

COLUMBIA



UPDATE FEBRUARY 2022



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

It is with great sorrow that we lost Edith Prague, a beloved member of our community on December 16th. Edith was persistent in her advocacy for the elderly, working people, and her constituents.

Edith Prague served as the co-chairwoman of the legislative Labor Committee, commissioner of the Department on Aging, served in the Senate from 1995 until 2013, and four terms in the State House of Representatives. Prior to her election to the state House of Representatives in 1982, she served on the Columbia school board and the Saxton B. Little Library Building Committee.

She served as the state's commissioner on aging that oversaw senior citizen issues, including Medicare, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, home meal delivery, health insurance counseling and home care. Edith's efforts to lower drug costs, expand access to long-term care and home-based care were some of the highlights of her tenacity to protect the people she served.

Edith will be dearly missed for her dedication to all who needed her help and the citizens of Columbia that she represented with pride.

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER: The beginning of February will be bringing some snowy weather and I'd like to remind residents to be prepared for travel difficulties and possible power outages. See the Department of Public Works page in the newsletter for important winter safety tips.

We encourage anyone with a medical condition or a disability that may require additional help during a power outage to notify us. Please contact the Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring at 860-228-0759.



2022 FRED GIFFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: The Fred Gifford Memorial Scholarship is made possible by the generosity of the people and businesses throughout our area and is administered by the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. The individual awards of \$1,000 are given to two (2) young men and two (2) young women. All applicants must be legal residents of Columbia, CT, seniors attending secondary school or home-schooled, with plans to continue their education at an accredited postsecondary school or institution.

For more information please see pages 20 & 21 in the Newsletter and/or the [Columbia Volunteer Fire Department's website](#).

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett, First Selectman

severett@columbiact.org

860-228-0110



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

COVID-19 UPDATE: The Eastern Highland Health District (EHHD) offers the following latest and greatest guidance for residents to protect themselves.

- Get vaccinated if you have not already done so.
- Get a booster shot if you are eligible.
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you are sick, or as a close as possible before gathering in large groups even if you feel well. At-home tests are a convenient way to accomplish this if available.
- To receive information on any upcoming test or mask distributions as they become available please sign up for Town Notifications at the Town of Columbia's [website](#) and click on the "Notifications" tab at the bottom of the website.
- Stay at home if you are sick or have tested positive in the past 5 days. Do not leave home until at least five days have passed since your symptoms began or since you tested positive. Do not return until you are feeling better and no longer have a fever.
- Wear a KN95 or N95 mask in crowded indoor public settings. Masks need to fit snugly to your face, your mouth and nose need to be covered.

Many thanks go out to all that help set up the latest Test Kit and N95 mask distribution. Specifically, the employees, fire department, rec department, emergency management director and First Selectman, special thanks to Jen LaVoie and Marc Volza for their tireless efforts helping residents sign up for a time slot in our Rec Desk scheduling software.

COVID-19 TESTS/TESTING SITES AND N95 MASKS: N95 Masks are available for Columbia residents at Town Hall and Yeoman's Hall during business hours located at 323 Route 87, Columbia.

The Town Hall is open on:

- Mon, Tue, and Wed. from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Friday from 8:00 AM to Noon.

N95 masks and COVID test kits are available for any Columbia resident with a disability. Residents may call the Senior Center at 860-228-0759 or the Town Administrator's Office at 860-228-0110 to request a reasonable accommodation. Please call if you are homebound, cannot drive, or have a disability which requires a reasonable accommodation.

For those seeking COVID test sites please click [HERE](#) or visit the [Eastern Highland Health District website](#).

To Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests please visit the [COVID Home Tests | USPS](#)

If you need assistance please contact the Town Administrator's Office at 860-228-0110 or the Beckish Senior Center at 860-228-0759 and we can assist you.

Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of 4 free at-home tests from USPS.com. Here's what you need to know about your order:

- Limit of one order per residential address
- One order includes 4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests
- Orders will ship free starting in late January

THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA IS ACCEPTING ONLINE DONATIONS: The Town of Columbia is accepting donations to assist those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations may be used for food supply, fuel assistance, protective equipment and other social services that will benefit those affected by COVID-19. Donations can be made by check, payable to the Town of Columbia or [online](#).

MOBILE FOOD SHARE: The Local MOBILE Foodshare location will be at the Beckish Senior Center EVERY OTHER THURSDAY from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM. February's dates are the 10th and 24th. We are no longer doing the contact less/drive thru method for Foodshare. Please park your car and safely get in line along the sidewalk to pick up your food at the truck. Bring your own bags. A single serving per person only. No substitutes.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME—NO PERSONAL INFO REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION



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.

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

Find us on 



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

- 2/01/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 2/01/22 Tue: Board of Education Special Meeting, 7:00 PM (Remote Meeting)
- 2/02/22 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 2/07/22 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 2/07/22 Mon: Board of Education, 7:00 PM
- 2/08/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen Special Meeting with Budget Workshop
- 2/09/22 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 2/09/22 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM
- 2/14/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 2/15/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting with Budget Workshop, 7:00 PM
- 2/16/22 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 2/17/22 Thur: Open Space Committee, 8:00 AM
- 2/22/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Budget Workshop (tentative), 7:00 PM
- 2/24/22 Thur: Columbia Commission on Aging, 9:00 AM
- 2/24/22 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM
- 2/28/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 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).

HOLIDAYS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022

PRESIDENTS' DAY

TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED



Celebration vector created by freepik - www.freepik.com

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSORS 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 an 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.

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER: The Beckish Senior Center continues to stay open under the COVID protocols. Proof of vaccination is required to enter the building. Masks are required unless you show medical proof from a licensed medical clinician that you are unable to wear a mask. You must wear a shield instead. Masks/shields may be removed when exercising. Meals have been canceled and no food is allowed in the center at this time. We hope to restart the meal program later in January.

The Town of Columbia's Transportation Program continues to run accommodating those seniors and disabled persons 18 and over, who need rides for medical appointments, shopping, social/wellness, and any type of errands. The operation runs Monday through Friday, 8am to 3pm. Please contact Flo or Lisa at 860-228-0759, extension 2.

The following rules apply: You and your caretaker must always wear a mask during the ride. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you are feeling sick on the day of your ride. We will make every effort to reschedule your ride. Sanitizer and masks are available on the van and car if needed. All regular activities are scheduled.

Due to the spike with COVID-19 and the new variant, Omicron, the Computer Literacy classes that were to be scheduled in February are postponed. Zumba classes are on hold as well. We will reassess at the end of February.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

AARP Tax preparation will begin every Thursday from February 10th through March 31st here at the Beckish Senior Center. Please call to make your appointment with a tax professional. The appointments will not be in person. You will be asked to drop off your information and return in 1 hour to pick up your completed tax return. Prior to your appointment a form will need to be filled out to start your tax return. If you have any question do not hesitate to call the center at 860-228-0759. Happy New Year to all and stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

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

FIRE MARSHAL: 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.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: Provided below is important information for the winter months.

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.

SNOW REMOVAL:

- 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 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.
- Do not plow, shovel or blow snow onto the street. Doing so creates a hazard to other motorists and to DPW snow plow operators. The chunks of ice and snow create an uneven road surface that can take drivers by surprise.
- 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.
- Refrain from traveling during a storm event unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Prior to final clean-up of your driveway, check the road condition. If it does not appear to be completely clear or needs to be widened, chances are the plow may return and may push snow back into the entrance of your driveway. Waiting until the plows have finished making the roadways safe might keep you from clearing your driveway more than once.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

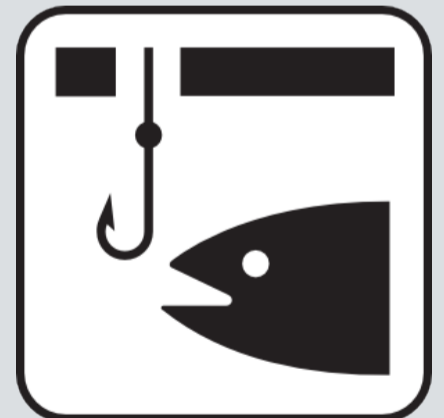
- DPW's first responsibility is to clear the roads for safe passage. While snow plow operators try to minimize the amount of snow that is plowed into driveways, it is the owner's responsibility to clear their driveway opening. To avoid extra shovel work, try to shovel after the snow plow has driven by. Shoveling a "corner" of the right of way free of snow in the area several feet before the driveway will help keep that snow from being pushed into the driveway in an icy, heavy pile. Clear an area enough to hold the snow coming off the plow may help reduce the "second shovel." Below is a diagram on how to Avoid the "Second Shovel"



BAIT BUCKET DISPOSAL CATCH BASIN AVAILABLE FOR ICE

FISHERMAN: Please use the bait bucket disposal catch basin located in the parking lot in of the Murphy House. Please do not throw any bait on the beach or in the lake.

If you have any questions please contact DPW Director, Beth Lunt at 860-228-4270, or elunt@columbiact.org. The Public Works Garage is located at 89 Route 6, Columbia, CT. 06237



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES: We have collected an A-Z sampling of support resources that can be accessed on our website at [here](#). You may find something helpful for you, a family member, or a neighbor. Knowledge is power!

This is a not an exhaustive list. For further information on a topic or for information on a topic not listed, visit or call 211, United Way <https://www.211ct.org/> 24/7.

For assistance in navigating programs, or if there is another need, please contact me, Katie Wilt, Town of Columbia Community Social Services Coordinator, at 860-228-1008 or kwilt@columbiact.org (Typical hours Monday & Tuesday 8:30-5:00).

Additionally, contact me to:

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

Katie Wilt | Community Social Services Coordinator

Town of Columbia

323 Route 87

Columbia, CT 06237

kwilt@columbiact.org

860-228-1008

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



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 RECDISK.](#)

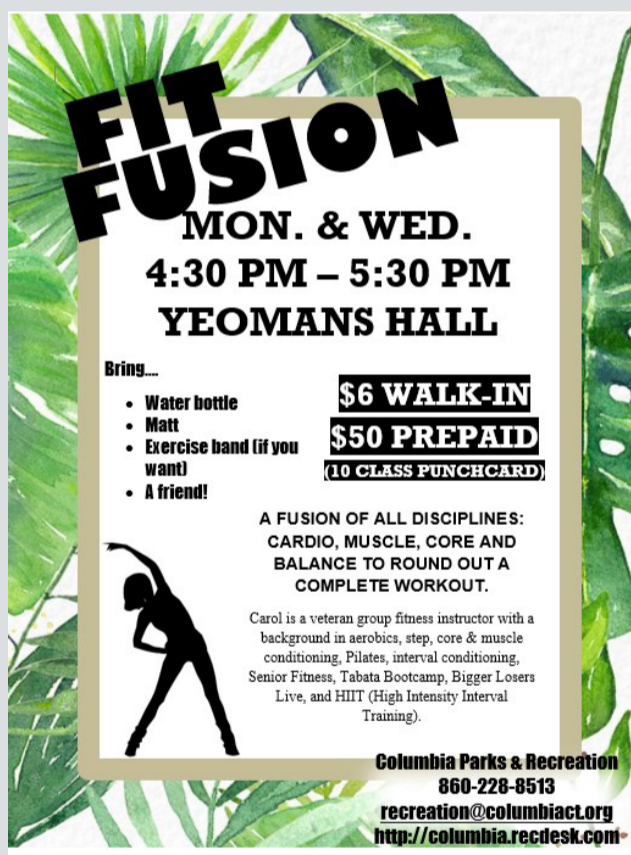
EXERCISE PROGRAMS held at Yeoman's Hall.

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.



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

Bring...

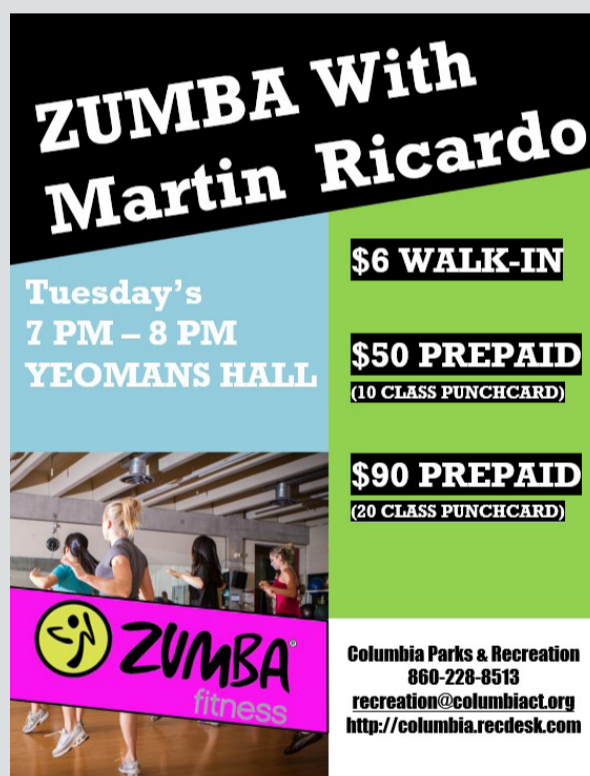
- Water bottle
- Matt
- Exercise band (if you want)
- A friend!

\$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>

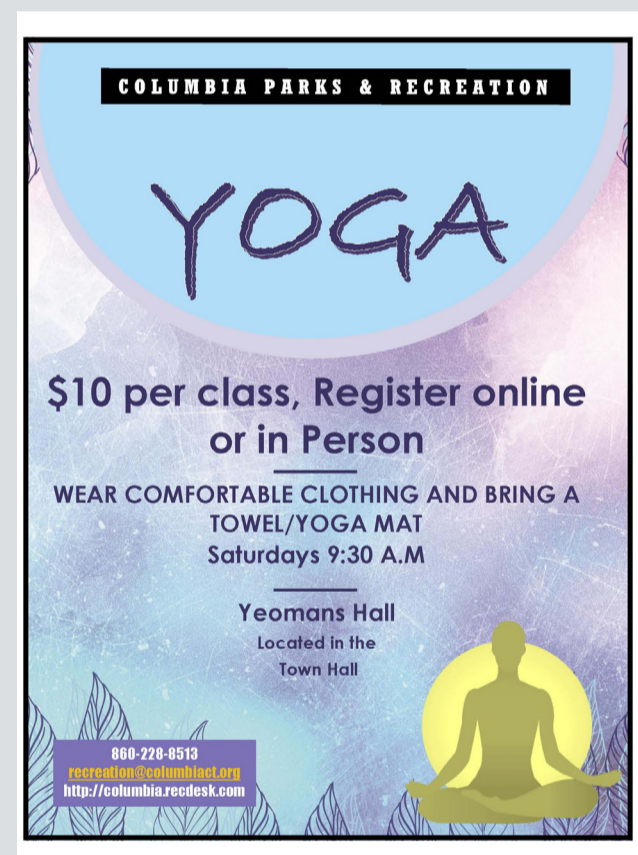


ZUMBA With Martin Ricardo

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>



COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION

YOGA

\$10 per class, Register online or in Person

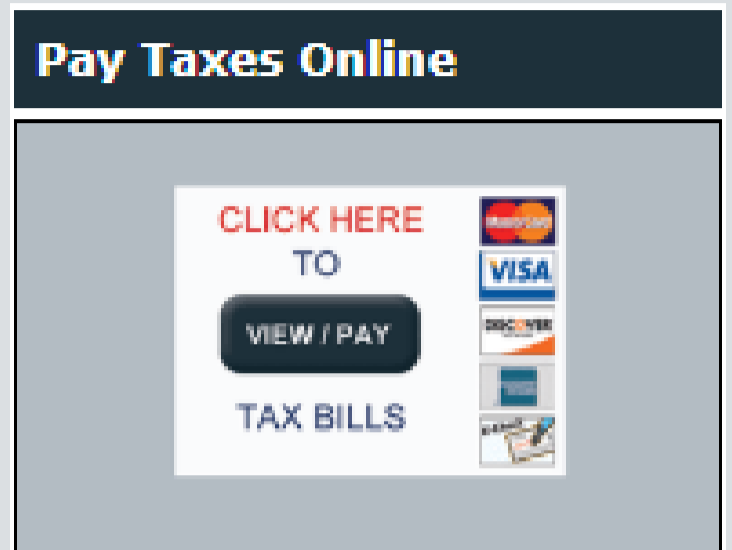
WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHING AND BRING A TOWEL/YOGA MAT
Saturdays 9:30 A.M.

Yeomans Hall
Located in the Town Hall

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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE: The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes became due on January 1, 2022. The last day to pay without a penalty was February 1, 2022. Taxes not paid on or before February 1, 2022 will be charged interest 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.

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.
- 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.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE (CONTINUED): To look up your 2021 tax payments, follow the directions at the bottom of the Tax Collector's page. 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.

Please call the tax office at 860-228-0230 with questions.

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, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage licenses, Dog Licenses, Transfer Station stickers, 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.

FISHING AND HUNTING: Sports licenses for 2022 are available for purchase in the Town Clerk's office and on the DEEP website as well. The DEEP invites you to go to their [website](#) for downloadable PDFs of their fishing and hunting guides as they are no longer printing the magazine style guides.

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

BOARDS & COMMISSION NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS:

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 12-110 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Columbia Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 starting at 7:00 p.m. by appointment only via Zoom virtual platform for the purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of real estate, personal property and motor vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2021 and the Supplemental Grand List of October 1, 2020 in the Town of Columbia.

Appellants are encouraged to provide any documentation they believe support their appeal. Examples include, but are not limited to, real estate appraisal, bill of sale for real estate purchase, vehicle bill of sale and/or repair bills, photos showing condition of vehicle, and photo of odometer reading. The BAA uses N.A.D.A Guides for vehicle pricing.

Complete applications and supporting documentation must be filed in writing and received no later than February 21, 2022.

The meeting agenda with appointment confirmation and zoom meeting instructions will be emailed prior to the meeting to applicants who have filed applications in a timely manner. Please contact the Assessor at 860-228-9555 or email the Board Clerk at boardclerk@columbiact.org with questions.

Applications are available in the Tax Assessor's Office or at www.columbiact.org. Completed applications may be put in the Town Hall drop box (write "BAA application" on application envelope) or mailed to: Board of Assessment Appeals, Assessor's Office, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237.

Dated at Columbia, Connecticut this 8th day of January 2022.

Michael Hamilton, Chairman

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Winter can be a time of wonder. Sometimes I wonder how winter can be so beautiful and so disagreeable at the same time. But then, I wonder about a wide variety of things: I wonder if people realize how much the library has to offer. Sure, we have books, magazines, movies...but we also have music, Experience kits, traditional maker's space items and Saxton's Stuff. February's featured Saxton item is jewelry making supplies (make that special someone something special!)

And of course, there is always something to learn at the library. In January some learned how to make fish sauce delicious, while others learned how to protect their kids online. Please watch our website, visit the library, or sign up for our newsletter to keep up with all that's happening.

Last but not least, we at the library were reminded about lessons of support and community. Thanks to all who participated in our Annual Giving Campaign. All of us at the Saxton B. would like to thank those who have participated. Your donations help us greatly.

If you haven't participated, there's still time! We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the library can also be considered when doing Planned Giving. Whether it be remembering us in your will, sharing your RMD to lessen a tax burden, or naming us as a beneficiary, these options help support the library and create a remembrance or leave a legacy.

We've had a busy winter at the library, and we anticipate Spring to be even busier! Beat those winter blues and come visit us at the library!

Visit our website at: www.columbiactlibrary.org. Call us: (860) 228-0350 or email: SBL@columbiactlibrary.org

Sue Epstein, Library Director

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

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



**COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT**
EMTs and Firefighters Needed

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

The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department needs you!!!

Certifications and experience not required for application
Please inquire about training

www.columbiafire5.org/volunteer
membership@columbiafire5.org
Message us on facebook @Columbiafire5

2022 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 \$1,000.00 each, given to two (2) young women and two (2) young men.

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.

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

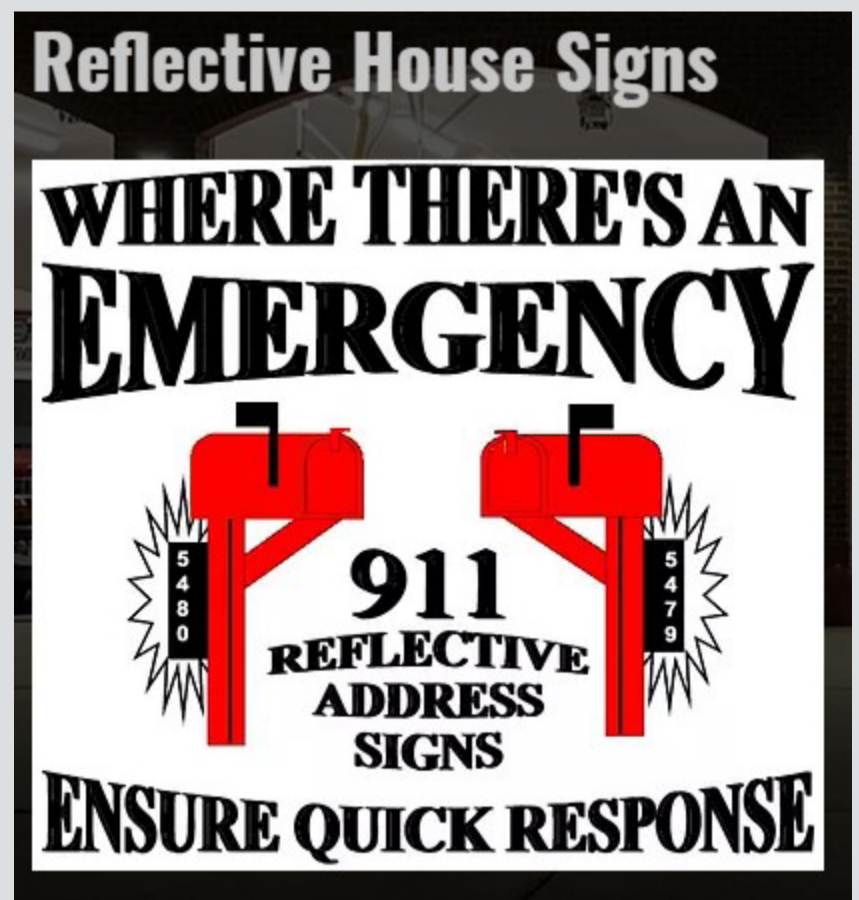
COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): Applications must be submitted no later than **April 15, 2022**. The winners will be contacted by the committee and may be asked to attend a regular meeting of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

[Click Here to Download 2021 Application](#)

For more information please visit the Columbia Volunteer Fire Departments [website](#). Please direct any questions to Mike Lester mlester@columbiafire5.org.

These Scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the people and businesses throughout our area. This Scholarship is administered by the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

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 online. The price is \$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.



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

AHM YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES: Happy New Year from your friends at AHM.

Check out just some of our upcoming programs:

- **Tasks for Columbia Seniors** – for help around your home with projects such as spring cleanup. TASKs jobs are available for students by calling Patricia Scigliompaglia-Vigue, 860-324-1820.
- **SMART Recovery Groups** for young adults and their families are confidential and offered virtually.
- **Family Counseling Services** for Columbia families with children from birth to age 26 are available. To schedule, an appointment call the AHM offices at 860-228-9488.
- **Student Support Services at Horace Porter School** supports the social and emotional well-being of your child/children. Cheri Rivard Lentz assists students and their families that are experiencing personal problems or issues that are interfering with their ability to have a successful school experience.
- **Play and Learn Groups for Columbia adults and children ages Birth-5** on Mondays and Thursdays offer crafts, playing, and circle time. Registration is \$85/family for a 12-week session starting the week of 1/10/22 on Mondays from 9:30-10:30 and Thursdays from 10:00-11:00. Register [here](#).



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

AHM YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES (CONTINUED):

- **First Steps in Music Class for children Birth-5 and Adults at AHM**, 25 Pendleton in Hebron, will be held on 8 Wednesdays, starting 1/19-3/9 from 9:30-10:15. Registration is \$125. This is a Family Developmentally appropriate and researched early childhood music program with singing, movement, rhythm, and instruments. Please register [here](#).
- **Messy Play for little ones for children 18 months-5 years** and adults at Gilead Hill School on Fridays from 10:00-11:00 on, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, and 2/18. Various sensory play activities for children to enjoy with their adults! Registration will be on the AHM website shortly.
- **KinderRHAMa Preschool Registration for 2022-2023** School Year to be held online starting on 3/28/22. Please go to the [AHM Website](#) for any of these programs and click [here](#) for the Family Resource Center or contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org or Laura Beeler at laurab@ahmyouth.org for more information.



Upcoming programs and events include: Performing Arts for children, Nature and Adventure Day, as part of the annual Maple Festival; RUNA, a night of Celtic music on Saturday, April 23rd. Visit www.ahmyouth.org for more information.

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

PORTER PALS PRESCHOOL LOTTERY REGISTRATION: If you have a child who will be turning 3 or 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2022 and would like them to be considered for the lottery, please go to the [Horace Porter](#)

[School website](#) and click on Student Services. Under the Student Services tab, please click on Preschool Porter Pals. There will be a link to register your child. We will be holding the Lottery on Thursday, March 31. If your child will be turning 5 prior to Dec. 31, 2022, then your child is eligible for Kindergarten and not Preschool. If



you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deborah Dupuis at (860) 228-0585.

PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS: The Early Childhood Team of Horace W. Porter School is pleased to announce that we will conduct Preschool Screenings for Columbia 3-year-olds (turning 3 by July 31, 2022) and any 4-year-olds not previously screened. Please call Deborah Dupuis at (860) 228-0585 if you would like your child to be screened. All public-school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The early childhood team in Columbia offers preschool developmental screenings for current resident children. The purpose of this screening is to collect information about each preschooler's early development in the areas of cognition, communication, motor functioning, and social interaction. This will help us to determine whether your child needs any special services in order to prepare for school success.

If you have concerns about a child that has not yet turned 3, please contact the CT Birth-to-Three program at (800) 505-7000.

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

SENIORS ON THE GO: In the last issue of the Columbia Views, I said that the delta variant had altered the plans for the Columbia Seniors. I really thought that by now things would be settling down. But the omicron variant has again changed what we can do in the near future. While the Beckish Senior Center is still opened, some activities are curtailed, and additional safety precautions are in place.

I can report that we had a wonderful time honoring our servicemen and women for Veterans' Day by providing lunch following the town's remembrances. We were also able to view some enjoyable movies during the months of November and December.

We hope to be able to have our Annual Tag Sale sometime this spring. Please watch for more up to date information in the Gem and by sign outside the Senior Center.

I miss seeing all of you. It is important for all of us to take care of ourselves and each other as we go through these frustrating and difficult times. Things will get better, and I look forward to a full and predictable schedule of activities soon.

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

CARDLESS HOLIDAY FUND 2021

The following people/organizations made donations to the Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund 2021. This fund is sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church and is used year-round to help Columbia residents. We thank them for their generosity in helping their neighbors in need.

- Debby & Mark Smith
- John & Debbie Bailey
- Lou & Karen Scotti
- Anonymous
- Columbia Ford Kia
- Mahlon & Cathy Gilbert
- Belle Robinson
- Velvet Welch
- Diana & Andrew Sadlon
- The Pearces
- Anonymous
- Ralph J. Noli
- Anonymous
- Andrea Stannard
- Anonymous
- Rick & Elaine Caron
- Darci Stryker
- Anonymous
- Carol & Dave Coley
- Certified Auto Repair
- Richard & Joanne Gyure
- Jacqueline Kittle

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



A vibrant bingo event poster for the Horace W. Porter PTO. The background is blue with white stars and colorful bingo balls (3, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9). The word "BINGO" is written in large, colorful letters. A red ribbon banner says "FEB. 11TH". Below that, it says "H.W.P Cafeteria" and "GAMES - FUN - PRIZES @ 5:30PM". It also lists the Facebook page, ticket prices, and contact information.

HORACE W. PORTER PTO
BINGO
FEB. 11TH
H.W.P Cafeteria
GAMES - FUN - PRIZES @ 5:30PM
FACEBOOK: HORACE W PORTER PTO AND PARENT COMMUNITY
\$5 PER PERSON, \$20 FAMILY CAP, \$3 PER EXTRA CARD
PAYPAL: PORTERPTOTREAS@GMAIL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL:
HORACEPORTERPTO@GMAIL.COM
H.W.P PTO is a registered 501(c)3 organization

Made with PosterMyWall.com



A shoe drive poster with a top-down view of people's feet. The text "SHOE DRIVE" is in large orange and white letters. Below are three circular images showing shoe donations. The bottom section is orange with white text.

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



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

TOWNWIDE TAG SALE: Columbia, CT Town Wide Tag Sale *organized by By The Pond and Notions Finds ReCreations and Design.*

**All proceeds to benefit to Columbia Food Bank
Saturday June 25, 2022 8:00 am-3:00 pm**

So How Does this Work? Simply submit your \$20 (non refundable) donation and registration form. You just set up at your home and sell, we will do the rest. Your sale and address will be added to a town map to highlight your sale to shoppers. Maps will be available the day of the sale to list and show all of the available sales.

Great Opportunity for: Small businesses, artisans, local sports teams, relay teams, church groups and clubs!

Have a local business you want to highlight? For a \$30 donation we will gladly add your business card to the map.

Turn your used goods into \$\$, use this as a fundraiser for your organization or to introduce your crafts/goods or business to a whole new market! Sell stuff-a-bag/everything for a \$1.00... the possibilities are endless!!

Questions? Contact: Nelisa Reagan at nelisareagan@sbcglobal.net. Let's make this a great event for our community and food bank!

TOWN WIDE TAG SALE REGISTRATION FORM

Name/ Business name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Brief description of items for sale:

Mail registration form (and business card if applicable) and check payable to The Beckish Senior Center to Notions Finds ReCreations and Design, 4 Szegda Rd., Columbia , CT 06237.