

COLUMBIA



PHOTO CREDIT: NANCY MILLERD

UPDATE DECEMBER 2021



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED - PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING
FOR A COMMISSION OR A COMMITTEE!**

Involvement on our committees/commissions is important to the vitality and success of local government. All of us should consider contributing our own talents to our community. It takes more than living in a community to be part of it. Our town needs volunteers to face the challenges of the future while maintaining the quality of life that we all enjoy. Please take time to share your services with others.



Listed below are the (Appointed) Commission/Committee with some general information.

- Commission on Aging, Municipal Agent for the Elderly (CONA): The Selectmen shall appoint a maximum of seven (7) members to the Commission on Aging.
- Conservation and Agriculture Commission: There shall be a maximum of seven (7) members appointed to the Conservation and Agriculture Commission.
- Economic Development Commission (EDC): There shall be an Economic Development Commission consisting of a maximum of seven (7) members appointed for four-year terms with appointments equaling the number of members whose terms are expiring to be made after each biennial election so that staggered terms are maintained.
- Inland Wetlands Commission: There shall be an Inland Wetlands Commission consisting of seven (7) members, who shall serve staggered four-year terms, and two (2) alternates, who shall serve two-year terms. After each biennial Town election, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint a member, for a term of four years, to succeed each member whose term shall expire and shall appoint the two (2) alternates.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN



- Lake Management Advisory Commission (LMAC): There shall be a Lake Management Advisory Commission consisting of a maximum of eleven (11) members. In addition, the President of the Columbia Lake Association shall be a voting member of this Commission during the President's term of office. The Commission shall be responsible for preparing and presenting recommendations to the Board of Selectmen concerning the management of Columbia Lake, its watershed and adjacent Town-owned property.
- Open Space Committee: The Open Space Committee shall consist of a maximum of seven (7) members. The committee shall meet periodically, but not less frequently than quarterly with one such meeting being in January of each year. It shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for acquisition of open space and other proper uses of the Land Acquisition Fund as defined in the applicable town ordinance(s).
- Recreation Commission: The Recreation Commission shall consist of a maximum of seven (7) members who shall serve staggered four-year terms in a manner consistent with the applicable town ordinance(s). The Commission shall meet at least quarterly.

Please see the link to the [Boards and Commissions tab](#) for further information and for the [Volunteer Application](#).

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact the Town Administration Office, 860-228-0110. Return your completed Application to the Administration Office, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT. 06237.

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett
323 Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237
severett@columbiact.org
860-228-0110

TOWN OF COLUMBIA



OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Columbia is participating in the development of a Regional 12 Town Airline State Park Trail Master Plan. This plan will guide the town toward regional cooperation to

maximize economic growth from the trail and efficiency in cost sharing for maintenance. The goal is to encourage visitors to the regional trail system and enjoy our town businesses. **The town is seeking TWO RESIDENT OR BUSINESS OWNERS to participate in a future Airline Trail Regional committee to help guide regional collaboration and work with CTDEEP to provide an optimal user experience and guide cost effective implementation of recommendations within the master plan.**



For more information about the plan, visit <https://ctracd.org/airlinetrail/> or email Jeanne Davies jdavies@CTRACD.org to join a project committee where you will learn more as the build the plan.



The Town of Columbia is looking to fill several positions. See the following page for more information.

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.

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator
323 Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237
860-228-0110

The Town of Columbia

**WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR...**

Board Clerk

Floater

Per-Diem Van Driver

Back-up Site Server

Transfer Station Attendant

For more information,
visit www.columbiact.org

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

Please click [here](#) for job description.

Please click [here](#) for application. Applications and resumes can be sent to the Town Administrator's Office at 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237, or via email at townadministrator@columbiact.org. If you have any questions please contact

860-228-0110.

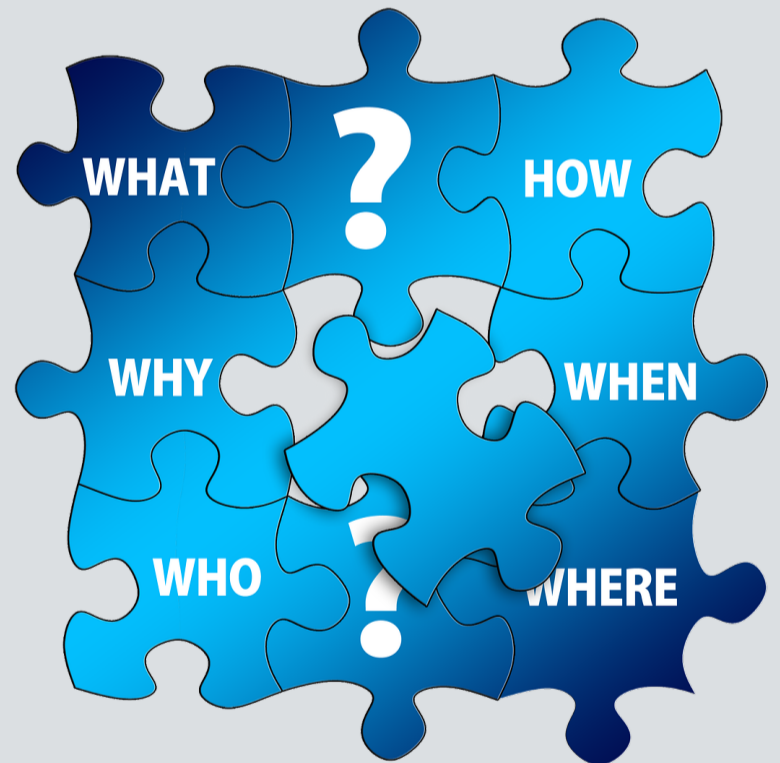
**Town Offices
closed for the Christmas Holiday
and for New Year.**

**Thursday, December 24th and
Friday December 25th and
Thursday December 30th and
Friday December 31st**



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.



Find us on 

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TREE MAINTENANCE: As many of you are noticing the DOT is pruning, removing or trimming trees along Rte. 66. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is responsible for the maintenance of all state-owned roads and highways in Connecticut and it is the Department's primary mission to keep the infrastructure safe for motorists and efficient for the movement of people, goods and commerce. To this end, it is the Department's duty to prune, remove or trim - dead, dying, decaying or otherwise compromised trees and vegetation in the state-owned right-of-way such as the shoulder area and center-median of highways, roadways and ramps. The CTDOT employs tree wardens in each of their four districts who report to a State Licensed Arborist. These employees are experts in identifying dead, dying, decaying trees and establishing tree management priorities along Connecticut state roadways.

The maintenance of shade trees and other vegetation on state roads and highways falls within Connecticut General Statute 13a-140. The statute grants the Commissioner of Transportation the authority to cut, remove or prune any tree, shrub or other vegetation located within the highway right-of-way, whenever necessary, for the safe convenient travel by the public.

Tree pruning and removal, as well as vegetation removal is typically a routine and day-to-day activity for the Department, but following Tropical Storm Irene and the 2011 October Snow Storm, Governor Malloy put together a Two Storm Panel to assess the state's response to the two devastating storms on how the state can better prepare for future disasters. The Two Storm Panel report recommended increasing Connecticut Department of Transportation Tree Maintenance Budget for trimming and removing dead, dying and structurally impaired trees at an accelerated rate. Trees being removed have been positively identified as a potential hazard to the traveling public. Removals also include trees and brush that obscure sight-lines or have the potential to fall on the state roadways.

Additionally, the Department is removing trees and brush, healthy and unhealthy that exists within the "clear zone." The "clear zone" is an unobstructed area beyond the edge of the roadway that provides an unencumbered, impact-free buffer or clear area for errant vehicles that unintentionally exit the roadway travel surface. Clear Zone on all major highways with design speeds of 60 mph is 30 feet plus.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TREE MAINTENANCE Continued:

Removal of overhead trees and vegetation also increases sunlight onto road surfaces which in turn, raises pavement temperatures. During winter storms this increase in road surface temperatures has been proven to accelerate improved road conditions, as well as to reduce labor costs, equipment costs and the amount of winter deicing materials used.

The Department is completely committed to the safety of the motoring public and the efficiency of our transportation network. At the same time, the Department understands the aesthetic and environmental value of healthy vegetation and trees. As such, the Department will continue to make reasonable efforts to preserve trees and aesthetic appeal if safety and/or efficiency will not be compromised by doing so.

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

- 12/01/21 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Commission (LMAC), 7:00 PM
- 12/02/21 Thur: Conservation & Agriculture Commission, 7:00 PM
- 12/02/21 Thur: Recreation Commission, 6:00 PM
- 12/06/21 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 12/06/21 Mon: Board of Education, Porter Cafeteria, 7:30 PM
- 12/07/21 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 12/08/21 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 5:30 (H.W. Porter Conference Room)
- 12/13/21 Mon: Planning and Zoning Commission - Public Hearing, 7:00 PM
- 12/15/21 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 12/16/21 Thur: Open Space Commission, 8:00 AM
- 12/21/21 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 12/22/21 Wed: Commission on Aging, 9:00AM
- 12/23/21 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM
- 12/27/21 Mon: Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00PM

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

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER:

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM

When it comes to seniors, digital comfort can be a difficult business. It is believed that many seniors cannot learn modern technologies, although as it turns out this is far from the truth. Evidence shows that seniors readily learn and implement new technologies when a device or service is demonstrated to have immediate importance.

The Beckish Senior Center is dedicated to teaching our seniors the new age technology, to help them adapt and communicate as our digital access grows. Educational training could not be done without the generous donations from Spectrum Communications. Spectrum is donating \$2500 and 10 chrome books to the Beckish Senior Center to be used for our digital literacy program. Our program will have computer classes twice a month throughout the new year! More information on classes will follow in January 2022. Be sure to check our page on the Columbia Town [website](#).

We would like to invite everyone to join us at the Beckish Senior Center on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 12:00pm. The events will be as follows:

TVCCA Lunch at 12 noon – please sign up by Wednesday Dec 8th for lunch. The menu Pork Stir Fry, Steamed Rice, Asian Vegetable Blend and Mandarin Oranges.

Speakers at 12:20pm: Spectrum announcement and special guest speakers, State Representative, Tim Ackert and Senator, Cathy Osten; First Selectman, Steven Everett and Town Administrator, Mark Walter.

First Digital Education Intro at 1pm: We will have our first Digital Education Introduction, and everyone is welcome.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone come out to celebrate this special moment with us! Please mark your calendars and make sure to sign up for lunch by **December 8th at 12 noon to reserve your lunch**. If you cannot make the lunch, you may join us just for the presentation and workshop as well.

Sincerely,

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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER CONTINUED: MOBILE FOODSHARE: Held at the Beckish Senior Center 188 Route 66, Columbia EVERY OTHER THURSDAY - Rain, Snow or Shine From 1:00 PM TO 1:30 PM

Dec 2nd, Dec 16th, Dec 30th, Jan 13th , Jan 27th, Feb 10th, Feb 24th, Mar 10th

NOTE CHANGE: PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR , SAFELY GET IN LINE ALONG SIDEWALK TO PICK UP YOUR FOOD AT THE TRUCK. BRING YOUR OWN BAGS.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME—NO PERSONAL INFO REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

SNOW REMOVAL RULES:

- Make sure that your roadside trash bins stay on private property and do not venture out into the road. The town is not liable for any damage as a result of bins that get damaged by passing traffic.
- Refrain from plowing and blowing snow into or across roadways or onto town rights-of-way. Doing so creates unsafe conditions for drivers and vehicles.
- Refrain from parking in town roadways or in Municipal and School Parking lots during snow events.
- Refrain from using snowmobiles, using all-terrain vehicles and engaging in snow skiing on town roadways.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

MAILBOXES: Please check your mailboxes before the winter snow plowing operation begins. The town's policy is that if the snowplow itself hits the mailbox it would be repaired, replaced, or offer the resident a check for \$25.00 toward its replacement. Replacement will occur after the winter season and subject to Department of Public Works schedule. However, if the snow that is discharged from the snowplow knocks down your mailbox the Public Works Department will not repair or replace it as determined by the Director of Public Works.

SAND: Free sand (up to 2 five-gallon containers) is available to residents during the winter months located behind the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station. Residents must provide their own container for the sand. Transfer Station is open on Wednesday's and Saturday's from 8:00-4:00 pm.

THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA INVITES BIDS FOR THE SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

The Town of Columbia invites bids for the sale of surplus vehicles and equipment. Specifications are listed below or are available in the Town Administrator's Office or by calling (860) 228-0110.

Said bid must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked **SURPLUS AUCTION BID ENCLOSED.** Mail to the Town Administrator, Town of Columbia, 323 Rt 87, Columbia, CT 06237.

All sealed bids will be accepted at the Selectman's office until **2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 20, 2021** and will be opened at that time and date. No FAX bids will be accepted.

The Town of Columbia reserves the right to waive any informalities or defects in any bid. The Town reserves the right to accept other than the highest bid if the Board of Selectmen, in its sole discretion, deems it to be in the best interest of the Town to do so. Bids, amendments to bids or withdrawal of bids after the time set for bid acceptance will not be considered. The list of equipment is on the following page.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONTINUED:

LIST OF EQUIPMENT

- 2002 Red F250 Pickup Truck
- 2003 Silver F350 Pickup Truck (no catalytic converter)
- 2005 Peterbuilt 335 Dump Truck
- 1990 Viking Snow Plow
- 1995 Root Snow Plow
- Steam Pressure Washer
- 1993 Scag Zero Turn Mower
- 1,000 Gallon Fuel Tank
- 600 Gallon Portable Gas Tank
- 600 Gallon Portable Gas Tank
- Miscellaneous Black Rod Iron Fencing
- Commercial 6' Vulcan propane stove. 6 burner/griddle, double oven

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES: You may qualify for help towards your heating bills this year, even if you did not qualify in the past. New this year, there is **NO ASSET LIMIT FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE!** This program is available to all heating customers (electric heat, gas heat, oil, kerosene, etc). Households with heat included in their rent may also qualify. Funds may be available for furnace repair, clean, tune and tests!

INCOME ELIGIBILITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

Household of 1: \$39,027

Household of 2: \$51,035

Household of 3: \$63,044

Household of 4: \$75,052

Household of 5: \$87,060

Household of 6: \$99,069

(Households must provide proof of recent income for all household members.)

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:

TO APPLY: In person or by phone by calling access agency for an appointment at 860-450-7400. Applications are being accepted now through may 31, 2022 (fuel deliveries end on may 2, 2022). For questions, guidance, or more information please contact me at 860-228-1008. (Town of Columbia also has a fuel bank for emergencies.)

There are also Holiday Programs for families in need available in the community. If your family is having financial difficulty this Holiday season, please reach out to me to see how we can support your family during a challenging time.

I can also be contacted to:

- Talk with a social worker
- Receive guidance/advocacy with eligibility/benefits/energy needs
- Learn about what programs you may qualify for
- Get referrals to appropriate programs/services

My typical office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Contact me by phone at 860-228-1008 or email at kwilt@columbiact.org.

Sincerely,

Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: The Homeowners program will start accepting applications again as of February 1, 2022. If you are already in the program, you will receive a letter from us reminding you to file. If you are not already in the program you will need to bring a copy of your 1040 income tax forms for 2021 to our office, once they are completed, or all your income information if you do not file income taxes. We cannot accept paperwork before February 1st. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 860-228-9555.

The revaluation notices are coming out in December. If you want to dispute or discuss your value, please make an appointment with eQuality immediately after you get your notice. Their number will be in the letter that is sent to you with the new value. You will book and informal hearing with them. Please do not delay as we have a small window of time to get values set for the next Grand List. We cannot extend the time per State statute.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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 [ONLINE AT RECDESK](#).

Marc Volza, Director of Parks & Recreation
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT, 06237
recreation@columbiact.org or 860-228-8513

HOURS: Mon-Wed: 8am-4pm, Thurs: 8am-7pm



FIT FUSION

MON. & WED.

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>


ZUMBA With Martin Ricardo

**Tuesday's
7 PM – 8 PM
YEOMANS HALL**

\$6 WALK-IN

**\$50 PREPAID
(10 CLASS PUNCHCARD)**

**\$90 PREPAID
(20 CLASS PUNCHCARD)**



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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX DEPARTMENT: Don't forget!! The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2022. The last day to pay without a penalty is February 1, 2022. If taxes are not paid on or before February 1, 2022 interest will be charged at the rate of 1½% per month (18% per year) from the due date of January 1st. The minimum interest charged is \$2.00 (per vehicle). Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or interest per CT State Statute. Bills are not sent for this second installment, please put a reminder on your calendar!

Regular office hours for the TAX OFFICE: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and closed on Friday. In December town offices are closed on the December 23rd , 26th, and 30th and January 1st for the Holidays.

The Tax Office has extended hours during the tax collection month of **January and February 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 put in the drop box **after** 8:00AM will be processed the next day the **Tax Office** is open.

You can view and pay taxes online. Service fees for tax payments are, .95 cents to use a bank account and 2.95% for credit and debit cards.

To find your tax bills online:

- Go to www.columbiact.org and click on the pay taxes online tab.
- 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.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE CONTINUED: 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 the tax office hours for assistance.**

Happy Holidays!

Carol Price, Tax Collector

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE: The Town Clerk's office is fully open to the public – no appointment necessary. We are here for those services you might need – Recording and Searching of Land Records, Dog Licenses, Transfer Station stickers, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage licenses, Fishing and Hunting licenses, etc.

Due to the continuing pandemic, the need for social distancing and for your convenience, a large white drop box was installed outside the doors to Yeoman's Hall. This box can be used to drop off items for the Town Clerk and is shared with other offices in Town Hall. Masks are required to enter Town Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us or reach out to us by email – Robin Kenefick, Town Clerk (townclerk@columbiact.org) or Gail McGrath, Assistant Town Clerk (atownclerk@columbiact.org).

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

FIRE MARSHAL:

GENERATORS: Owning a home generator is almost a modern-day necessity in order to provide backup power to operate our homes during outages. To safely operate your generator, it is extremely important to follow all of the manufactures instructions for installation, operation, and maintenance. Typically, generators are run outside in open air and away from your house. This will ensure that the generator runs at the proper temperature and the exhaust does not enter your residence. Never refuel a generator while it is running or if the exhaust or engine is hot. Also, do not leave the generator running if no one is available to monitor its operation.

Having working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are always essential, especially when operating a generator. The manufacture date on the alarms should be checked to ensure that they are less than 10 years old. If older than 10 years, replace the entire device, as the sensitivity diminishes in these alarms over time. Batteries for these alarms should also be checked and changed on a regular basis.

Mike Lester

Fire Marshal

Town of Columbia

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Please Note - The Saxton B. Little Library will be returning to our fine structure January 1, 2022. No fines are being charged between now and then. Please return any long over due items this month to avoid any costs. Long over due items not returned by January 1st, will be billed for replacement.

We would like to remind all: Masks are required by everyone in the public spaces of the Library. If someone does not wish to wear a mask, we remind all that Curbside service is still available.

Story time and Baby Bees have resumed via Zoom. Call or stop in the Library for a standing Zoom code.

WISHING EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Library will be closed: Friday December 24, 2021 & Saturday December 25, 2021 & Friday December 31, 2021 & Saturday January 1, 2022

To sign up for a program or get more information, contact the Library at (860.228.0350) or email us or check our [website](#) for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sue Epstein, Library Director

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

AHM SERVICES: 25 Pendleton Drive Hebron, CT 06248. Phone (860) 228-9488. Fax (860) 228-1213.

CHILDREN'S THEATER: AHM will be offering a theater experience for children in grades K-6 this fall in partnership with Playhouse on Park. The program will take place in the performing arts hall at 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron. Watch for more details on the [AHM website](#).

TASKS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS: Are you a Columbia senior citizen who could use help around your home? AHM may be able to provide you with some assistance with yard work, garage decluttering, and more at no cost. Contact AHM's main number to speak with the TASKs Coordinator, Patti Scigliompaglia-Vigue, pattis@ahmyouth.org at (860-228-9488). We are also looking for TEEN WORKERS for the TASKs program.

YOUTH AND FAMILY COUNSELING: You are not alone. If your child, teenager, young adult, or family members need mental health counseling, we are here for you. All counseling appointments are confidential and are now being accepted by calling the AHM offices at 860-228-9488. If you or a loved one are struggling with an addiction, please visit our AHM website, www.ahmyouth.org for links to weekly SMART Recovery support groups".

AHM FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER: There is still room for Columbia children in Play and Learn groups held at Gilead Hill on Mondays and Thursdays! The groups are for children ages Birth-5 and caregivers and include activities, crafts, and circle time, information on child development and parenting topics, and a chance to meet other families! Masks are required for children ages 3 and up and for adults. Groups will start the week of 9/27. Click this [link](#) to register. Please contact Becky Murray at 860 573-1260 or beckym@ahmyouth.org with any questions.

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

CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE:

2021 Holiday Toy Drive sponsored by the State Police Troop K Colchester & AFSCME Local 610 State Employees.

Accepting donations of new unwrapped gifts
& toys.

Date: Saturday, December 11, 2021

Times: 10AM -2PM

Location: Troop K - 15 Old Hartford Rd.

Other ways to donate: Donations through Venmo for the toy drive is a great way to help as well. See the QR code below. The money collected is then used to buy items requested by social services.



Afscme Local Six-ten
@Afscme-LocalSix-ten



venmo



Scan QR code for payment

2021 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

State Police Troop K Colchester & AFSCME Local 610 State Employees

Date: Saturday December 11th 2021
Times: 10AM—2PM
Location: Troop K 15 Old Hartford Rd

Toy Drive is outdoors with Social Distancing
Drive-up and pop open your trunk to donate.



**ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF
NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS &
TOYS**


CHECKS ALSO ACCEPTED
**Make checks payable to:
AFSCME Local 610**

Drop Off donations also accepted
24/7 in the Troop K lobby until
December 15th.
State Police Troop K
15 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester CT



**Donations
accepted until
December 15th !!**

*New this year!! We are
teaming up with:*
LIFE STAR



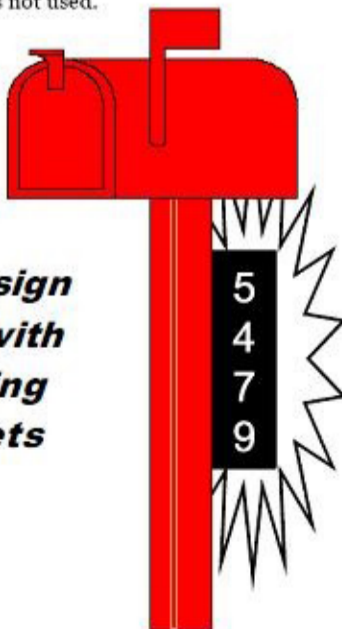
Helicopter and Crew

Drop off donations are also accepted 24/7 in
the Troop K lobby until December 15th (15 Old
Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT.).

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

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED: 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 online. The price is \$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.

Columbia Volunteer Fire Department	
REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKER ORDER FORM	
Please complete the following information:	
Name _____ Address _____ City, ST Zip _____ Phone Number _____	
Address Number Requested	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<small>Note: If your address has fewer than 5 digits, please X those boxes not used.</small>	
Mounting Preference	
HORIZONTAL _____ VERTICAL _____	V E R T I C A L
HORIZONTAL	
Mail to: Columbia Volunteer Fire Department PO Box 26 Columbia, CT 06237 (860) 228-9602	



**\$10 per sign
or \$12 with
Mounting
Brackets**

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

COLUMBIA PTO



SHOE DRIVE

**DONATE YOUR SHOES OF ALL
KINDS**

COLLECTION DATE
Nov. 15th- Jan. 22nd

Bring your gently used shoes to Horace W. Porter School in a plastic bag. We will also have a box outside.

Any Questions
Please Email

**Horaceporterpto@gmail.com
or visit us on Facebook
Horace W. Porter PTO and
Parent Community.**

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

ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIOS

RIGHT HERE IN COLUMBIA. SHOP LOCAL
ARTISANS AND MEET YOUR TALENTED
NEIGHBORS.

DECEMBER 4TH AND 5TH

10 AM -5 PM

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER 188 RT 66
THREE ARTISANS: KIM KORDONOWY,
PAUL RAMSEY AND AATREYEE EITLAND
SHOWCASING THE NATURAL WORLD
THROUGH UNIQUE CARDS, PAINTINGS,
PHOTOGRAPHY AND CERAMICS.

REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S LOVE
PHOTOGRAPHY

250 RT. 87, JONATHON TRUMBULL HIGHWAY

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOP LOCALLY.

FOR MORE INFO ON OTHER LOCATIONS VISIT: WWW.AOSCT.ORG



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

Parish Communities of

Church of the Holy Family and St. Columba Church

Desiderata – A Christian Perspective

Hebron, CT, November 29, 2021 — In the 1920's a writer named Max Ehrmann wrote a prose poem entitled Desiderata (Things desired). Excerpt below:

"You are a Child of the Universe,
No less than the trees and the stars,
You have a right to be here"

Fifty years later the poem became a sensation widely circulated around the world. It is a poem of faith and hope which emphasizes the worth of every human being, no matter how humble, and highlights the importance of each of our own lives and aspirations.

Join us on Wednesday, December 15, at 7 PM, at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church Street, Hebron, to hear how this seemingly secular poem has deep roots in Christianity, and has real meaning and significance for all of us today. Deacon Ben LoCasto will present this event free of charge - but free-will donations are greatly appreciated. *Please wear your face covering*



The Church of the Holy Family and St. Columba Catholic Church, being a community of worshipers and Disciples of Christ, live the Gospel through prayer and service, bearing witness to God's love, compassion, and mercy. Each Parish remains separate and distinct, but at the same time share resources to better meet the needs of the people of God. Regardless of your past faith tradition, we welcome you to come as you are. We hope you will find one of our parishes will feel like home. Visit our websites at

<https://holyfamilyhebron.org/> and <https://saintcolumbacatholicchurch.org/>.

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

Monthly 2nd SATURDAY BREAKFASTS are BACK!!!

Join us for an All You Can Eat Breakfast

On Saturday, December 11, 2021 8:00am-11:00am

Our menu includes: design your own omelets, Belgian waffles, scrambled eggs, fruit, sausage, bacon, hashbrowns, corn beef hash , coffee, juice, baked goods and most importantly :

time to sit and enjoy friendly conversation!

\$12.00 per adult

Special pricing available for families of 4 and children under 12 years of age.

Appropriate Social distancing and mask wearing guidelines are being followed.

Watch for updated information on the message board at the center of town and check the church's website at columbiacongregationalchurch.org for further updates and weather-related cancellations.

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CONTINUED:

HANDBELL HOLIDAY CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT 2:00 PM



SIMPLE SUSTENANCE DECEMBER 19TH 2021

ORDER CHICKEN RICE & VEGETABLE SOUP AND EGG NOG BREAD TO GO!

ORDERS AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 12TH

PICK UP AT COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AFTER THE SERVICE,

BETWEEN 11:30 AM AND 12:30 PM SUNDAY DEC. 19TH

ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT CCCHURCHFAIR@GMAIL.COM

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CONTINUED:

Columbia Congregational
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 177
Columbia, Connecticut 06237
Phone: (860) 228-9306



Seasons Greetings!

November 2021

November 2021 marks the 46th year of the annual **Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**. Many families have benefited from your donations in the past, and your continued generosity is greatly appreciated. This year has been especially hard for all of us. Your donations are needed more than ever to help your neighbors in need.

The idea behind the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to contribute to the fund instead of sending cards to your friends and family in town. Your name will then be listed in the Town of Columbia quarterly newsletter Columbia Views.

The purpose of the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to help Columbia families in need. These situations present themselves more often than we would like to believe, and as government programs have been reduced, the need for the local community to respond has become greater. Join your neighbors in continuing or even increasing your support

This past year alone the fund has been used to help with holiday food baskets for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, back to school supplies, emergency food supplies and help with electrical bills.

Thank you for your continued caring and God Bless You!

Sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church

Mail to:

Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund
c/o Mark Smith
P.O. Box 177
Columbia, CT 06237

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to the "**Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**"
Donations accepted online at the following link https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page_id=1335 please check the box for specific fund and choose and the Cardless Holiday Fund from the list.

_____ Do not list my name in the Columbia Views **OR**
_____ I would like my listing in the Columbia View to appear as (names only please):

(Please print clearly)

Please make checks payable to the "**Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**"
Donations are tax-deductible.

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND
Deadline for printed listing Dec. 20, 2021