COLUMBIA





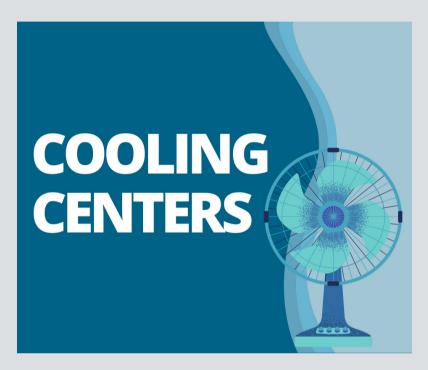
PHOTO CREDIT: RYAN HOPPER WWW.RYANHOPPER.COM

UPDATE AUGUST 2022



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

This summer we have been experiencing extreme heat. Below are some safety tips to ensure that everyone stays safe.



Anyone in need of a cooling center should call 2-1-1 or look online at **211ct.org** to find their nearest available location.

Although anyone can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others:

- Infants and young children are sensitive to the effects of high temperatures and rely on others to regulate their environments and provide adequate liquids.
- People 65 years of age or older may not compensate for heat stress efficiently and are less likely to sense and respond to change in temperature.
- People who are overweight may be prone to heat sickness because of their tendency to retain more body heat.
- People who overexert during work or exercise may become dehydrated and susceptible to heat sickness.
- People who are physically ill, especially those with heart disease or high blood pressure, or who take certain medications, such as for depression, insomnia, or poor circulation, may be affected by extreme heat.

Some prevention tips to stay safe in extreme heat include:

- Keep your body temperature cool to avoid heat-related illness.
- Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as possible. If you must be outdoors, try to limit your outdoor activity to the morning and evening. Try to rest often in shady areas so that your body has a chance to cool off.

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR CONTINUED

- Find an air-conditioned shelter. (Call 2-1-1 for a list of cooling centers.) Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device.
- Avoid direct sunlight.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Take cool showers or baths.
- Check on those most at-risk several times a day.
- Pets that cannot be brought indoors should be provided ready access to water and shade to keep them cool.
- Never leave pets inside of parked vehicles because temperatures can soar to lifethreatening levels within minutes.

Everyone is also reminded to stay hydrated during periods extreme heat. Because bodies lose fluid through sweat, dehydration is common while experiencing very high temperatures. It is strongly encouraged to:

- Drink more water than usual.
- Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more fluids.
- Drink two to four cups of water every hour while working or exercising outside.
- Avoid alcohol or liquids containing high amounts of sugar.
- Remind others to drink enough water.

RECREATION PARK: CELEBRATION POSTPONED: The Rec Park Celebration highlighting the various new projects has been postponed. Please check back for an update on the new date for the celebration on the Town of Columbia's <u>website</u> and <u>Facebook</u> page.

BRENDA JUDKINS RETIRES AFTER 43 YEARS!

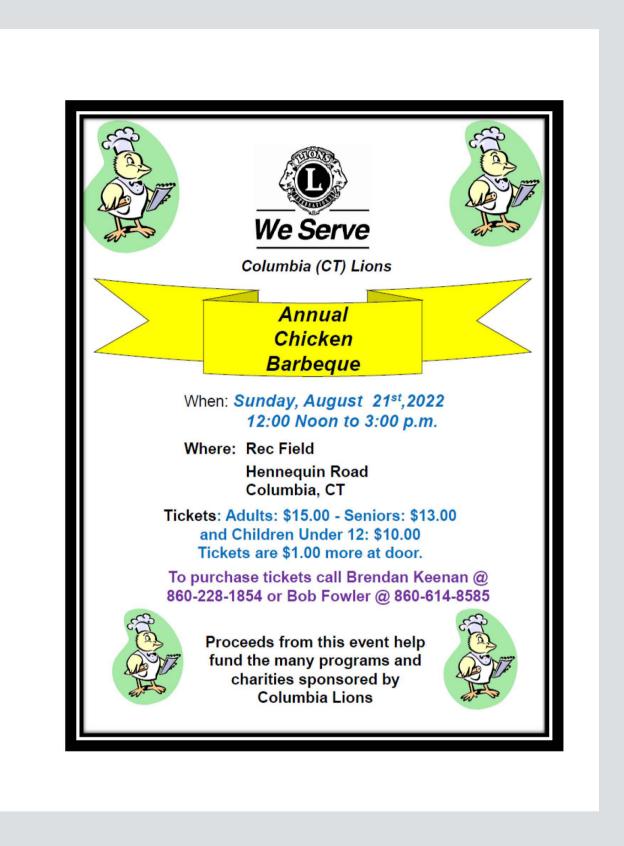
On July 8th, the Saxton B. Little Library's staff and friends gathered to say "Happy Retirement!" to long-time volunteer, Brenda Judkins. Brenda served the Library for 43 years, longer than any staff member. She started working at the Library when she was only 18. She worked in what's now the History Place twice! Brenda soldiered through two renovation projects and two library relocations, but no matter the circumstance, she faced every challenged with optimism. She was a colleague and a friend to Library staff, never forgetting a birthday and brightening our day. Her dedication to our Library and community was unparalleled. Outside of the Library, Brenda is a talented artist and crafts-person! While we will miss Brenda, we are all excited to see what great things she will do in retirement and look forward to her visits.

THIRD ANNUAL SWIM FOR SOUP: August 13th at 6:45 am at Columbia Lake: James Young will be swimming the entire Columbia Lake which is approximately 4 miles. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Town of Columbia Food bank. To donate please make a check out to the Town of Columbia, 323 Route 87, Columbia CT 06237. Donations can also be made online through our RecDesk program. Click here for the link, scroll down through the programs and choose Swim for Soup.





COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB CHICKEN BARBECUE: Don't forget the Columbia Lions Barbecue scheduled for August 21st, from 12pm to 3pm at Rec Field.



BROADBRAND CONNECTIVITY: Just a reminder the survey to promote the 2022 **Connecticut Conference of Municipalities**Broadband Connectivity is still open. Your input will help guide federal investments in more reliable Internet access for Connecticut's residents. Please complete this very brief **survey** from your home network today!



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. For more information, visit CCM's website.

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.

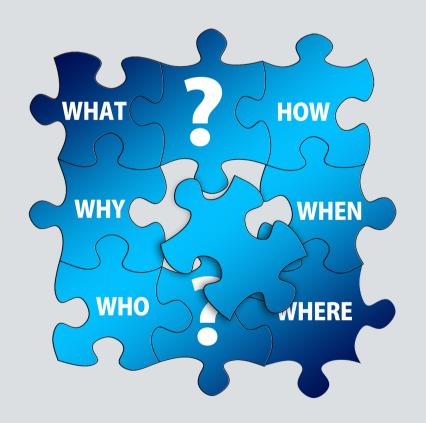
EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS: To receive Town news please go to the Town's website and click on the **Email Notifications** tab.

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 323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237 860-228-0110





UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Many meetings will be held by utilizing remote access; however, some meetings are being held in-person. Please check the Town calendar and the Agenda posted for directions on login information if virtual, or the meeting location if in person. 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.

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

8/01/22 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses, 7:00 PM
8/01/22 Mon: Board of Education, 7:30 PM
8/02/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
8/03/22 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
8/08/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM (CANCELLED)
8/09/22 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
8/09/22 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM
8/16/22 Tue: Special Town Meeting, 6:45 PM (Adella G.Urban Conference Room)
8/16/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
8/17/22 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
8/18/22 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
8/22/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

8/25/22 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM (CANCELLED)

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).

ASSESSORS OFFICE:

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 the Town's website under the Departments tab, click the Assessor's Office and click on 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 Lavallee, Assessor Town of Columbia Assessor's Office 323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER: Katie Wilt, the Community Social Services Coordinator, hosted a presentation on August 19 at 11:00 a.m. This is the presentation of the "More you Know," Wellness Series for Seniors. The discussion aims to educate, connect, and support our community's mental and physical health. Please join us for this informative presentation.

Please stop by the Beckish Senior Center to view the works of Russ Haddad, a Columbia resident photographer. Russ's works will be on display in the month of August. A reception will be held on August 7, 2022, from 2pm to 5pm.

Andrea Deedy, a TVCCA Registered Dietitian will be at the center on August 17 at 12pm to for a discussion on to distinguish healthy eating plans and fad diets.

Art classes are every Monday from 1pm to 3pm.

AARP will be at the center on August 24 from 9am to 1pm for the "Smart Driver Class". Please sign up!

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER CONTINUED:

Please check the **Beckish Newsletter**, **The Gem**, for all activities and trip details.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Summer!

Bernadette Derring

Director Senior Services & Transportation

BUILDING AND LAND USE DEPARTMENT: We are happy to announce the arrival of our new **on-line 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 on-line 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 Yeoman's Hall entrance. Please keep in mind that applications cannot 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 on-line system.

MARINE PATROL: The mission of the Marine Patrol Unit 's goal is to promote safety for recreational boating on Columbia Lake by conducting regular safety inspections of recreational vessels. Inspections are completed to ensure proper safety equipment, compliance with boating regulations and licensing and to educate boaters while promoting safety on the water. The Marine Patrol is observant of boating violations that hold the potential to cause a hazard or danger to others using the water.

2022 MARINE PATROL SCHEDULE

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

MARINE PATROL NUMBER 860-256-9720

Please call the Marine Patrol number if assistance is needed for boating violations or to assist operators with disabled watercrafts at 860-256-9720.

If there is an emergency, please call 911.

The Marine Patrol is on duty: weekends from 11:00 am to 8:30 pm and on weekdays 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

If you need assistance with the Gate or have questions regarding the town beach, please contact the Recreation Department at 860-228-8513.

PUBLIC WORKS - TRANSFER STATION: Below is a list compiled by John Ciurylo-Transfer Station Attendant, that will help residents navigate and understand the rules of the Columbia Transfer Station.

General Conduct:

- Driving safety and vehicle awareness:
 - Drivers must stop at the stop sign when entering the facilities.
 - Drivers must watch out for pedestrians and other vehicles while driving.
 - No speeding while driving around the facilities.
- The attendants should always be informed when visitors have anything other than household trash and recycling.
- If there are any questions about where something goes, what to do, or how to do it, then the attendants are available to answer questions and to provide directions.
- Visitors should pay attention to the signs located around the facility as the signs explain where to go and what to do in order to effectively make use of the facility

Household Trash and Single Stream Recycling Compactors:

- Only household trash and single stream recycling belong in the compactors.
- Construction debris and furniture are considered "bulky waste".
- Trash bags should be carried and placed into the compactor chutes, not thrown from a distance.
- To prevent rips and spills, trash bags should not be overloaded.
- No resident shall climb on fencing or enter the compactors and their chutes.

Compost Pile:

- Only soft vegetation without wood should be placed in the compost pile.
- Garbage, trash, and other inorganic items do not belong in the compost pile

PUBLIC WORKS - TRANSFER STATION CONTINUED:

BulkyWaste, Scrap Metal, and Cardboard Dumpsters:

- The dumpsters are labelled with signs to indicate what belongs in them.
- Specific items should not be deposited anywhere other than where they belong:
 - Nonmetal items should not be deposited into the metal dumpster.
 - □ Electronics and other electrical items have their own container.
 - Large household appliances belong in the metal dumpster, but appliances containing freon, such as refrigerators, have their own designated area.
- Items meant for any of the dumpsters should not contain oil or fuel.
- The attendants can provide directions for where to go and which dumpster to use. These instructions must be followed without exception.

Swap Shop:

- Items should be in good, usable condition for donation; meaning that they must be clean, unbroken, with a complete set, etc.
- Health and safety guidelines for items are posted on signs located on or nearby the swap shop and should be followed.
- No items with unknown history, prescriptions, or for personal use, such as medical equipment, toiletries, etc. are allowed in the swap shop.

Bottles-and-Cans Bin - To help the Boy Scouts:

- Some items are not returnable for profit, such as wine bottles, Gatorade, Minute Maid,
 Arizona, etc., and should be recycled instead.
- Donations must be clean, unbroken, returnable and secured in bags.
- No items other than bottles or cans should be deposited in the bin.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Please note that the Parks and Recreation Department is now located at the Murphy House at Columbia Lake. Follow us on FaceBook and Instagram!

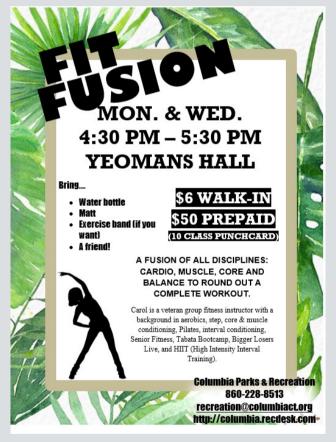
UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS ON-LINE AT RECDESK.

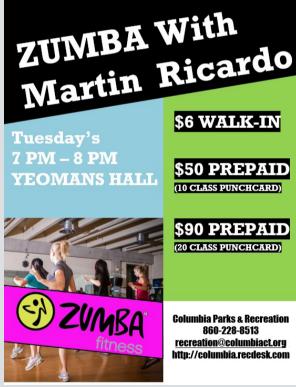
EXERCISE PROGRAMS held at Yeoman's Hall.

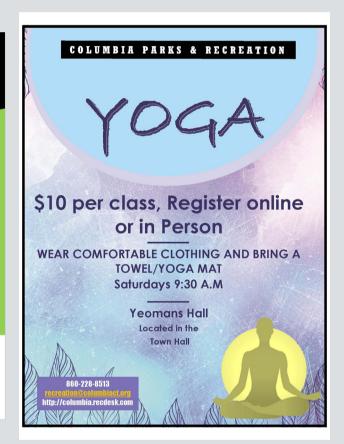
Fit Fusion: Monday/Wednesday, 4:30-5:30pm in Yeoman's Hall

Yoga: Thursday, 6pm to 7pm in Yeoman's Hall **Zumba:** Tuesday, 7pm to 8pm in Yeoman's Hall

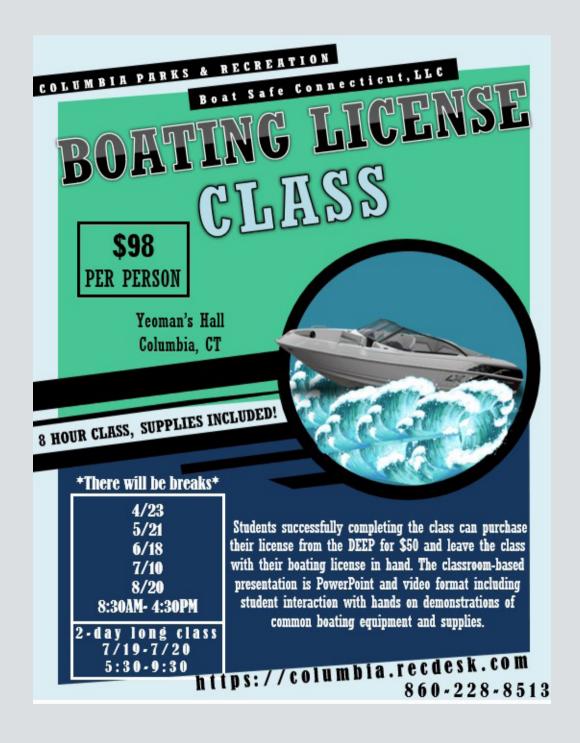
For all exercise classes we have a max capacity of 12 people per a class. Due to this we are asking those who wish to attend to email ahead to reserve a spot recdirector@columbiact.org. Walk-ins will be accepted if the class is not already at capacity.







RECREATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUED:



SOCIAL SERVICES:

MyHomeCT Program: Homeowners who have suffered a financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for mortgage assistance and other qualified expenses such as real estate taxes. Households must meet income eligibility. For more information visit the **CHFA website**.

iHealth COVID-19 test kits can be found here: https://ihealthlabs.com/pages/news. To check the extended expiration dates issued by the FDA please visit the <u>FDA website</u>.

For questions and resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Katie Wilt [she/her/hers] | Community Social Services

Coordinator

Direct phone line: 860.228.1008

Email: kwilt@columbiact.org

(Typical office hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm)



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS: 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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Reminder: the Library is closed on Saturdays through Labor Day. We will return to Saturday hours on September 10th.

Beyond the Beaten Path, our Summer Reading Program for both kids is winding down. Still, kids be sure to register to learn the ukulele on Friday August 5th (Ukes provided!) Stop by this week to see the baby chicks before they go home to the farm, and be sure to register for us for our end of program celebration with a magic show and ice cream truck visit!

Our summer reading program has been made possible by grants from the Savings Bank of Manchester Foundation and Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

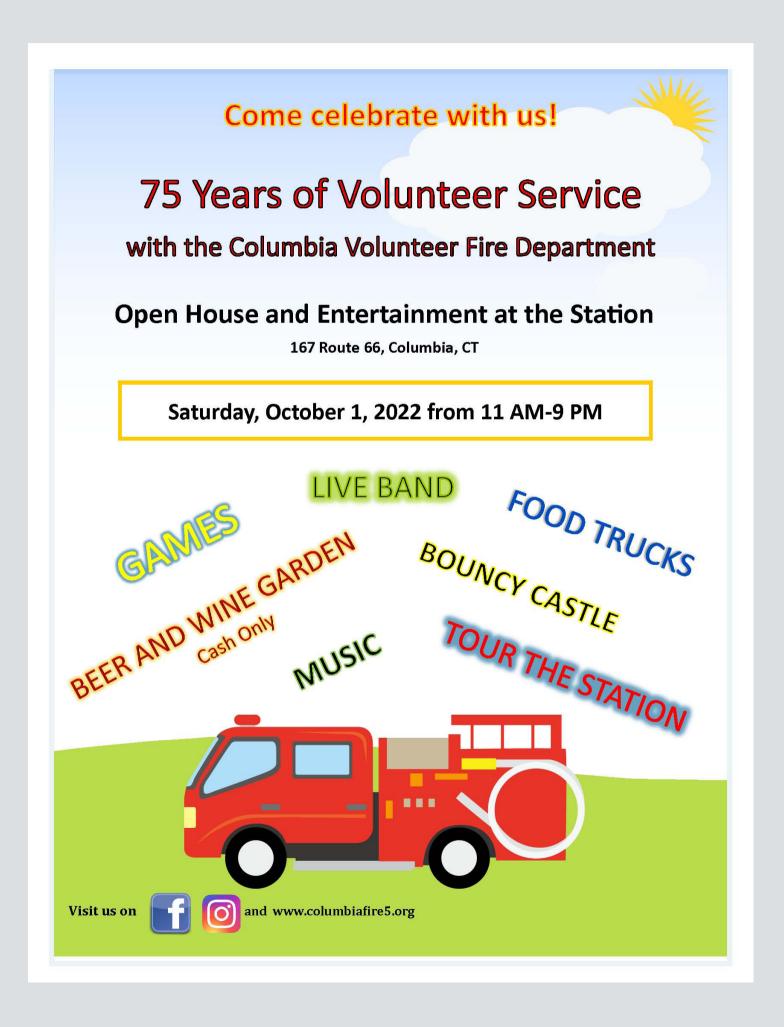
Story times are taking place Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am. Baby Bees are continuing Friday mornings at 10:30, both taking place outside as weather permits. For Summer Reading, look for story times at Rec Park.

We ask that you sign up for Friday Movies. And don't forget to ask for this month's spice, and join us on August 22nd for Spice Club.

To sign up for a program or get more information, visit our website at: www.columbiactlibrary.org. Call us: (860) 228-0350 or email: SBL@columbiactlibrary.org.

Sue Epstein, Library Director

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:



COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT: EMT's and Firefighters Needed!



REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS: Community

members can help the volunteers who respond to calls by clearly marking your house number in a visible manner on the street. The CVFD makes and sells reflective house number signs that help us quickly and easily identify your house; this often saves precious time. To order the Reflective Address Markers please go to the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department's web-page at www.columbiafire5.org and download the printable form or you can fill out the electronic form on-line. The price is \$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.



COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB CONTINUED:



COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

Celebrating 300+ Years

Columbia Congregational Church & "Lebanon Crank"

Sunday September 25, 2022

1:15 PM

The Occom Garden Plaque Blessing Ceremony

hosted by The Columbia Historical Society

Located behind the Moor's Charity Indian School and Columbia Congregational Church

2:00 PM

Free Community Concert

United States Coast Guard Brass Quintet



Columbia Congregational Church

325 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Rt. 87

Featuring a variety of music favorites
Plus the *premiere performance* of

REV. OCCOM'S TUNE: Modal Rhapsody for BRASS QUINTET composed by Samson Occom (1723 -1792) and Gabriel Kastelle (2020)

Refreshment reception follows the concert ~ all are cordially invited!

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:



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

Saturday, September 17th 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.

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 Ramzphto@gmail.com.

