

COLUMBIA



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL RAMSEY

UPDATE JANUARY 2023



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

We had a very productive year with all our projects to improve Rec Park, finishing with a Winter Wonderland light show including the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The fire department also had a big 75th year milestone event. Our Public Works Department and Facilities Department took down countless trees, repaired and replaced many culverts and even rebuilt a culvert bridge at Erdoni Road in only one weeks' time. We had a wonderful celebration of our Beckish Senior Center for it's 25 years of serving our seniors.

Thank you to every employee, commission, and committee member for the great job of running our town in 2022!

VOLUNTEER ON A TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION:

Please consider volunteering your time on the Town's Boards/Commissions.

There are vacancies in:

- Conservation & Agriculture Commission
- Economic Development Commission
- Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (Alternate)
- Lake Management Advisory Commission
- Szegda Farm Management Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate)
- Building Committee for the Horace W. Porter School HVAC Project



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.



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Now begins the time and commitment of our Board of Selectmen, Board of Education and Financial Planning and Allocation Commission working with our employees to prepare a budget to present in our public meetings. We encourage you to express your comments and concerns by asking questions through emailing us at PublicInput@columbiact.org.

You can also join our workshops in person or via zoom. On the following page is the FY 23/24 Budget Process Calendar.

TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY JANUARY 16TH IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

EVERBRIDGE NOTIFICATIONS: We will from time to time issue an Everbridge Notification to help keep you informed. If you would like to sign up for Everbridge Notifications please go to the Town's website and click 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.

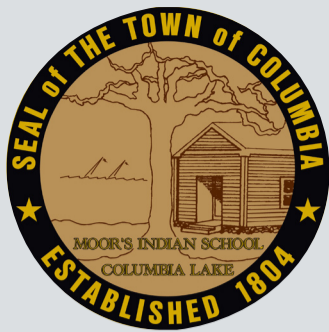
Thank you,

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

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

Find us on 





TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR



TOWN OF COLUMBIA
323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Columbia, CT 06237
(860) 228-0110 FAX: (860) 228-1952

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Calendar of Columbia FY 23-24 Budget Process

Date	Time	Process
12/07/22	N/A	Budget Forms available to Department Heads and Board Chairs
12/21/22	7 pm	Tri-Board Meeting between FiPAC, BOE & BOS (<i>Regular FiPAC meeting is scheduled immediately following the Tri-Board meeting</i>)
1/06/23	4 pm	Deadline for Budget submittals online by Department Heads and Board Chairs
1/09/23-1/20/23	N/A	Town Administrator meets with Department Heads & develops Budget
1/30/23	4 pm	Town Administrator delivers budget to BOS
2/07/23	7 pm	BOS Regular Meeting – with Review of budget highlights from the Town Administrator (tentative)
2/21/23	7 pm	BOS Regular Meeting - with Budget Workshop
2/28/23	7 pm	BOS Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop (tentative)
3/07/23	7 pm	BOS Regular Meeting – with Budget Workshop (BOS Budget Approval to go to FiPAC)
3/10/23	4 pm	Superintendent and TA deliver Budgets to FiPAC
<i>3/15/23</i>	<i>4 pm</i>	<i>Per Charter, last day for BOS & BOE to deliver budgets to FiPAC</i>
3/15/23	7 pm	FiPAC Regular Meeting – Budget presentations by Super & TA
3/22/23	7 pm	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop
3/29/23	7 pm	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop
4/05/23	7 pm	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop (tentative)
4/12/23	7 pm	FiPAC Special Meeting – with Budget Workshop (tentative)
4/13/23	4 pm	Legal Notice for 4/26/23 Public Hearing is posted & published. Budget document made available on Website, Town Clerk and Library
4/26/23	7 pm	Public Hearing on budget with FiPAC Special Meeting to follow
4/26/23	4 pm	Deadline to advertise legal notice and public notice for Budget Meeting
5/09/23	7 pm	Annual Town Budget Meeting (called by BOS). <i>Per charter must be held between 2nd Tues of May and 1st Tues of June</i>

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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

- 1/03/23 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM (Canceled)
- 1/04/23 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 1/05/23 Wed: Szegda Farm Management Committee, 6:00 PM
- 1/05/23 Wed: Conservation and Agriculture Commission, 7:00 PM
- 1/05/23 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 1/09/23 Tue: Board of Education, 7:30 PM
- 1/09/23 Mon: Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 1/10/23 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 1/10/23 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM
- 1/17/23 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 1/18/23 Wed: Financial Planning and Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 1/19/23 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
- 1/26/23 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 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).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:

ASSESSOR'S NOTICE FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Homeowners program will start accepting applications again as of February 1, 2023. 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 2022 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.

All persons liable to pay taxes are hereby notified to declare all tangible personal property owned by them as of October 1st. CGS 12-41(d) provides that the assessor must apply a 25% PENALTY for failure to file by November 1st.

The Assessor's Office will mail declaration forms to all property owners previously on record. Failure to receive a form does not negate the requirements to declare. Forms are available [online](#) and in the Assessor's Office.

NOTE: A declaration for real property or registered motor vehicles are not necessary. Taxable personal property includes but is not limited to: ***unregistered motor vehicles, motor vehicles located in Connecticut but registered in another state***, office, manufacturing and farming equipment, machinery, tools, leasehold improvements, and unregistered trailers. Please call the Assessor's Office for a full list or if you need clarification.

VETERANS: who served for more than ninety days during a time of war or have been disabled must have recorded their honorable discharge with the Town Clerk by October 1, 2022 in order to receive an exemption against their 2023 tax bill.

ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS: must submit an application to the Assessor's Office in order to receive 2022 Motor Vehicle benefits no later than December 2023. A copy of your orders or ID is required. The application can be found on our website, and emailed to mlavallee@townofcolumbiact.org

ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S EXEMPTION: Increased exemptions are available for those who meet the necessary income requirements and file with the Assessor's Office by October 1st. Biennial filing is required, and proof of income must be furnished at the time of application.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE (CONTINUED): Local option Veterans programs such as Gold Star Parents, Disabled veterans motor vehicle exemptions and increased exemption for 100% disabled veterans added in 2022. Please see specifics on the assessor's website.

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 for a benefit for the 2023 tax bill, an application with proof of income and, if applicable, proof of total disability must be filed during the following dates:

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

PERSONS PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED, regardless of age, may also apply for the benefits under the elderly program.

HANDICAPPED MODIFIED VEHICLE, used exclusively for the purpose of transporting any medically incapacitated individual, except for payment, may be eligible for exemption.

TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED PERSONS: Any person under the age of 65 that has been awarded total disability must apply by October 1st in order to receive a \$1000 assessment exemption. Applicants must furnish proof of award.

FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT: farmers must file a notarized M-28 exemption form on or before November 1st annually to receive an exemption for farm machinery.

LAND CLASSIFICATION: Persons seeking to apply under farm, for the first time, must file an application between September 1st and October 31st with the Assessor's Office. Persons who have previously applied need not reapply. Persons seeking to apply for forest must have the land certified by a forester submitted by Oct. 1st

MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT: equipment used in the manufacturing process may be allowed an exemption if certain guidelines are met. A completed application must be filed by November 1st.

NEW COMMERCIAL TRUCKS with a gross rating in excess of 26,000 lbs. should check with the Assessor's Office for tax exemption eligibility. Applications must be completed and filed with the Assessor by November 1st.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE (CONINTUED): .

LOCAL OPTIONS

FIREFIGHTERS: Columbia volunteer firefighters who meet certain requirements are eligible for tax abatement up to \$2000.

ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS PROGRAM: Senior Citizens or disabled individuals can defer the amount of their taxes that exceed 8% of their income. The application deadline is May 1ST annually.

Most applications can be found on our [town website](#).

FOR QUESTIONS ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS PLEASE CALL 228-9555.

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER: When the Beckish Senior Center opened in July of 1997, Columbia resident, Jay Smith volunteered his time and his craft to create a hand-carved sign for the grand opening of the center. Jay is a life-long resident of Columbia, and he takes great pride in his work. For over 33 years, Jay has been wood carving and made many items from wood including patio decks, bulkheads, furniture, signs and so much more. He is truly a very talented craftsman.



The Beckish Senior Center sign has remained undamaged despite the harsh New England weather for 25 years. You may ask yourself, how is that even possible? Well, Jay made the original sign out of Redwood, the last of the obtainable Redwood at the time. Redwood is known for its impressive resistance to decay. Jay made some minor needed repairs to the existing sign and did a total sand down, fresh primer and paint. The sign looks brand new!

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER (CONTINUED): Jay believes in giving back to the community and creating a legacy. You never know where you will come across his work here in Columbia. A few signs that come to mind are Starkey's Christmas Tree Farm and the Saxon B. Little Library sign.

Thank you, Jay, for your continued support here in Columbia! Your craft is truly a work of art! Thank you for rejuvenating the Beckish Senior Center sign so it can last another 25 plus years.



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER (CONTINUED):

MOBILE FOODSHARE



COLUMBIA'S MOBILE FOODSHARE

Beckish Senior Center

188 Route 66, Columbia

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23,

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

1:00 PM 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.

Bernadette Derring, Senior Center Director

860-228-0759

bderring@columbiact.org

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

FIRE MARSHAL:

MID-WINTER CHECKUP

We are in the middle of the heating season, so now is a good time to do a safety check on all of your heating devices. All combustibles should be at least 36" away from any heating source. Chimneys, power vents, and make-up air systems must be clean and clear for proper operation. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors should be tested to make sure they are in working order. Any alarm or detector that is over ten years old should be replaced entirely. Lastly, all ash should be disposed of properly. Always ensure ash is extinguished and placed outside safely away from combustibles. Please feel free to contact the Land Use Department with any questions at 860-228-0440.



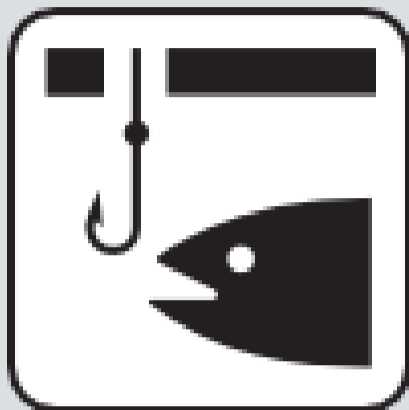
ARE YOUR SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS WORKING PROPERLY? All homes need to have properly working smoke and CO detectors. It is important to replace these devices if they are over ten years old. The sensitivity of the alarm sensors decrease over time – they may sound when you push the test button, but they may not work accurately when needed in an emergency. You can check the age of your alarms by looking at the label that should have a manufacturer's date listed with the month/year.

It is recommended that the batteries be changed in all devices twice a year. Changing the batteries at the same time we change the clocks is an easy way to remember to complete this important task.

All devices should be installed as per the manufacturer's instructions. For any questions on alarms or other fire safety topics, please contact the Town of Columbia Land Use Office at 860-228-0440.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:



BAIT BUCKET DISPOSAL CATCH BASIN AVAILABLE FOR ICE FISHERMAN:

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

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. The Transfer Station is open on Wednesday's and Saturday's from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

SOCIAL SERVICES: SNAP Benefits AND Energy Assistance - Apply Now!



YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR

SNAP!
(Formerly "Food Stamps")

EHC!
END HUNGER CONNECTICUT!

In less than 10 questions, End Hunger CT's SNAP Prescreener can help determine your potential eligibility.

EHC!'s SNAP Prescreener is:

- Free to use
- Completely confidential
- Your information is never stored

EHC! can assist with the application process if you do appear eligible!

Visit: www.endhungerct.org/prescreener
or call (866) 974-SNAP (7627)

Or scan now 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP.


USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Putting Healthy Food Within Reach

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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.



Apply for Help with Heating Costs!

Energy Assistance - 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.

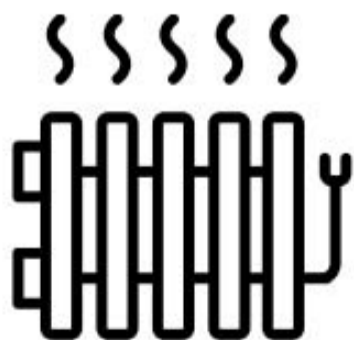
The income limit for an individual is \$3,313 per month, for a couple the income limit is \$4,333 per month. Proof of the last four weeks of income and utility bills are required. First time applicants must submit proof of social security cards. Again this year, there is no asset test for this program.

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

Applicants can also apply online at, <https://ctdss.force.com/heatinghelp/s/>, or through ACCFSS (860-450-7400).

Applications can be downloaded at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Economic-Security/Winter-Heating-Assistance/Energy-Assistance---Winter-Heating/How-To-Apply>
Or, contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 for an application.

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



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES: To support the continued well-being of our community, please know you can reach out to Katie Wilt 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

Monday, Tuesday and Fridays 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator

860-228-1008 | kwilt@Columbiact.org

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Happy New Year from the Parks and Recreation Department! As 2023 gets underway, we are looking forward to bringing a lineup of great initiatives, engagements, and opportunities for the Town of Columbia to get involved. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with the latest programs and events.



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

Mother Nature was not the most cooperative, but regardless of rain, Rec Park lit up and welcomed many to see the lights, Santa, who arrived in a festive fire engine, Mrs. Claus with her hot chocolate and cookies, and to toast marshmallows and eat s'mores by an open fire. Generous donations to the Columbia Food Pantry were collected and the winner of 'How many Candy Canes are in the Jar' was Evan with the guess of 78. He had the closest guess without going over. (91 was the actual amount)



UPCOMING EVENTS: Winter Wonderland with a NEW SPIN! Once again Rec Park will be lit up to welcome visitors, but this time to WALK through Winter Wonderland. Park your car and stroll through the park to take in fresh air and beautiful scenery. For those who want to add a little more to their walk, take on the challenge to 'Find the Objects'. You can warm the soul with some hot chocolate at the new pavilion too. A perfect opportunity to change up your walking routine. More details to follow. Date is tentatively set for January 12th.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Columbia Cold Snap! ~ 9:30 am, Saturday, January 21, 2023: Looking for a short early morning exercise to benefit a good cause? Go to Columbia Rec Park and run 1 mile for a great cause. **All proceeds from this race will be donated to the Hole in the Wall Gang in Ashford, CT.** For more information, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Columbia/COLUMBIAColdSnap>.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

Winter Wonderland
Part 2!
Walk-Thru

THURSDAY JANUARY 12TH
4:30-6:30PM

PARK YOUR CAR AND WALK THRU REC PARK TO SEE
THE LIGHTS!

JOIN OUR SCAVENGER HUNT AND FIND
MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS PLACED AROUND YOUR
WALK

MAKE A STOP BY THE NEW PAVILION FOR HOT COCOA

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

JOIN US FOR GIRLS IN SPORTS DAY ~ SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH! Calling all girls and young women, 8 - 13 years old: Columbia Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with E.O. Smith Athletics, will be celebrating National Girls and Women in Sports Day by hosting a FREE interactive clinic of various sports with girls ages 8 - 13. Participants will be coached by E.O. Smith coaches and student athletes and promises to be a day filled with positive energy, empowering young women through sports.



Girls in Sports Day

Free event hosted by Columbia Parks and Recreation
in collaboration with E.O. Smith Athletics

Saturday, February 4th, 2023
Location: E.O. Smith High School
8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Calling all Girls and young women, 8-13 years old

National Girls and Women in Sports Day began in 1987 remembering Olympic volleyball Player Flo Hyman's athletic achievements and work to ensure equality for women's sports. NGWD celebrates past and current sport achievements and supports equality and access for women in sports.

Choose from four activities during each 40-minute session. Try a new sport or participate in a familiar one. Each child will be treated to a day of fun, enriched by their experience.

- Arrive dressed ready to actively participate
- If you would like to bring your own stick, racket, or glove, please do. We will provide equipment for those who do not have it.
- Bring a water bottle to hydrate

Scheduled Events:

8:45am	Registration/ Check-In
9:00am	Welcome & Warm-up
9:20am	Tennis, Soccer, Zumba, Volleyball
10:05am	Track & Field, Yoga, Field Hockey, Basketball
10:50am	Basketball, Lacrosse, Softball, Yoga
11:30am	Team Building Challenges

How to Register: Go to www.Columbiact.org, click on Recreation and follow the prompts for the Girls in Sports Day event. *Start by creating an account for your child on Rec Desk first. For more information, contact:

Debbie Fiske @: Recdirector@columbiact.org
or call: 860.228.8513

Register by Sunday 1/29
DON'T DELAY..... SPACE LIMITED

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): Around Town: Youth Basketball took a small hiatus for the holidays but will get back underway this weekend. Here are a few photos from our younger division of participants.



SURVEY MONKEY coming your way soon. We want to hear from you! 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.

Time to return those gate keys! Please drop keys off at the Rec Department, Murphy House, Beach Road. Thank you to those who have returned your gate key. For those that have not, please do so ASAP! The boating season will be here before you know it.

LIFEGUARDS needed for the summer at Columbia Lake. Countdown to summer fun! Start planning for your summer job now. Not certified? We will provide the training and certification. Call the Rec office for more details.

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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

EXERCISE PROGRAMS:

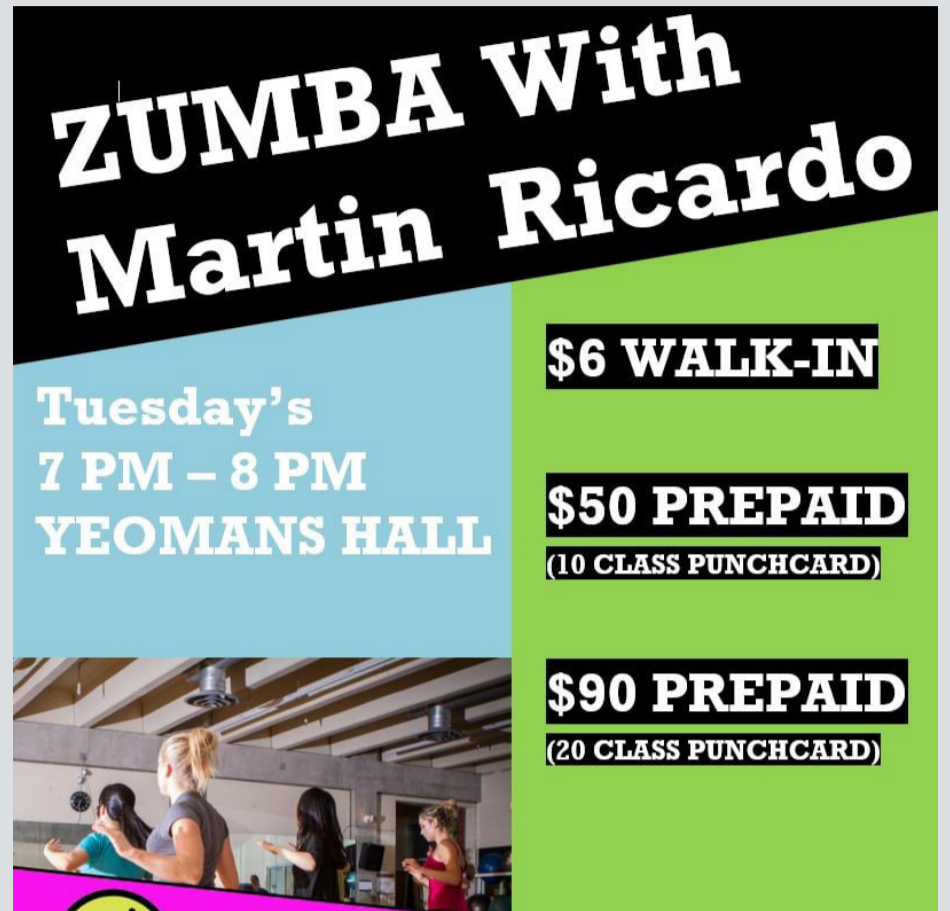
Fit Fusion: Monday/Wednesday, 4:30- 5:30 p.m.

Zumba: Tuesday, 7-8 p.m.

COMMIT: Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS: Register for programs on-line at [RECDESK](#).



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)

The poster features a black and white photo of a Zumba instructor leading a class in a gym. The background is split into black, light blue, and green sections.




COMMIT
DANCE FITNESS

KAREN RICARDO
Wednesday's from 7PM-8PM
Located at Yoemans Hall

\$6 Walk-in
\$50 Pre-Paid (10 Class Punch Card)
\$90 Pre-Paid (20 Class Punch Card)

The poster shows a group of people in a dance fitness class. The background is light green and white.



Men's BASKETBALL

Sept. 12th- Oct 24th 7-9PM
Nov, 7th- March 27th 8-10PM
April 3rd- May 22nd 7-9 PM

\$50
PER Person

AGE:
18+

2022

PORTER SCHOOL GYM

MASK ARE REQUIRED WHILE YOU ARE IN THE BUILDING

RECREATION@COLUMBIAC.T.ORG
860-228-8513

The poster has a wood-grain background and features a basketball at the bottom. It includes contact information for the Recreation Department.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): Follow us on [FaceBook](#) and [Instagram](#) 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 OFFICE: TAX BILL ALERT Some Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills may have an incorrect remittance address on the enclosed envelope. Click for more information. A second mailing containing the correct remittance envelope will go out on 12/30/2022.

If you received a tax bill with a Branford remittance envelope, please discard this and use the Columbia envelope.

Tax bills should be sent to:

Town of Columbia

Dept. #347

PO Box 150512

Hartford, CT 06115-0512

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

THE TAX OFFICE HAS EXTENDED HOURS DURING THE TAX COLLECTION MONTH OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1, 2023: MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY 8:00-4:00, THURSDAY 10:00-6:00 AND FRIDAY 8:00-12:00.

Don't forget!! The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2023. The last day to pay without a penalty is February 1, 2023. If taxes are not paid on or before February 1, 2023 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!

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX COLLECTOR (CONTINUED): 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.

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.**

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE:

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS: An elector with a permanent physical disability, who is unable to appear in person at their poll on Election Day, may file an absentee ballot application along with a doctor's certificate (on letterhead) with the Town Clerk. This will place the elector on the Permanent Absentee Ballot list. A copy will be forwarded to the Registrar of Voters so that the permanent status can be noted on their registration. Throughout the year, for any election, primary or referendum, the Town Clerk will automatically mail an absentee ballot to the elector as soon as they become available. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE (CONTINUED):

BIRTHS-DEATHS-MARRIAGES: Certified copies of vital events such as births, deaths and marriages are available from the Town Clerk. A request application and positive identification are necessary to obtain a certified copy. There is a fee of \$20.00 for each certified copy requested.

PROBATE COURT: Probate Court for Columbia is located in Manchester at 66 Center Street. Michael M. Darby is Probate Judge. If you have any questions, you can call their office at 860-647-3227, Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

DOGS: If you are new to Columbia and have not registered your dog with us or you have a new dog that is at least six months of age, please contact our office. You will need an updated rabies vaccination certificate and a spayed/neutered certificate, if applicable, to license your dog.

FISHING AND HUNTING: Sports licenses for 2023 are available for purchase in the Town Clerk's office and on the DEEP website. The DEEP invites you to go to their website <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CT-Outdoor-Guides> for downloadable PDFs of their fishing and hunting guides.

The Town Clerk's office is fully open to the public. 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.

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 (townclerk@columbiact.org) or Gail McGrath, Assistant Town Clerk (atownclerk@columbiact.org).

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Happy New Year, All!

We at the Saxton B. are delighted to welcome a new year with our friends and neighbors. As always there is much happening at the Library.

This month, watch for the roll out of our new mobile friendly website. Our monthly email newsletter also has a new look, but will continue to share our monthly happenings. Be sure to sign up, if you are not.

Special events happening in January include:

- Thurs 1/12 3pm Lights Out CT! – Learn how to help migratory birds safely journey through the night sky.
- Tue 1/17 7pm Attend our Women and Wealth, a 45 minute seminar to teach women core principals of financial planning.
- Thurs 1/26 6:00 Animals in Winter – come see who will be visiting.
- Tue 1/31 6:30 Herbal Remedies for Winter Wellness, with Nora Toomey, Clinical Herbalist with True Bloom.

And of course, new members are always welcome at any of our 5 adult book groups, weekly Stitchers group, and monthly Writer's group!

The Library will be closed on Monday 1/16 in honor of MLK Jr.

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

AHM: AHM is a non-profit charitable organization with the purpose to promote and support the health and well-being of children, youth, and families. Residents of Andover, Columbia, Hebron, and Marlborough can access the extensive network of social and human services that AHM provides.

Recently, AHM installed a Here 4 You Little Library right here in Columbia. AHM staff created a lending library of books on a range of mental health topics to help residents feel more at ease talking about mental health concerns. The Here 4 You Little Library was designed to help normalize mental health for children and teens, reminding them that there are resources and professionals to help them get through times in life when they may feel overwhelmed. Books for families of preschool-aged children through teens, young adults, and adults will be available.

Reading materials in the libraries will

be free and paid for through a Directed Local Funds grant provided to AHM from the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts. Columbia's Here 4 You Little Library can be found at the Murphy House located at the Town Beach near the Recreation and Social Services offices. This resource is available year-round.

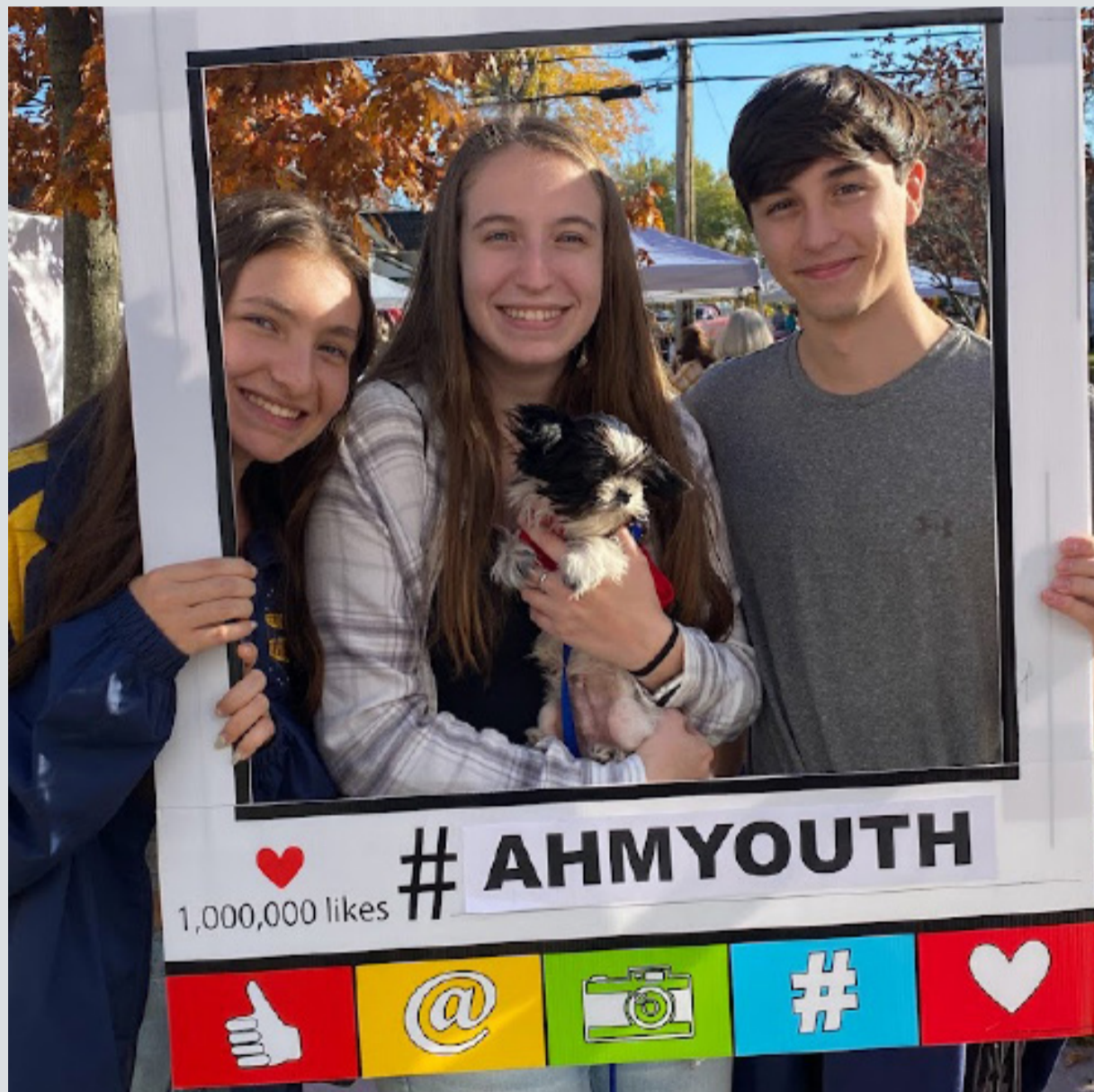
The AHM TASKs Program is a partnership with the town of Columbia to assist the seniors within the community. The TASKs Program works with Columbia Senior Services to help improve the quality of life for residents age 60 and older, by providing them with the assistance and support of a youth TASKs worker. Teens, ages 14 through 18 years old, are paid for their time and asked to complete chores such as light household cleaning, raking leaves, and mowing lawns.



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

AHM (CONTINUED): AHM introduces two new staff members: Christina Burdzy Herrick, Student Support Services Counselor at Horace W. Porter School and Columbia Resident Ann Marie Drury, Individual Giving and Events Planning Coordinator.

To learn more about the many different services and opportunities, upcoming programs, and events please visit www.ahmyouth.org. AHM Youth and Family Services is also on Facebook and Instagram.



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

HORACE PORTER SCHOOL:

PRESCHOOL SCREENING

The Early Childhood Team of Horace W. Porter School is pleased to announce that we will conduct Preschool Screenings for Columbia 2-year and 9-month-old (turning 3 by December 31, 2023) and any 4-year-old not previously screened (and not turning 5 by December 31, 20213). 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.

PORTER PALS PRESCHOOL LOTTERY REGISTRATION

If you have a child who will be turning 3 or 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2023 and would like them to be considered for the lottery, please go to www.hwporter.org and click on Preschool Registration in the middle of the page. Then please click on Preschool Screening/Lottery. There will be a link to register your child. Registration for the lottery will close at 3:30pm on Thursday, March 30, 2023. We will be holding the Lottery on Friday, March 31. If your child will be turning 5 prior to Dec. 31, 2023, 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.

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

HORACE PORTER SCHOOL:

Horace W. Porter School Kindergarten Registration

Horace W. Porter School is collecting registration for students entering Kindergarten for the upcoming 2023/2024 school year. Parents/guardians of children who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2023, are asked to register their child by completing the online Kindergarten Registration by visiting our website at hwporter.org. Once your online registration is complete you will receive information in your email regarding Kindergarten Orientation. If you have any questions, contact Tammy Nye at (860) 228-9493 ext. 161.



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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: Columbia Congregational Church is on a path to becoming accessible to all who would like to attend and participate in our activities. We have a team exploring ways that we can accomplish this.

In December we were able to create spaces in the sanctuary for wheelchair, walker and/or stroller use so that families and friends could sit together. Another project that we are working on, is looking into ways to assist with transportation to and from activities. Come check out our progress and watch us as we become a place that is accessible to all while maintaining our heritage.



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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CONTINUED):

COLUMBIA CARDLESS HOLIDAY FUND 2022

The following people made donations to the Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund 2022. 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.

- Rick/Elaine Carone
- Lynn/Bob Owens
- Andrew/Diana/Emil Sadlon
- anonymous
- Pearce/Maheu Family
- Debby/Mark Smith
- Narkawicz Family
- Pam/Les Giddings
- Jackie Kittle
- anonymous
- Peter/Michele Dumaine
- George/Madeline Skinner
- Rich/Sally Ruef
- Carmen Vance
- Joyce Nasin
- Mahlon/Cathy Gilbert

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CONTINUED):



325 Route 87
860 228 9306



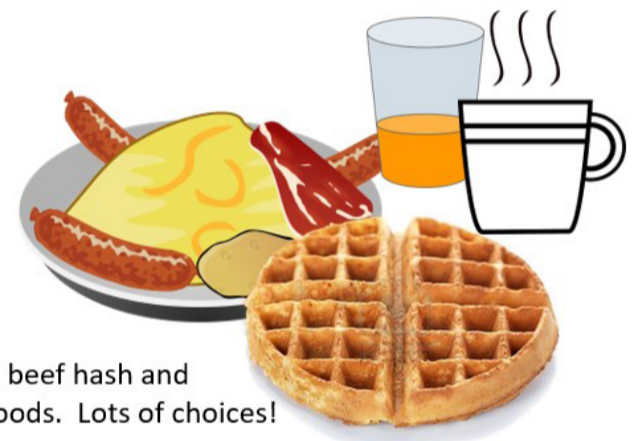
2nd Saturday Community Breakfasts

Feb. 11 Mar. 11
Apr 8 May 13



Share Food and Joy with
Family and Friends
8 AM to 11 AM

All you can eat \$12; Special Rates
for Families with Children



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



325 Route 87
PO Box 177
Columbia, CT
06237

860 228 9306
ccchurch@snet.net

Columbiacongregational
church.org

Find us on Facebook and
on You Tube

WELCOME!

FEBRUARY – APRIL HAPPENINGS

Services 10 AM Sundays with Rev. MaryAnn Purtill

Church School during services 1st & 3rd Sundays

Outdoors with God for all Ages on the 4th Sunday 2 PM

Bible Study Thursdays 10:30 AM

EASTER Services: 6:30 AM Sunrise at Camp Asto Wamah
April 9th 10 AM Easter Celebration Service

Community Breakfasts monthly on the 2nd Saturday
Simple Sustenance Soup, Bread, Pierogis on the 4th Sunday

For details check out our webpage: Columbiacongregationalchurch.org



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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CONTINUED):

SIMPLE SUSTENANCE OFFERINGS 2023 HOMEMADE SOUP, BREAD, PIEROGIS

Feb	26	Mulligatawny	Mozzarella Parmesan Bread
Mar	26	* Pierogis, Apple Sauce, Carmelized Onions *	
Apr	23	Corn Chowder	Molasses Brown Bread
May	21	Zuppa Toscana	Sun-Dried Tomato Basil Bread

ORDER and PAY by one week prior to PICK UP date above

ORDER forms available at Columbia Congregational Church or by email: ccchurchfair@gmail.com

OR Order online with PayPal at <https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org>

Watch for next schedule starting in September



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

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 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

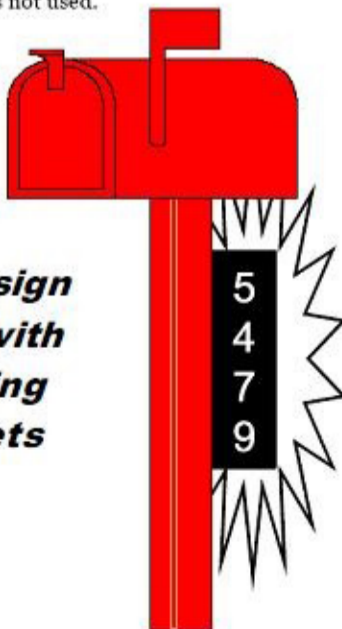
Note: If your address has fewer than 5 digits, please X those boxes not used.

Mounting Preference

HORIZONTAL _____
 VERTICAL _____

HORIZONTAL

V
E
R
T
I
C
A
L



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

Mail to:
 Columbia Volunteer Fire Department
 PO Box 26
 Columbia, CT 06237

(860) 228-9602

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

COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB: Lion Honored for Exceptional Service – Lion Bob Fowler was given the Rose Amanda Freeman Award on November 14, 2022, by district Governor Sue Fisher. Lion Bob has worked tirelessly to provide eye screenings to students in Columbia and neighboring towns. Since 2017 Lion Bob and his team of Columbia Lions have screened over 6,000 students in grades K-8. The screening is done using a portable Spot Vision camera that detects eye problems and provides immediate results to school health staff and parents.



Peace Poster Winners – Two 7th-grade students at Horace Porter School, Paityn Cranick and Lexi Garrison, were chosen as first-place and runner-up winners, respectively, in this year's Lions Peace Poster Contest. Each winner was given an Amazon Gift card from the Columbia Lions. The winning posters were designed to capture this year's theme, Lead With Compassion. Paityn Cranick's poster will be submitted to a juried competition along with other 1st-place winners from Lions District 23C. Both posters will be on public view in the lobby of the Saxton B. Little Free Library.

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

COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB (CONTINUED): 4th of July Parade – The Columbia Lions Club is eager to make the parade on July 4, 2023, the biggest and best ever! The Lions are calling upon everyone – individuals, families, organizations – to become participants in the parade itself. We invite members of our community to design a float that reflects the parade’s theme and walk the parade route along with the marching bands, fire trucks, and other civic groups. Your float will be eligible to win a prize if it captures the parade theme in both spirit and style. (The theme for the parade will be announced early in 2023.) The prizes are:

1st Place \$250

2nd Place \$150

3rd Place \$100.

For more information on entering the parade and designing your own float, contact Lion Tom at 860-578-7073 or email us at ColumbiaCtLions@gmail.com.