# COLUMBIA





# UPDATE DECEMBER 2022



#### TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

### Volunteers Needed: Building Committee for the Horace W. Porter School HVAC Project



The Columbia Board of Education is in the process of applying for the State of Connecticut HVAC grant in order to install an HVAC/Air Quality system in the A Wing of Horace W. Porter School. Volunteers from the Columbia community are needed to participate in a building committee to oversee this project. The members should be residents of the Town of Columbia with experience and/or familiarity

with HVAC or mechanical systems dealing with Air quality and climate control. If interested, please contact Mark Walter, Town Administrator at 860-228-0110 or at **Townadministrator@ columbiact.org** by December 17, 2022. A volunteer application can be obtained on our website here.

Town Offices CLOSED for the Christmas & New Year Holidays Friday, December 23rd & December 26th Monday, December 30th & Monday, January 2nd

TRANSFER STATION <u>CLOSED Saturday,</u> <u>December 24th</u> for the Christmas Holiday. Transfer Station will be <u>OPEN on Saturday</u>

12/31/22 from 8:00 am to 12:00



#### TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town honored our Veterans at the Columbia Veterans Day Celebration on November 11th. The program included two Columbia residents who served in WWII, Mr. Emil Sadlon and Mr. Russell Inzinga. Mr. Inzinga served as a U.S. Merchant Marine, and Mr. Emil Sadlon served in the Armed Forces. We thank both Emil Sadlon and Russell Inzinga for their WWII service, and for their enduring service to our town.

We also would like to thank the Columbia Senior Organization and Sheron Smith for providing a wonderful luncheon after the ceremony, the Columbia Scouts for their assistance, Ingrid Wood, Town Historian for her participation in reading the Veterans Day Proclamation, Reverend MaryAnn Purtill from the Columbia Congregational Church for the Invocation and Bill and Melissa Rood from November Sound who provided the music.







#### TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Recently we were notified by a resident that an injured owl was on the side of the road on Route 6. DPW Maintainer, Fred Bednarcyzk helped to move the owl to safety and held on to it until the owl was turned over to a licensed raptor rehab specialist. The latest update that we have on the owl is it is resting quietly and hopefully will be on the mend.





**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, Steven M. Everett, First Selectman severett@columbiact.org

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator townadministrator@columbiact.org



# 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 <u>website</u> for updates.

#### UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

- 12/05/22 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 12/05/22 Tue: Board of Education, 7:30 PM (Yeomans Hall)
- 12/06/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 12/07/22 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 12/12/22 Mon: Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 12/14/22 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 12/14/22 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM
- 12/20/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 12/21/22 Wed: Financial Planning and Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 12/15/22 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
- 12/15/22 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM (Canceled)
- 12/27/22 Mon: Planning and Zoning Commission Public Hearing, 7:00 PM

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).

#### **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:**

**HOMEOWNERS:** Connecticut law provides for Annual Tax Relief for persons who are 65 years or older or totally disabled who meet necessary qualifications. To be eligible you must file an application with proof of income and proof of total disability (if applicable). Must own a home within the town of Columbia as of the prior October 1st.

**RENTERS:** Connecticut law provides for an Annual Rental Relief for persons who are 65 and older or totally disabled who meet necessary qualifications. To be eligible you must be currently residing in the town you file your application in, provide proof of income and monthly expenses for the prior year.

**HOMEOWNERS:** Feb. 1 through May 15 ~ **RENTERS:** April 1 through Oct. 1

Office hours: Monday – Wednesday 8am-4pm, Thursday 8am-6pm, Friday 8am – Noon

Phone: 860-228-9555

Address: 323 RT 87, Columbia, CT 06237

Mary Hawley: <a href="mailto:mhawley@columbiact.org">mhawley@columbiact.org</a>

Marcy Littlefield: mlittlefield@columbiact.org

**BECKISH SENIOR CENTER:** Welcome to December at the Beckish Senior Center. Wishing that this new month brings you lots of reasons to celebrate life! Let it be filled with joy, love, music, and good cheer! The Beckish Senior Center is ready to celebrate the holidays with the "Columbia AllStars" Honkey-tonk band and a wonderful Herb Roasted Prime Rib Holiday Luncheon from TVCCA. Join us for this celebration on Wednesday, December 21st with music starting at 11:30 and lunch served at 12 noon. Reservations are required by 11am on Thursday December 15, 2022. Price is a suggested donation of \$4.50 pp. Bring your dancing shoes and we will see you on the dance floor!.

#### **BECKISH SENIOR CENTER (CONTINUED):**



#### **BECKISH SENIOR CENTER (CONTINUED):**

#### **MOBILE FOODSHARE**

#### **COLUMBIA'S MOBILE FOODSHARE**

Beckish Senior Center

188 Route 66, Columbia

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

December 1,

December 15, December 29, January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23,

March 9, March 23rd, April 6 and April 20

1:00PM TO 1:30 PM

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 RE-QUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION



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

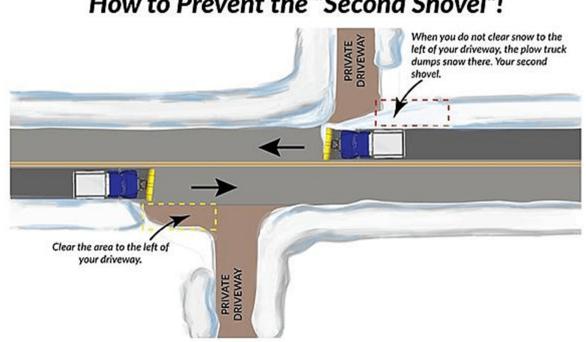
Happy Holidays!

Bernadette Derring, Senior Center Director 860-228-0759 bderring@columbiact.org

#### **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 rightsof-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.
- When driving, please stay at least 200 feet behind any snow plow and never pass a plow truck as visibility is limited for the snow plow operator.
- DPW's first responsibility is to clear the roads for safe passage. While snow plow operators try to minimize the amount of snow that is plowed into driveways, it is the owner's responsibility to clear their driveway opening. To avoid extra shovel work, try to shovel after the snow plow has driven by, and shovel the snow to the right side of your driveway as you face the road. Below is a Clearing Your Driveway diagram that recommends how best to clear your driveway.



#### How to Prevent the "Second Shovel"!

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (CONTINUED):** The Public Works Department is finishing up the culvert repair on Erdoni Road and should be completed by Friday December 2nd. The culvert repair project was a tremendous undertaking and the DPW crew did a terrific job with this project!



**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.

#### SOCIAL SERVICES: Energy Assistance and SNAP Benefits – Apply Now!

Help with heating costs is available for qualified renters and homeowners who heat with deliverables (oil, propane, wood) or utilities (gas or electric) through the state of CT Energy Assistance program.

The income limit is as follows:

Annual Gross Income must be under:

- \$39,027 for a household of 1
- \$51,996 household of 2
- \$64,230 household of 3
- \$76,465 household of 4
- \$88,699 household of 5
- \$100,933 household of 6

Proof of the last four weeks of income and utility bills are required. First time applicants must submit proof of social security cards. Again, this year, there is no asset test for this program.

To apply through Columbia Social Services, contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 for an appointment.

Applicants can also apply online here, or through ACCESS (860-450-7400).

Applications can be downloaded here.

Or, contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 for an application.

Applications are currently being accepted. The deadline to apply is May 31,2023.

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** Energy Assistance and SNAP Benefits – Apply Now!



Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator

860-228-1008 | kwilt@Columbiact.org

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** Season's greetings from the Parks and Recreation Department. As December brings us the least amount of daylight hours, allow Columbia Parks and Recreation to bring you 'light' in exercise and good times.

**REC PARK WINTER WONDERLAND - DECEMBER 16th FROM 5:30 - 7:30 PM:** An event for the whole family! Take a drive through Rec Park to see the festive lights and scenery. Then stop at the pavilion to join in the holiday festivities: Holiday music, pictures with Santa, cookies and cocoa with Mrs. Claus, letter writing and picture coloring with elves, and toasting marshmallows by an open fire. Come out and feel Jack Frost nipping at your nose, while enjoying the warmth of Christmas spirit. The event is FREE. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to benefit Columbia's food pantry.



#### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):**

**COMMIT DANCE FITNESS:** Wednesday, December 14th: COMMIT 7-8 p.m. Join forces with our Zumba and COMMIT instructors Karen and Martin Ricardo to benefit The Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic. The class is open to the public, simply bring in one of the items listed on the flyer for entry.



#### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): TIME TO RETURN THOSE GATE KEYS!**

Please drop keys off at the Rec Department, Murphy House on Beach Road.



LIFEGUARDS needed for the summer at Columbia Lake. Yes, it is December, but summer will be here before you know it. Start planning for your summer job now. Not certified? We will provide the training and certification. Call the Rec office for more details at 860-228-8513.

**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: 860-228-513



#### SAVE THE DATE! Girls in Sports Day ~ Saturday, February 4th



A free event hosted by the Town of Columbia Parks and Recreation at E.O. Smith High School for Girls ages 8 – 13 A Day that promises to be one of fun, movement, and empowering girls through sport!

Columbia's Girls in Sports Day will be in conjunction

with National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD), an annual day of observance held during the first week of February to acknowledge the accomplishments of female athletes, recognize the influence of sports participation for women and girls and honor the progress and continuing struggle of equality for women is sports. Look for more details to register for the event later this month!

#### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):**

UPCOMING EVENTS: Register for programs on-line at RECDESK.

**Coming your way mid-December:** Survey Monkey ~ We want to hear from you! Tell us what you think. The Parks and Recreation department will be conducting a community survey to help guide our future direction in programming. When the survey is released, please take a moment to give us your thoughts.

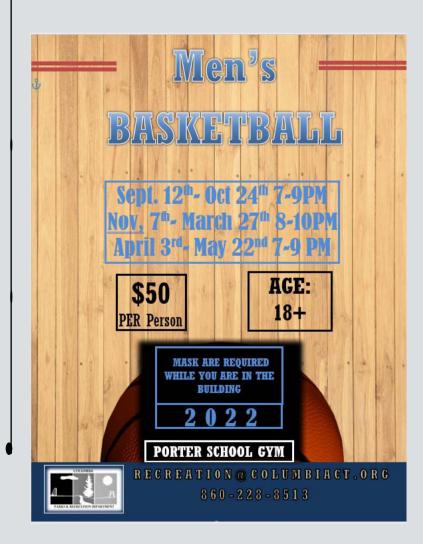
#### **EXERCISE PROGRAMS:**

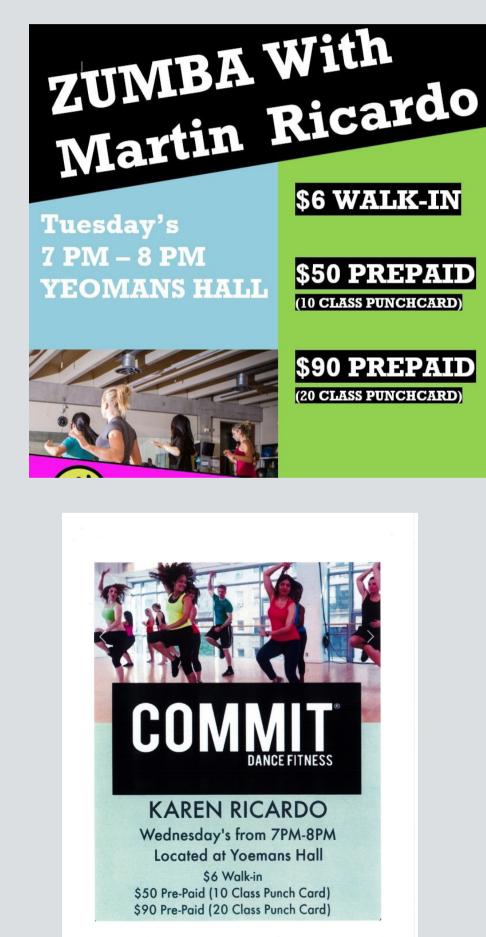
*Fit Fusion:* Monday/Wednesday, 4:30- 5:30 p.m.

Zumba: Tuesday, 7-8 p.m.

COMMIT: Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

**Men's Basketball:** Monday, 8-10 p.m. @ Horace Porter School





#### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):**

**AROUND TOWN:** On a recent visit to Yeomans Hall, I joined in on a Monday afternoon (4:30) Fit Fusion Class with instructor Carolyn Ritchie. She provided a fun, full body workout for all levels of fitness. Check out these warriors! Check out our push-up form! Anyone want to challenge us to a push-up contest?





**YOUTH REC BASKETBALL** is in full swing. 3rd – 8th grade teams have been practicing and first games begin December 3rd. The K- 2nd grade get underway on December 3rd too. Go Columbia Hoops! Check out these photos from practice this week!





**RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):** Follow us on <u>FaceBook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> and *Everything Columbia* Facebook page to keep in the know of the latest happenings with Columbia Parks and Recreation. Please stop by the Murphy House on Beach Road to say hello!

Debra Fiske, Director of Parks & Recreation 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT, 06237 recreation@columbiact.org or 860-228-8513 HOURS: Mon-Wed: 8am-4pm, Thurs: 8am-6pm, Fri: 8am-12pm

#### TAX COLLECTOR

#### **Attention Taxpayers:**

The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will become due January 1, 2023 and the last day to pay without a penalty will be Wednesday February 1, 2023. Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes (motor vehicles registered after 10-1-21) will become due January 1, 2023 and will be mailed at the end of December. The last day to pay the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes without a penalty will be Wednesday February 1, 2023.

The tax office hours will be extended during January 2023 and on February 1, 2023. The tax office will be open Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and Friday 8:00-12:00. The Town Hall has a drop box on the right side of the front door and a larger white drop box in front of Yeomans Hall. The Town has online tax lookup and tax payment options at <u>www.columbiact.org</u>. Service fees apply to payments only, 95 cents to use a Bank account and 2.95% to use a credit or debit card.

If you plan to make a tax payment in 2022, please plan your payment accordingly. The tax office uses the postmark as the date of payment. If you want to use the postal service and are waiting until the end of the month, please be sure to have your payment hand stamped at a Post Office, dropping your envelope in a blue postal box may not guarantee a 2022 postmark.

**TAX COLLECTOR CONTINUED:** The tax office will be closed Friday December 23rd and Monday December 26th for the Christmas holiday and closed Friday December 30th and Monday January 2nd for the New Year's holiday.

Please keep in mind the regular tax office hours in December are Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and closed on Friday.

Please call the tax office at 860-228-0230 or email <u>taxcollector@columbiact.org</u> with any questions.

Happy Holidays!

**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.

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 Kenefick, Town Clerk (<u>townclerk@columbiact.org</u>) or Gail McGrath, Assistant Town Clerk (<u>atownclerk@columbiact.org</u>).

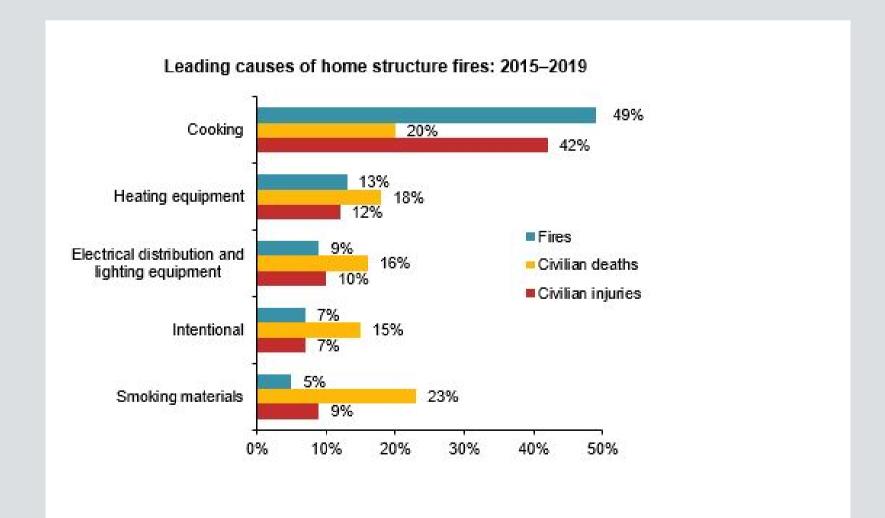
Have a happy and healthy holiday season!

#### FIRE MARSHAL:

#### **HOUSE FIRES**

If you happened to be unfortunate and have a fire in your home, here are a few safety tips to help you in preparation for this tragic event.

- 1. Get out of the home.
- 2. Notify all other occupants and account for everyone once outside.
- 3. Call 9-1-1 and give the dispatcher, good information.
- 4. Never re-enter the dwelling for anything.
- 5. When the Fire Department arrives, communicate if everyone is accounted for and any special hazards, i.e., guns, ammunition, propane gas or lost pets.
- 6. Remain calm.



# 2022 HOLID&Y TOY DRIVE

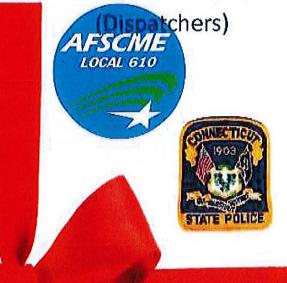
Columbia Resident State Trooper & AFSCME Local 610 State Employees

Date: Saturday December 3rd 2022

Times: 10AM-2PM

Location: Columbia Fire Department

167 Route 66, Columbia, CT



ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS Checks, Venmo and giftcards also accepted Make checks payable to: AFSCME Local 610

Come Support Local Families in Need this Holiday Season.



@Afscme-LocalSix-ten

**SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:** A library is a place that is a repository of information and gives every citizen equal access to it. That includes health information. And mental health information. It's a community space. It's a place of safety, a haven from the world. - Author, Neil Gaiman

The above words were said by an author who has never visited our Library or our town. But its sentiment has been shared by many in our community. During COVID and now as we slowly make our way towards 'normal', it has been our pleasure to offer information and distraction, a sympathetic ear and supportive assistance. Daily we do our best to embody Mr. Gaiman's observation, making SBL a safe haven for the town of Columbia.

Over the year, we have received flowers and chocolates, kind words and cookies! We appreciate the thanks you've given! We ask you now, if you can, to offer financial support to help us keep moving forward. A donation to the Library is support for yourself and your neighbors.

If you can contribute to our annual giving campaign, we assure you that all of your donation goes directly back into the ongoing support of our community. Since we are a 501(3)c non-profit organization, your donations are tax deductible.

We also remind all that we have an extensive memorial and tribute program, be that a dedicated book for a special occasion or remembrance or legacy support.

From all of us at the Saxton B. we wish you a very peaceful, happy and safe holiday season!

#### **COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Join Us for our Annual

### Bell Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday December 18th 2:00 PM Columbia Congregational Church, 325 Rt 87



**COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** 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 <u>www.columbiafire5.org</u> 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.

