



# *Columbia* VIEWS

*Volume 6 • Issue 2*  
*Spring 2022*

*Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT*





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Considering the unprecedented years, we experienced in 2020 and 2021, I am thrilled to review the following projects and opportunities presented to us in 2022. Our municipal landscape has changed quite a bit. The pandemic created challenges that our staff and boards and commissions addressed head on. We did not miss a beat with our hybrid technology for attending meetings both remotely and in person. Our electronic communication was improved with the digital newsletter and the new website. We will also be adding the ability to submit permits online through Permitlink, a cloud-based permitting software that will provide residents with an efficient and convenient way to submit permits to the building department and the health district. Stay tuned to when this option will go live. With the federal and state grants plus the American Rescue Plan funds, Columbia has started to build out our infrastructure on the following projects to improve the safety and health of our residents and employees.

We are now going out to bid with the Town of Coventry to build a new two-lane bridge over the Hop River on Hop River Road which should be completed in 2025, with the assistance of the Federal Bridge program.

Communications will be improved for the public works, emergency management, Columbia Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD), and the State Police, with American Rescue Plan funds to upgrade our mobile and portable radios. The CVFD is upgrading the old phone system to a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Phone System.

The CVFD is improving the audio-visual training equipment so that the volunteers can conduct their training remotely and better communicate with agencies during Emergency Management major storm events.

A bid will be going out for a generator at The Beckish Senior Center so that we can use the center as a heating and cooling retreat.



Heating and Cooling systems are being updated in the CVFD, Town Hall and the Murphy House at the town beach to improve air quality and reduce energy expense.

An upgrade to the bathrooms at the Murphy House will be completely soon. This upgrade will provide handicap accessibility to the bathrooms.

Planned interior work of The Moor's Indian School including lead paint removal and repair to the plaster ceilings and interior painted surface is almost complete. This one room schoolhouse building serves as a small colonial era museum and is on the National Historic Register.

Finally, we will be completing the long-awaited work at Rec Park. The photos show the progress that the combined efforts from local contractors, public works, facilities, finance, planning, inland wetlands, and recreation department employees; are producing to make the Rec Park facility one of the nicest in our county. The feature that residents ask about the most is, "Will the pavilion include a bathroom"? The answer is yes, plus storage and a concession room! Once we complete the new dugouts the drainage improvements for the little league field will be scheduled after the baseball season is over. We are waiting on a new scoreboard for the large baseball field. Please thank Scott and Ann Dunnack for this generous gift. If you have not tried pickleball you need to, I just played for the first time with my wife and loved it. Next will be the new disc golf course that will wrap around the Rec Park. The course that will be designed will be geared towards a beginner to medium difficulty to focus on family fun.

As you can see, all the projects are either completed or well on their way. These projects are designed to improve the quality of life in Columbia. Please stop in or call with a message; I always look forward to hearing from you.

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

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*On the cover*

*Sunrise over Columbia Lake.*  
Photo by Paul Ramsey.

## 2022 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

### 3rd Q/22

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 7/8/2022  
Mailed Week of 8/8/2022

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 8/5/2022  
Mailed Week of 9/5/2022

### 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

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Thank goodness the warm weather is finally here. As our First Selectman mentioned we are going to appreciate all the new activities available in our Rec Park. We also need to get out to the newly expanded Mono Pond State Park, please check out the Facebook link for the Friends of Mono Pond State Park volunteer group lead by Tom McGrath. This group is going to be the backbone of our joint efforts with the State to create a new and well-designed walking and biking park that is connected to the Hop River State Park Trail.



Most of these outdoor parks and facilities are possible because of generous funding from partnerships with the State of Connecticut and Federal funding to enable residents to be able to spend more time in the healthy outdoors. In fact, Connecticut was recently placed at the top of the list for Safest States during COVID by Wallethub. We need to thank the great efforts from our employees and health department and of course our residents for all working together to get ahead of this virus.

Budget season is almost complete. We will be meeting to vote on our 22-23 budget at 7:00 PM May 10th at Yeomans

Hall. Many factors came into play that made this a challenging budget process. As a result of our Revaluation of the Grand List, the total value of our Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicles increases as a percentage 16.58%. This increase in assessed value equals \$83,188,251 resulting in a new 2021 Net Grand List of \$584,914,851. To offset this, increase the FIPAC Board is proposing a reduction in the mil rate from 29.33 to 25.87.

Enjoy your summer season, we look forward to making every day better.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Warmer spring weather has arrived at last, and our busy work schedule is underway. We have begun street sweeping and will continue through the month of April. Line painting of all town roads will be conducted in June. Milling and Paving of a portion of Cards Mill Road from Rt 66 to the intersection of Baker Hill Road is planned for early summer.

There will be a significant amount of maintenance/drainage work performed this spring throughout town, please take extra care when you encounter our crews so they can complete their work as safely as possible.

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*Renter's Relief program*

The Renter's Relief program will begin April 1st and run through October 1, 2022. The income guidelines for qualifying income are a maximum of \$42,900 for a married couple and \$35,200 for a single person. This income includes Social Security, interest, pensions, and any other income received during 2015. You will also need a statement listing all of your electric bill payments, a letter from your landlord listing the months you rented from them, and the amounts paid to them monthly for the entire 2015 calendar year. There may be other information necessary to process applications with unique circumstances. Notification to re-apply will be mailed to those currently on the program. Any other renters who are not currently on the program but feel they may qualify are encouraged to apply.

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.

If you use oil at your residence, you likely have a metal home heating oil tank to serve your home as well. These tanks hold the oil that is used to heat your home and also usually provide hot water. Oil tanks are used year after year without much care or maintenance. Unfortunately, if your tank is outside, in a damp basement, in the garage, buried in the ground or just older in age, there could be an issue with it. Metal tanks can rust and when this happens, there is a potential for an oil leak. This is known as a HAZMAT spill. Mediation of a HAZMAT spill can be very expensive and your insurance policy may or may not cover this type of claim.

You can help identify an oil leak by:

- 1) Seeing visible product (oil) on the ground or floor
- 2) Having a higher than normal usage of oil

If you suspect you have an issue, call the Town of Columbia Land Use Department at 860-228-0440 for more information.

Mike Lester, Fire Marshal, Town of Columbia

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45 Laurel Lane

Columbia, CT 06237

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



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JUNE is dog licensing month in Connecticut. Dog license renewals will be mailed out in the month of May to all owners who registered their dog(s) the previous year. New licenses must be obtained before July 1, 2022 to avoid a penalty. The license year for your dog runs from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Whether you are renewing your dog's license through the mail, by drop box, or in person, if their rabies vaccination has expired, please provide us with a copy of their current rabies vaccination certificate. If your dog has been recently spayed or neutered, include a copy of the veterinarian's certificate as well.

**PLEASE NOTE** – If your dog's RABIES VACCINATION expires in the month of JUNE, you will not be able to renew the dog's license for the new year (which begins on July 1, 2022) until we receive a current rabies certificate.

Due to the continuing pandemic, the need for social distancing and for your convenience, the following options will be available when licensing your dog in Columbia. We will be accepting registrations BY MAIL, BY DROP BOX or in person to limit the number of people in Town Hall. Remember to make your check payable to: Columbia Town Clerk and INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED EN-

VELOPE WITH THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF POST-AGE for the return of your dog's new tag. Please contact us at 860-228-3284 if you have any questions.

If you are new to Town and have not registered your dog, contact us. Dogs six months of age or older need to be licensed. License fees are \$8 for altered dogs and \$19 for unaltered dogs. Licenses will be considered late as of July 1 and a late fee of \$1 per month per dog thereafter will be assessed.

Sports licenses for Fishing and Hunting for 2022 are available for purchase online at [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing) and [www.ct.gov/deep/hunting](http://www.ct.gov/deep/hunting). For further information or assistance, contact the Town Clerk's office.

The DEEP has a Family Fishing Day on May 7, 2022 – no license required. There are also Free Fishing License Days on June 19 and August 6, 2022 – You can get a one day license to fish for free on these days!

Please contact us at 860-228-3284 if you have any questions.

Robin M. Kenefick, *Town Clerk*

Gail C. McGrath, *Assistant Town Clerk*



**Anthony Raggi, Agent**  
61 Main Street, Suite E  
Hebron, CT 06248  
Bus: 860-359-9132  
[anthony@ctinsurancequote.com](mailto:anthony@ctinsurancequote.com)

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7/19-7/20  
5:30-9:30

Students successfully completing the class can purchase their license from the DEEP for \$50 and leave the class with their boating license in hand. The classroom-based presentation is PowerPoint and video format including student interaction with hands on demonstrations of common boating equipment and supplies.

<https://columbia.recdesk.com>  
860-228-851



*New cadets welcomed*



The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Welcomes the new cadets, Colby Marsh, Ryan Abousamra and Nicholas Haddad. If you are interested in volunteering for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, please visit our website at [www.columbiafire5.org/volunteer](http://www.columbiafire5.org/volunteer) or message us on Facebook @Columbiafire5.



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Tax Office  
860-228-0230  
taxcollector@columbiact.org



# TAX OFFICE TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Real Estate taxes on the October 1, 2020 Grand List that were due July 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022 that have not been paid in full by May 31, 2022 will have a continuing tax lien filed in the land records as required by law.

Any delinquent tax not paid by June 30, 2022 will be listed by name and amount in the annual Town Report.

You can view and pay your tax bills online; Go to [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) and click on the Pay Taxes Online tab on the home page. On the next page click on the View/Pay button (square) to go to a search screen. Type your last name, space, first initial of your first name (as is written on the bill). The service fee for online payments are as follows: 95 cents to use a Bank account and 2.95% for credit and debit cards. To look up your 2021 tax payments go to [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org). On Columbia's home page, click on the pay taxes online tab. The directions will be listed on the next page.

Regular office hours for the Tax Office: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and closed on Friday. The Tax Office has extended hours in July and August 1, 2022: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and Friday 8:00-12:00.

Mailing address for tax payments:  
Town of Columbia  
Dept # 347  
PO Box 150512  
Hartford, CT 06115-0512

Drop boxes for payments and correspondence are located at the right side of the entrance of the Town Hall and 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

## How to view current Real Estate tax bills and the new tax bills that will become due July 1, 2022 (available online on July 1, 2022)

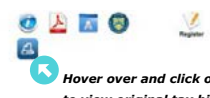
- Log onto [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) and Click on Pay Taxes Online tab (located at the bottom of the homepage).
- Click on square that says click here to view/pay tax bills.



2020-01-000XXXX  
00173000

\$3,299.64 \$3,299.64 \$0.00

**The current bill is 2020-01-xxxx**  
**The new bill will be 2021-01-xxxx**



- Hover over the icons to the right of the tax amounts click on the icon that says view original tax bill. This will bring up a copy of the current tax bill.
- Beginning July 1, 2022** Click on the 2021-01-000XXX to view the new tax bill with the October 1, 2021 revaluation assessment, the mill rate, and the new tax year. (See example)

Make checks payable to:				REAL ESTATE TAX BILL 2022		TAXPAYER COPY	
TOWN OF COLUMBIA							
LIST NUMBER	DIST	BANK	ON GRAND LIST	TOTAL TAX DUE	PAYMENT DUE	PAYMENT DUE	
2021 01 000 XXXX	99		OCTOBER 1, 2021	3,299.64	July 1, 2022	January 1, 2023	
MILL RATE	GROSS ASSESSMENT	EXEMPTION	NET ASSESSMENT		1,649.82	1,649.82	
New Mill Rate will be posted here	112,500	0	112,500		DELINQUENT AFTER Aug 2, 2022	DELINQUENT AFTER Feb 1, 2022	

70% of the fair market value (Appraised Value).  
This will be new on the July 1, 2022 bill due to the revaluation.

**This will be a great way to compare your old tax bill to your new tax bill.**

put in the drop box after 8:00AM will be processed the next day the Tax Office is open.

Tax bills for the 2021 Grand List will be mailed at the end of June 2022 with a due date of July 1, 2022. The last day to pay without a penalty will be Monday August 1, 2022. Bills will be available online on July 1, 2022. By law this office uses the postmark as the payment date.

For those seeking an immediate clearance for DMV due to delinquent taxes please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or [taxcollector@columbiact.org](mailto:taxcollector@columbiact.org) for information on the process. Paying the tax bill online does not clear you immediately at DMV. You will need to contact the tax office during the tax office hours for assistance.

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Saxton B. back! We know Spring is just in the air, but we are already thinking of Summer and gearing up for a busier summer than we've seen in a while. Our ongoing programs are still in full swing and welcoming new participants. These will continue throughout the summer – so plan to join us!

### For adults...

- Fiction Book Group (Second Tuesdays @ 6:30pm)
- Nonfiction Book Group (Fourth Tuesdays @ 6:30pm)
- Senior Book Group (Third Thursday @ 1:00pm)
- Picture Book Discussion (for adults, first Thursday @ noon)
- Sip and Stitch Book Group (Last Wednesday @ 1:00pm)
- Columbia Writers Connection (Second Monday afternoon and last Wednesday @ 6:30pm)
- Stitches (Every Wednesday @ 2:30pm)
- Spice Club (Fourth Monday @ 3:00pm)
- Saxton Movies (Every Friday @ 1:00pm)

### For kids...

- Story Times (Every Tuesday @ 10:30am)
- Baby Bees Lapsit program (Every Friday @ 10:30am)

Typically, additional adult programs take place on Tuesday evenings, and Children's programming on Thursday evenings.

But in the summer, look for happenings at all times! Our Summer Reading Program for both adults and kids is Off The Beaten Path, so you may be surprised where the Library pops up! Join us for weekly programs and crafts. Some things to look forward to...

- Living with Connecticut's Wildlife (adult)
- Live animals coming to visit (all ages)
- Crochet Boot Camp (adults & teens)
- Learn to play ukulele (kids)
- Lots of Egg-citing programs from Raising Chickens 101 with East Willow Farm (adults) to chicks, hatching live in-house at the Library!

## COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



The advertisement features a dark background with a central photograph of a fire station at night, showing several fire trucks parked in their bays. Above the photo, the text 'COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT' is written in large, bold, yellow and white letters. To the left of this text is a red Maltese cross logo with 'FIRE DEPT.' written on it. To the right is a blue Star of Life EMS logo. Below the main title, the text 'EMTs and Firefighters Needed' is written in white. At the bottom left, two questions are listed in white text: '- Are you a resident, live nearby, or employed by the town of Columbia Connecticut?' and '- Are you 16 years of age or older?'. Below these questions, the text 'The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department needs you!!!' is written in red, followed by 'Certifications and experience not required for application' and 'Please inquire about training' in white. At the bottom right, the website 'www.columbiafire5.org/volunteer' and email 'membership@columbiafire5.org' are listed in red, along with the Facebook handle '@Columbiafire5' in white. A circular fire department logo is also visible in the bottom right corner of the ad.

**COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**EMTs and Firefighters Needed**

- Are you a resident, live nearby, or employed by the town of Columbia Connecticut?  
- Are you 16 years of age or older?

**The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department needs you!!!**

**Certifications and experience not required for application**  
**Please inquire about training**

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[membership@columbiafire5.org](mailto:membership@columbiafire5.org)  
Message us on facebook @Columbiafire5

## CT Magazine Features

Jennifer, Kristen, Cathyann, and Carrie of Countryside Realty Five Star Award Winners!



Jennifer, Kristen, Cathyann, and Carrie of Countryside Realty of Hebron CT have been awarded the Five Star Award for Real Estate Agents in March as featured in CT Magazine! The award is given to agents that score high among client and industry peers!

Cathyann has received this honor for 12 straight years!

Only 3% of agents have received this award!

For almost 30 years, Countryside Realty has been a family owned and operated business servicing their clients as family!

Cathyann, Carrie, Jennifer, and Kristen would like to thank all of their clients for their loyalty, referrals and repeat business throughout the years.

All at Countryside Realty will continue to focus on their customer service, strong work ethic and emphasis on preparation.

Countryside Realty is located at 30 Main Street in Hebron, CT.

They can be reached at (860) 228-8512

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Sadly, we lost a wonderful volunteer, woman and friend recently, Tricia Hul. She was not only a Library Board member but the Friends liaison to the Board and she lovingly took care of our children's room book donations. We will miss her and all that she did for Friends.

We want to thank you all for your continued patience and understanding as we have navigated through this pandemic. We have turned over our Book Nook in the library and hope you have had the opportunity to browse.

We have been working on reopening slowly and have been taking donations on specific dates by appointment with a specific donation policy implemented. This will be our only donation avenue until we have enough volunteers to be fully operational again. If you have donations (or would like to volunteer with us), you can contact us at [friendsofsbl1@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsbl1@gmail.com) and we will be happy to place you on a call back list to make an appointment for you as dates become available.

Be watching our Facebook page and other town Facebook pages for information on upcoming one day book sales we are planning for the Summer.

Also, we will be having our Annual Membership Drive (please note, this is separate from the Library's Annual Giving Drive) soon and appreciate your continued support of our fundraising efforts that help the Library bring you programs, museum passes and many more things!

Laurie Rogers, FOL Secretary

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*It's time for Transfer Station Permits & Beach Passes!*

Transfer Station Permits (stickers): 2021 permits (BLUE) expire June 1, 2022. 2022 permits are available for purchase May 1, 2022. Applications are available at Town Hall, Transfer Station, or online under Forms & Permits at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org). Submit to the Town Hall a completed application along with cash or check. Applications can be dropped off at the drop box located at Yeomans Hall - Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for mailing for this option. Stickers can also be purchased online at <https://columbia.recdesk.com/recdeskportal>. The standard permit price (2 stickers) is \$40 per household for non-seniors and \$20 per household for seniors (62 and over). Up to 2 additional stickers may be purchased at \$20 each.

Beach Passes: 2022 season passes are available for purchase on May 1, 2022. Adult Season Pass Holders may purchase up to 4 Transferrable Guest Passes (TGP) per household at \$45 each or Guest Passes for \$ 5. ALL guests of season pass holders must be with their sponsoring adult at all times. All passes are sold at the Parks & Recreation Office. Only Day passes are sold at the beach.

Family Max = \$120 excluding the TGP & Day Passes. For more info, visit <https://columbia.recdesk.com/recdeskportal>

Resident	Season Pass	Transferrable Guest Pass	Day Pass
Ages 5-17	\$25	\$45	\$5
Ages 18-61	\$35	\$45	\$5
Ages 62+	\$15	\$45	\$5

MARINE PATROL

*2022 Marine Patrol Schedule*

May 21st and May 22nd 9:00 – 3:00 pm

**Gate Monitoring:**

May 23rd - September 11th: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

Weekends Only: September 17th–October 9th: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

**Boat Patrol:**

Dates: May 28th – September 11th

Weekends: 11:00 am – 9:00 pm

Weekdays: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm



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# COLUMBIA TOWN DIRECTORY

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



### Archaeology exhibit

Due to Covid closures last fall, the Historical Society is extending the opportunity to visit its exhibit “Archaeology: Digging the Past” through this summer. It will be open first and third Sundays from 1- 4 PM. (May 1, 15; June 5, 19; July 3, 17; Aug. 7, 21) The number admitted at any one time will still be six, to allow social distancing, so reserving an entry time is recommended, although walk-ins will be accommodated. Entry may be reserved by contacting Judy Ortiz at (860) 208-9881 or jortiz6151@gmail.com. Appointments may also be made to visit outside Sunday hours.

This free interactive exhibit explains the science of archaeology, and features artifacts from several dig sites in Columbia, both prehistoric and historic. Visitors will see what happens in the Field and in the Lab with several “hands-on” activities and videos. Opportunities to take part in public archaeology events will also be featured.

We are planning on having a Native American artifact ID Day where the public can bring in their finds and have them evaluated by a professional; a live demonstration of how stone tools are made; screening of several archaeological videos, and more. Dates of these events will be publicized soon.

### Our Thanks

We continue to receive and welcome important donations of objects and documents from the community. The June Squier donation included photos and years of diaries that detail life in Columbia 1890-1930, especially life in the Old Inn (aka the Landmark). Another extensive donation from Tom Card, a Little family descendant, included a collection of images and letters from the service of his grandfather in WWI. If you have items relevant to Columbia that you would like to see preserved, please let us know.

### Garden Tour

A fundraising Garden Tour has been organized by the Columbia Historical Society for Saturday, July 9, 2022.

Last year’s tour was enjoyed by all so mark your calendar now. The tour is held rain or shine. Ticket sales will be limited to 75 so as not to overcrowd our 6 diverse gardens located within a 15-minute drive from the center of town.

Advance ticket sales of \$20.00 per person will be avail-



able beginning June 1st. The last day to purchase advance tickets will be June 25th. A limited number of tickets may be sold the day of the tour for \$25.00.

To purchase Advance tickets, go to the Society’s website at [www.columbia-history.org](http://www.columbia-history.org). Click on SUPPORT US then DONATE and follow the prompts. In addition, email your contact information: name and

phone number to [millieramz@gmail.com](mailto:millieramz@gmail.com). Please type garden tour in the subject line.

Tickets may also be purchased by emailing Millie Ramsey at [millieramz@gmail.com](mailto:millieramz@gmail.com) and sending a check to Columbia Historical Society, P.O. Box 551, Columbia, CT. 06237 ATTN. GARDEN TOUR.

Tickets and garden location information will be available for pick up the morning of the tour at the Beckish Senior Center from 9:30AM-10:00AM.

Visit the CHS website at [www.columbia-history.org](http://www.columbia-history.org) for additional information.

### Annual meeting

The Columbia Historical Society will be holding our annual meeting on May 13, 2022, at Yeomans Hall from 6:00pm- 8:00pm. This year we are asking that those who attend bring their favorite finger food to share with others. Scott Brady, who is a member of the Friends of the Office of State Archeology, has agreed to join us and will teach us about the history of Connecticut’s residents from the Paleoindian period to the present via the excavations that were performed at different archeological sites throughout Connecticut. This office was established in 1987 to provide technical assistance to municipalities in the preservation of archeological sites within their communities that might be threatened by development and vandalism. It also works to create public awareness and support for these projects.

Please join us for this very interesting presentation. The CHS is opening the History Place again this summer and sharing information about different archeological sites that were excavated in Columbia. We felt that Scott Brady could teach us the importance of preserving all archeological sites as well as what valuable information can be learned about the earlier people who lived in our state.

Feel free to contact Judy Ortiz at (860) 208-9881 or by email at [jortiz6151@gmail.com](mailto:jortiz6151@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



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**Chris Rice, Service Manager**  
[contact@tireandbrakeclinic.com](mailto:contact@tireandbrakeclinic.com)



## COLUMBIA NATIVE NAMED ‘SAILOR OF THE YEAR’

The Town of Columbia has good reason to be proud of one of its own – Paul Abousamra. Paul was recently named “Sailor of the Year” by the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Paul graduated from USCG Training Center in Cape May, NJ (boot camp) on November 22, 2019. He was then assigned to the USCG Cutter *Forward* based in Portsmouth, VA. In August of 2020, Paul was sent to A school in Yorktown, VA, from which he graduated on November 20, 2020, and was promoted to Machinery Technician Petty Officer Third Class. Paul was then transferred to the USCG Cutter *Blackfin* in Santa Barbara, CA.

The *Blackfin* is a member of the Marine Protector class, a class of coastal patrol boats of the USCG. The 87-foot-long vessels are based on the Stan 2600 design by Damen group, and were built by Billinger Shipyards of Lockport, LA. Each boat is named after sea creatures which fly or swim. Missions include combating drug smuggling, illegal immigration, marine fisheries enforcement and search and rescue support. Since the September 11 attacks, many have a homeland security mission in the form of ports waterways and coastal security patrols.

Quoting from the plaque that was presented to Paul: “You are commended for your performance of duty and selection as CGC *Blackfin*’s Sailor of the Year. Your dedication and devotion to *Blackfin* and her crew are evident every day in the performance of your duties, most notably in preparation for *Blackfin*’s RFO, the first major inspection of the ship since 2019. You meticulously maintained and inventoried the Damage Control locker as well as acted as a key player in shipboard drills. You also represented *Blackfin* at the Santa Barbara Veteran’s Dinner, displaying professional presence above your paygrade, and bringing great credit upon *Blackfin* and the Coast Guard. You exhibited superb support of your shipmates, acting as mentor to junior members, which directly resulted in multiple shipboard qualifications. Furthermore, your technical expertise and keen judgement were evident when you assisted in the 2021 EPS site inspection as well as the 2021 dockside availability with more than 16 contracted work projects.”

The plaque goes on to mention an incident that occurred



on January 20, 2022, when Paul witnessed a car traveling at high-speed veering off the road into a steep ravine. Without considering his own safety, Paul immediately pulled off the road, located the car, and pulled the driver out of the mangled vehicle to safety. Paul then identified himself as a member of the Coast Guard, assessed the driver’s injuries, and waited with him until the EMS arrived.

The plaque finishes by saying: “Your care for your shipmates, competence in your duties, and commitment to our core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to

Duty are greatly appreciated and instrumental in making *Blackfin* better every day.”

Paul’s family and friends and the Town of Columbia are extremely proud of Paul’s accomplishments and wish him great success in his future endeavors.

Celebrating 300+ Years  
Columbia Congregational Church  
& “Lebanon Crank”



### United States Coast Guard Brass Quintet

**Free Community Concert**  
**2pm Sunday September 25, 2022**

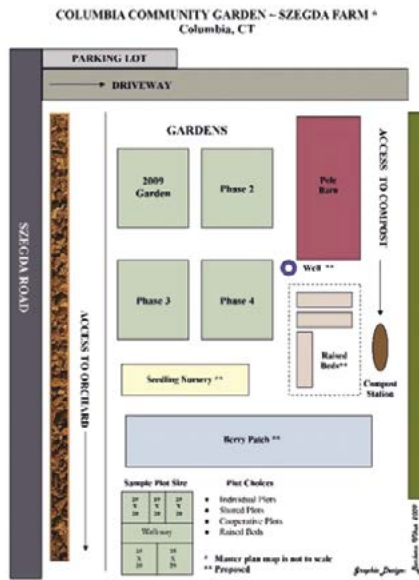
Columbia Congregational Church  
325 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Rt. 87

A Variety of Music Favorites  
& the premiere performance of

Modal Rhapsody for Brass Quintet,  
composed by Rev. Samson Occom (1723-1792)  
and Gabriel Kastle (2020)

REFRESHMENT RECEPTION FOLLOWS CONCERT  
ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

The Columbia Community Garden offers 4 sizes of garden plots within 10,00 square feet of garden space. (minimum size of 10' x 20' per plot) for individual gardeners. The garden area is closed in the off season but depending on the weather early and late season planting is an option.



*Columbia Recreation Department*

The Recreation Department coordinates the registration, advertising, and works with the Szegda Farm Management Committee with program coordination and oversight. If you would like a tour, please contact the Rec Dept at the email address recreation@columbiact.org.

We welcome the opportunity for questions about gardening or share garden info so if you see us working our plots, stop and say hello.

*August Primary*

The Primary for State & District offices is scheduled for August 9, 2022 at Horace W. Porter School. Primaries in CT are “Closed Primaries”, meaning that only voters registered in the party which is holding the Primary may vote. So only registered Republicans can vote in the Republican Primary and only registered Democrats can vote in the Democratic Primary. If you are not currently registered to vote, or not currently affiliated with a political party (registered as Unaffiliated), you can enroll in a party via mail until August 4, 2022 or in person until noon on August 8, 2022 and still be eligible to vote in the Primary. To register, go to voterregistration.ct.gov or contact our office.

*Did you know?*

There is a difference between Independent and Unaffiliated. The Independent Party is a recognized minor party in the state of Connecticut. Whereas, Unaffiliated means you are not registered in any party.

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

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER

*9th Annual Art Show  
 in Memory  
 of Rose Marrotte*

Monday, June 13th at 9am thru  
 Friday, June 17th at 2pm  
 at the Beckish Senior Center

Registration is on June 13th  
 from 9am to 11am. The presentations of awards will be made at an awards party on June 17th at 10:30am. Snacks and refreshments provided. Open to all seniors 55 years or older.

All artists and craftspeople (wood carving and quilting) are invited to participate. Monetary prizes will be award-



ed for first, second and third prize in the

following categories:

1. Artwork--(Oils, acrylics, watercolor and pastels)
2. Woodcarving
3. Photography
4. Quilting
5. Crafts

Art lessons, art trips, and art lectures will also be available thru the end of the year. Please

stay tuned for more information regarding these events.

We are looking forward to seeing all the wonderful talent in our community!





# HERE 4 YOU

Dear Columbia Neighbors:

We extend warm greetings to you from the AHM Youth and Family Services Board of Directors, (your youth services bureau for the Town of Columbia). AHM is a 501C-3 public charity that has served the children, teens, young adults, families, and seniors of Columbia for over a decade. AHM offers a wide range of human and social service programs for Andover, Columbia, Hebron, and Marlborough residents as part of a partnership with the four municipalities. To learn about all of the services AHM offers please visit [www.ahmyouth.org](http://www.ahmyouth.org).

The past two years have been so difficult on everyone. At AHM, our call to action since day one of the pandemic is: "We are here for you". We are ever stronger in our commitment to helping neighbors navigate these incredibly challenging times through access to AHM's Mental Health, Drug and Suicide Prevention, Youth and Family Development, and Juvenile Justice Programs.

Much of what it takes to operate this regional charity comes from fundraisers and private donations. For the first time, we are asking Columbia residents to please support AHM's annual appeal. Our promise to you is that **100% of your donation will go directly back to supporting services for residents**. We are not part of a larger regional, state, or national organization.

Local children, teens, young adults, seniors, and families need AHM Youth and Family Services like never before. In 2022 nearly half of AHM's budget will come from fundraisers, grants, and private donations.

**Thank you for your consideration and support!**

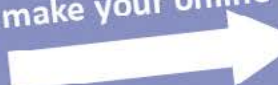
Sincerely,

**Steve Fish**  
*Steve Fish*  
President

**Tressa Giordano**  
*Tressa Giordano*  
Executive Director

**Andover Hebron Marlborough Youth & Family Services earned a 100/100 rating on  
Charity Navigator - [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)**



Scan QR code with phone  
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donation! 



**OR visit our website at [www.ahmyouth.org/make-a-donation/](http://www.ahmyouth.org/make-a-donation/)**

Checks can be mailed to: AHM Youth & Family Services, 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron 06248

## Waterfront & watershed turf maintenance for the sake of the lake

As stewards of our lake environment, we can help preserve the lake's water quality, which includes maintaining waterfront and watershed turf in a way to preserve water quality. Our lawns and fields adjacent to the lake as well as in the watershed providing water to the lake are sensitive areas. Though these areas can benefit the water by filtering runoff and protecting against soil erosion, it is important to understand the potential of turf maintenance activities impact on water quality. Below are management tips to consider that will reduce the potential for turf maintenance activities to negatively affect water quality.

For the sake of the lake consider the 'do & don't' choices of using chemicals and fertilizers!

### DO

- If one chooses to use fertilizer do use nitrogen products that are 50% water-soluble or 'slow release formulas. Consider products as Milorganite, which is an all-purpose slow-release nitrogen fertilizer that is safe and

effective for lawn, shrubs and trees. Slow-release nutrients are gradually available for up to 10 weeks, which means fewer applications. Slow-release nutrients are less likely to leach into waterways although nitrogen is still prone to runoff. It is available at garden centers, Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Tractor Supply.

- Do only one spring application, typically in May, when no rain is in the forecast.
- Do use fall season fertilizer applications to coincide with the lake drawdown.
- Do use a 10' buffer strip adjacent to the water to safeguard your fertilizer/pesticide applications.
- Do use a drop spreader to control applications.
- Do pay attention to labels. Read the product information; avoid chemicals or fertilizers that are a threat to the lake.
- Do collect, bag and dispose of leaves, grass clippings, debris, dog or geese waste.
- Do ensure land care vendors use water protection techniques as no application when rain is forecast. Insist they reschedule applications with rain in the forecast.

### DON'T

- Don't use fertilizers
- Phosphorous (P) is banned
- Nitrogen is very water soluble and prone to leaching or runoff; nitrogen enhances lake weed and algae growth that are detrimental to the water quality.
- Don't apply fertilizer in spring and summer months as rain and storm water runoff empties nitrogen into the lake.
- Don't allow grass clippings to reach the water when mowing. This is like throwing fertilizer into the water and must be avoided.
- Don't use phosphorous rich animal manure fertilizers; phosphorous is banned and feeds algae. 1 pound of P supports 775 pounds of algae growth.
- Don't apply fertilizers or pesticides within 10' of lake.
- Don't apply chemicals or fertilizers that pose a threat to lake water; avoid products with labels as 'toxic to fish' or 'do not use near surface water'.
- Don't rake or blow leaves, grass clippings, debris, dog or geese waste into the lake.
- Don't apply fertilizers or chemicals when rain is forecast to prevent product runoff.

**Spring Safety Reminder: Wear Your PFD – October Thru May 31st!**

When using manually propelled vessels as kayaks, canoes, rowboats, etc. before June 1st, CT law requires personal floatation devices (PFD's) must be worn!



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**Countryside Realty of 30 Main Street in Hebron ranks #1 for 2021 in number of properties SOLD in total for Hebron, Lebanon, Columbia, and Andover!\***

The Agents at Countryside Realty credit their success to a deep understanding of the market, and their relentless focus on customer service.

Countryside Realty would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to their clients for their **Loyalty, Trust, Referrals and Repeat Business throughout the years.**

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

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## Who was Horace W. Porter?

Perhaps you've wondered about our school's name? Such a question prompted this brief history about our own Horace Welton Porter, who donated much of his family farm for Columbia's consolidated school district campus around 1943. He also donated lands for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD). Horace W. Porter was born in Hebron in 1865 and lived in Columbia for most of his life. His parents were Horace Fuller Porter and Mary Caroline Bissell of Hebron, Connecticut. He died in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts in 1953 and is buried in Hebron's St. Peter's Cemetery. He is perhaps best remembered for having served as Columbia's Postmaster from 1909 – 1940 and for having established Porter's General Store.

The Porter family owned much of the center of Columbia in the early 1900s, including the former 25-acre "Minister's Farm", the Wheelock house and adjacent 19th century barn. When Columbia's early 20th century roads



were laid out, his store fell victim to roadbuilding. Porter reconfigured the haybarn in back of his house into a new general store and Post Office. Some may recall this store had a sequence of owners and was more recently known as Keegan's Market and Don's Market – until it too was demolished in the early 1990s to make way for Columbia's Post Office. For a time, the Porter family also owned the building now known as "The Landmark". Their early 20th century landholdings also included parcels on the east side of today's Route 66, including the original Porter General Store (near Collins Garage) as well as the parcel where CVFD stands today. Early postcards of center of Columbia show the original Porter's General Store and Post Office before it was removed to make way for the state highway.

Horace W. Porter School was named in 1948, when it first opened, after our local benefactor who promoted consolidation of Columbia's one-room schools into a modern school district with a contemporary curriculum. A portrait of Horace W. Porter can be seen the school vestibule today.

Porter alumni and educators often ask me: is perhaps our school named after the valorous Horace Porter (1837 – 1921) of Civil War fame? Though an excellent question, the answer is, no, but it is entirely possible the brevet brigadier general Horace Porter may have been a distant relative, also a descendant of the original Mayflower Porters. What matters most, however, is that we recognize the generosity and foresight of Columbia's Horace W. Porter in the 1940s, famous at least to us, in his own way.

Ingrid Wood, *Town Historian*



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*Columbia Congregational Church Handbell Choir turns 45 years old*

In 1976 Reverend George Evans of the Columbia Congregational Church, was so impressed by a handbell concert he attended in West Hartford, that he encouraged the church to purchase 2 octaves of Schulmerich handbells. The bells were purchased the following year and, in the Fall of 1977, a ten member choir was started. The original choir members were David and Carol Bowik, Tony Burke, Ruth Dawson, Nancy Douton, Herb Englert, Mary Evans, Gay Farmer, and Al and Barbara Hadigian. Their first performance in church was in April 1978.

Over the years the choir has added 2 more octaves of handbells (49 bells) and 3 octaves of handchimes (37 handchimes). All the bells and handchimes were purchased through memorial gifts to the church. Some of the original members played for the Fourth of July parade starting in 1979, to the delight of the onlookers. This tradition was restarted in last year's parade.

The choir has played in the Boar's Head Festivities, Quincy Market Place's Christmas tree lighting ceremony, numerous churches, Eastbrook Mall, and many Nursing homes. In 1988 they attended their first Handbell Conference in Ithaca, New York, where they took classes, networked and played handbells with 800 other bell ringers from across the country. The choir continues to attend regional conferences throughout New England every other year. They have been to every state in New England for a conference. At the end of the 4 day conference, all 800 ringers put on a concert for the public. It is an amazing experience to be part of it. Many of the choirs at the conferences have 5 or 6 octaves of handbells. The Columbia Bells will be attending a smaller conference this June at the University of Hartford in West Hartford. The final concert will be on Sunday, June 26th.

at 3:00 PM. Watch for details on the church website and on Everything Columbia. Hope to see you there for a unique experience.

Even in a pandemic, the choir continued to make music. They practiced with a small group, wearing masks and keeping their distance. This limited the music that could be played but they were able to hold their annual Christmas concert in the church parking lot while people listened from their cars. It started snowing lightly which added to the event.

The choir is now back to 11 members and is able to use all 4 octaves again. The current members are Anne Robinson, Maggie Macha, Kathy Labadorf, Dave Coley, Nancy Douton, Denise Parmenter, Millie Ramsey, Nicole Winnie, Karen Butzgy, Alex Chui, and Lynn Sharpe.

George Evans started something that has brought joy and music to this town for 45 years and hopefully will continue for many more years to come. Be sure to enjoy their music and enthusiasm if you can. The choir plays the second Sunday of each month during church services at 10:00 AM and also at Holiday services. You can hear the choir on Sunday, June 26th, 3:00-4:30 as they join with 300+ handbell ringers all ringing in sync under the baton of one director. This Massed Ringing Concert will be held at the Chase Family Arena located on the University of Hartford campus, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT. The visuals are amazing and the sound inspiring. The experience is UNFORGETTABLE.

A bus trip is being planned from the Beckish Senior Center. University of Hartford guidelines are requiring proof of vaccination when entering the venue. For more information concerning the trip see the June Newsletter (The Gem) at [www.columbia.org/senior](http://www.columbia.org/senior).

*Adapted from Columbia Crossroads, August 2007 and Columbia Historical Society article by Ingrid Wood*

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*In Memory – Anita Fay Ramm (1928-2022)*

Anita Fay Ramm, Historian Emeritus, passed away February 14, 2022. De, as she was known to our community, served as Columbia's very first town historian for nearly a decade from the early 1990s – 2004. During this time she organized and cataloged many gifts of Columbia's history ---scrapbooks, letters, articles, photographs, and genealogy into the Town's core historical collection. De chaired the committee that published *The Story of Columbia Continues...1954-1992* (1994). With the late Lois Clarke and members of Columbia Historical Society she conducted Columbia's Old House Survey in 2001-2002

and served on the Bicentennial Committee from 2001-2004. From 2009-2015 De was reappointed Town Historian. An avid writer and inspiring teacher, we came to enjoy her regular column in *Columbia Crossroads* and local publications. With members of Columbia Historical Society De helped conduct Connecticut's Old Barn Survey for our town. In 2012 De contributed to *Images of America – Columbia* (2013), using many images from her core collection for Columbia. De served on the board of directors for the Saxton B. Little Free Library and Columbia Historical Society. She inspired countless students at Horace W. Porter School over many years. De will be remembered fondly by our grateful community.

# Artists' Open Studios

Columbia Artists interested in participating in the Artists' Open Studios in the fall at the Columbia Senior Center — should contact Paul Ramsey now at [Ramzphoto@gmail.com](mailto:Ramzphoto@gmail.com).



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