.

That being said, we have decided to utilize our Book Nook in the vestibule of the Library so that you will have continued access to a portion of our inventory. At the end of September, we completely turned over ALL of our books in the Book Nook so you will have new options to choose from. We will be filling it in on a weekly basis to keep a good flow of books available to you.

Currently, we have a large selection of Fiction, Romance, History, Biographies, Memoirs, Autobiographies, Young Adult, Kids and Books to Movies to choose from. We will also be spotlighting a theme or season each month. We are floating around some other ideas to bring some weekly specials to you as well.

Please stop by and browse our Book Nook during Library browsing hours; Tuesday's 1-3 and 5-7, Wednesday's 11-2 and Saturday's 2-4. The prices will be the same as our regular Book Sales unless otherwise noted, \$1 Hardcover, .50 paperback, .25 Children's. You can leave your money in the money box on top of the children's bookshelf. The Library cannot make change so please leave the exact amount. Due to COVID restrictions and small space, please one person browsing the Book Nook at a time.

Have a spectacular Fall, stay healthy and we'll see you in February edition of Columbia Views, until then, we hope you enjoy the Book Nook!



The Season of Thanks and Support

It has been a difficult year to hang on to hope and thankfulness. But it is during difficult times that such sentiments become even more important. At the Library, we have much to be thankful for: our facilities, our staff, our patrons and the Columbia community.

We continue to help others by providing information, support, and distraction in the safest way we can. We are thankful to all who have provided kind words and notes in support of us! Still, it is being a tough year. Like so many others, Covid has affected our budget not only by causing some additional and unanticipated expenses, but by greatly impacting our income.

Thus far during the pandemic, the Library has suspended all fines. Without the ability to allow patrons in our facilities like normal, we have received little to no income from copies or faxes. However, most troublesome has been that our sister organization, the Friends of the Saxton B. Little Library has also been greatly impacted. As you know, the Friends of the Library are a separate non-profit organization that's purpose is in fundraising and supporting the Library. While they did well in their membership drive (thanks to all who supported them!), they have not been able to hold their book sales. The lack of book sales has been a sad and painful process for many on many fronts.

There is no doubt that things will change. These difficulties will pass. The Library will continue to provide support to the community and the Friends will return to their book sales and other funding activities. We hope that everyone will remember that we share the same goal of a healthy and safe world, one where we can once again meet at the Library!

In the meanwhile, in a few weeks it will be time for the Library's Annual Giving campaign. You will receive a request for support in the mail. We ask that if you are able, you consider a donation. We thank you for your consideration and support; it is most appreciated and has reinforced the notion that almost anything can be overcome if we work together.

Su Epstein Library Director

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- ◆ Panel Replacements
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- **♦** Outlets
- ♦ Well Pumps & Tanks
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Preschool screenings

The Early Childhood Team of Horace W. Porter School is pleased to announce that we will conduct Preschool Screenings for Columbia 3-year-old (turning 3 by December 31, 2020) and any 4-year-old not previously screened (and not turning 5 by December 31, 2020). 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.

Special Education record destruction

Columbia Public Schools will destroy special education confidential records of students who have either graduated or were dismissed from special education services from the graduating Class of 2013. This destruction is permitted by Connecticut State Law. Anyone wishing to obtain his/her confidential records must call the Student Services Department at Horace W. Porter School at (860) 228-0585 before November 30, 2020. Records will be destroyed by the end of December 2020.

HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL PTO



The PTO has worked hard for the past 7 years to save for this sign. We are so excited to finally see it completed. Many fundraisers, event and volunteer hours have gone into this. This sign is the culmi-

nation of incredible board members and volunteers giving so much of their time



to the PTO and this goal. I need to thank this amazing board Michele Barton, Karen Piro, Karen O'Hearn, Karen Butzgy, Kate Morison, Gina Jarvis, Heather Fowler. I must also give credit and thank to the previous board members who started us down this path. Amy Crim, Katie Whalen, Marcy Littlefield, Linette Dooley, Gretchen Godin, Angela Marsh, Melinda Tarbell, Jen Tew, Carrie Bowles Lynsie White and Christa McManus. We want to thank the Town of Columbia for contributing financially as well. The PTO had raised 18,000 to put toward the sign but needed some help to bring it home. Another big thank you to the Columbia Little League for their \$500 donation. It was always our plan for this sign to benefit the PTO, the school, and the entire community. Thank you to those who came to help us celebrate!

Recently I received a call from my sister-in-law, who lives in Alaska, asking if we knew about the Mono Pond expansion, the recent acquisition by the State of Connecticut of 400 acres in Wells Woods to connect Mono Pond to the Airline Trail. I was quite surprised that she knew about it, all the way in Alaska. When I asked her how she had heard of it, she said it had been publicized by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and she saw it in some materials she had received. She was quite impressed. I was too, mostly by how far the news had spread, and at how well TPL was getting the word out across the USA. The collaboration over the past three years between TPL and the town of Columbia was very successful. So, who, or what exactly, is TPL?

TPL is a nonprofit organization that, according to their annual report, "conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come". Since 1972 they have conserved over 3 million acres on projects ranging from small inner-city parks to large tracts near national parks. They work to create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas. They also help towns and agencies with planning, priority setting, and acquiring funding from federal, state, and local sources, including direct fund raising from the public. They also support research. We are grateful that the Selectmen had the foresight to endorse TPL's participation in the Open Space Committee's long-term goal of preserving the historical and pristine area known as Wells Woods. We are lucky to have had them work with us, and we hope that the success we have enjoyed with them will continue.

Closely related to Open Space, the Conservation and Agriculture Commission is helping the Szegda Farm Management Committee update the farm's management plan. Many of the early goals that were set in 2008 have been accomplished but work continues to support active farming and gardening at the farm as well as to protect the natural resources, prime farmland soils, native habitat, and natural fauna.

LEOS

October 24 food drive

The Leo's are holding a Food Drive on October 24, 2020 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm at the Town of Columbia Maintenance Garage (old Firehouse) across the street from the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Firehouse.



DEPARTMENT		OFFICE HOURS	PHONE
Administrative Office: First Selectman Town Administrator Executive Administrative Assistant	Steven M. Everett Mark B. Walter Jennifer C. LaVoie	Mon–Thur 8 am – 4 pm Fri 8 am - Noon	860-228-0110
Assessor's Office: Assessor Assistant Assessor	Mary Lavallee Marcy Littlefield	Mon-Wed 8 am - 4 pm Thur 8 am - 6 pm Fri 8 am -Noon	860-228-9555
Beckish Senior Center: Director Van Dispatcher/Program Assistant	Bernadette Derring Margaret Verizzi	Mon-Fri 8 am - 3 pm	860-228-0759
Social Services: Community Social Services Coordinator	Katie Wilt	Mon & Tues 8:30 am - 5 pm	860-228-0110 x128
Building Department: Building Official Zoning Enforcement Town Planner Sanitarian Inland Wetlands Agent Administrative Assistant Board Secretary Fire Marshal/Burning Official Assistant Burning Official Assistant to Building Official	Jason Nowasad Connie Kisluk Paula Stahl Glenn Bagdoian John Valente Terri Lasota Flo Polek Michael Lester Steven Postemsky	Mon-Wed 8 am - 4 pm Thur 8 am - 6 pm Fri 8 am - Noon	860-228-0440
Animal Control: Animal Control Officer Assistant Animal Control Officer	Marc Volza Nicole Morey		860-337-1222
Finance Department: Finance Director Accountant/Payroll Specialist Accounting Assistant	Beverly Ciurylo Lisa Rose Jill Swenson	Mon-Thur 8 am - 4:30 pm Fri 8 am - Noon	860-228-8423 860-228-8423 860-228-8423
Fire Department: To report a fire Non-emergency calls Fire Chief Deputy Fire Chief	Steven Postemsky		911 860-228-9602
Public Works Department: Director Facilities Manager	Beth Lunt	Mon-Fri 6:30 am – 3 pm	860-228-4270 860-228-0110 ext. 111
Recreation Department: Recreation Director Recreation Assistant	Marc Volza Nicole Morey	Mon-Wed 8 am – 4 pm Thur 8 am – 7 pm Fri CLOSED	860-228-8513
Registrar of Voters: Democrat Registrar Republican Registrar	Karen Butzgy Kate Morrison	Varies	860-228-0110
Resident State Trooper:	Gregory DeCarli Dispatch	Mon-Fri 6:30 am – 3 pm	860-228-9846 860-465-5400
T ax Collector's Office: Tax Collector	Carol W. Price	Mon-Wed 8 am – 2 pm Thur 8 am – 6 pm, Fri CLOSED extended hours in January and July	860-228-0230
Town Clerk's Office: Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk	Robin M. Kenefick Gail McGrath	Mon-Wed 8 am – 4 pm Thur 8 am – 6 pm Fri 8 am – Noon	860-228-3284
Transfer Station: Transfer Station Attendants	Jacob Osborne & Tristan Kandolin	Wed 8 am - 4 pm Sat 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-4270

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Listed below is information on Heating Assistance and the CT Energy Assistance Program. Please contact Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator:

- Learn about what programs you may qualify for
- Get referrals to appropriate programs/services
- Talk with a social worker
- If you are having any issues with eligibility/benefits

Available by phone: 860-228-0110 x128, email: kwilt@columbiact.org, virtually by Zoom

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

Heating Assistance

There are two main Energy Assistance programs that can help households in need. The CT Energy Assistance **Program** and **Operation Fuel.** You can apply to both programs from the comfort of your own home, with a local social service agency, or I can be contacted to help assist with the process!

Please see the eligibility guide for both programs and options for applying outlined below.

CT Energy Assistance Program

Eligibility (gross income and assets):

Household Size (includes homeowners and renters that pay separately for heat, and renters whose heat is included in the rent, as long as more than 30% of gross income is paid towards rent.)

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

*There is a liquid assets test as an additional basic eligibility requirement. For homeowners, the first \$15,000 in liquid assets, and for other households, the first \$12,000 in liquid assets, is disregarded. Any amount over that limit, when added to the annual gross income must be below the income guidelines.

(liquid assets include checking, savings, CD's, stocks/

shares, bonds, annuities, certificates of deposit and individual retirement accounts. Individual Retirement Accounts are considered to be liquid assets if the accounts are in the name of a household member who is 59-and-onehalf years old or more.)

How to Apply:

Option 1: Visit www.ct.gov and type in Energy Assistance in the search bar

- a. Click on the first result, Energy Assistance Winter
- b. Click on APPLY (left hand side)
- c. Answer heating question and type in your zip code
- d. Click on Download Application
- e. To submit your completed application, you can e-mail shirley.riemann@accessagency.org or mail it to the following address:

The ACCESS Agency, Inc.

Attention: ACCESS Energy Department 1315 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Option 2: Schedule a tele- appointment by contacting **ACCESS Energy Department**

Phone: 860-450-7487 (Willimantic) or by Email: shirley. riemann@accessagency.org

Option 3: Contact me! (kwilt@columbict.org, or 860-228-0110 x128) I will download the application and assist in filling it out and sending it to ACCESS.

Important Deadlines:

Deadline for fuel authorizations 3/21/21

5/3/21 Last day that a household can apply to establish eligibility for benefits unless the household is utility heated and has a shutoff notice for its primary source of heat.

5/14/21 Last day that utility heated household with a shut-off notice for its primary heat can apply to establish its eligibility for benefits.

Continued on page 23

Continued from page 22

Operation Fuel

An Operation Fuel energy grant is not an entitlement to all Connecticut residents, however if your income is under 75% of the State Median and you have applied to Energy Assistance but are over income or exhausted benefits you may qualify for oil or utility help.

Eligibility

Household Size

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
45,213.48	59,125.32	73,037.16	86,949.00	100,860.84	114772.68	117381.15	119,989.62

How to Apply:

Option 1: Online at https://operationfuel.org/gethelp/

Option 2: Contact Operation Fuel directly at opfuelapplications@operationfuel.org or call (860) 243-2345

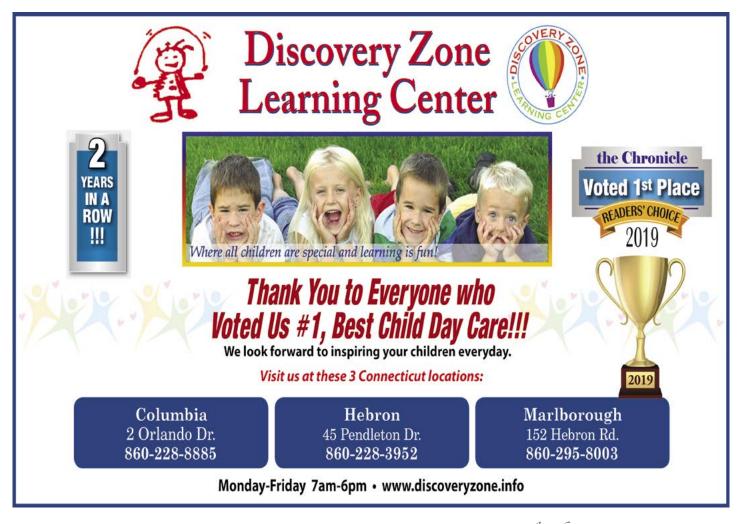
Option 3: With Windham Area Interfaith Ministry by calling 860-456-7270, ext 12

Option 4: Contact me! I am happy to virtually assist with the online application. (kwilt@columbict.org, or 860-228-0110 x128)

If the above-mentioned programs are not meeting immediate needs, please contact me. Or, if you are experiencing difficulty in receiving approval for the above-mentioned programs, please contact me to be of assistance.

Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator Town of Columbia • 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237 860.228.0110 x128

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





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www.tireandbrakeclinic.com

Chris Rice, Service Manager contact@tireandbrakeclinic.com We are pleased to announce Katie Wilt has joined the Town of Columbia in the position of Community Social Services Coordinator.

After growing up in Columbia, Katie Wilt returns to her roots to serve as the part-time Community Social Services Worker for the Town of Columbia.

Her 16-year career as a social

worker has been driven by her ability to see potential and her passion to facilitate it. Katie brings a solid foundation of municipal social services experience as she served as a Com-munity Outreach Social Worker for the Town of Glastonbury for over 9 years. There she provided case management, often serving as an intermediary between clients and agencies to determine needs and find suitable solutions. Alongside this, she ran social service programs, often assisting families in crisis.

Katie's experience includes working in the non-profit sector, as well. For 5 years, she worked for American



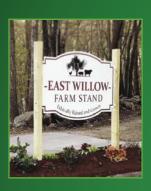
Corporate Partners, a veteran mentoring program based in NYC. There she created and managed hundreds of meaningful relationships between veterans and business leaders while simultaneously leading an out-reach team that worked closely with Student Veteran Associations at colleges and universities across the country.

Most recently, she worked for another non-profit in Brooklyn, NY. At NPower, she worked with young adults from underserved communities and helped them climb the ladder to the middle class through tech skills training, professional development workshops, and quality work placement.

Now that Katie is back in Connecticut, she is eager to apply her social work skills to help our townspeople and make our community stronger.

Katie Wilt | Community Social Services Coordinator Town of Columbia 323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237 kwilt@columbiact.org 860.228.0110 x128

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



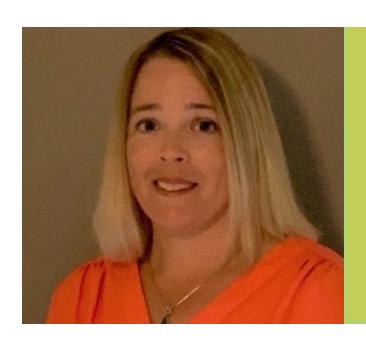




East Willow Farm 402 Route 66

A new year-round farm store bringing you a large selection of ethically raised meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, honey, eggs, baked goods, maple syrup, ice cream, gifts, spices and so much more. We are so glad to be a part of this amazing community!

Tom and Kyla Satkowski (860) 538-2747



Beth Lunt Department of Public Works Director

We are pleased to announce Beth Lunt has joined the Town of Columbia in the position of Department of Public Works Director.

Beth will oversee and manage the programs and activities of the Department of Public Works in the areas of: administration, engineering, fleet managment, operating and capital budgeting, personnel, highways, roads and bridges, maintenenace of parks and town facility grounds, snow removal, municipal solid waste disposal, and recycling.

Prior to her employment with the Town of Columbia, Ms. Lunt served as the Director of Public Works for the Town of East Haddam, CT. In addition, she managed the Town of East Haddam Transfer Station and acted as recycling coordinator. She has over ten years of experience in the engineering and consulting field.

Ms. Lunt is a member of several professional organizations including the CT Tree Warden Association and the New England Chapter of America Public Works Association.

Ms. Lunt graduated from Clarkson University with a master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and is a certified tree warden.

Beth Lunt elunt@columbiact.org 860-228-4270

Bud dedicated close to 20 years to the Town of Columbia, starting out as a Highway Maintainer for the Public Works Department and then he later became the Facilities Manager.

As the Facilities Manager the accolades from town staff and residents resonated in their appreciation of Bud's many talents, which included statements such as "Bud is an invaluable asset to the Town of Columbia" and "It seems Bud can fix anything." The appreciation from both residents and staff were a clear reflection on Bud's work; from sprucing up the gazebo for 4th of July, to stepping up as Clerk of the Works on the Porter School roof replacement project, a much need facelift of the "Old Chapel," to countless town facilities projects.

Su Epstein, Library Director of the Saxton B. Little Library said it best, "All of us at the Saxton B. Little Library will miss Bud greatly. He was there for us for the small things from the strange crashing noises in the ceiling (that turned out to be mice playing carnival games) to the big things like boarding up the side of the building when a car drove in. He always had a smile when he hung signs or summer reading banners for us, no doubt not wanting to see us climb ladders for things he could just reach. He listened patiently as we described the "funny noises" that inevitably turned out to be problems with the



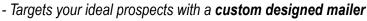
HVAC. More importantly, no matter what strange thing was occurring, we knew that we could count on him to come, investigate, and set things right. Even in the most demanding conditions (sewer backups, building project, etc.), he met things head on with a smile and sense of humor. We remain grateful for his years of kind and dedicated assistance."

It is not very often that one person can seamlessly "do it all," but Bud could. We thank Bud for his many years of dedicated service, and he will be missed.

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Notice Something Different?

You may have noticed a curious item near the entrance to the Saxton B. Little Library. It seems remotely familiar yet oddly anachronistic in this day and age. What is it?

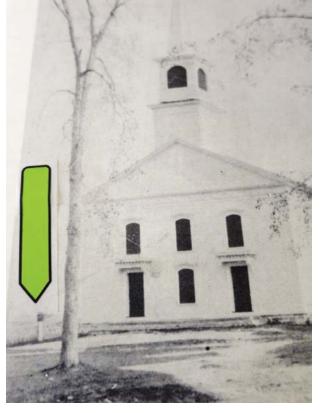
Among some vestiges from Columbia's past, this public notice box and its earlier incarnations were the social media - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and ColumbiaCt.org of their day. According to the late Gladys R. Soracchi, in 1751 Lebanon Crank's Ecclesiastical Society voted to erect a sign post, also known as a public notice box, "at some convenient place on the south side of the Meeting House".

Historians trace the evolution of this communications device in early New England as an extension of the meeting house front doors on which public notices were posted. But by the mid-1700's public notices moved to a "specialized accessory", a wooden box-type structure, sometimes outfitted with a small door, either attached near the meeting house entrance or erected on a post just outside.

Soracchi's reference was to Lebanon Second Society's new meeting house erected in 1748 under Eleazar Wheelock's ministry. It was located on the west side of the Green, well in front of today's residence at 320 Route 87. In 1751 the parish's news and vital communications such as warnings of public meetings; announcements

of marriages, births, and deaths; and lost and found animals were posted on or inside of a similar wooden box for all to read. In 1804 the Ecclesiastical Society conveyed the responsibility of maintaining public notices on this sign post or notice box to the selectmen of the newly incorporated Town of Columbia.

This communications device served the public function long after the separation of church and state in 1818.



When Columbia Congregational Church was erected in 1832, the Ecclesiastical Society and Town officials concurred that the sign post or public notice box, was to be moved to a prominent location just to the left of the new church front steps. There it remained many decades as seen in an 1887 photograph. Eventually it was removed from this prominent church entranceway to occupy a place in front of a secular entrance, a well-traveled public space. Such would include the front steps of an administrative town hall or even a simple unpaved crossroads rotary as seen in a postcard of Columbia's rotary in 1909.

By 1971 the notice box was located at the

entrance to Yeomans Hall (c. 1941), and by 2000 it was moved to the Town Hall administrative entrance. We thank Millie Ramsey, Mr. Starkey, Su Epstein, Bud Meyers, Columbia Historical Society, and the Town of Columbia for its resurrection! It is a remarkable vestige of Columbia's 18th century history and it now suitably occupies what may be the most heavily travelled of all public spaces today, the library.

The Columbia Historical Society has recently (July 2020) reinstalled this piece of Columbia's past in a front garden at the Saxton B. Little Free Library. Our thanks to longtime resident Burt Starkey for his restoration work and Bud Meyers for its installation. Can you help us answer the following trivia questions? School chil-

dren are encouraged to interview parents, grandparents and neighbors to discover the history of this object.

Go to the Columbia Historical Society web site http://columbia-history.org/ to answer trivia questions concerning our new historical sign post.

Ingrid Wood Town Historian

A WWII Tribute to the Columbia Older Girls (COGs) and their COGWHEEL

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of WWII which ended September 2, 1945. The United States officially declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and on belligerent Germany on December 11, 1941. The WWII memorial you see on the Green today was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1956. This handsome granite monument replaced the

first tribute; a prominent wooden "Honor Roll" erected in 1944 and removed in 1953. These structures inscribed the names of Columbia's 117 service men and 3 service women in active duty during WWII. All who served overseas came home.

In February 1943 six young friends organized themselves as Columbia Older Girls (COGs). They were Jean Isham Peters, Jane Lyman McKeon, Olive Robinson Shea, Katherine Sharpe An-

derson, Shirley Tryall Kurcinik, and Carol Lyman Ladd. Their mission was to keep in touch with Columbia service members through letters, Christmas and CARE packages. Most importantly, every month they sent out the newsy and humorous COGWHEEL, a typed newsletter, the social media of the day. Their COGWHEEL and response letters from service men became an interactive way to keep track of redeployments and whereabouts. Nearly all letters in the collection bear the stamp "censored" or "approved" as you see on the envelope shown here. So, the content was light. Here is an excerpt from second edition of the COGWHEEL, July 4, 1943.

"It might be of interest [to] some to know that Eleanor Jackson, who is with the Red Cross Recreational & Program Work, has arrived in Australia. Her brother John is in North Africa. From what we hear the Mediterranean is a poor substitute for Columbia Lake...We have a fairly complete list of names of boys in the service, but you could help us keep it up to date by notifying us of any change in your address or rank...Today doesn't seem much like Fourth of July---no fireworks, no picnics, not even any sun. All the big bangs belong to you."



The COGS sponsored fundraising dances for the "Honor Roll" over the course of three years, and a "Welcome Home Banquet" on October 26, 1946. Two of the original COGs Jane Lyman Keon and Olive Tuttle Shea joined Cadet Nurse Corps. Other Columbia ladies also joined the COGs. At the 1956 memorial dedication the COGS were recognized by the Columbia Post No. 157, American Legion, Town of Columbia Selectmen, and the State of Connecticut for their invaluable contributions during wartime.

Ingrid Wood Town Historian



We at O'Brien Law are here to support the community during the present coronavirus pandemic. We are taking every precaution possible to protect the health and safety of our clients, our team and their families. In addition to safely communicating with clients in person, we are available for videoconference, e-mail and telephonic consultation.



William P. O'Brien

Kevin M. O'Brien

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ESTATE PLANNING ELDER LAW PROBATE LAW PERSONAL INJURY

November 2020 marks the 45th 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 Dixie Silvestri 70 Johnson Rd Columbia, CT 06237
Please accept my donation of \$ to the "Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund"
Do not list my name in the Columbia Views ORI 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" Donations are tax-deductible.
DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND Deadline for printed listing Dec. 20, 2020

Second Saturday Sustenance

Miss our 2nd Saturday Breakfasts?

On the 2nd Saturday of every month, we are now doing pre-ordered, drive-thru pickup service only at the Columbia Congregational Church.

On October 10th, we had Corn Chowder & Pumpkin Bread! Every month will be something new, including wreaths before Christmas!

Check our website at:

www.columbiacongregationalchurch.org

or email CCChurchFair@gmail.com for details on ordering. Pay by check or PayPal.

Can you help us keep history alive?

If you try this recipe let us know at www.columbia-history.org. ENJOY!

A MODERN ELECTION CAKE RECIPE compliments of STATE HISTORIAN: WALT WOODWARD

Ingredients

²/₃ cups warm water (105-110 degrees)

1 package active dry yeast (¼ ounce)

PINCH sugar

4 Cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

2 teaspoons cinnamon

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon ground gin-

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1 cup unsalted butter,

softened (2 sticks)

2 cups firmly packed brown sugar

1 cup buttermilk

1 Tablespoon vanilla

2 large eggs, slightly beaten

1 cup golden raisins

1/4 cup finely chopped dried fruit (optional)

For the Glaze: 1 cup confectioners' sugar, 2 Tablespoon of whiskey, and ½ teaspoon vanilla

Mix the flour with the baking powder, cinnamon, salt, ginger, and nutmeg, then set aside.

After the yeast has dissolved and is beginning to bubble, add 1cup of the flour mixture, stirring it in thoroughly. Add softened butter and mix well.

NEXT add sugar, buttermilk and vanilla and mix until well combined.

ADD the eggs and mix until just combined.

FINALLY, mix in the remaining flour; reserving 1 T. for mixing with the dried fruit if desired. Fold in fruit.

Put the batter into the prepared Bundt pan. Loosely cover the pan with a towel and allow to rise for about 1 ½ hours.

BAKE cake for 50 to 60 minutes or until a cake tester comes out clean. Place pan on wire rack to cook, then carefully remove from the pan after a few minutes.

GLAZE: in a medium sized bowl, whisk the confectioners' sugar, whiskey and vanilla until smooth. Drizzle over the top of the cake when completely cool.

The Historical Society is Looking for the Following:

Old Phone Books

Books and any other items from the town's one room schoolhouses

Historical Society Newsletters from 2000 to 2018

If you would like to contribute any of the above, please call Joan Hill at 860 228 2849 or email jhill003@charter. net

Directions

PREHEAT OVEN To 350 degrees

Butter and flour a Bundt pan

Pour warm water into the bowl of a stand mixer. Add yeast, sprinkle to cover the top of the water. Sprinkle a pinch of sugar on top of the yeast and allow to stand 5 minutes.

Countryside Realty Welcomes Krystal Delorge!



Krystal Delorge joins the Countryside Realty family after pursuing her passion for Real Estate. Krystal was drawn to Real Estate by her drive and dedication to help people during one of the most important moments of their lives, buying and selling their homes! Krystal works in the pediatric dental field for over 10 years and takes pride in building trusting relationships with her patients. Krystal is so excited to develop trusting relationships with her buyers and sellers during their Real Estate journeys!

Krystal is a long time resident of Lebanon, CT where she has been an active member of the community along with her husband and two children. She can be reached at krystal@countrysiderealtyct.com, at (860) 942-7405 or at the office located at 30 Main St. in Hebron CT.



LEADERS OF THE TREE CARE INDUSTRY

(860) 528-8733

DEAD TREES

FROM EMERALD ASH BORER OR GYPSY MOTH?

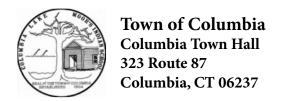
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