

COLUMBIA



Photo Credit: Paul Ramsey

UPDATE APRIL 2024



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Public Hearing on the budget with a Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC) Special Meeting to follow will be held on 4/24/24.

The Annual Town Budget Meeting will be called by the Board of Selectmen per the Charter between the 2nd Tuesday of May and the 1st Tuesday of June. The date of the Annual Town Budget Meeting will be posted on the town's website at www.columbiact.org and at the Town Clerk's Office.

We encourage you to attend the Board of Selectman (BOS) and Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC) meetings to engage in the budget process and we welcome your input. Meetings are held both in-person and virtually.

Please visit our website and click on the Calendar tab for login information. You can also send in your input to PublicInput@columbiact.org.



2024 FRED GIFFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INC.
167 ROUTE 66/P.O. BOX 26, COLUMBIA, CT 06237
860-228-9602

The Scholarship consists of four (4) individual awards of \$1000.00 each.

All applicants must be residents of the Town of Columbia, CT, seniors attending secondary school or home-schooled, with plans to continue their education at an accredited post secondary school or institution. The Scholarship Committee looks for students with a good balance of grades, involvement in school activities, outside school activities, community service and family values.

Applications must be submitted no later than April 15th, 2024. The winners will be contacted by the committee and may be asked to attend a regular meeting of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Inc. Click [HERE](#) to complete and submit the 2024 application

Please direct any questions to Mike Lester mlester@columbiafire5.org.



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TEXTMYGOV: The Town of Columbia is excited to announce the launch of TextMyGov, a new text messaging service designed to keep residents informed with timely and relevant information directly affecting our community.

TextMyGovTM

The Town of Columbia is officially launching the new text alert system the week of April 1, 2024. Residents can easily sign up to stay notified about town notifications such as Upcoming Events, Road Closures, Public Safety Alerts, and General Announcements.

We encourage all residents to opt-in for these important notifications to keep informed of all town announcements. Signing up is easy. Opt-in to any of the following lists:

- **Town-wide Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT" to the number 91896.**
- **Parks & Recreation Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT REC" to the number 91896.**
- **Beckish Senior Center Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT BECKISH" to the number 91896.**

After sending the initial keyword, you will be asked to complete the opt-in process by responding with YES by text to 91896.

Users may opt-out anytime from future text alerts by simply texting STOP to 91896.

MOBILE FOODSHARE: Mobile Foodshare has moved from the Senior Center to Rec Park (60 Hennequin Rd, Columbia CT) in April and will remain at Rec Park until the end of November. Foodshare will start back at the Senior Center in December. Mobile Foodshare is held EVERY OTHER THURSDAY - Rain, Snow or Shine from 1:00 PM TO 1:30 PM.





TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

EVERBRIDGE NOTIFICATIONS: We will from time to time issue an Everbridge Notification with a message from the First Selectman, Steven M. Everett to help keep you informed. If you would like to sign up for [Everbridge Notifications](#) please go to the Town's website and on the Everbridge Notifications tab.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS: To receive Town news please go to the Town's website and click on the [Email Notifications](#) tab. If you need assistance please do not hesitate to call the Town Administrative Office or the First Selectman at 860-228-0110 or email us at townadministrator@columbiact.org.

Thank you and please be safe!

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

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

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Many meetings will be held by utilizing remote access; however, some meetings are being held in-person or hybrid (both in-person and virtual). Please check the Town Calendar and the Agenda posted for directions on login information. Each board or committee will provide the information needed to join using an on-line conferencing platform. Please check the Town of Columbia's [website](#) for updates.

4/01/24 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM

4/01/24 Mon: Board of Education, 7:30 PM

4/01/24 Wed: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM

4/02/24 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM

4/03/24: Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM

4/03/24 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM

4/08/24 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

4/10/24 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM

4/10/24 Wed: Economic Development Committee, 7:00 PM

4/17/24 Mon: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM

4/16/24 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM

4/17/24 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM

4/18/24 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM

4/22/24 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

4/24/24: Wed: Public Hearing - Proposed FY 24/25 Budget

4/24/24: Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM

4/25/24 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM (Canceled)

Public Comment will be accepted by our dedicated email at PublicInput@columbiact.org or by USPS mail to 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237 and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

ADULT EXERCISE PROGRAMS: MEN'S BASKETBALL: Monday evenings; Check Rec Desk for times as start time changes due to gym demands. Registration can be done online through RecDesk or a walk-in option. Online: <http://columbia.recdesk.com>

FIT FUSION ~ Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 4:30 - 5:30 PM; Join instructor Carolyn Ritchie for a total body workout for all fitness levels.

YOGA ~ Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30 PM; Join Instructor Laura Jacques for an hour of Yoga that will have you feeling relaxed, stress free, and glad you took the time for YOU. All levels welcome.

ZUMBA ~ Tuesdays, 7 - 8 PM. Join instructor Martin Ricardo for an exhilarating, heart pumping dance class. Fun & Fitness all in one!

For more dates and offerings, please visit our Website, follow us on [Instagram](#) and/or [Facebook](#).

RECREATION BUSINESS: MARINE PATROL needed for the summer at Columbia Lake. The Marine Patrol is comprised of Gate Monitoring and Boat Patrol. The work includes providing nautical education, safety, and vessel inspection services on Columbia Lake and at the Town Boat Launch. The work also includes enforcement of Town of Columbia Lake Ordinances and CT Boating Regulations, emergency response calls and maintaining accurate records during each work shift. Contact the Recreation office for more details at 860-228-8513, or on the town's [website](#).



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

SPONSORS: Looking to partner with Columbia Parks & Recreation? Being a sponsor is a great way to not only promote your business but provide financial support to enhance programming and positively impact the community. Call the department for partnership opportunities: 860.228.8513



Thank you,

Anyka Fegan, Assistant Recreation Director ~ 860.228.8513; Recreation@columbiact.org

Office Location:

18 Lake Rd. (Murphy House at the Town Beach)
Columbia, CT 06237

Hours:

Monday - Wednesday: 8 am - 4 pm

Thursday: 8 am - 6 pm

Friday: 8 am - 12 pm

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



ZUMBA
With Martín.

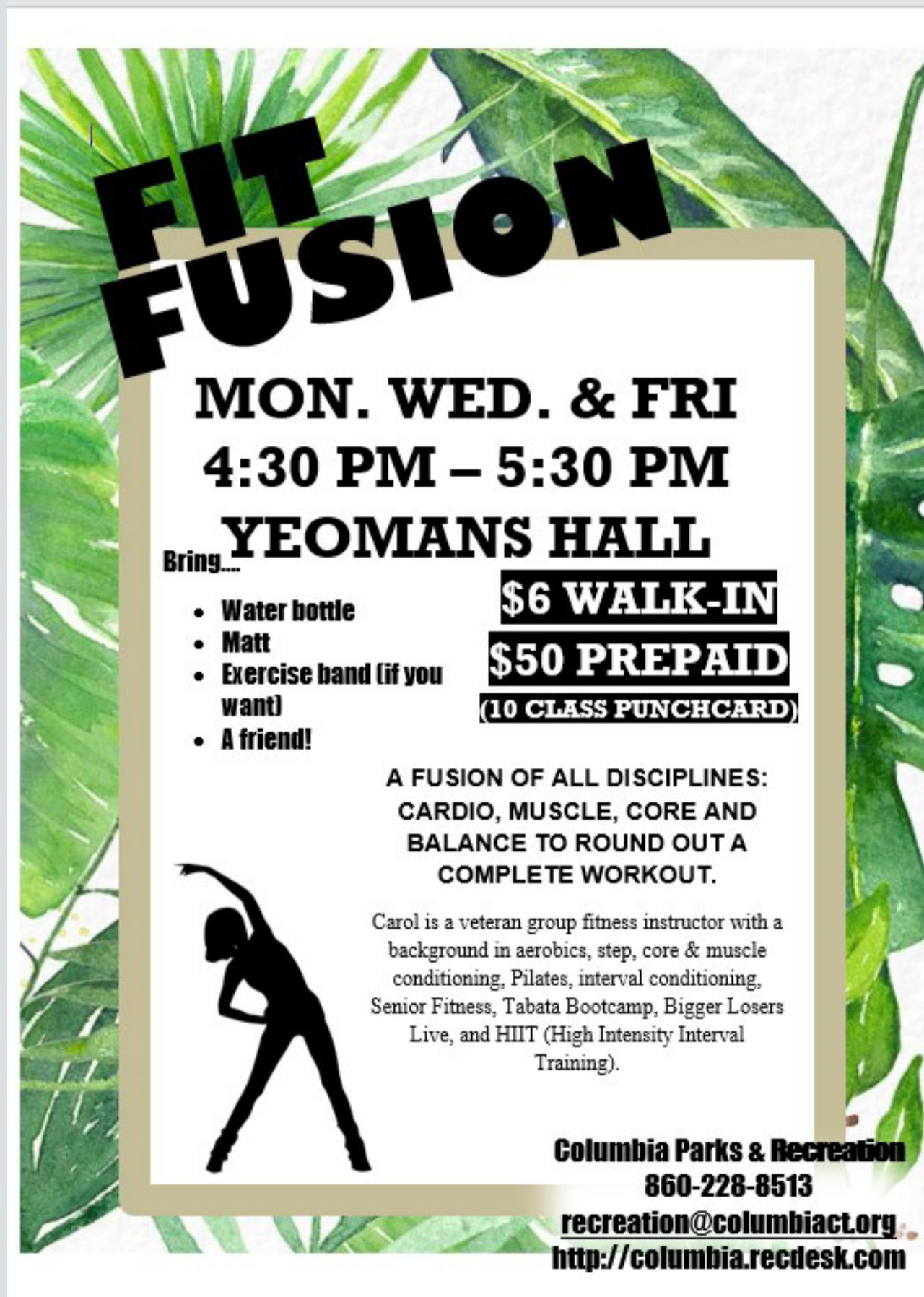
TUESDAY 7:00 PM

\$6 Per Class.
\$50 Ten Class Punch Card.
\$90 Twenty Class Punch Card.

Dance away with Zumba® and experience the exhilaration of Latin-inspired and globally-inspired beats while getting fit and staying active! All skill levels are invited and encouraged to join in the fun!

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



FIT FUSION

MON. WED. & FRI
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
YEOMANS HALL

Bring...

- Water bottle
- Matt
- Exercise band (if you want)
- A friend!

\$6 WALK-IN
\$50 PREPAID
(10 CLASS PUNCHCARD)

**A FUSION OF ALL DISCIPLINES:
CARDIO, MUSCLE, CORE AND
BALANCE TO ROUND OUT A
COMPLETE WORKOUT.**

Carol is a veteran group fitness instructor with a background in aerobics, step, core & muscle conditioning, Pilates, interval conditioning, Senior Fitness, Tabata Bootcamp, Bigger Losers Live, and HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training).

Columbia Parks & Recreation
860-228-8513
recreation@columbiact.org
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

You can view and pay taxes online. Service fees for tax payments are .95 cents to use a bank account and 2.99% for credit and debit cards.

To find your tax bills online:

- go to www.columbiact.org and click on the pay taxes online tab.
- on the next page click on the square that says view/pay tax bills.
- The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. last name, space, and your first initial.

You can also utilize this site to look up your payment history. Locate your bill using the instructions above, then hover over the icons in the option column and select 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. **Paying the tax bill online does not clear you immediately at DMV. You will need to contact the tax office during tax office hours for assistance.**

Carol Price, Tax Collector

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE: It is business as usual in the Clerk's office for all those services that you might need – Recording and Searching of Land Records, Marriage licenses, Certified copies of Vital Records, Fishing and Hunting licenses, Dog Licenses, Transfer Station stickers, etc.

For your convenience, there is a large white drop box 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.

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 Karen (atownclerk@columbiact.org). Happy Spring!!

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



325 Route 87
860 228 9306

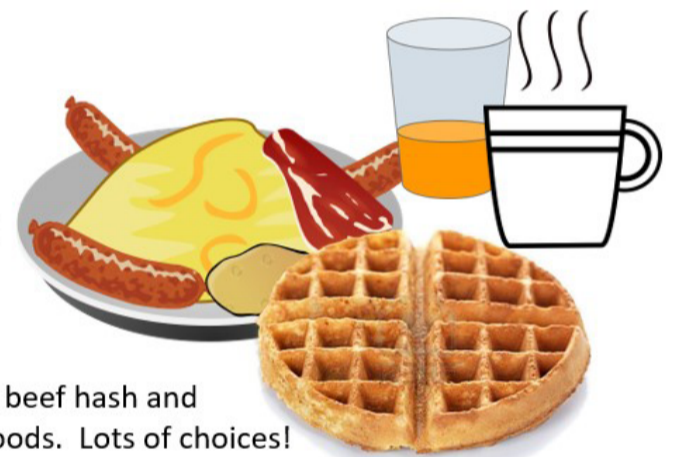


2nd Saturday
Community
Breakfasts
April 13 May 11 June 8



Share Food and Joy with
Family and Friends
7:30 AM to 10 AM

All you can eat; Special Rates for Families
with Children



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



325 Route 87
PO Box 177
Columbia, CT
06237

860 228 9306
ccchurch@snet.net

Columbiacongregational
church.org

Find us on Facebook and
on You Tube

WELCOME! APRIL HAPPENINGS



10 AM Sundays Worship Services with Rev. MaryAnn Purtill
Church School during the Service

Bible Study Thursdays 10:30 AM

2nd Saturday Community Breakfast
7:30 – 10 AM Saturday April 13th

Simple Sustenance
Corn Chowder & Molasses Brown Bread
order by April 21 pick up April 28

For details check out our webpage: Columbiacongregationalchurch.org

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CONTINUED):



Columbia
Congregational UCC
Small Church Big Heart

SIMPLE SUSTENANCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH

Order **CORN CHOWDER &
Molasses Brown Bread** to go!

ORDER and PAY BY **April 21st** & PICK UP **April 28th**
Pick up at **Columbia Congregational Church** after the service.
Drive-through Pick-up service **11:30-12:30 PM**

Order online at www.columbiacongregationalchurch.org
Or Pick Up An Order Form At Church



The profits from Simple Sustenance support both
the church and local charities.
Any questions? **Email us at CCChurchFair@gmail.com**




NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: The Columbia Historical Society will be having our Annual meeting on April 26th between 6:00pm and 9:00pm. It will be held at Yeomans Hall, 323 Rte. 87 in Columbia, CT. Potluck appetizers will be shared. We will be hosting Dr. Davis Leslie, who conducted the Ground Penetrating Radar and Magnetometry study on a portion of Columbia's Hop River property. Dr. Leslie will be making a short presentation of his findings followed by a Question and Answer session. Contact Judy Ortiz at 860 208-9881 if you have any questions.

COLUMBIA DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE: The Columbia Democratic Town Committee will be holding our annual Democrat of the Year on Sunday, April 28th between 11:00 and 1:30. It will be held at the Heartstone Winery, 468 RTE. 87 in Columbia, CT.

This year we will be honoring Leah Osborn. Leah and her family have lived in Columbia for 20 years. Leah has served on the Columbia Board of Education since January, 2022 and strives to advocate for the needs of Columbia's students, teachers and parents. She has been part of the Columbia Democratic Town Committee, the Columbia Community Garden and the Columbia Historical Society for several years. Leah led the planning committee for the first Columbia Civic Forum held last March which focused on Town Government. This year the committee is planning a forum that will focus on Key Democratic candidates running for office this fall.

We hope that you can find time to join us as we honor a Columbia Democrat. Please RSVP to me by April 24th, 2024 at above number or email. A donation of \$20.00 per person would be appreciated. You can purchase a ticket at the door or contact me to buy them in advance.

If you have any questions, please call Judy Ortiz at 860-208-9881.

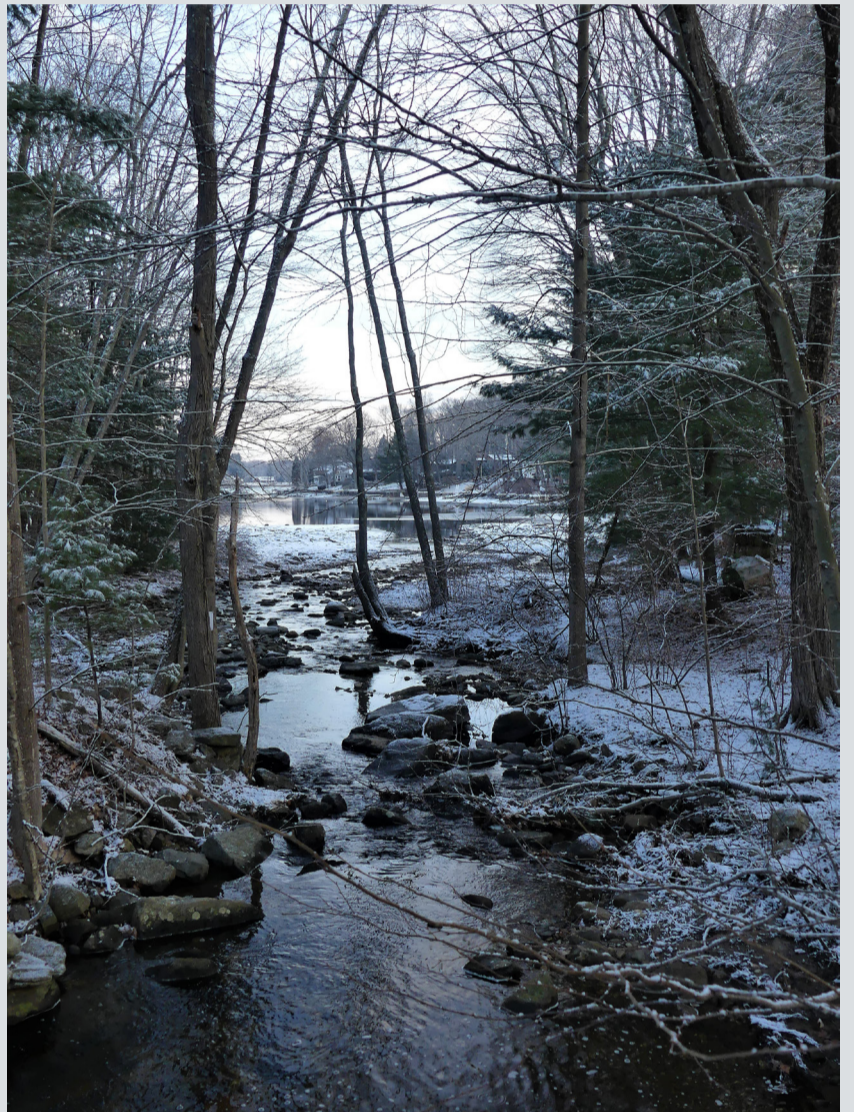
NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

JOSHUA'S TRUST: Join Joshua's Trust on any of the following APRIL guided walks. Weather may cancel these events, so be sure to visit [Joshua's Trust website](#) for details, changes and cancellations.

30 Trails in 30 Days Spring Challenge: Visit 30 Joshua's Trust properties over the course of the month and send an email to michelle.poudrette@joshuastrust.org, listing where you've been and when. Prizes to be announced. Participation in JT sponsored events (below) count towards your total.

Wednesday Walk at H.E. Preston Nature Sanctuary 4/3/24 9:00-10:00 AM. H.E. Preston Sanctuary, 843 CT-97, Hampton, CT: Join us for a slow saunter through field and forest. This one mile loop will take us through a large field, into the woods and down into the valley towards Little River before it heads back up and over the field again. Visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations.

Spring Mysteries in Bradley-Buchanan Woods, 4/6/24 9:00-10:30 AM, Bradley Buchanan Woods, 54 Warrentonville Road, Mansfield Center, CT: Join Master Naturalist, Deb Field for a guided walk in search of early spring blooms and vernal pool surprises. Note that we will meet at the parking lot just south of Mansfield Public Library and take the yellow trail from this point. Visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations.



Utley Creek: Photo Credit Paul Ramsey

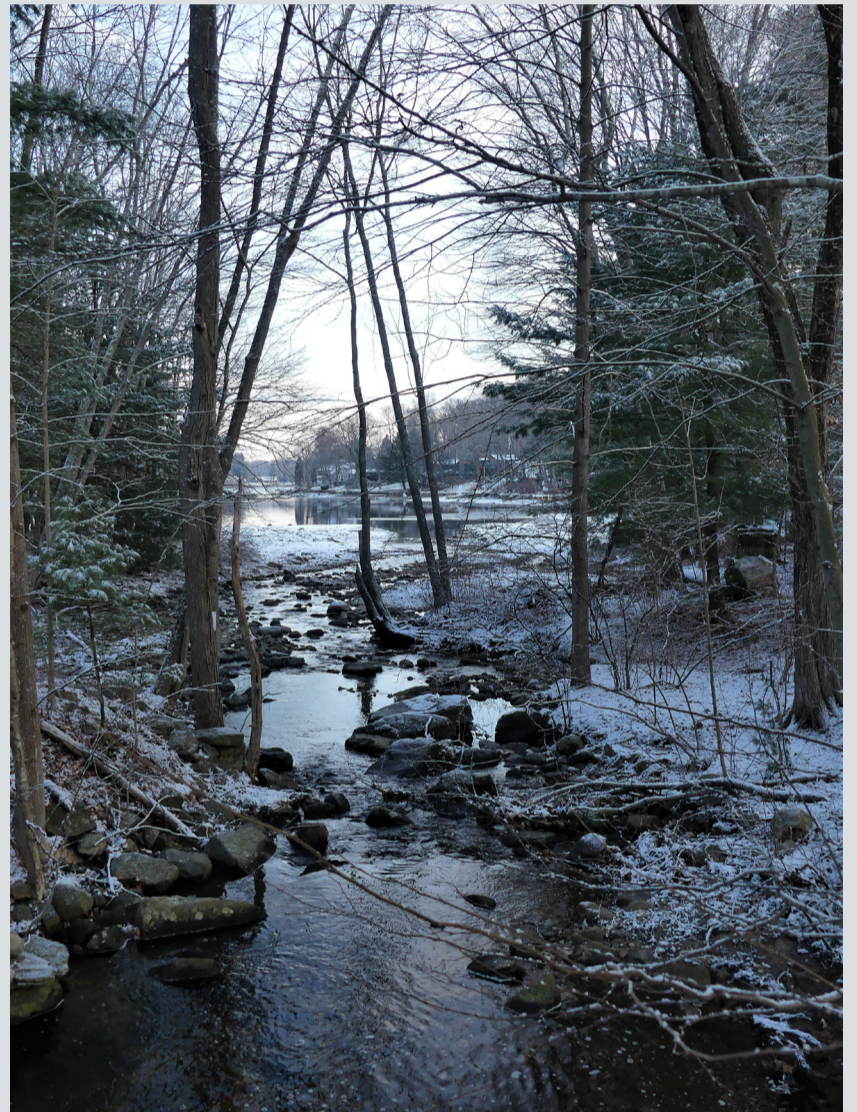
NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

JOSHUA'S TRUST: Join Joshua's Trust on any of the following APRIL guided walks. Weather may cancel these events, so be sure to visit [Joshua's Trust website](#) for details, changes and cancellations.

**Joshua's Trust Annual Meeting, 4/13/24
4:00 - 6:00 PM, Knowlton Hall, 25 Pompey
Hollow Rd, Ashford, CT:** Join Joshua's Trust staff, Board of Trustees, and friends to celebrate another great year of accomplishments in conservation. Our featured speaker is Landis Hudson, Executive Director of Maine Rivers, who will talk about their successful effort to bring Alewives back to China Lake. Visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations.

Wednesday Walk at Pigeon Swamp Preserve, 4/17/24 9:00 -10:30 AM, Pigeon Swamp Preserve, Pigeon Swamp Rd, Lebanon, CT. Join us for a 2.25 mile hike through multiple habitats including pasture, wetlands and forested areas. Visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations.

Water in Earthly Processes at the Gurleyville Grist Mill, 4/21/24 1:00 PM -2:30 PM, Gurleyville Grist Mill, Stone Mill Road, Mansfield, CT. For this Fourth Annual Earth Day Walk, Robert Thorson (<https://robertthorson.clas.uconn.edu/>) will combine a stream-side view of the Gurleyville Gristmill with a northerly hike along the crest of a glacial esker to help bring the power of flowing water in your head and heart. Visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations.

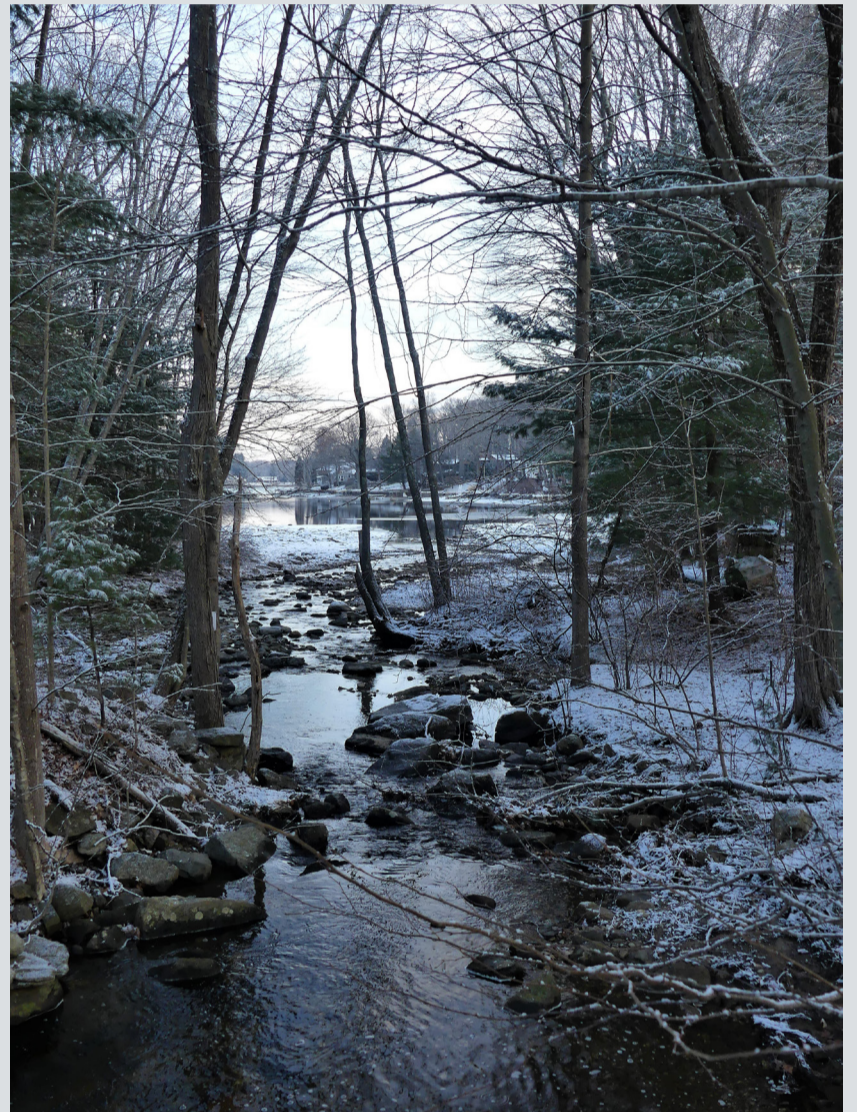


Utley Creek: Photo Credit Paul Ramsey

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

JOSHUA'S TRUST: Join Joshua's Trust on any of the following APRIL guided walks. Weather may cancel these events, so be sure to visit [Joshua's Trust website](#) for details, changes and cancellations.

**Mosses and Lichens of Northeast CT,
4/27/24 10:00-12:00 PM, Tobiassen Forest,
198 Noah Lane, Tolland, CT.** Join UConn professor, Bernard Goffinet, as he explores the mosses and lichens that inhabit Tolland's Tobiassen Forest. Visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations.



Utley Creek: Photo Credit Paul Ramsey

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA PTO:

ENTER TO WIN OVER 30+ PRIZES IN OUR 2024 HORACE W. PORTER PTO RAFFLE!

Simply visit <https://go.rallyup.com/bf8f12> to purchase tickets AND share this with family and friends!

Prizes for ALL!

Email horaceporterpto@gmail.com with questions

Horace W Porter is a 501c3 organization.

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA PTO:



**Family
FUN RUN**

SATURDAY, May 18th
From 12-1pm
At Horace W. Porter School

Color, Mud, Obstacles, Music,
Slushies, Foam and More!!!!

REGISTER NOW
horaceporterpto@gmail.com

\$10 per person
Pay at event or with PayPal:
porterptotreas@gmail.com

The PTO is a registered 501(c)3 organization

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA PTO:



NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA PTO:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD



Nominate someone and let them know....

**their time and effort goes a long way towards making
a big difference! We see You!**

**Please email your nominees to horaceporterpto@gmail.com. Eligible nominees' requirements:
Columbia resident/ business/ or involved in Columbia community. This person should have done
something extraordinary for the community and deserves recognition.**

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA PTO:

**RAFFLE
TICKETS**

Contest

Benefits HORACE W PORTER PTO

HUGE PRIZES!

DRAWING AT THE FUN RUN | **ON MAY 18, 2024**

Enter at <https://go.rallyup.com/bf8f12>

WIN
OVER 30+ PRIZES

ADMIT ONE
Ticket

**PRIZES
FOR
ALL!**

HORACE W PORTER PTO is a registered 501c3 organization
Contact horaceporterpto@gmail.com with questions

Made with PosterMyWall.com

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA PTO:

A flyer for a 'Ready Set GLOW!' event. The background is black with vibrant, glowing neon lines in shades of green, blue, and purple, along with bokeh light effects. The text is centered and uses various colors and fonts to create a festive and eye-catching design.

**Ready Set
GLOW!**

Horace W. Porter PTO Glow Party

May 31, 2024

\$10 PER PERSON

Food/DJ/ Photo booth/ Glow Merchandise Available For Purchase

◆ — • • ◆ • • — ◆

*From 7:00-9:00pm
Horace W. Porter School
RSVP: horaceporterpto@gmail.com
6th-8th Graders Only
HWP PTO is a registered 501c3
organization*