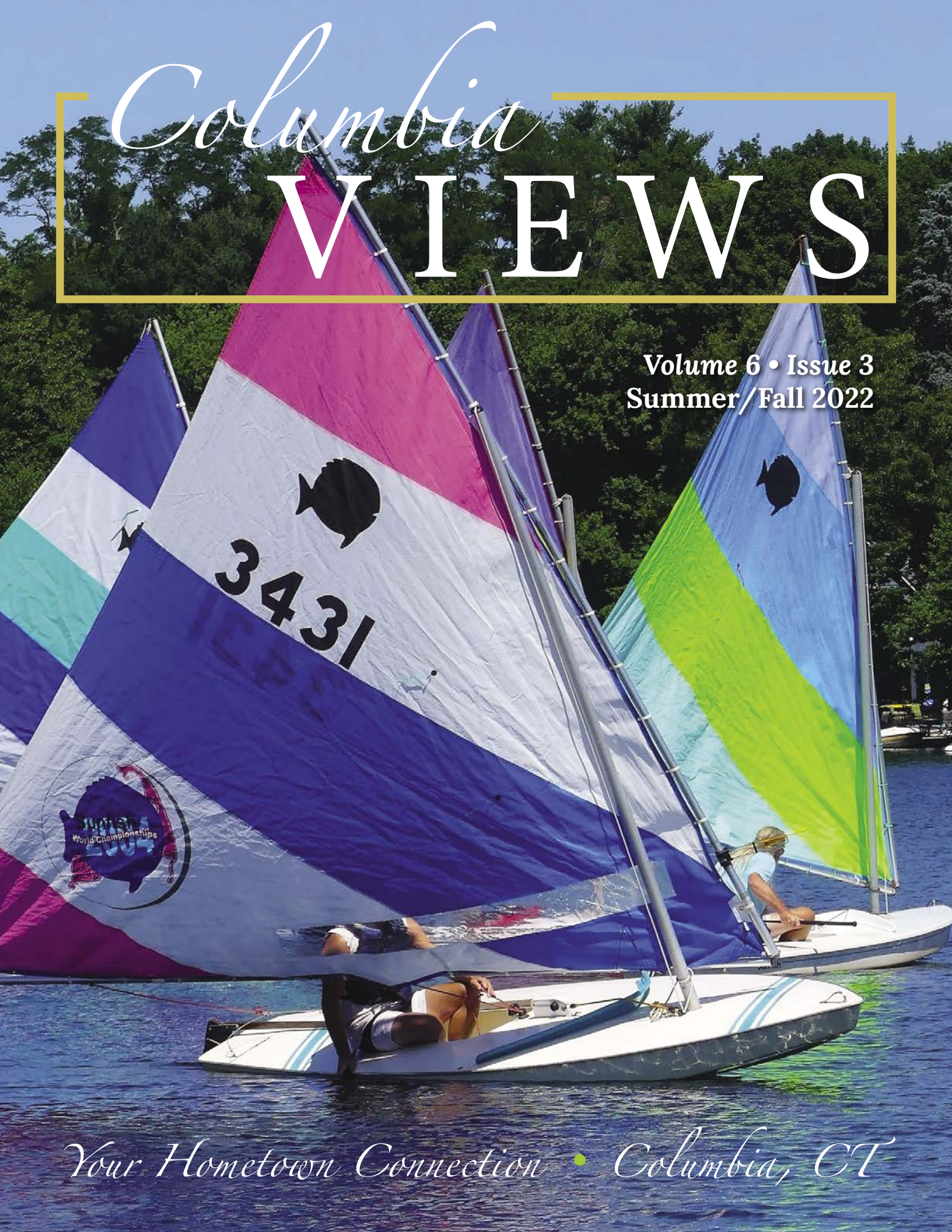


*Columbia*

# VIEWS

Volume 6 • Issue 3  
Summer/Fall 2022



*Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT*



# Hebron Center DENTISTRY

Dr Alison Nicholes, DMD

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On May 10, 2022, the Annual Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 was approved. The great news is that we have an estimated Undesignated Fund Balance projected to be 3.8 million as of 06/30/2022. This will give the town some flexibility to fund some of our larger projects as we complete the planning and bring them to our boards and a town meeting. The new Mill Rate is now 25.87 for FY '22-'23 which is a decrease of 3.46 mills. The adopted mill rate took into consideration the use of \$695,756 from the General Fund as well as the recently completed Revaluation that resulted in a 16.58% increase in the Grand List. Congratulations to Carol Price, our Tax Collector, and her team for achieving a tax collection rate of approximately 98.6% and Beverly Ciurylo our Finance Director and her team for completing another great audit. Finally, thank you to everybody that worked long and hard on our budget process. As a town we are in great financial shape, we can all be proud.



The budget documents are available online or at the Town Clerk's office. To view the budget documents please visit the Town's website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org)

click on the Departments tab, navigate to the Finance tab and click on the Approved BOS & BOE Budgets tab.

At the time of this publication, we will be in peak hurricane season from mid-August to late October. Our Emergency Management team and Department of Public Works crews are prepared to work closely with Ever-source in case of power outages and downed trees. The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department in conjunction with our Emergency Management team are continuously updating and reviewing our emergency procedures to strengthen our level of emergency preparedness.

We encourage residents that are dependent on electricity for critical medical needs during a power outage to please notify us. Contact the Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring at 860-228-0759. To learn more about what you and your family need to know to be prepared during an emergency please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management <https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS/Emergency-Management/Emergency-Management>.

Steven M. Everett, *First Selectman*  
[severett@columbiact.org](mailto:severett@columbiact.org) • 860-228-0110

A collage of four photographs showing veterinary staff and patients. Top left: A woman in a white lab coat talking to a woman in a dark shirt. Top right: A woman in a purple shirt and a man in a white lab coat looking at a dog. Bottom left: A woman in a white lab coat talking to a woman in a dark shirt. Bottom right: A woman in a white lab coat examining a dog's mouth. In the center is the Hebron Veterinary Hospital logo, an oval with 'HVH' and 'HEBRON VETERINARY HOSPITAL' text, and illustrations of a building and animals.

**Hebron  
Veterinary Hospital**  
43 West Main Street  
Hebron  
Dr. Kimberly Mordasky  
Dr. Jaime DeLeon  
860.228.4324  
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We offer complete in-house diagnostics, radiology, ultrasound, surgical, orthopedic, and dental services.  
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*On the cover*

Sailing on Columbia Lake.  
Photo by Paul Ramsey.

## 2022-23 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

### 4th Q/22

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 9/30/2022  
Mailed Week of 10/24/2022

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 11/4/2022  
Mailed Week of 12/5/2022

### 1st Q/23

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 1/6/2023  
Mailed Week of 2/6/2023

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 2/3/2023  
Mailed Week of 3/6/2023

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

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*Special thanks to*

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

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We are excited to partner with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to promote the 2022 CCM Broadband Connectivity Survey! Your input will help guide federal investments in more reliable Internet access for Connecticut's residents. Please complete a very brief survey from your home network today at [www.ccm-ct.org](http://www.ccm-ct.org).



The "Internet for All Initiative," will invest \$45 billion to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet by the end of the decade. Each state is set to receive at least \$100 million and final funding allotment for each state will be determined by the broadband maps the FCC is expected to release early next year.

There is good news on the expansion of fiber-optic Internet services. You've likely noticed a lot of fiber installation activity in town, including increased truck traffic and large spools of conduit as workers begin to connect their service. Frontier® is expanding their fiber Internet network to serve Columbia homes and businesses.

This will make Internet service as fast as 2 gigabits per second available. To learn more, please visit the Town of Columbia's website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) and click on the Latest News for the Columbia Frontier Fiber-optic Growth Presentation. For more details about the process and pricing, contact Frontier at 1-855-887-0992 (residential) or 1-888-534-1741 (business), or go to Frontier's at [www.frontier.com](http://www.frontier.com).

Please come out and support the Columbia Lions Club at their annual chicken barbeque on Sunday, August 21st from noon to 3:00 pm at Recreation Field located on Hennequin Road. To purchase tickets, call Brendan Keenan @ 860-228-1854 or Bob Fowler @ 860-614-8585. Proceeds from the barbeque will help fund the many programs and charities sponsored by the Columbia Lions.

The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department will be celebrating their 75th anniversary with an open house and entertainment at the station on Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM. There will be a live band, food trucks, games, beer and wine garden and more.



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It has been a busy couple of months in the Town Clerk's office. In May and June, we were issuing transfer station stickers and registering dogs. May also had us beginning another Election season. The Democratic and Republican primaries took place on August 9, 2022. Next up is the State Election on November 8, 2022.

**State Elections**

State elections will take place on November 8, 2022. Absentee ballots become available on October 7, 2022 through the close of business on November 7, 2022.

There is a separate drop box outside the doors to Town Hall (Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices) marked State of Connecticut – Official Ballot Drop Box. Please use this drop box *only* to return an absentee ballot. This box is *not* to be used to request an absentee ballot. Thank you.

**2020 Census**

The 2020 Census provides data that determines the

number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and to adjust or redraw electoral districts based on population. The result of the Census also helps to inform decisions about allocating federal funding to communities for schools, hospitals, fire departments, roads, and other critical programs and services.

Columbia is represented by the following:

- U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd District – Joe Courtney
- State Senator-19th District – Catherine A Osten
- State Representative, 8th Assembly – Timothy J Ackert
- U.S. Senator – Richard Blumenthal
- U.S. Senator – Christopher Murphy

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

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

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**Tickets: Adults: \$15.00—Seniors: \$13.00  
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**To purchase tickets call Brendan Keenan @  
860-228-1854 or Bob Fowler @ 860-614-8585**

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charities sponsored by  
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We are happy to announce the arrival of our new online permitting system for the submittal of applications for most building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical/hvac, fuel/gas and demolition permits. For your convenience, multiple forms of payment are accepted in the online system. A 3% fee will be applied to credit card transactions. Applicants can also visit us with cash or check payments during our normal business hours, by postal mail, or by using the drop box located to the left of our

Yeomans Hall entrance. Please keep in mind that applications can not be processed without payment.

Before applying for a permit, you should review the Building Department portion of the website to see what documentation may be required.

Paper permit applications will continue to be accepted in the office, by mail, or by drop box with a cash or check payment only, however we do encourage the use of our new online system.

## SAXTON B. LITTLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

It's been a very busy summer at the Library. As you are reading this there's still time to join the fun! Kids can learn to play the ukulele on 8/5. Be sure to stop in before 8/9 and visit our hatched chicks. Join us for our adult's picture book discussion - you'll be surprised what you learn! And all are welcome to celebrate the end of summer on 8/12 with a magic show and ice cream truck!

We'll take a couple of weeks to catch our breath, but be sure to watch for the exciting programs coming this

Fall. In meanwhile, our 7 (!) book groups continue, as do our weekly Stitchers group and Friday afternoon movies (adult).

Stop in the Library to check out the art work in our Gallery walls and an newly updated collection of items, that we call Saxton's Stuff. We look forward to seeing you in the Library.

Su Epstein, *Library Director*

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1:15 pm: The Occom Garden Plaque Blessing Ceremony  
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2 pm: Free Community Concert



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Columbia Congregational Church

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by Rev. Samson Occom (1723-1792) and Gabriel Kastle (2020)

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### Primary

August 9, 2022

6am-8pm

Horace W. Porter School

Only registered Republicans and Democrats are eligible to vote in the Primary. If you are not currently registered to vote, or not currently enrolled in a political party (registered as Unaffiliated), you can register in person until noon on August 8, 2022.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk is Monday, August 8th

Please check our Registrar of Voters page on the town website or contact our office for more information.

Registrars of Voters  
Karen Butzgy - Democratic  
Alyson Cranick - Republican  
(860) 228-6843 x113  
registrar@columbiact.org



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**Chris Rice, Service Manager**  
contact@tireandbrakeclinic.com



The Beckish Senior Center is fully operational. Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are optional. Our activities are in full swing. It is great to see our seniors back at the center.

Our meals are served on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 12pm., with a special meal each month.

The Rose Marrotte Art Show in June was a remarkable success! The art works submitted were incredible. Congratulations to the winners:

**Painting:**

- 1st Mary L. Killilea, "Daisy"
- 2nd Kathy Tolsdorf, "Granny's House"
- 3rd Carmen Vance, "Sunset"

**Photography:**

- 1st Paul Ramsey, "Seagrass Sunset"
- 2nd Cheryl LaCosse, "Fall Scene"
- 3rd Lorraine DuBois, "Hawk Eye"

**Quilting:**

- 1st Linda Shaw, "Purple Quilt"
- 2nd Sue Oliver, "Sunburst"
- 3rd Alicia Spencer, "Quilt"

**Woodcarving:**

- 1st Ted E. Dubay, "Sailing Ship-Halifax"
- 2nd Richard LaCosse, "Ziggy-Lucy"
- 3rd Alice Mellor, "Winter Wolf"

Katie Wilt, the Community Social Services Coordinator, hosted a presentation on June 10th at 11:00 a.m. This was the first presentation of the "More you Know," Wellness



Series for Seniors. The discussion included exploring and accessibility of the trends in vaping. Please join us in the future for these informative presentations.

Senior Resources: Agency on Aging is sponsoring the 2022 Seniors Farmer's Market Voucher. Information on the program is available at the Senior Center. The liaison will be at the Senior Center to distribute the voucher on July 19, between 10am and 12pm.

Besides the many activities offered, art classes are being held each Monday from 1pm to 3pm.

The computer classes are postponed until the fall. Happy Summer everyone!

And do not forget the Columbia Lions Barbeque scheduled for August 21, from 12pm to 3pm at Rec Field.

Please check the Beckish Newsletter, The Gem, for all activities and trip details. You can find it at:

<https://www.columbiact.org/senior-services/page/beckish-senior-center-newsletters>.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Summer!

Bernadette Derring  
Director Senior Services & Transportation

## AHM YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

At the end of summer 2022, AHM Youth and Family Services will reach a milestone of 39 years since a small group of residents first started working on the formation of a regional youth-serving organization. Since that time thousands of local children, teenagers, young adults, seniors, and families have benefited from the work of this regional charity. Andover, Columbia, Hebron, and Marlborough residents can access the network of social and human services provided by AHM.

Those services include: AHM's Family Resource Center for pre-school and school-age children and families, a Child, Teen, Young Adult, and Family Counseling program, Columbia's AHM Student Support Services program at the Horace Porter School, Columbia's TASKS program that provides help around the homes of seniors, Performing Arts Programs, for children and teens, the Health Matters Program providing wellness and mindfulness activities and events, substance abuse prevention programs including the TAKEBACK event, and year-round student and parent educational forums, and the regional Juvenile Review Board for students that need help getting back on track in life. AHM also offers year-round addiction recovery groups and much more.

AHM is not part of a larger statewide or national non-profit. The charity is exclusive to the four town partners of Andover, Columbia, Hebron, and Marlborough, with town representatives on its board.

The staff at AHM have historically come from a diverse pool of professional backgrounds, including social work, mental health, education, recreation, business, and social sciences. More than 100 volunteers serve on multiple AHM committees. While the majority of services are housed at the local four town schools, other services and events take place at the AHM Family Center in Hebron. For most Columbia residents that means a drive of fewer than 10 minutes for example to receive counseling services or participation in Performing Arts programs for children.

To learn more about the many different services and opportunities offered for Columbia residents, through AHM Youth and Family Services and to learn about upcoming fall 2022 programs and events, please visit [www.ahmyouth.org](http://www.ahmyouth.org).

The AHM Board of Directors is looking for a Columbia resident to serve on its governing board, along with other residents presently serving. You can also follow AHM on Facebook and Instagram.

## COLUMBIA TOWN DIRECTORY

### Administrative Office:

Mon-Thu 8-4; Fri 8-noon  
860-228-0110  
First Selectman: Steven M. Everett  
Town Administrator: Mark B. Walter  
Executive Administrative Assistant:  
Jennifer C. LaVoie

### Assessor's Office

Mon-Wed 8-4; Thu 8-6; Fri 8-noon  
860-228-9555  
Assessor: Mary Lavallee  
Assistant Assessor: Marcy Littlefield

### Beckish Senior Center

Mon-Fri 8-3  
860-228-0759  
Director: Bernadette Derring  
Van Dispatcher/Program Assistant: Flo Polek  
Van Dispatcher/Program Assistant:  
Lisa McDonald

### Social Services

Mon-Tue 8:30-5  
860-228-1008  
Community Social Services Coordinator:  
Katie Wilt

### Building Department

Mon-Wed 8-4; Thu 8-6; Fri 8-noon  
860-228-0440  
Building Official: Jason Nowosad  
Zoning Enforcement: Connie Kisluk  
Town Planner: Paula Stahl  
Sanitarian: Glenn Bagdoian  
Inland Wetlands Agent: Isabelle Kisluk  
Administrative Assistant: Terri Lasota  
Board Clerk: Joshua Stern  
Fire Marshal/Burning Official: Michael Lester  
Assistant Burning Official: Stephen Posternsky

### Animal Control

860-873-5044  
Animal Control Officer: Mike Olzacki

### Facilities Department

Mon-Fri 8-4  
Facilities Manager:  
Jason Nowosad, 860-228-4270  
Facilities Maintainer:  
Daniel Johnson, 860-228-4270 ext. 111

### Finance Department

Mon-Thu 8-4:30; Fri 8-noon  
860-228-8423

Finance Director: Beverly Ciurylo  
Accountant/Payroll Specialist:  
Lisa Rose, 860-228-8423

### Fire Department

**To report a fire: 911**  
Non-emergency calls: 860-228-9602  
Fire Chief: Stephen Posternsky  
Assistant Fire Chief: Jeff Lewis  
Deputy Fire Chief: Scott Haddad

### Public Works Department

Mon-Fri 6:30-3  
860-228-4270  
Director: Beth Lunt

### Recreation Department

Mon-Wed 8-4; Thu 8-7; Fri closed  
860-228-8513  
Recreation Director: Marc Volza  
Assistant Recreation Director: Anyka Fegan

### Registrar of Voters

Hours vary  
860-228-0110  
Democrat Registrar: Karen Butzgy  
Republican Registrar: Alyson Cranick

### Resident State Trooper

Mon-Fri 6:30-3  
Resident State Trooper:  
Gregory DeCarli, 860-228-9846  
Dispatch: 860-465-5400

### Tax Collector's Office

Mon-Wed 8-2; Thu 8-6; Fri closed  
*extended hours in January and July*  
860-228-0230  
Tax Collector: Carol W. Price

### Town Clerk's Office

Mon-Wed 8-4; Thu 8-6; Fri 8-noon  
860-228-3284  
Town Clerk: Robin M. Kenefick  
Assistant Town Clerk: Gail McGrath

### Transfer Station

Wed 8-4; Sat 8-4  
860-228-4270  
Transfer Station Attendants: Tristan Kandolin,  
John Ciurylo, Brian Smith

### Motor Vehicle Adjustments

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

### Renters Program

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

If you have any questions regarding the above programs, you can reach the Assessor's office at 860-228-9555.

Mary Lavalley, Assessor  
Town of Columbia Assessor's Office  
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237

### SENIORS ON THE GO

Columbia seniors are back in business. We are having a great time being able to get together and enjoy each other's company. During the month of April, we were able to have a very successful tag sale. (I, for one, was glad to be able to donate the items I had been saving for the last 2 years.) It was a busy day, and we are extremely thankful for all the volunteers who tagged items, set up the sale, cashiered, worked in the kitchen, baked goodies, and did other jobs that made the sale run well. We were also thankful for our student volunteers who helped with set up and clean up.

In May we were happy to have our annual barbeque. We enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs off the grill. It was great to be able to visit with each other and catch up since our last event. In June we were able to have our spring dinner dance. We had great food – catered by Audiberts – and the entertainment was provided by Bruce John and his

band. It was a wonderful way to finished up the year.

Over the months of June and July we enjoyed a weekly movie on Thursday afternoons. We have focused on Kirk Douglas movies and had a snack with our friends. Look for this activity to resume in September.

Looking to the fall we are planning on returning to some of our tried-and-true events. We are talking about a Birthday party to honor our 90+ year old citizens. There is also talk about a Ladies' tea. The best place to keep up with our programs is through the Gem – the Beckish Senior Center newsletter.

There are lots of other activities going on at the center. Lunches are served on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There are trips, art classes, pool, bridge groups, computer classes, and much more. As Columbia seniors there are many ways to keep busy and active. We hope to see you there.

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\*According to The Greater Hartford Association of Realtors and SmartMLS Listing Service

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Thanks to the generosity of David H. Ramm of Houston, Texas and with the assistance of Chris and Patrice Ramm of Columbia, Connecticut, the Town of Columbia received a memorial art collection honoring their mother, also our former Town Historian Emeritus, Anita Fay Ramm. De, as she was known to her friends, passed away on February 14, 2022.

This special collection of paintings by two of De's favorite artists is one of several gifts bestowed by son David H. Ramm honoring his mother and her fondness for our town. De taught at Horace W. Porter School, participated in various civic organizations, initiated town history projects and publications, regularly contributed as a local writer, and served as Town Historian for many years until 2015. But in her private life De admired and collected works by local artists that graced her Columbia Lake home. Her family, and son David in particular, shared her deep appreciation for the local natural beauty and nuanced 20th century village scenes in our area.

The Anita Fay Ramm Memorial Collection will be on permanent display in the Columbia Town Hall – Adella Urban Conference Room later this summer as it is being assembled and prepared for viewing.

This collection, David Ramm's gift to honor his mom, includes five paintings in total. Three are local scenes by Columbia son Gershon Camassar (1908 – 1995), an Old Lyme Colony Impressionist Artist and Mystic Art Association Artist who later lived near New London, Connecticut. Two paintings are by Columbia resident Nellie Edith Sawyer (1856 – 1947), a realist, miniature, still-life, landscape, and portrait painter affiliated with the Brooklyn Art Association and Brooklyn Art Museum in New York, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Nellie Edith Sawyer is locally remembered as the entrepreneurial lady of the Columbia Lake bungalows collectively known as "The Pasture" used by



*Painting by Nellie Edith Sawyer (1856–1947)*



*Two paintings by Gershon Camassar (1908–1995), an Old Lyme Colony impressionist*

visiting artists. This area and Columbia Lake in particular were a draw for numerous artists then as it is today.

Some weeks ago the family of Gershon Camassar stopped by to meet with us and the Ramm family to see their father's works. We also visited Chestnut Hill, West Street, and parts of Liberty Hill that were likely the inspiration for some of Gershon's paintings.

Most importantly, at this time, we thank David H. Ramm and his family for their generosity and thoughtfulness with these and other memorial gifts and tributes to their beloved mom and our former Town Historian Emeritus Anita Fay Ramm. We anticipate a commemoration ceremony later this summer.

Ingrid E. Wood, *Town Historian*

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## What is the Value of Open Space?

Why do we need to conserve Open Space? To nature lovers the answer is obvious, but to others it may not be such a no-brainer. Let's look at some reasons why it is so important to our community to have Open Space.

### Mental and Physical Health

Remember how you felt during the Covid Pandemic when everything was shut down? There was nowhere to go, but you just had to get out of the house? Record numbers of people turned to the out-of-doors for mental and physical well-being. State Parks, Rail Trails, hiking trails, Land Trust Properties, and outdoor recreation areas had visitors like never before! Imagine what it would have been like if we hadn't had all these outdoor places to which we could go to achieve some exercise and peace of mind.



Mint Brook Marsh

### Economic Sustainability

Residential development costs towns more in goods and services than generated taxes cover. Farmland and open space generate less tax revenue than residential, commercial, or industrial property, but they require little infrastructure costs and maintenance. According to The Land Trust Alliance in a recent study (Saving Land, Spring, 2015) covering 25 States, for every dollar of tax revenue raised, it costs a town \$0.30 in services for commercial and industrial lands; \$0.37 for open space and agricultural lands; \$1.16 for residential lands. Why? Cows don't go to school; and residential areas require constant maintenance for infrastructure as well as children to educate. Open Space is a bargain. Not only that, proximity to open space increases the value of residential property.

### Cultural Legacy

In Columbia's Plan of Conservation and Development, one of the major goals identified by the people of our town was maintaining the small-town character of Columbia. People do not love our town for its proximity to shopping and big-box stores. They love it for the forests, Lake, stone walls, open fields and recreation. Open Space protects all that. Open Space helps to preserve our history: The Wells Woods "Ghost Town," the Hop River Village; the Mill ruins on the rivers and streams. Without Open Space these would have been obliterated by development.

### Biological/Ecological Sustainability

Open Space maintains the stability and resilience of bi-

ological and physical systems. Forests maintain water quality by filtering pollutants in runoff and recharging groundwater. The protected Open Space in the watershed of Columbia Lake is a major reason why our Lake is so clean and clear. Everyone in Columbia has a residential well. Without forests to filter and recharge those wells, we would be experiencing enormous tax increases to provide a public water system.

Unfragmented forests protect biological diversity, and sequester and store carbon to mitigate climate change.

Open Space is important to our community. The balance of commercial development, residential development, agricultural working lands, and Open Space, needs to be carefully maintained for the health and well-being of our citizens, the economic health of our community, and the history and future of Columbia.

Ann Dunnack

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*The 59th Annual  
Columbia Lions Club  
4th of July Parade*

“We love a parade...and Columbia’s was the best...a five-star parade for the fourth...delighting hundreds of spectators” according to the Chronicle, Willimantic, Conn., Friday, July 5, 1985, Suburban section’s full-page spread. Photographer Harold Hanka captured the gleeful spirit.

This year’s 59th Annual Columbia Lions Club 4th of July Parade is themed “Helping One Another”. It is scheduled for Monday, July 4, 2022, at 10:00 am according to organizer Mr. Jim Blair.

This tradition, according to the late Marge Grant, hails back to a dark time in our country’s mood, caused by the Berlin Crisis and Cuban Missile Crisis during 1961-1962, when Columbia Lions Club President Howard Bates is said to have felt that patriotism was at an all-time low. He was determined, according to Marge, to uplift the spirits of our town by focusing on the positive, thus suggested among other projects, an “old-fashioned hometown parade” to celebrate our nation’s founding on July 4, 1776.

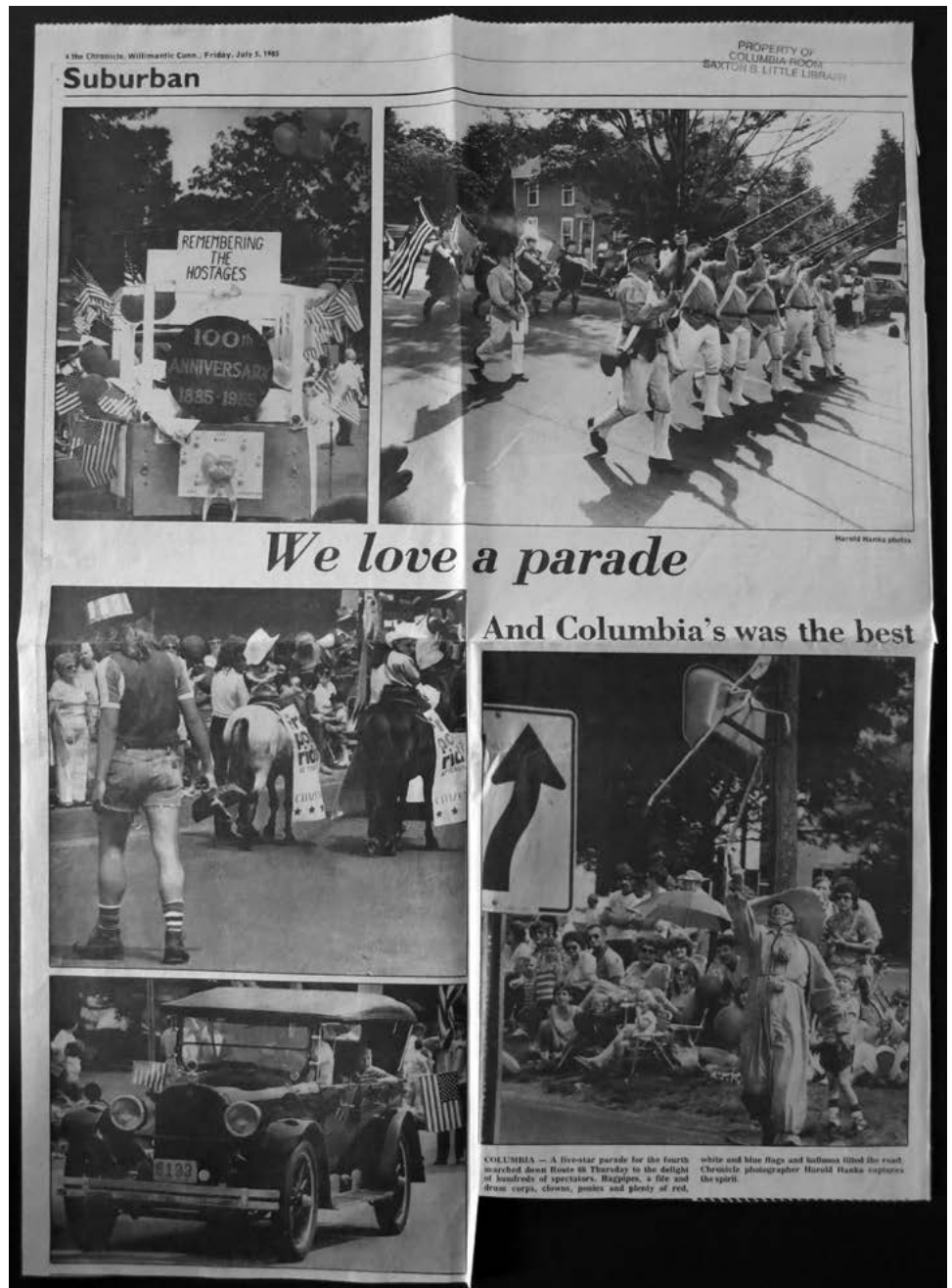
Since 1962 the Lions Club and Town of Columbia have jointly sponsored a traditional hometown parade which has grown to include many local communities and thousands of spectators. But in 2020 the parade was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Columbia Congregational Church quickly stepped in to creatively host a spirited “Honkin’ Hello” car-only parade showcasing our town’s civic organizations in all neighborhoods.

This year’s theme “Helping One Another” was selected through a contest which included Horace W. Porter School students and is consistent with the Lions Club motto and philosophy “We Serve”. The Columbia Lions

Club was organized on August 13, 1955, with 21 charter members and has served to improve our town in many ways involving youth projects, recreation infrastructure, landscaping, cultural enjoyment, safety, philanthropy, and numerous civic projects that have helped individuals in countless ways since 1955.

As someone said to me recently “the joy of the full parade is back”!

Ingrid Wood, Town Historian



A 1985 Willimantic Chronicle spread on the 4th of July Parade.

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*The More You Know*

Social Services hosted the first presentation of the monthly “The More You Know” Wellness Series at the Senior Center in June. I was inspired by the seniors who came out for it! They showed up with an open mind to learn about the latest trends that are hurting our youth, played a part in promoting wellness, and showed what community can be by investing in their connections with each other.

The presentation was made possible through the Local Prevention Grant awarded by SERAC and funded the Culture of Change, “From Mods to Pods: Generation Vape”. Participants gained insight to the evolution of vaping, its dangers, how social media plays a role in accessibility to kids, and tips on how to talk to loved ones about it. Resources from United Services promoting mental health and well-being were also provided.

Grandparents, neighbors, and friends can all play a role



in keeping our community healthy and educating ourselves can be the first step. There is no age limit when it comes to knowledge being power!

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



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## COLUMBIA LEOS

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Happy summer from the Columbia Leos! What a great summer it's been! The Leos started the summer by carrying the theme banner in the Independence Day Parade. This year's theme: "Helping One Another", was submitted by Cailynn Smith! What a great theme for our town as we have such a strong sense of community spirit and generosity! Thanks to Cailynn for her submission and thanks all who step up and help one another every day!

We had a joint installation ceremony with the Lions back on June 13. Both Lion and Leo officers took their oath of office and were installed into their respective clubs. The Leos also inducted two new members! Our new members are Maya Roldan and Corynn Tarbell! Welcome ladies! Our new Leo officers for 2022-23 are: President Elle Gaucher, First VP Luke Woodward, Second VP Morgan Bonnaiuto, Third VP Lucy Provost, Treasurer Corynn Tarbell and Secretary Lucy Provost. What a great team!

We do want to take the time to salute our outgoing President, Madeline Ross. During her term she led us through some challenges, as we started in person meetings and hosted our Variety Show live at Yeoman's Hall. Ms Ross did all this while maintaining a high GPA, playing in sports, and being a member of The National Honor Society! Past President Madeline is a great leader, role model, and Leo. 2021-22 was an awesome year! Thanks President Madeline!

And speaking of the Variety Show, we were live on April 29. The first time since 2019! We were able to raise over \$4000! Thanks to all who participated, performed, supported, and helped further awareness for our causes this

year. We were able to pass money on to The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Camp Rising Sun, Relay for Life, Camp Kessum, and New England Human Animal Bond Foundation. Each one of these worthy charities holds a place in our hearts. Thanks to all who gave so generously. Special thanks go to The Rood Family: Bill, Melissa and Will, November Sound. They not only performed, but stepped in at the last minute to help with the sound system! Just another example of "Helping One Another"! For more info on these causes and how you might be able to help in the future, please contact Lion Jim Blair, information below.

The Leos were able to meet on the first and third Monday's of the month this past year, in person. As of this publication beginning in September, we will continue to do so on those days in The Band Room at Horace Porter School. Feel free to contact Advisor, Lion Jim Blair at [jbland15@earthlink.net](mailto:jbland15@earthlink.net) if you would like information about joining, as we are always looking to welcome new members. Our requirements are ages 12-18, and Columbia residents. Lion Jim Blair will also be able to provide any changes or updates.

The Columbia Leos would like to thank the Town of Columbia, The Columbia Lions and, most importantly, town residents and area businesses for your unwavering support. Thank you for helping us to serve our community, as we try to fulfill our motto: "We Serve"!

Contact Information:  
Lion Jim Blair, Advisor  
860-428-2916  
[Jbland15@earthlink.net](mailto:Jbland15@earthlink.net)

## COLUMBIA LIONS

---

The Officer Slate for The Columbia Lions has been approved for the year 2022-23.

President – Mike DiRaimo  
1st Vice President – Matt Sternat  
2nd Vice President – Wes Burnham  
Treasurers – Dick Mlyniec and Tom Egan  
Secretary – Tim Anderson  
Town Liaison – Jim Blair

Anyone interested in joining the Columbia Lions or in-

quiring about Lions activities should email Lion Matt at [Columbia.Lions.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:Columbia.Lions.Membership@gmail.com).

\*The Columbia Lions awarded two scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, to Lilly Dudek and Elizabeth Levine. Lilly will attend Eastern CT State University, and Elizabeth will attend the University of Rhode Island. The scholarships were the result of a competitive selection process and were based on both academic performance and a demonstrated commitment to community service.





Start now to sort and collect your papers for the Paper Shred-A-Thon that will be held

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
9AM – 12PM**

**(At the Old Fire House on Route 66)**

The Shred-A-Thon is a fundraiser for Columbia Congregational Church and a free will offering is appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 860-228-9306.

**Suggested donation \$5.00/per bag.**



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Most people who have the privilege to live in Columbia love their Lake! They love to gaze upon it, photograph it, swim in it, and boat on it. They are thrilled that it is such a clear, clean, healthy lake that it can support resident Bald Eagles and Great Blue Herons.

The Columbia Lake Association (CLA) is a membership association, open to all Columbia residents, devoted to the promotion and protection of Columbia Lake as a natural and recreational resource. CLA sends its members e-newsletters providing educational resources regarding ecological, land use, and other environmental factors affecting the Lake, and tips on how residents in Watershed Zones A and B can help protect the Lake.

CLA is not all business! We have social and recreational events too! Each season we sponsor a July 4 Boat Parade, and a Summer Solstice Concert, which can be enjoyed from the Town

Beach or by boat. Come join CLA, make new friends, and help keep our Columbia Lake clean and clear for future generations.



**July 2022 – June 2023 Columbia Lake Association Membership Form**  
*JOIN OR RENEW AS A LAKE FRONT OR WATERSHED MEMBER OR EX-OFFICIO PARTICIPANT  
 IN FOUR EASY STEPS*

**STEP 1. REVIEW: Identify your Member Status and Member Level below noting the dues amount.**

**Member Status: (Check One)** New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal Member \_\_\_\_\_  
**Member Level & Dues: (Check One)** Lake Front @ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Watershed @ \$10 \* \_\_\_\_\_ OR  
 Ex-Officio Participant @ \$10\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 2. RENEWAL: If renewing & there are no changes to your contact information you do not need to complete this form. Go to STEP 4 for payments of dues before June 30, 2022**

**STEP 3. NEW MEMBER and/or RENEWAL WITH CHANGES\*: Complete or update the information below. For renewal members include your name and the changes you want to make. See \* Note 1 below.**

**Name(s):** Two persons per household may join and attend CLA events, as well as receive CLA communications. Per our by-laws, one vote per household is allowed for CLA business matters requiring a vote.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #'s:** 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Addresses:** 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, and Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lake Address (If Different):** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 4. PAYMENT: CHECK: Mail a check for your dues to the Columbia Lake Association, P.O. Box 3, Columbia CT 06237; Make check payable to Columbia Lake Association. Pay by June 30, 2022**

\* **NOTE 1:** For a new or renewal member with changes to your contact information either print this form, complete the changes and include the updated form in your mailing OR complete the form, save it with your last name in the file name, emailing the form to [Columbialakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:Columbialakeassociation@gmail.com).

**NOTE 2:** We intend to create an annual WAVES publication to include a membership roster with each member's name and address. If you prefer not to be a part of the WAVE publication check this box & mail or email form to CLA.

\* **Watershed Members** ~ Residents in the Columbia Lake Watershed Overlay Zone

\*\* **Ex-Officio Participants** ~ Town of Columbia Residents not residing in Lake Front or Watershed areas who wish to support the CLA mission to protect and preserve the lake.

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