

# COLUMBIA



*PHOTO CREDIT: SCOT FORTNA*

# UPDATE JULY 2022





# TOWN OF COLUMBIA

## OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Please join us for the 59th Annual 4th of July Parade sponsored by The Columbia Lion's Club on Monday, July 4, 2022, kicking off at 10:00 am. The parade's theme is "Helping One Another". The parade route is from H. W. Porter School to Lake Road. In this newsletter, Ingrid Wood, Columbia's Town Historian provides a look back on the history of this wonderful parade on page 20.



*4TH OF JULY PARADE PHOTO CREDITS: SCOT FORTNA*

The 2022 Columbia Lake Boat Parade sponsored by the Columbia Lake Association (CLA) will be held on Monday, July 4th at 4:00 PM. This year's theme is HELPING ONE ANOTHER. Put your creativity to work to decorate your boat. Remember to pre-register for the parade by Saturday, July 2nd. Simply email your name and phone number to [columbialakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:columbialakeassociation@gmail.com). CLA will respond and assign your boat number that you design as a part of your decorations!



*PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA LAKE ASSOCIATION*



As we celebrate Independence Day this Fourth of July we ask that you celebrate without fireworks. As many of you know, we have an adult pair of American Bald Eagles (Bertha & Harry) nesting near Columbia Lake and they have successfully hatched one eaglet that we are affectionately calling Lubov.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA LAKE ASSOCIATION

Lubov is still in a critical stage of his growth. As a fledgling Lubov will remain in the nest for four or five weeks, taking short flights while his primary feathers grow and strengthen. Bertha and Harry will still provide the eaglet with food, but the eaglet will start learning how to hunt for his own food in late July through October. Brian Hess, Wildlife Biologist with CT-DEEP explains that "Loud, prolonged, and unpredictable noises like fireworks can cause young to leave the nest before they are able to fly, often leading to the bird's death. To avoid harm to nesting eagles from fireworks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published guidelines recommending measures including a half mile restrictive buffer. The ultimate intent of these guidelines is to limit harm to eagles."

The Board of Selectman has authorized the distribution of a letter to residents around Columbia Lake by Hess. We have confirmed that sparklers and fountains that can be purchased legally may be enjoyed at any time. Any other forms of fireworks is illegal in Connecticut.

We wish you a safe and happy 4th of July and would like to thank you for your help in protecting our nesting eagles.

**RECREATION PARK:** The improvements to Rec Park are reaching completion and we will be hosting a Rec Park Celebration highlighting the various new projects that have been completed on August 6th from 12-2 with food, music and games. Stay tuned for more information in our next monthly newsletter and on the Town of Columbia's [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett, First Selectman

[severett@columbiact.org](mailto:severett@columbiact.org)

860-228-0110



# TOWN OF COLUMBIA

## OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Now that summer is in full swing, paving projects have begun. The milling and paving of Cards Mill Road will begin the week of **July 11th**. Milling and paving will be conducted on Cards Mill Road between the intersection of Rt. 66 East and Baker Hill Road. Please expect periodic road closures and delays between July 11th through the 15th. Work will be performed between the hours of 6:30 am and 5:00 pm. Please seek alternative routes if possible.



We are excited to partner with the [Connecticut Conference of Municipalities](#) (CCM) to promote the 2022 CCM Broadband Connectivity Survey! Your input will help guide federal investments in more reliable Internet access for Connecticut's residents. Please complete this very brief [survey](#) from your home network today!

The "Internet for All Initiative," will invest \$45 billion to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet by the end of the decade. Each state is set to receive at least \$100 million and final funding allotment for each state will be determined by the broadband maps the FCC is expected to release early next year. For more information, visit [CCM's website](#).

There is good news on the expansion of fiber-optic Internet services. You've likely noticed a lot of fiber installation activity in town, including increased truck traffic and large spools of conduit as workers begin to connect their service. Frontier® is expanding their fiber Internet network to serve Columbia homes and businesses. This will make Internet service as fast as 2 gigabits per second available. To learn more, click [here](#) for the Columbia Frontier Fiber-optic Growth Presentation. For more details about the process and pricing, contact Frontier at 1-855-887-0992 (residential) or 1-888-534-1741 (business), or go to Frontier's [website](#).





**EVERBRIDGE NOTIFICATIONS:** We will from time to time issue an Everbridge Notification with a message from the First Selectman, Steven M. Everett to help keep you informed. If you would like to sign up for Everbridge Notifications please go to the Town's website and on the [Everbridge Notifications](#) tab.

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

If you need assistance please do not hesitate to call the Town Administrative Office or the First Selectman at 860-228-0110 or email us at [townadministrator@columbiact.org](mailto: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

- 7/5/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM (Canceled)
- 7/06/22 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 7/07/22 Thur: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/11/22 Tue: Board of Education, 7:30 PM
- 7/11/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/13/22 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 7/13/22 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/14/22 Thur: Szegda Farm Management Committee, 6:00 PM
- 7/14/22 Thur: Conservation and Agriculture Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/19/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 7/20/22 Wed: Safety Committee, 1:30 PM
- 7/20/22 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/21/22 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
- 7/25/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/27/22 Thur: Columbia Commission on Aging, 9:00 AM
- 7/28/22 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM

Public Comment will be accepted by our dedicated email at [PublicInput@columbiact.org](mailto: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, July 4, 2022**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE**

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!**



**PLEASE COME AND  
CELEBRATE WITH US AT THE 59TH  
ANNUAL  
COLUMBIA LION'S CLUB  
INDEPENDENCE DAY  
PARADE**

**MONDAY, JULY 4TH AT 10 AM**



**PARADE ROUTE IS FROM  
H. W. PORTER SCHOOL TO LAKE ROAD**



**THIS YEAR'S  
THEME**

**Helping One  
Another**





# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **ASSESSORS OFFICE:**

Motor Vehicle Adjustments: In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof. The first is a copy of the vehicle plate return receipt that you get from DMV when you return your plates. The second is something that shows how you disposed of the vehicle. Accepted proofs are a copy of the bill of sale, an out-of-state registration, an insurance statement that specifically states your vehicle was removed for sale or because it was sold, stolen, or totaled. You can also submit a junked vehicle statement from the junkyard or a copy of your purchase agreement if you traded in a vehicle and bought a vehicle with a lower value

Renters Program: The Renters Program runs until October 1st so please call us or come in if you are interested in this program. You must be 65 or older or totally disabled. Please call us to find out what is necessary to file an application, or you can go to our website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) under the Elderly & Totally Disabled Benefits line item for further information.

If you have any questions regarding the above programs, you can reach the Assessor's office at 860-228-9555.

Mary Lavallee, Assessor  
Town of Columbia  
Assessor's Office  
323 Route 87  
Columbia, CT 06237

**BECKISH SENIOR CENTER:** The Beckish Senior Center is fully operational. Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are optional. Our activities are in full swing. It is great to see our seniors back at the center.

Our meals are served on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 12pm., with a special meal each month.



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**BECKISH SENIOR CENTER continued:** The Rose Marrotte Art Show in June was a remarkable success! The art works submitted were incredible. Congratulations to the winners:

**PAINTING:**

- 1st Mary L. Killilea "Daisy"
- 2nd Kathy Tolsdorf "Granny's House"
- 3rd Carmen Vance "Sunset"

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

- 1st Paul Ramsey "Seagrass Sunset"
- 2nd Cheryl LaCosse "Fall Scene"
- 3rd Lorraine DuBois "Hawk Eye"

**QUILTING:**

- 1st Linda Shaw "Purple Quilt"
- 2nd Sue Oliver "Sunburst"
- 3rd Alicia Spencer "Quilt"

**WOODCARVING:**

- 1st Ted E. Dubay "Sailing Ship-Halifax"
- 2nd Richard LaCosse "Ziggy-Lucy"
- 3rd Alice Mellor "Winter Wolf"



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **BECKISH SENIOR CENTER continued:**

Katie Wilt, the Community Social Services Coordinator, hosted a presentation on June 10th at 11:00 a.m. This was the first presentation of the "More you Know," Wellness Series for Seniors. The discussion included exploring and accessibility of the trends in vaping. Please join us in the future for these informative presentations. For more information, please see the Community Social Services Coordinator's information on page 16.



**Senior Resources:** Agency on Aging is sponsoring the 2022 Seniors Farmer's Market Voucher. Information on the program is available at the Senior Center. The liaison will be at the Senior Center to distribute the voucher on July 19, between 10am and 12pm.

Besides the many activities offered, art classes are being held each Monday from 1pm to 3pm.

The computer classes are postponed until the fall. Happy Summer everyone!

And do not forget the Columbia Lions Barbecue scheduled for August 21, from 12pm to 3pm at Rec Field.

Please check the [Beckish Newsletter, The Gem](#), for all activities and trip details.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Summer!

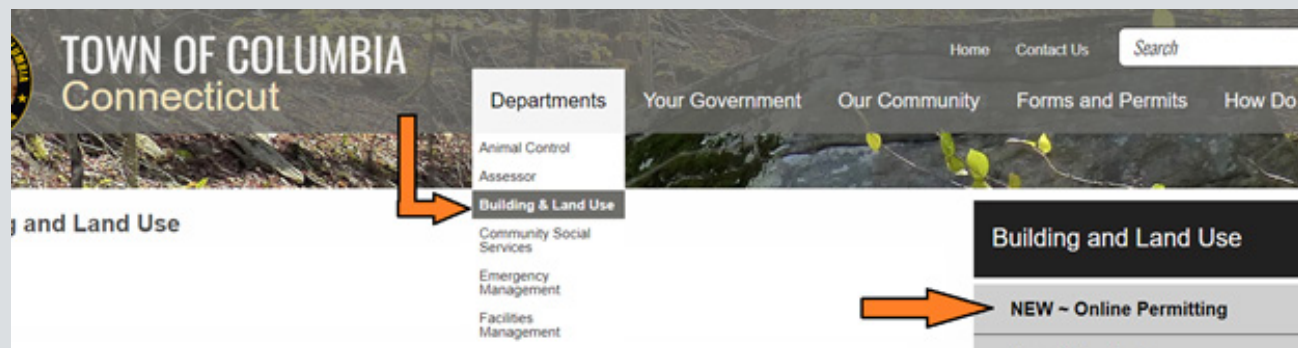
Bernadette Derring

Director Senior Services & Transportation



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**BUILDING AND LAND USE DEPARTMENT:** We are happy to announce the arrival of our new [on-line permitting system](#) for the submittal of applications for most building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical/HVAC, fuel/gas and demolition permits.



For your convenience, multiple forms of payment are accepted in the on-line system. A 3% fee will be applied to credit card transactions. Applicants can also visit us with cash or check payments during our normal business hours, by postal mail, or by using the drop box located to the left of our Yeoman's Hall entrance. Please keep in mind that applications cannot be processed without payment.

Before applying for a permit, you should review the Building Department portion of the website to see what documentation may be required.

Paper permit applications will continue to be accepted in the office, by mail, or by drop box with a cash or check payment only, however we do encourage the use of our new on-line system.

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

### Notice of Road Construction or Closure - July 11th through the 15th for Cards Mill Road.



The milling and paving of Cards Mill Road will begin the week of July 11. Milling and paving will be conducted on Cards Mill Road between the intersection with Rt. 66 East and Baker Hill Road. Please expect periodic road closures and delays between July 11th through the 15th. Work will be performed between the hours of 6:30 am and 5:00 pm. Please seek alternative routes if possible.

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

The Marine Patrol is comprised of Gate Monitoring and Boat Patrol. Gate Monitoring consists of Qualified Town of Columbia (TOC) Inspectors that examine watercraft, trailer and towing vehicles (including rollers and bunks) for any signs of vegetation, mussels, snails or standing water. Inspection includes opening and checking internal compartments to ensure they are completely drained as AIS can be easily transported in standing water from previous boat use. If no signs of AIS are seen or felt and no standing water has been found, the watercraft can be launched. The Marine Patrol consists of Marine Patrol Officers who regulate the operation of motorboats, water-skiing and other water activities on Columbia Lake to ensure the comfort and safety of the public and the protection of the property.

### **MARINE PATROL NUMBER 860-256-9720**

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

If there is an emergency, please call 911.

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

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



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**MARINE PATROL CONTINUED:** Gate monitoring is enforced at the boat launch, located at Columbia Town Beach, during the stated hours. Prior to launching a watercraft, it is inspected for the presence of Aquatic Invasive Species, pursuant to the Inspection Procedures in accordance with Town of Columbia Town Ordinance 6-4. Inspection of watercraft is completed by Qualified TOC Inspectors.

To launch a watercraft at the Town of Columbia Boat Launch, the watercraft needs to be registered to a resident of the Town of Columbia. Registration, proof of residence and a boating license are required upon the initial inspection of a watercraft.

## 2022 MARINE PATROL SCHEDULE

**GATE MONITORING:** MAY 23RD - SEPTEMBER 11TH: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

WEEKENDS ONLY: SEPTEMBER 17TH - OCTOBER 9TH: 10:00 AM-9:00 PM

**BOAT PATROL:** DATES: MAY 28TH - SEPTEMBER 11TH

WEEKENDS: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

### BEACH PASSES

Beach Passes: 2022 season passes are available for purchase on May 1, 2022. Adult Season Pass Holders may purchase up to 4 Transferable Guest Passes (TGP) per household at \$45 each or Guest Passes for \$ 5. ALL guests of season pass holders must be with their sponsoring adult at all times. All passes are sold at the Parks & Recreation Office. Only Day passes are sold at the beach. Family Max = \$120 excluding the TGP & Day Passes. For more info, visit <https://columbia.recdesk.com/recdeskportal>

RESIDENT	SEASON PASS	TRANSFERABLE GUEST PASS	DAY PASS
AGES 5-17	\$25	\$45	\$5
AGES 18-61	\$35	\$45	\$5
AGES 62+	\$15	\$45	\$5

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUED:** Please note that the Parks and Recreation Department is now located at the Murphy House at Columbia Lake. Follow us on [FaceBook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

**UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS [ON-LINE AT RECDESK.](#)**

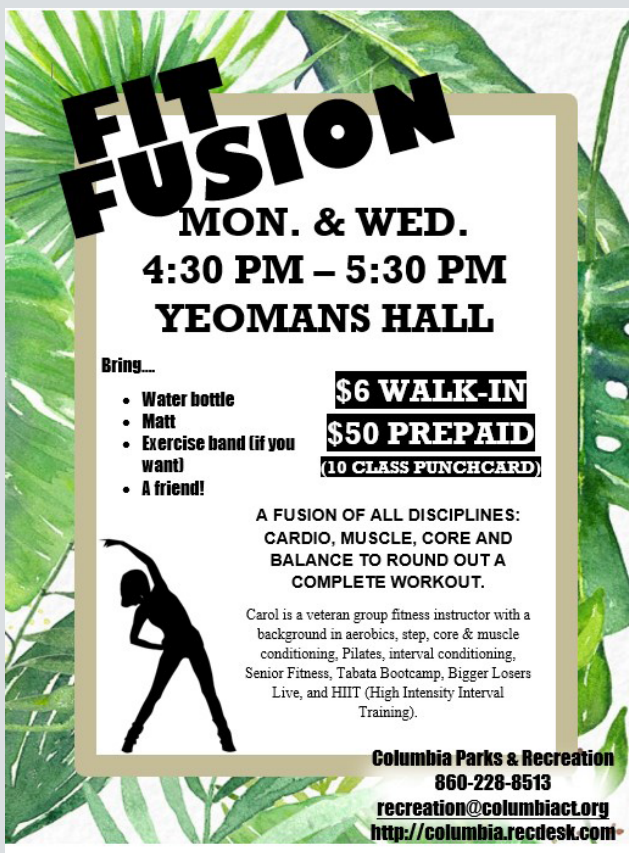
**EXERCISE PROGRAMS** held at Yeoman's Hall.

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

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

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

For all exercise classes we have a max capacity of 12 people per a class. Due to this we are asking those who wish to attend to email ahead to reserve a spot [recdirector@columbiact.org](mailto: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...

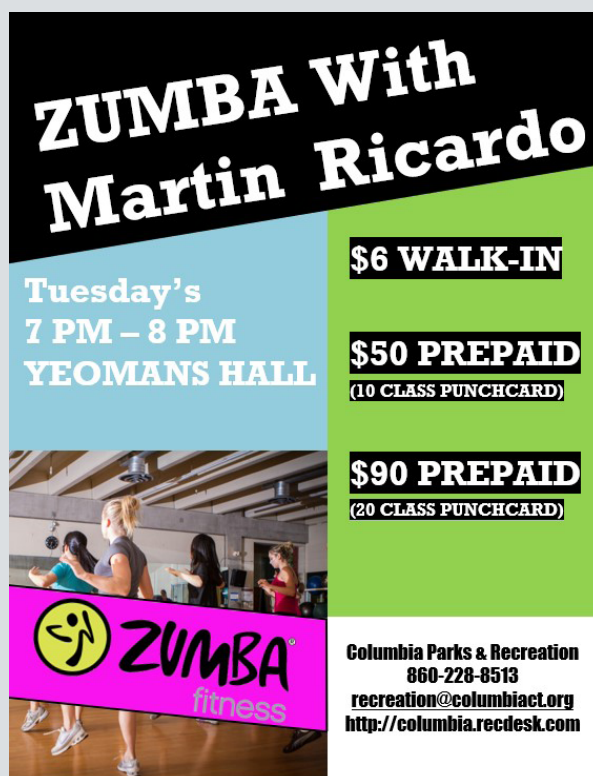
- Water bottle
- Matt
- Exercise band (if you want)
- A friend!

**\$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](mailto:recreation@columbiact.org)  
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>

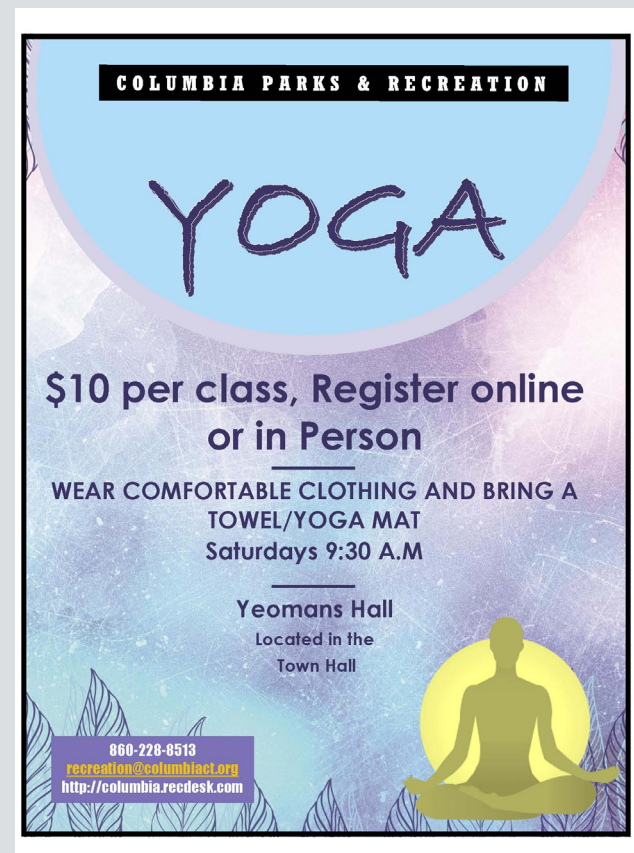


**ZUMBA With Martin Ricardo**

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](mailto: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](mailto:recreation@columbiact.org)  
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUED:



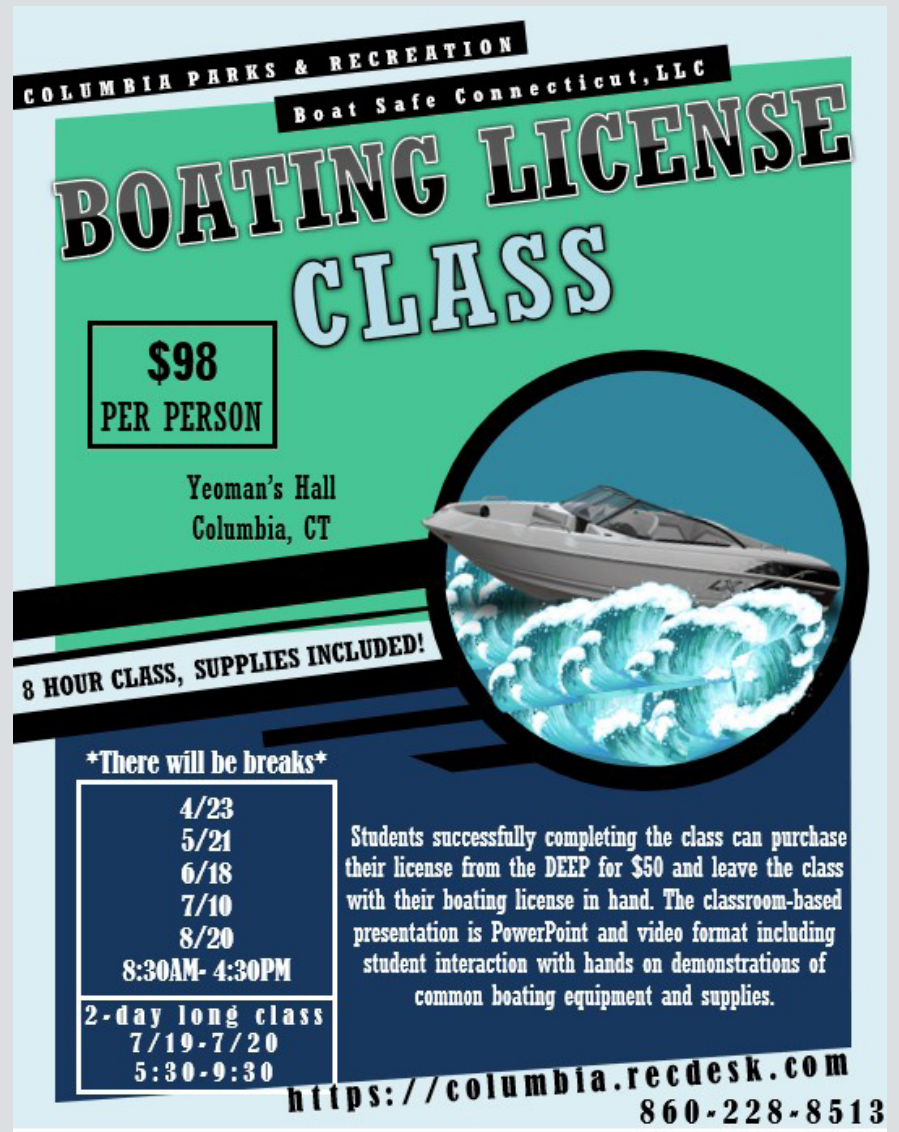
**SUMMER CONCERT**

FEATURING Jim Blair  
July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Columbia Town Green  
**Free Food**

Sponsored by:  
Law Office of Marguerite T. Friar, LLC  
MOOYAH Burgers, Fries and Shakes

Follow Us!  
COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION



COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION  
Boat Safe Connecticut, LLC

# BOATING LICENSE CLASS

**\$98 PER PERSON**

Yeoman's Hall  
Columbia, CT

8 HOUR CLASS, SUPPLIES INCLUDED!

\*There will be breaks\*

4/23
5/21
6/18
7/10
8/20
8:30AM- 4:30PM

2-day long class  
7/19-7/20  
5:30-9:30

Students successfully completing the class can purchase their license from the DEEP for \$50 and leave the class with their boating license in hand. The classroom-based presentation is PowerPoint and video format including student interaction with hands on demonstrations of common boating equipment and supplies.

<https://columbia.recdesk.com>  
860-228-8513



## 5K Road Race

### Summer Sizzler Columbia, CT

August 19th  
6:45PM

Start and Finish at Rec Park  
Day of registration  
Top male and female get mooyah free for a year

Columbia Parks and Recreation 860-228-8513  
recdirector@columbiact.org

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Updates, Programs, and Resources from Columbia Social Services

The "More you Know", Wellness Series for Seniors

The Columbia Social Services Senior Wellness Series, "The More you Know" will have its second presentation on Friday July 8th at 11:00 am at the Beckish Senior Center. This Wellness Series aims to educate, connect, and support our community's mental and physical health.

We will be discussing "The More you Know: Stop the Stigma". This interactive and engaging hour will explore our understanding of mental health now vs. how we used to see it, how we can cope, and what we can do to stop the negative stigma around mental illness and promote mental health.

Canvas tote bags with positive Mental Health messages will be available on a first come first come serve basis!



This is a free, in-person program for seniors and does not require pre-registration. For more information or questions, please contact Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator, at 860-228-1008.

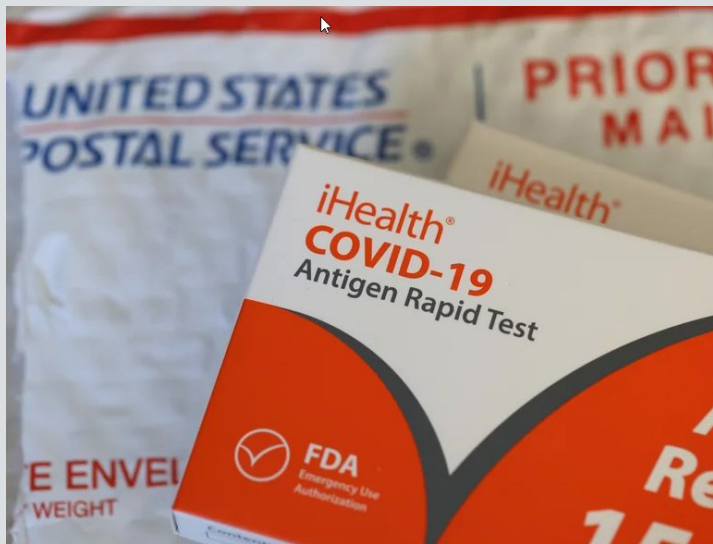
Not a senior but interested in this program or ones like it? Contact Katie Wilt to get involved, receive resources, or be notified of the next program.

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



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:** iHealth COVID-19 test kits can be found here: <https://ihealthlabs.com/pages/news>. To check the extended expiration dates issued by the FDA please visit the [FDA website](#).



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

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

Direct phone line: 860.228.1008

Email: [kwilt@columbiact.org](mailto:kwilt@columbiact.org)

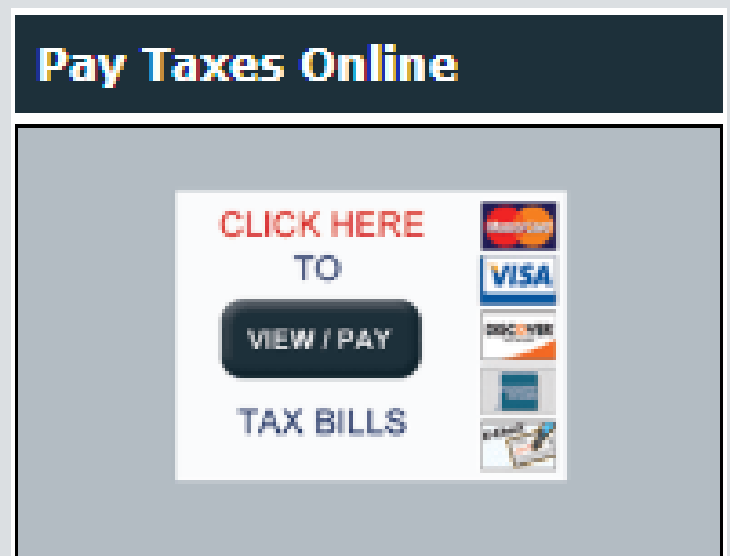
(Typical office hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm)

**TAX OFFICE:** Tax bills for the 2021 Grand List will be mailed at the end of June 2022 with a due date of July 1, 2022. The last day to pay without a penalty will be Monday August 1, 2022. Bills will be available on-line on July 1, 2022. By law this office uses the postmark as the payment date.

You can view and pay your tax bills on-line; Go to [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) and click on the Pay Taxes

On-line tab on the home page. On the next page click

on the View/Pay button (square) to go to a search screen. Type your last name, space, first initial of your first name (as is written on the bill). The service fee for on-line payments are as follows: 95 cents to use a Bank account and 2.95% for credit and debit cards.



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**TAX OFFICE CONTINUED:** Regular office hours for the TAX OFFICE: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and closed on Friday. ***The Tax Office has extended hours in July and August 1, 2022: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and Friday 8:00-12:00.***

Mailing address for tax payments:

Town of Columbia

Dept # 347

PO Box 150512

Hartford, CT 06115-0512

Drop boxes for payments and correspondence are located at the right side of the entrance of the Town Hall and in front of Yeoman's Hall. The drop boxes are emptied at 8:00AM each weekday, weekend tax payments are processed on Monday. Please be aware that tax payments put in the drop box after 8:00AM will be processed the next day the Tax Office is open.

**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](mailto:taxcollector@columbiact.org) for information on the process. **Paying the tax bill on-line 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, 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.

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **TOWN CLERKS OFFICE CONTINUED:**

### **DOG LICENSING**

**JUNE** began dog licensing month. **The license year for your dog runs from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.** When licensing your dog, if their rabies vaccination has expired, please provide us with a copy of their current rabies vaccination certificate. If your dog has been spayed or neutered, include a copy of the veterinarian's certificate as well.

**Please note:** If you are licensing your dog(s) in July, there is now a \$1.00 late fee per dog.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday!

Town Clerks:

Phone: 860-228-3284

Fax: 860-228-2335



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **TOWN HISTORIAN: The 59th Annual Columbia Lion's Club 4th of July Parade**

"We love a parade...and Columbia's was the best...a five-star parade for the fourth...delighting hundreds of spectators" according to the Chronicle, Willimantic, Conn., Friday, July 5, 1985, Suburban section's full-page spread. Photographer Harold Hanka captured the gleeful spirit.

This year's 59th Annual Columbia Lion's Club 4th of July Parade is themed "Helping One Another". It is scheduled for Monday, July 4, 2022, at 10:00 am according to organizer Mr. Jim Blair.

This tradition, according to the late Marge Grant, hails back to a dark time in our country's mood, caused by the Berlin Crisis and Cuban Missile Crisis during 1961-1962, when Columbia Lion's Club President Howard Bates is said to have felt that patriotism was at an all-time low. He was determined, according to Marge, to uplift the spirits of our town by focusing on the positive, thus suggested among other projects, an "old-fashioned hometown parade" to celebrate our nation's founding on July 4, 1776.

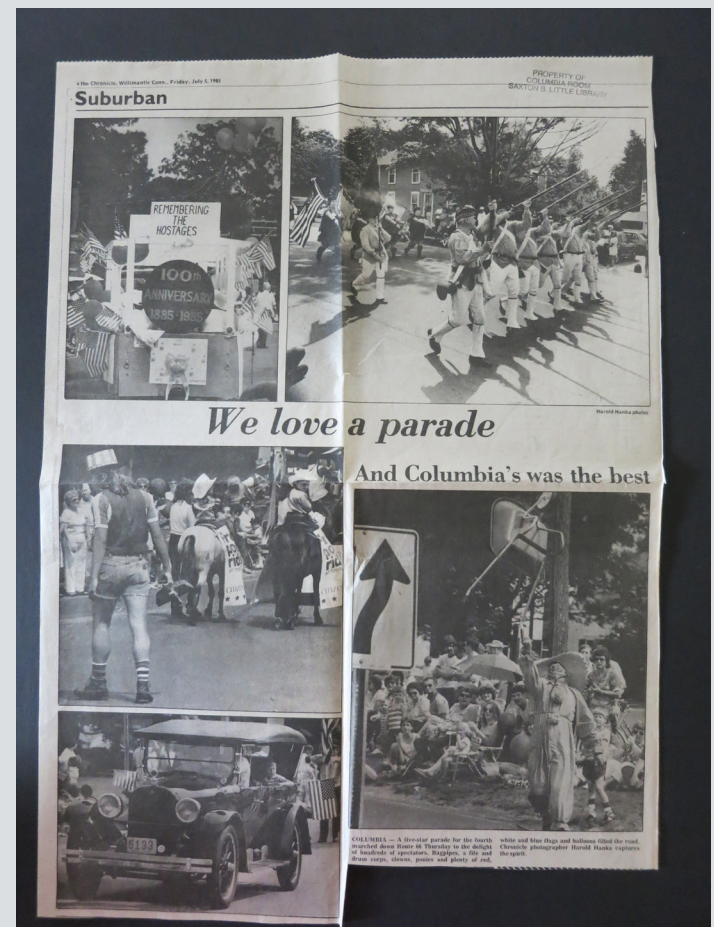
Since 1962 the Lion's Club and Town of Columbia have jointly sponsored a traditional hometown parade which has grown to include many local communities and thousands of spectators. But in 2020 the parade was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Columbia Congregational Church quickly stepped in to creatively host a spirited "Honkin' Hello" car-only parade showcasing our town's civic organizations in all neighborhoods.

This year's theme "Helping One Another" was selected through a contest which included Horace W. Porter School students and is consistent with the Lion's Club motto and philosophy "We Serve".

The Columbia Lion's Club was organized on August 13, 1955, with 21 charter members and has served to improve our town in many ways involving youth projects, recreation infrastructure, landscaping, cultural enjoyment, safety, philanthropy, and numerous civic projects that have helped individuals in countless ways since 1955.

As someone said to me recently "the joy of the full parade is back"!

Ingrid Wood, Town Historian





# BOARDS & COMMISSIONS NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **CONSERVATION AND AGRICULTURE COMMISSION:**

### **What is the Value of Open Space?**

Why do we need to conserve Open Space? To nature lovers the answer is obvious, but to others it may not be such a no-brainer. Let's look at some reasons why it is so important to our community to have Open Space.

**Mental and Physical Health:** Remember how you felt during the Covid Pandemic when everything was shut down? There was nowhere to go, but you just had to get out of the house? Record numbers of people turned to the out-of-doors for mental and physical well-being. State Parks, Rail Trails, hiking trails, Land Trust Properties, and outdoor recreation areas had visitors like never before! Imagine what it would have been like if we hadn't had all these outdoor places to which we could go to achieve some exercise and peace of mind.



**Economic Sustainability:** Residential development costs towns more in goods and services than generated taxes cover. Farmland and open space generate less tax revenue than residential, commercial, or industrial property, but they require little infrastructure costs and maintenance.



# BOARDS & COMMISSIONS NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **CONSERVATION AND AGRICULTURE COMMISSION CONTINUED:**

According to The Land Trust Alliance in a recent study (Saving Land, Spring, 2015) covering 25 States, for every dollar of tax revenue raised, it costs a town \$0.30 in services for commercial and industrial lands; \$0.37 for open space and agricultural lands; \$1.16 for residential lands.

Why? Cows don't go to school; and residential areas require constant maintenance for infrastructure as well as children to educate. Open Space is a bargain. Not only that, proximity to open space increases the value of residential property.

**Cultural Legacy:** In Columbia's Plan of Conservation and Development, one of the major goals identified by the people of our town was maintaining the small-town character of Columbia. People do not love our town for its proximity to shopping and big-box stores. They love it for the forests, Lake, stonewalls, open fields and recreation. Open Space protects all that. Open Space helps to preserve our history: The Wells Woods "Ghost Town," the Hop River Village; the Mill ruins on the rivers and streams. Without Open Space these would have been obliterated by development.

**Biological/Ecological Sustainability:** Open Space maintains the stability and resilience of biological and physical systems. Forests maintain water quality by filtering pollutants in runoff and recharging groundwater. The protected Open Space in the watershed of Columbia Lake is a major reason why our Lake is so clean and clear. Everyone in Columbia has a residential well. Without forests to filter and recharge those wells, we would be experiencing enormous tax increases to provide a public water system.

Unfragmented forests protect biological diversity, and sequester and store carbon to mitigate climate change.

Open Space is important to our community. The balance of commercial development, residential development, agricultural working lands, and Open Space, needs to be carefully maintained for the health and well-being of our citizens, the economic health of our community, and the history and future of Columbia.

Ann Dunnack

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

**SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:** A reminder to all, the Library is closed Saturdays between the 2nd of July and Labor Day. We resume Saturday hours in September. But we are excited to see you the rest of our normal hours!

Beyond the Beaten Path, our Summer Reading Program for both kids and adults started last week, but you can still sign up!! Some programs are full, but others still have room. Join us for our adult programs (all start at 6:30):

**Living with CT Wildlife 7/5**  
**Practical Bicycle Maintenance 7/19**  
**Summer time Herbs 7/20**

Check out our children's programs that still have spaces available:

**Woodland Life with the Nowashe Village 7/8 2:00 pm**  
**Explore Sand 7/14 4:00 pm**  
**Construction Zone Beavers! 7/15 1:00 pm**

Our summer reading program has been made possible by grants from the Savings Bank of Manchester Foundation and Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Join us - - We have something for everyone!

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

We ask that you sign up for **Friday Movies**. And don't forget to ask for this month's spice, and join us on May 23 for **Spice Club**.

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

Sue Epstein, Library Director



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

## COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

**Come celebrate with us!**

**75 Years of Volunteer Service**  
with the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department

**Open House and Entertainment at the Station**  
167 Route 66, Columbia, CT

**Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 11 AM-9 PM**

**GAMES**  
**LIVE BAND**  
**FOOD TRUCKS**  
**BEER AND WINE GARDEN**  
Cash Only  
**MUSIC**  
**BOUNCY CASTLE**  
**TOUR THE STATION**

Visit us on   and [www.columbiafire5.org](http://www.columbiafire5.org)

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

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



The advertisement features a dark background with a central photograph of a fire station at night, showing several fire trucks parked in their bays. Above the photo, the text reads "COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT" in yellow and white, with "EMTs and Firefighters Needed" below it. To the left is a red fire department logo, and to the right is a blue Star of Life. Below the photo, there are two bullet points: "- Are you a resident, live nearby, or employed by the town of Columbia Connecticut?" and "- Are you 16 years of age or older?". To the right of these points is a circular fire department seal. Below the seal, the text says "The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department needs you!!!", "Certifications and experience not required for application", and "Please inquire about training". At the bottom right, contact information is provided: "www.columbiafire5.org/volunteer", "membership@columbiafire5.org", and "Message us on facebook @Columbiafire5".

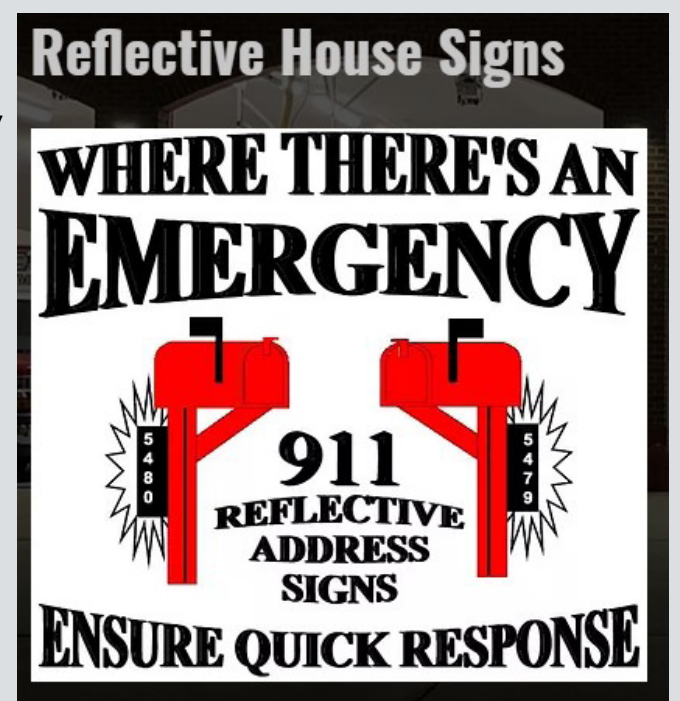
**COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
EMTs and Firefighters Needed

- 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](http://www.columbiafire5.org/volunteer)  
[membership@columbiafire5.org](mailto:membership@columbiafire5.org)  
Message us on facebook @Columbiafire5

**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](http://www.columbiafire5.org) and download the printable form or you can fill out the electronic form on-line. The price is \$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.





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

**COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB:** \*The Officer Slate for The Columbia Lions has been approved for the year 2022-23.

President – Mike DiRaimo

1st Vice President – Matt Sternat

2nd Vice President – Wes Burnham

Treasurers – Dick Mlyniec and Tom Egan

Secretary – Tim Anderson

Town Liaison – Jim Blair

Anyone interested in joining the Columbia Lions or inquiring about Lions activities should email Lion Matt at [Columbia.Lions.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:Columbia.Lions.Membership@gmail.com).

\*The Columbia Lions awarded two scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, to Lilly Dudek and Elizabeth Levine. Lilly will attend Eastern CT State University, and Elizabeth will attend the University of Rhode Island. The scholarships were the result of a competitive selection process and were based on both academic performance and a demonstrated commitment to community service.

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

## COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB CONTINUED:



**We Serve**  
Columbia (CT) Lions

**Annual  
Chicken  
Barbeque**

When: **Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**  
**12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.**

Where: **Rec Field**  
**Hennequin Road**  
**Columbia, CT**

Tickets: **Adults: \$15.00 - Seniors: \$13.00**  
**and Children Under 12: \$10.00**  
Tickets are \$1.00 more at door.

To purchase tickets call **Brendan Keenan @**  
**860-228-1854** or **Bob Fowler @ 860-614-8585**



Proceeds from this event help  
fund the many programs and  
charities sponsored by  
Columbia Lions



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

## **COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**



### **COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2<sup>ND</sup> GARDEN TOUR JULY 9, 2022 - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**\$20.00 ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY - JUNE 1-25  
AT [WWW.COLUMBIA-HISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.COLUMBIA-HISTORY.ORG)**

**You will visit 5 Gardens within a 15 minute drive of the  
Beckish Senior Center.**

**GARDEN 1:** A 17 year labor of love. Enjoy a stroll through perennial beds and a wonderful treehouse.

**GARDEN 2:** Explore a "water garden" required by the town of Columbia for collection of run-off and then enjoy the natural shaded woodland gardens and rock formations encircling the backyard.

**GARDEN 3:** Simple country gardens that have evolved over 22 years. Lovely full sun gardens and a shade border. A must see for hydrangea lovers.

**GARDEN 4:** Enjoy a stroll through a landscape designer's sculpture gardens where you will view a collection of unusual trees, shrubs and flowers.

**GARDEN 5:** Amazing intensive food forest centered around maximum productivity with minimal effort. Greenhouse and covered compost area.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL [MILLIERAMZ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:millieramz@gmail.com)



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

## **UCONN EXTENSION, TOLLAND COUNTY**

**OFFICE:** As part of the local government and services for the towns in the Northeastern CT region, the UCONN Extension, Tolland Office just released a new Farm and Food Guide for Northeastern CT for 2022. Click here for the digital copy.



You can also check out the [Grown ConNECTed](#) Facebook page to find out what's happening locally. There's a lot happening here in the Northeastern CT region with over 130 farms, farm activities for kids, and local events.

**COLUMBIA LAKE ASSOCIATION:** Most people who have the privilege to live in Columbia love their Lake! They love to gaze upon it, photograph it, swim in it, and boat on it. They are thrilled that it is such a clear, clean, healthy lake that it can support resident Bald Eagles and Great Blue Herons.



The Columbia Lake Association (CLA) is a membership association, open to all Columbia residents, devoted to the promotion and protection of Columbia Lake as a natural and recreational resource. CLA sends its members e-newsletters providing educational resources regarding ecological, land use, and other environmental factors affecting the Lake, and tips on how residents in Watershed Zones A and B can help protect the Lake.

CLA is not all business! We have social and recreational events too! Each season we sponsor a July 4 Boat Parade, and a Summer Solstice Concert, which can be enjoyed from the Town Beach or by boat. Come join CLA, make new friends, and help keep our Columbia Lake clean and clear for future generations.

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

## COLUMBIA LAKE ASSOCIATION CONTINUED:



### July 2022 – June 2023 Columbia Lake Association Membership Form

*JOIN OR RENEW AS A LAKE FRONT OR WATERSHED MEMBER OR EX-OFFICIO PARTICIPANT  
IN FOUR EASY STEPS*

**STEP 1. REVIEW: Identify your Member Status and Member Level below noting the dues amount.**

**Member Status: (Check One)** New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal Member \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Level & Dues: (Check One)** Lake Front @ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Watershed @ \$10 \* \_\_\_\_\_ OR  
Ex-Officio Participant @ \$10\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 2. RENEWAL:** If renewing & there are no changes to your contact information you do not need to complete this form. Go to STEP 4 for payments of dues before June 30, 2022

**STEP 3. NEW MEMBER and/or RENEWAL WITH CHANGES\*:** Complete or update the information below. For renewal members include your name and the changes you want to make. See \* Note 1 below.

**Name(s):** Two persons per household may join and attend CLA events, as well as receive CLA communications. Per our by-laws, one vote per household is allowed for CLA business matters requiring a vote.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #'s:** 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Addresses:** 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, and Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lake Address (If Different):** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 4. PAYMENT: CHECK:** Mail a check for your dues to the Columbia Lake Association, P.O. Box 3, Columbia CT 06237; Make check payable to Columbia Lake Association. **Pay by June 30, 2022**

\* **NOTE 1:** For a new or renewal member with changes to your contact information either print this form, complete the changes and include the updated form in your mailing OR complete the form, save it with your last name in the file name, emailing the form to [Columbialakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:Columbialakeassociation@gmail.com).

**NOTE 2:** We intend to create an annual WAVES publication to include a membership roster with each member's name and address. If you prefer not to be a part of the WAVE publication check this box & mail or email form to CLA.

\* Watershed Members ~ Residents in the Columbia Lake Watershed Overlay Zone

\*\* Ex-Officio Participants ~ Town of Columbia Residents not residing in Lake Front or Watershed areas who wish to support the CLA mission to protect and preserve the lake.

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

**SENIORS ON THE GO:** Columbia seniors are back in business. We are having a great time being able to get together and enjoy each other's company. During the month of April, we were able to have a very successful tag sale. (I, for one, was glad to be able to donate the items I had been saving for the last 2 years.) It was a busy day, and we are extremely thankful for all the volunteers who tagged items, set up the sale, cashiered, worked in the kitchen, baked goodies, and did other jobs that made the sale run well. We were also thankful for our student volunteers who helped with set up and clean up.

In May we were happy to have our annual barbecue. We enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs off the grill. It was great to be able to visit with each other and catch up since our last event. In June we were able to have our spring dinner dance. We had great food – catered by Audiberts – and the entertainment was provided by Bruce John and his band. It was a wonderful way to finished up the year.

Over the months of June and July we enjoyed a weekly movie on Thursday afternoons. We have focused on Kirk Douglas movies and had a snack with our friends. Look for this activity to resume in September.

Looking to the fall we are planning on returning to some of our tried-and-true events. We are talking about a Birthday party to honor our 90+ year old citizens. There is also talk about a Ladies' tea. The best place to keep up with our programs is through the Gem – the Beckish Senior Center newsletter.

There are lots of other activities going on at the center. Lunches are served on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There are trips, art classes, pool, bridge groups, computer classes, and much more. As Columbia seniors there are many ways to keep busy and active. We hope to see you there.



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

## **COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:**

**Celebrating 300+ Years**  
*Columbia Congregational Church & "Lebanon Crank"*

**Sunday September 25, 2022**

**1:15 PM**

The Occom Garden Plaque Blessing Ceremony  
hosted by The Columbia Historical Society  
Located behind the Moor's Charity Indian School and Columbia Congregational Church

**2:00 PM**

Free Community Concert

**United States Coast Guard  
Brass Quintet**



**Columbia Congregational Church**

325 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Rt. 87

Featuring a variety of music favorites

Plus the *premiere performance* of

***REV. OCCOM'S TUNE : Modal Rhapsody for BRASS QUINTET***

composed by **Samson Occom** (1723 -1792) and **Gabriel Kastle** (2020)

***Refreshment reception follows the concert ~ all are cordially invited!***

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

## **COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:**



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

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
9AM – 12PM**

**(At the Old Fire House on Route 66)**

The Shred-A-Thon is a fundraiser for  
Columbia Congregational Church and a free will  
offering is appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at  
860-228-9306.

**Suggested donation \$5.00/per bag.**

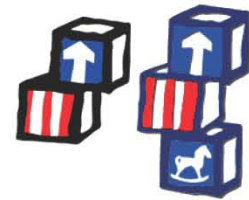


# NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## EASTCONN:



## HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START



Center-based and Home-based Programs Available



EASTCONN Early Head Start and Head Start programs provide high-quality early childhood programming for families and children, prenatal to age 5. To prepare students for public schools, a developmentally appropriate school readiness curriculum is used in conjunction with medical, dental, nutritional and social service supports. Services for pregnant women include home visits, support with accessing medical and dental care and a newborn well-child visit by a health professional.

### What are the Benefits?

#### FOR CHILDREN

- A safe and healthy learning environment
- School-readiness skills
- Health and behavioral screenings
- Positive relationships with other children
- A low child-to-staff ratio and small class sizes

#### FOR FAMILIES

- Involvement in your child's education
- Free family workshops
- Access to community services
- Help with parenting challenges
- Opportunity to meet other families in your community
- Leadership opportunities

**CALL NOW TO APPLY IN NORTHEAST CT**  
**860-455-1586**

Serving Income-Eligible  
Families From Tolland and  
Windham Counties



EASTCONN Early Head Start and Head Start  
376 Hartford Turnpike, Hampton, CT 06247  
Phone: 860-455-1586  
[www.eastconn.org/head-start](http://www.eastconn.org/head-start)

It is the policy of EASTCONN that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be discriminated against under any program because of race, color, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, genetic information, gender identity or expression, veteran status, disability or any other classification protected by state or federal law.



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

## ***Artists' Open Studios***

Columbia Artists interested in participating in the Artists' Open Studios in the fall at the Columbia Senior Center--should contact Paul Ramsey now at [Ramzphto@gmail.com](mailto:Ramzphto@gmail.com).

