# COLUMBIA





UPDATE JUNE 2022



### **TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN**

The Town of Columbia held an observance on Memorial Day at the Veteran's Memorial Garden on the town green to pay tribute to fallen service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I would like to thank all those involved and to all that attended in making this year's Memorial Observance one of the best ceremonies yet. A special thank you to Tim Ackert, our State Representative for his reading of the Presidential Proclamation and the laying of the



Phillippino, and Bill Rood for their participation and

The Town Beach is open weekends only until June

12th. The full season starts June 13th and ends

August 19th. Hours are Mon-Sun from 10:30am

- 6:15 pm. Labor Day weekend will be the last

wreath and to our state historian, Dr. Walt Woodward for his words honoring the fallen. I would also like to thank Ingrid Wood, Columbia Scouts, Pastor MaryAnn Purtil, Reverend, Michael

assistance.



see the <u>Recreation</u> page on the Town's website.

weekend the beach is open. For more information on beach passes and activities this summer, please

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett, First Selectman severett@columbiact.org 860-228-0110



### TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

All Spring we wished for the wind to stop and the weather to start warming, well be careful it looks like we got our wish. Our town beach is booming, and the boaters are enjoying the lake. If you have not been to Rec Park, please check out all of our new additions. The Board of Selectman will be setting a date soon to celebrate the years of work with a grand opening party, most likely in August.

The Board of Selectman has just approved a safety change to the intersection of Rt 66 and Hunt /West Street. We have finally gotten confirmation that the DOT will be installing new opposing left turn lanes. The existing conditions cause sight-line blockage when two opposing left-turning vehicles on Rt 66 are stopped at this intersection, leading to high-speed collisions with oncoming traffic. The left turn lanes will now align leftturning vehicles so that each direction can see oncoming traffic, resulting in safer traffic operation. The Columbia Fire Department has also endorsed this modification and will continue to help the Board of Selectman with the desire to convince the DOT to add a blinking light as well.

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

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

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

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





### UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Many meetings will be held by utilizing remote access; however, some meetings are being held in-person. Please check the Town calendar and the Agenda posted for directions on login information if virtual, or the meeting location if in person. Each board or committee will provide the information needed to join using an on-line conferencing platform. Please check the Town of Columbia's <u>website</u> for updates.

#### **UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS**

- 6/01/22 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 6/06/22 Tue: Board of Education, 7:00 PM
- 6/06/22 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 6/07/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 6/08/22 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 6/08/22 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM
- 6/13/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 6/15/22 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 6/16/22 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
- 6/21/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 6/23/22 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM
- 6/27/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

Public Comment will be accepted by our dedicated email at <u>PublicInput@columbiact.org</u> 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).

**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 junk yard or a copy of your purchase agreement if you traded in a vehicle and bought a vehicle with 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 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 us at 228-9555.

Mary Lavallee Assessor's Office

#### **BECKISH SENIOR CENTER:**

### **CSO's Dinner Dance**

## Featuring Bruce John and the Bandoleros Saturday, June 4, 2022 From: 5pm-10pm.

#### **Catered by Audiberts**

#### Ticket Cost: \$22.00 pp

Tickets can be purchased at the Beckish Senior Center and by John Allen and Art Austin! Please call 860-228-0759 if you have any questions!

### **9th Annual Art Show**

in Memory of Rose Marrotte



### Monday, June 13th at 9am thru Friday, June 17th at 2pm at the Beckish Senior Center.

Registration is on June 13th from 9am to 11am. The presentations of awards will be made at an awards party on June 17th at 10:30am—snacks and refreshments provided. Open to all seniors 55 years or older.

All artists and craftspeople (wood carving and quilting) are invited to participate. Monetary prizes will be awarded for first, second and third prize in the following categories:

- 1. Artwork—(Oils, acrylics, watercolor and pastels)
- 2. Woodcarving
- 3. Photography
- 4. Quilting

Art lessons, art trips, and art lectures will also be available through the end of the year. Please stay tuned for more information regarding these events.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Derring Director Senior Services & Transportation

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** Warmer spring weather has arrived at last, and our busy work schedule is underway. We have begun street sweeping and will continue through the month of April. Line painting of all town roads will be conducted in June. Milling and Paving of a portion of Cards Mill Road from Rt 66 to the intersection of Baker Hill Road is planned for early summer.

There will be a significant amount of maintenance/drainage work performed this spring throughout town, please take extra care when you encounter our crews so they can complete their work as safely as possible.

#### **MARINE PATROL:**

#### **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



#### **SOCIAL SERVICES:**

#### *Updates, Programs, and Resources from Columbia Social Services*

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: <u>kwilt@columbiact.org</u> (Typical office hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm)



**Deadline Extended – Energy Assistance:** The deadline to apply to the State Energy Assistance Program has been extended to June 30, 2022. Households are eligible for money towards their heating costs based on household incomes. Renters and homeowners may qualify regardless of heat source.

To apply, and for more information, visit: <u>https://portal.ct.gov/heatinghelp/</u> <u>applyonline?language=en\_US</u>

**The "More you Know", Wellness Series for Seniors:** Columbia Social Services Senior Wellness Series, "The More you Know", kicks off on Friday June 10th 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.

Culture of Change will be presenting "The More you Know: Generation Vape". This interactive and engaging hour will explore the trends in vaping, accessibility of vaping products to kids, and social media influence. Grandparents, neighbors, and friends can all play a role in keeping our community healthy and educating ourselves can be the first step.

Attendees will be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate. Wellness bags will be available on a first come first come serve basis and will include information (and swag!) from <u>United Services</u> <u>Senior Outreach and Engagement</u>.

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** This is a free, in-person program for seniors and does not require preregistration. 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.

#### <u> Behavioral Health 101 – Free Virtual Program!</u>

Supporting and Engaging Resources for Action and Change is offering a free virtual Community Awareness Program on Wednesday, June 22, 9am-12pm. During this 3-hour program, participants will:

- Learn about specific substances and their risks
- Recognize the signs and symptoms of problematic gambling behavior
- Gain an increased awareness about mental illness
- Learn how to reduce stigma
- Understand barriers to care and recovery
- Learn how to support persons experiencing behavioral health issues and the available local resources

Please contact <u>Dwalker@seracct.org</u> for more information. To register visit: <u>https://docs.google.</u> <u>com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScn\_SlqAAlzuy4r9ROsQNckpt9tLi5u5ijPeLI-7WswZ4wR1w/viewform.</u> (if link is not connecting, please copy and paste into browser)

**Talking to your Children about Violence - Resources:** In light of recent events, Columbia's Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization shared the following resources. Please take care of yourselves, and each other.

Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers <u>https://www.nasponline.org/</u> <u>resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-</u> <u>resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers</u>

#### SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:

What is Child Trauma, School shooting resources <u>https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/</u> <u>trauma-types/terrorism-and-violence/school-shooting-resources.</u> (if link is not connecting, please copy and paste into browser)

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** (https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/). We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

The current number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). As of July 16, 2022, the new number will be the three-digit dialing code of 988 and will be available to everyone across the United States.

Katie Wilt | Community Social Services Coordinator Town of Columbia 323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237 kwilt@columbiact.org 860-228-1008 (Typical office hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm)

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** Please note that the Parks and Recreation Department is now located at the Murphy House at Columbia Lake. Follow us on <u>FaceBook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>!

**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 <u>https://columbia.recdesk.com/recdeskportal</u>

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

UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE AT RECDESK. EXERCISE PROGRAMS held at Yeoman's Hall.

Fit Fusion: Monday/Wednesday, 4:30-5:30pm in Yeoman's HallYoga: Thursday, 6pm to 7pm in Yeoman's HallZumba: 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 <a href="mailto:recdirector@columbiact.org">recdirector@columbiact.org</a>. Walk-ins will be accepted if the class is not already at capacity.





860-228-8513

5:30-9:30

**TAX OFFICE:** Real Estate taxes on the October 1, 2020 Grand List that were due July 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022 that have not been paid in full by May 31, 2022 will have a continuing tax

lien filed in the land records as required by law.

Any delinquent tax not paid by June 30, 2022 will be listed by name and amount in the annual Town Report.

You can view and pay your tax bills on-line; Go to www. columbiact.org and click on the Pay Taxes Online 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. To look up your 2021 tax payments go to <u>www.columbiact.org</u>. On Columbia's home page, click on the pay taxes on-line tab. The directions will be listed on the next page.

Regular office hours for the <u>TAX OFFICE</u>: 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.

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.

TAX OFFICE (CONTINUED): 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 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:** It is business as usual in the Clerk's office for all those services that you might need - Recording and Searching of Land Records and Maps, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage licenses, Fishing and Hunting licenses, Dog licenses, Transfer Station stickers, etc.

**DOG LICENSING:** JUNE is dog licensing month. If your dog's 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. The license year for your dog runs from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

PLEASE NOTE – If your dog's rabies vaccination expires in the month of JUNE, you will not be able to renew the dog's license for the new year (which begins on July 1, 2022) until we receive a current rabies certificate.

Due to the continuing Corona-virus pandemic and the need for social distancing, the following options will be available with respect to licensing your dog in Columbia. We will be accepting registrations BY MAIL or BY DROP BOX to limit the number of people in Town Hall. Remember to make your check payable to: **Columbia Town Clerk** and **INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF POSTAGE** for the return of your dog's new tag.

The DROP BOX is located outside the doors to Yeoman's Hall. Thank you.

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

We are happy to help!!

#### SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Welcome Summer!

*Beyond the Beaten Path*, our Summer Reading Program for both kids and adults will officially kick off June 27th (but look for sign ups to open for programing earlier!) We have a lot of exciting things planned from animal visits to crafts to educational programs. 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.** Both of these programs will continue through the summer, along with 5 of our book groups.

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

Sue Epstein, Library Director

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

# **COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT EMTs and Firefighters Needed** - Are you a resident, live nearby, or employed by the town of Columbia Connecticut? - Are you 16 years of age or older? The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department needs you!!!

Certifications and experience not required for application Please inquire about training

**REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS:** Community

members can help the volunteers who respond to calls by clearly marking your house number in a visible manner on the street. The CVFD makes and sells reflective house number signs that help us quickly and easily identify your house; this often saves precious time. To order the Reflective Address Markers please go to the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department's web-page at www. **columbiafire5.org** and download the printable form or you can fill out the electronic form on-line. The price is

\$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.

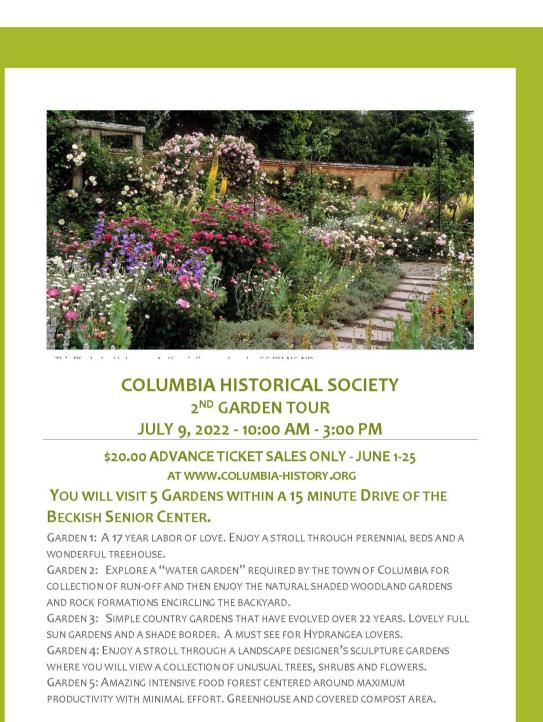


### Artists' Open Studios

Columbia Artists interested in participating in the Artists' Open Studios in the fall at the Columbia Senior Center--should contact Paul Ramsey now at <u>Ramzphto@</u> gmail.com.

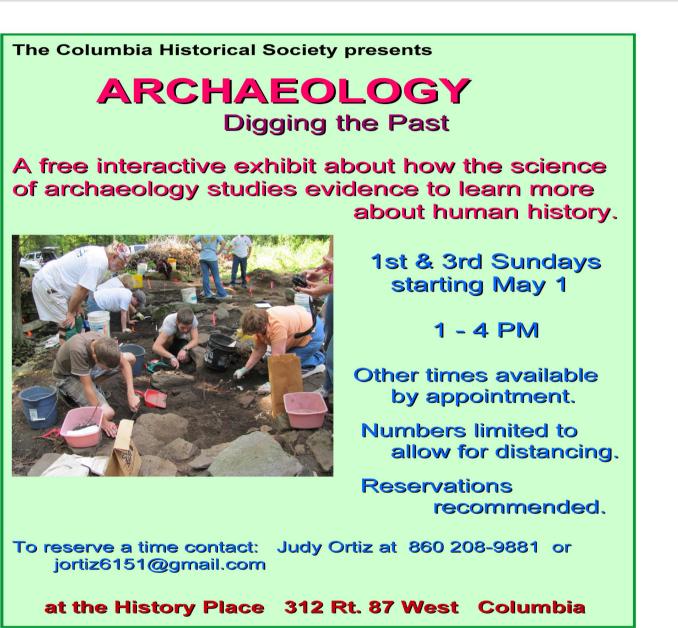


#### **COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**



QUESTIONS? EMAIL MILLIERAMZ@GMAIL.COM

#### **COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### TOWN WIDE TAG SALE REGISTRATION FORM

եթ

Name/ Business name: Email: Phone: Address: Brief description of items for sale:

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

Ъ