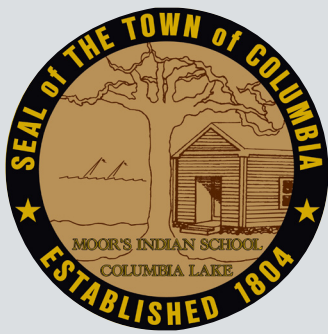


COLUMBIA



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL RAMSEY

UPDATE MAY 2023



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Spring is here and that means its time to start getting outdoors and enjoying all that Columbia has to offer.

Recreation Park: The new pavilion at Rec Park has already been used for several Recreation Department events. Summer Camps will be starting up (2-4-1, Vale Soccer Camp, and Holowaty Columbia Baseball Camp), and baseball and softball season will be beginning soon.

The 9-hole Disc Golf course is expected to be completed in early June and the Tennis and new pickle ball court will be completed in early July. The existing pickle ball court will be completed by the end of the first week in May. The fencing for the pickle ball court was taken down to accommodate work on the tennis courts and will be put back up so people can use the court again.

Town Beach: Beach passes are now available to purchase. Please visit the [Recreation Departments](#) page to purchase your beach passes, or stop in and see Debbie Fiske, Recreation Director, or Anyka Fagen, Assistant Recreation Director at the office located at the beach.

The pavilion at the beach sustained damage from a tree falling on it over the winter causing too much damage for the pavilion to be repaired. Currently architectural drawings are being drawn up and the estimated completion will be at the end of the summer season.

4th of July Parade: Just a reminder the The Town of Columbia and the Columbia Lions Club are sponsoring the Annual July 4th Independence Day parade here in Columbia. The theme for this year's parade is "Let Freedom Ring". The Lion's club has increased the cash prizes that will be awarded for the floats that best represent this year's theme! First prize is \$250, second \$150, and third \$100. The parade will commence at 10:00 am on the morning of TUESDAY, JULY 4TH 2023. The parade route is approximately 1.1 miles long.



Photo by Scot Fortna

Please consider entering your organizations float in the parade. Details are on page 22 of this newsletter.



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Annual Town Budget Meeting is May 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM in Yeoman's Hall, 323 Route 87, Columbia. The budget meeting will be in-person only. The FY 23/24 Proposed Budget Documents are available [online](#) or at the Town Clerks Office.

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.

Steven M. Everett, First Selectman
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

- 5/01/23 Mon: Board of Education, 7:30 PM
- 5/01/23 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 5/01/23 Mon: Horace Porter HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM
- 5/02/23 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM (Cancelled)
- 5/03/23 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 5/04/23 Thur: Szegda Farm Management Committee, 6:00 PM
- 5/04/23 Thur: Conservation & Agriculture Commission, 7:00 PM
- 5/08/23 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 5/09/23 Tue: Annual Town Budget Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 5/09/23 Tue: Financial Planning & Allocation Special Meeting, Immediately following the Annual Town Budget meeting.
- 5/10/23 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 5/10/23 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM
- 5/15/23 Mon: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM
- 5/16/23 Tue: Hop River Preserve Committee, 5:30 PM
- 5/16/23 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 5/17/23 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 5/18/23 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
- 5/22/23 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 5/25/23 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

ASSESSORS OFFICE: The Renter's Relief program will begin April 1 and will run through October 1st. You will need proof of rent payments and utilities paid in the 2022 calendar year.

HOMEOWNERS ELDERLY RELIEF PROGRAM

If you filed for the Homeowners elderly relief program in 2022, you do not need to file this year. Persons who filed in 2021 will need to apply by **May 15th**. Please call our office and we will instruct you on what you need to supply our office and how to get that to us.

Motor Vehicle Adjustments: In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof because the tax is a car tax not a road tax.

- The first is a copy of your motor vehicle plate return receipt
- The second is something proving you got rid of the vehicle. For a list of accepted proofs look on the assessor's website or call the office.
- If you traded a vehicle and kept the same plate do not bring us any documentation because DMV will automatically process the adjustments.

Income and Expense Forms: Connecticut General Statute 12-63c requires all owners of rental real property to annually file an Income and Expense form with the Assessor's Office by June 1st.. The information filed and furnished with this report will remain confidential and is not open to public inspection. Any information related to the actual rental and operating expenses shall not be a public record and is not subject to the provisions of Section 1-19 (Freedom of Information) of the Connecticut General Statutes. All properties that are rented or leased, including commercial, retail, industrial, land and residential properties, except "such property used for residential purposes, containing not more than six dwelling units and in which the owner resides" must file and in the case of a non-residential property that is partially rented and partially owner-occupied.

In accordance with Section 12-63c(d), of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, any owner of rental real property who fails to file this form or files an incomplete or false form with intent to defraud, shall be subject to a penalty assessment equal to a Ten Percent (10%) increase in the assessed value of such property.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSORS OFFICE CONTINUED: The Assessor's Office personnel is available Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. until noon, Thursdays 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. until Noon. Our telephone number is 228-9555. Email is mhawley@columbiact.org.

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER: The Beckish Senior Center is buzzing in May with more activities starting to blossom. I have been welcoming so many new seniors joining us in the past few months. If you have not stopped by in a while or if you have never visited before, I encourage you to. The senior center offers so many services; transportation, social wellness activities, lunch, Meal on Wheels, podiatrist, haircuts, massage/reflexology, fitness, educational classes, and so much more.

We are offering new exercise classes for all levels with Clancy's Hiit & Fit. Every Monday and Friday at 8:45am we have a Strength and Mobility class. A fun light weight bearing workout focused on balance, mobility, and strength to give you the confidence to go about your day. Workouts accommodate all fitness levels, chair or standing. Upbeat fun music and rhythms make the time fly. Monday Afternoons at 1:30 we have an All-Level Gentle Yoga – both chair and/or mat. A relaxing yoga and stretching class to help improve flexibility, balance, and mobility. Line dancing is back on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm with Sue. This class is highly attended and will leave you feeling energized! Tai Chi with Joe, another favorite here at Beckish on Tuesdays at 1pm.

Stamping with Cheryl – Come join this fun class where you will learn the basics as well as advanced techniques of rubber stamping and card making. No previous experience is required. You will be amazed at how simple it is to create beautiful cards that will bring joy to family and friends. Pre-Register by Friday, May 12th. Classes will start on Monday, May 15th at 10am. Cost \$35.00 for 4 classes – all material & tools included!

The CSO will be hosting their Annual BBQ on May 25th at 12noon. Stop in for a hamburger & hot dog with all the fixings and enjoy a day with friends!

Mary Evans is turning 100 years old!!! Join us in celebrating Mary on Thursday, May 11th from 3-5pm here at the Beckish Senior Center. The family is hoping for Mary to receive 100 cards for her centenary birthday. If you have a photo or a memory you would like to include with your card, it would be much appreciated.

Bernadette Derring, Director Senior Services and Transportation

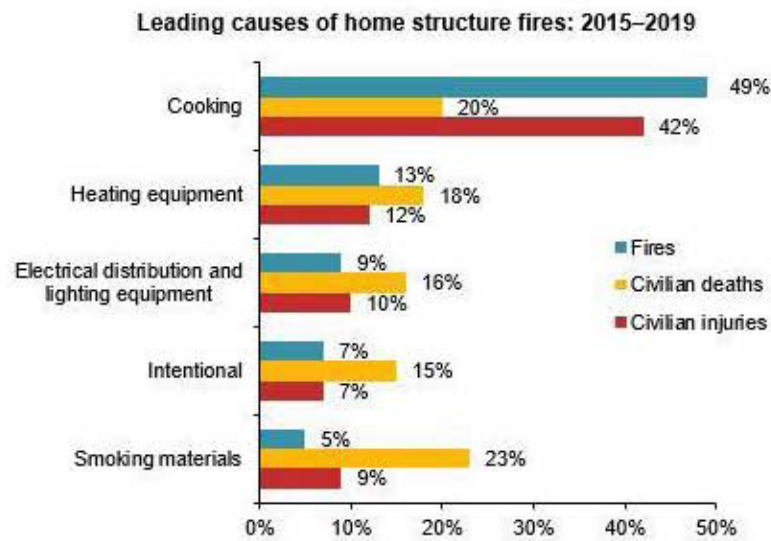
TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

FIRE MARSHAL:

House Fires

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

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



Data courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES:

ELDERLY AND DISABLED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2023!!

Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes until May 15, 2023. This year's income limits are \$40,300 maximum for an individual and \$49,100 for a couple. All gross income is counted including Social Security benefits. Documents you will need: Signed 1040 Federal Tax form (if you file); Social Security Statement (SSA-1099); Pension Statement; Bank Interest Statement; Any other Income. Applicants must be disabled or 65+ as of 2022. Contact the Columbia Assessor's office at 860-228-9555 to apply. Please feel free to contact Katie Wilt at Columbia Social Services with questions or assistance in applying!

RENTER'S REBATE

Did you rent an apartment in 2022? Are you 65 or totally disabled? Income limited to \$40,300 for an individual, \$49,100 for a couple. Documentation needed includes all income for 2022 which includes your 2022 1040 form and Social Security 1099 form or if you do not file taxes all 2022 1099 forms and proof of what you paid for rent and utilities for 2022. Contact the Columbia Assessor's office at 860-228-9555 to apply. Please feel free to contact Katie Wilt at Columbia Social Services with questions or assistance in applying!
Deadline to apply is October 1, 2023.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED: Rx Help: Prescriptions can be expensive! As shown in commercials for things like GoodRx, there are ways you can save on costs whether you have health insurance or not. The CT Prescription Savings Program is another resource that is available and free for Columbia residents. To learn more about how it can help visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com.

The ProAct Prescription Discount Card Program

Print your card today and start saving

Program Highlights

- 52% Average savings
- Every resident is eligible to participate
- FREE to town, participants and taxpayers
- Additional savings on vision, LASIK and hearing

Description
The ProAct Prescription Drug Discount Card program helps residents save money on their prescription medications any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. Discount cards are distributed in participating counties and may be used at any participating retail pharmacy. Town residents can also print a card by visiting www.CTRxDiscountCard.com.

Savings
Participants can expect to save 52% on average. Discounts will vary depending on the drug and quantity purchased. Discount cards can also be used to save on medications prescribed to your pet that can be filled at participating retail pharmacies.

Who's Eligible
The cards may be used by all town residents regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage. There are no enrollment forms, no membership fees, and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members are encouraged to use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.

What It Costs
This program is completely free of charge to both the town and participating residents. Simply take the discount card along with a prescription to a participating pharmacy and start saving.

Participating Pharmacies
More than 62,000 pharmacies nationwide accept the card, including most chain pharmacies and many independent pharmacies. There is a 98% pharmacy participation rate amongst participating municipalities.

Additional Benefits
Discounts are available on vision, hearing, and LASIK services. Please visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com for more information.

Over \$11.4 Million Saved

www.CTRxDiscountCard.com

To print your card enter Columbia's zip code, click the arrow by select group number, and scroll to TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Please feel free to contact Katie Wilt, Columbia Community Social Services Coordinator, at 860-228-1008 with any questions, for an application, or assistance in applying!

Katie Wilt | Community Social Services Coordinator

kwilt@columbiact.org

860-228-1008

(Office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm)

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: As we close out April, the adage “April showers bring May flowers” will certainly be tested this May. With warmer and longer daylight hours arriving, the Parks and Recreation Department is busy preparing for an action-packed summer full of fun and community gathering. Join an activity today!

April Recap: The month kicked off with our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Rec Park where lots of smiling children visited with the Easter Bunny, scrambled for eggs, played games, and went home with sweets and treats. A special thank you to Jim Blair and the Leos for their assistance and to November Sound for playing lovely music for the event. Check out some of the action.

Easter Egg Hunt:



*Putting in a guess for the number of candies in the jar. Count down to the egg hunt!
Amanda Ross was the winner!*



Egg toss game done her way 😊



Hello, Mr. Easter Bunny!



Let's find those eggs!

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): Playground Games: Mid-April we hosted Playground Games and reverted to good'ol fashion free play: freeze tag variations, "What time is it Mr. Fox", and "Sharks and Minnows" were some of the games played. Check out some of the fun.



What time is it Mr. Fox? Dinner time!



Freeze tag!



Can you see what they are spelling? P-L-A-Y! The theme of the day. Minnows ready to go!



UPCOMING EVENTS: Yoga @ the Beach! Looking for a great way to start your day? Try Yoga on Tuesday mornings with instructor Gina LaRosa. Beautiful scenery and exercise that will energize and relax you all in one. Wear comfy clothes, bring a mat/towel and water bottle. Begins May 16th!

COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION

YOGA

May 16th – August 29th
Tuesdays 8:30 A.M.
**Weather Permitting*

WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHING, BRING A TOWEL/YOGA MAT, AND WATER BOTTLE

\$10 WALK IN/ \$8 PREPAY (10 Class Punch Card)
Register online @ Rec Desk

@ Columbia Beach
by the Water

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



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): Boating Classes: Boating season is fast approaching! Looking to get your boating license? We have the classes for you. Veteran instructor Mark Vining will be offering 4 classes throughout the summer here in Columbia. First one is May 20th. Students successfully completing the class can purchase their license from the DEEP and leave the class with their boating license in hand. Register today: <https://columbia.recdesk.com/>

Beach and Boating Season is almost here! Get your passes today. We are busy prepping for the summer. Lifeguards are in training and summer activities in the making. Beach passes are now on sale and can be purchased online or at the Parks and Recreation Department. *Day passes are the only passes that are sold directly at the beach.

LIFEGUARD HOURS OF OPERATION

MAY 27TH – JUNE 11TH ~ WEEKENDS ONLY

JUNE 12TH – AUGUST 18TH ~ FULL SCHEDULE

AUGUST 19TH – SEPTEMBER 4TH ~ WEEKENDS ONLY

10:30 A.M. – 6:15 P.M.

MARINE PATROL: The mission of the Marine Patrol Unit is to promote safe and 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.

2023 MARINE PATROL SCHEDULE

May 20th & 21st ~ 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

May 26th – September 4th ~ 11:00 – Sunset (gate monitoring begins at 10:00 a.m.)

September 9th – October 9th ~ 11:00 a.m. – Sunset (gate monitoring begins at 10:00 a.m.)

ADULT PROGRAMS: Registration open for all adult programs can be done online through RecDesk or a walk-in option. Register online: <https://columbia.recdesk.com/>

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

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

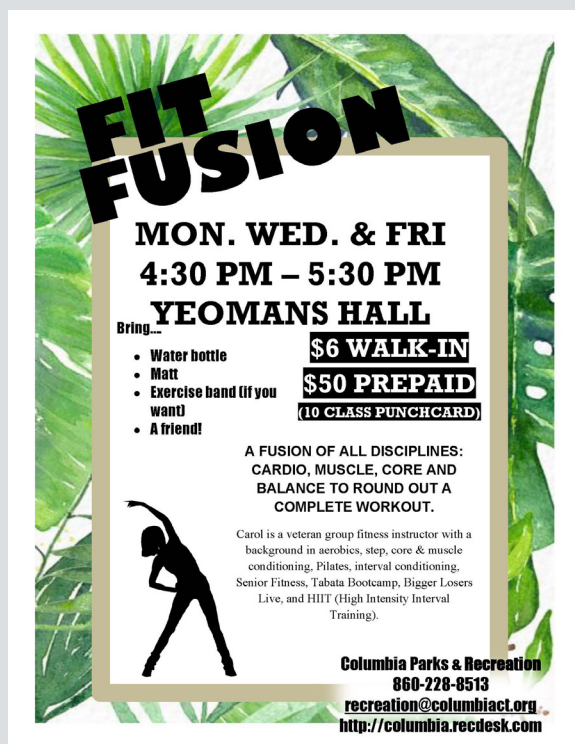
EXERCISE PROGRAMS:

FIT FUSION ~ *Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 4:30-5:30 PM @ Yeoman's Hall. Join instructor Carolyn Ritchie for a total body workout for all fitness levels.

ZUMBA ~ Tuesdays, 7-8 PM @ Yeoman's Hall. Join instructor Martin Ricardo for an exhilarating, heart pumping dance class. Fun & Fitness all in one!

COMMIT ~ Wednesdays, 7-8 PM @ Yeoman's Hall. Join Instructor Karen Ricardo for a fun, high intensity interval training style dance class from music all over the world. All ages, fitness levels and abilities welcome!

CORE Blast ~ Begins June 7th: Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. @ the Beach! Bring a mat/towel and water bottle and get a short but sweet 20-minute workout to strengthen abs and back musculature. FREE! *Weather permitting.



FIT FUSION
MON. WED. & FRI
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).

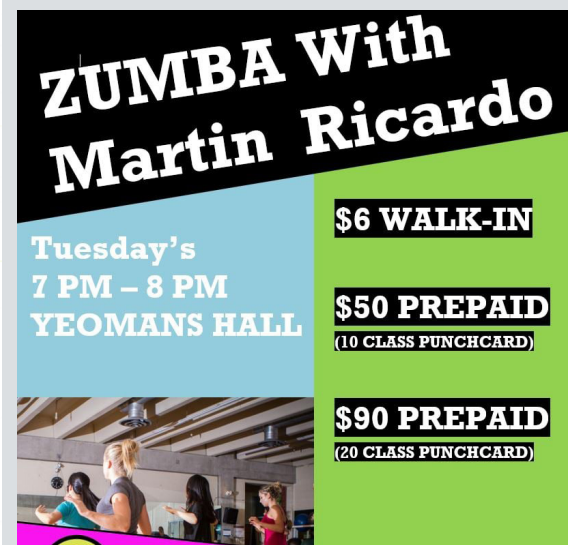
Columbia Parks & Recreation
860-228-8513
recreation@columbiaact.org
http://columbia.recdesk.com



COMMIT
DANCE FITNESS

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

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



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)



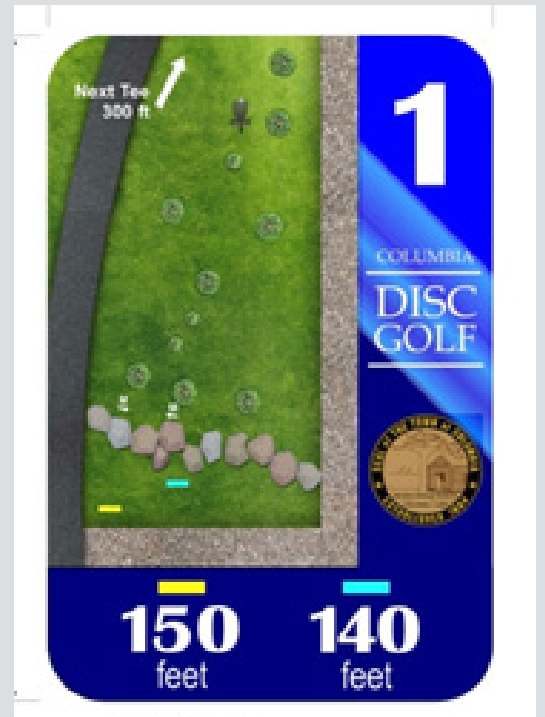
Construction for the new pickleball courts and tennis court has begun. When complete, there will be four pickle ball courts in all: 2 within the new tennis court, the existing court and one new court. The new courts are expected to be ready for play the beginning of July.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): The 9-hole Disc Golf Course at Columbia Rec Park is in the works and expected to be operational this June. Stay tuned for news releases and our 'Grand Opening' for the course.

SZEGDA FARM NEWS: Szegda Farm Open Space is turning 15! Stay tuned for information coming later this summer about Szegda Farm's 15th Anniversary Celebration.

Spring fever giving you an itch to garden? The Community Garden at Szegda Farm has three plots remaining for rent. Please contact the Recreation Department if you are interested. Gardening not your thing? Try out the trails and open space. Most definitely, a Columbia beauty!



SUMMER SPORT CAMPS are coming to Columbia. Register today!

SOCCER:



VALE SUMMER CAMPS

COLUMBIA, CT

Vale SC is coming to Columbia CT this summer, and we are very excited to have you all join our fantastic coaching team on the soccer field for fun, sun, and a soccer experience you will remember for a lifetime.

WHEN:
 June 26th - June 30th
 Full Day: 9:00am - 3:00pm
 Half Day: 9:00am - 12:00pm

WHERE:
 Columbia Rec Park, 60 Hennequin Road Columbia, CT

WHO:
 Boys & Girls ages 4 - 14

COST:
 Full Day: Just \$225 per camper
 Half Day: Just \$150 per camper

CONTACT: [KAMALI@VALESC.COM](mailto:kamali@valesc.com)

REGISTER AT: VALESC.COM











TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

Basketball: WINS Basketball Camp @ Horace W. Porter School - July 12-14 (9am-12pm). Big FUN for students entering grades 3-6 (boys & girls).

*Outstanding Instruction *Gain Confidence *Improve Skills & Ability *Valuable Life Lessons

Registration Options: 1) Online (wins4life.com) 2) Mail 3) via Columbia Rec Dept. (<https://columbia.recdesk.com/Community/Home>)

Baseball: Holowaty Baseball Camp - June 19th-June 23rd. 9:00 am -12:30PM at Columbia Rec Park. Ages 5-12 Boys & Girls. Call or Text 860-377-0640.

SPORTS galore: 2-4-1 Sports Camp ~ August 14th – 18th

Looking for a unique, fun-filled camp for your child this summer? 2-4-1 Sports Camp may be what you are looking for. See flyer for more information.

WE'RE HIRING: *SWIM INSTRUCTORS* Swim Instructors needed. Not certified? We will cover the training and certification. Call the Rec office for more details.



AROUND TOWN:



COMMIT Class in April, Instructor Karen with her awesome class participants!



Pickle Ball in April!

April Vacation FUN at Columbia Lake!



On 3.... Jump!



Kayak fun...



An early taste of summer...



Sand Castle creations...

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

AROUND TOWN:



Who needs to travel south when we have this?!



Paddleboard fun!



Columbia Beach Fun!



Enjoying the view ...

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

AROUND TOWN:

Men's Hoops



Men's Hoops in action...



Who's In?



One up and a back door...for the score?



Late April Showers didn't deter this fisherman!



A Friday afternoon in April... What a backdrop for a special occasion 😊

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): Sponsors needed: Looking to partner with Columbia Parks and Recreation? Being a sponsor is a great way to promote your business to the community. We are currently making plans for many upcoming events where sponsorship is needed: Summer Concert Series, Dinner and a Dip, Road Race, and swim races to name a few. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department to sponsor a sign at Rec Park or one of our major events. Events to Mark your Calendar for:

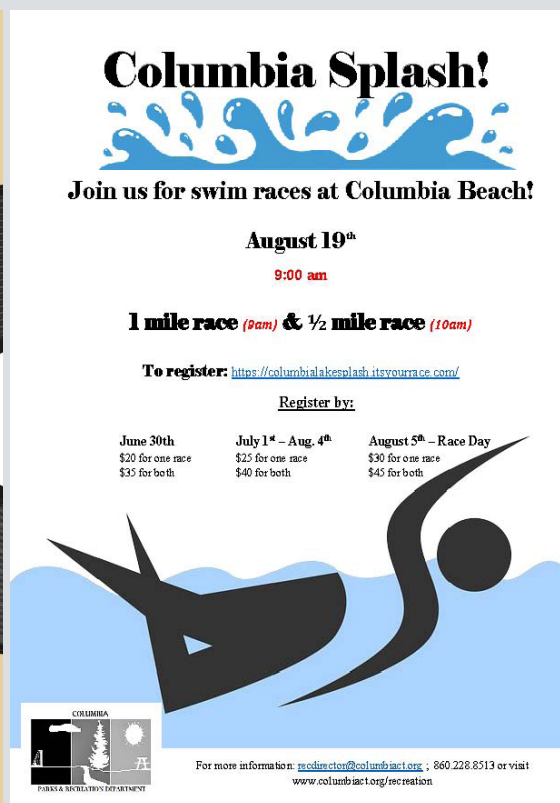
TOC SUMMER CONCERT SERIES! Columbia Splash! August 19th Columbia 5K ~ September 16th



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES LINE-UP

June 27th Night shift @ Rec Park
June 14th Bruce John @ Town Green
July 12th Audacity @ Rec Park
August 16th Cover 2 Cover @ Rec Park

An evening of Live Music, Food Drinks and Community Fun



Columbia Splash!
Join us for swim races at Columbia Beach!

August 19th
9:00 am

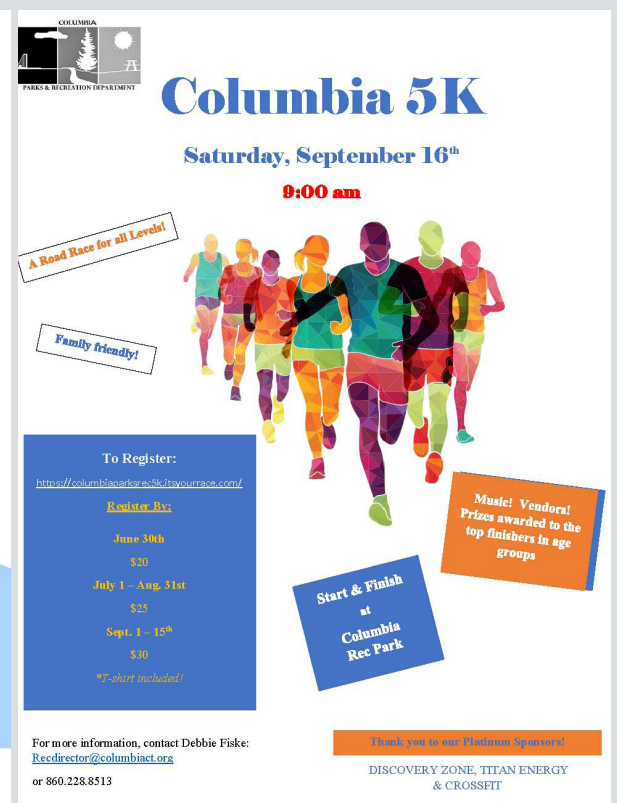
1 mile race (9am) & 1/2 mile race (10am)

To register: <https://columbiact.org/keepsplash/itsyourrace.com/>

Register by:

June 30th	July 1 st - Aug. 4 th	August 5 th - Race Day
\$20 for one race \$35 for both	\$25 for one race \$40 for both	\$30 for one race \$45 for both

For more information: pdirector@columbiact.org; 860.228.8513 or visit www.columbiact.org/recreation



Columbia 5K
Saturday, September 16th
9:00 am

A Road Race for all Levels!
Family friendly!

Start & Finish at Columbia Rec Park

Music! Vendors! Prizes awarded to the top finishers in age groups

To Register: <https://columbiact.org/keepsplash/itsyourrace.com/>

Register By:

June 30th	July 1 - Aug. 31st	Sept. 1 - 15th
\$20	\$25	\$30

*T-shirt included!

For more information, contact Debbie Fiske: pdirector@columbiact.org or 860.228.8513

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors!
DISCOVERY ZONE, TITAN ENERGY & CROSSFIT

Debbie 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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX DEPARTMENT: Real Estate taxes on the October 1, 2021 Grand List that were due July 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023 that have not been paid in full by May 31, 2023 will have a continuing tax lien filed in the land records as required by law.

Any delinquent tax not paid by June 30, 2023 will be listed by name and amount in the annual Town Report.

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, 2023: 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.

You can view and pay your tax bills online; 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 online payments are as follows: 95 cents to use a Bank account and 2.95% for PayPal, Credit and Debit cards. Effective 6/19/23 the fee for PayPal, Credit and Debit cards will increase to 2.99%. The Bank account (EFT) fee will remain at 95 cents. To look up your 2022 tax payments go to www.columbiact.org. On Columbia's home page, click on the Pay Taxes Online tab. The directions will be listed on the next page. Tax bills for the 2022 Grand List will be mailed at the end of June 2023 with a due date of July 1, 2023. The last day to pay without a penalty will be Tuesday August 1, 2023. Bills will be available online on July 1, 2023. By law, this office uses the USPS postmark as the payment date. If you are waiting until the last few days to pay, it is recommended that you have your envelope hand stamped in the Post Office. Putting your envelope in a blue postal box may not guarantee an on-time postmark.

If you are coming to pay in person in July and on August 1, 2023, please be aware that there may be a line and you may have to wait for service. Please plan your visit accordingly.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): For those seeking an immediate clearance for DMV due to delinquent Motor Vehicle 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 tax office hours for assistance.**

TOWN CLERK'S 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.

TRANSFER STATION PERMIT STICKERS: Transfer station permit stickers for 2023 (Effective June 1, 2023), will be available for purchase May 1, 2023.

Applications for Transfer Station stickers can be sent to us by MAIL or can be dropped off in the large white DROP BOX located outside the doors to Yeoman's Hall. Make your check payable to: Town of Columbia and INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE for mailing back your stickers.

Another option is to purchase your stickers [ONLINE](#).

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 (townclerk@columbiact.org) or Gail (atownclerk@columbiact.org).

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

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT: THE CVFD NEEDS YOU!

LEARN MORE!

SCAN HERE

TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION, EMAIL: MEMBERSHIP@COLUMBIAFIRES.ORG

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WANTS YOU!

JOIN OUR TEAM
TO PROTECT LIVES & PROPERTY

167 ROUTE 66
P.O. BOX 26
COLUMBIA, CT 06237

PHONE: 860-228-8682
WEBSITE: COLUMBIAFIRES.ORG

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY
FULL TRAINING PROVIDED, NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

- LEARN NEW SKILLS
- HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS
- POTENTIAL FOR TAX ABATEMENT

EMS
POSITIONS FOR EMTS AND EMRS

TOGETHER WE WILL:

- TREAT, STABILIZE, AND TRANSPORT PATIENTS
- RESPOND TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES AND TRAUMAS

COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

AMBULANCE

FIRE
POSITIONS FOR FIREFIGHTERS & PUMP OPERATORS

TOGETHER WE WILL:

- SUPPRESS ALL TYPES OF FIRES
- EXTRACT VICTIMS AT FIRES & VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
- PERFORM SEARCH AND RESCUE
- PERFORM WATER AND ICE RESCUES

CADETS
FOR APPLICANT AGES 16 & 17


- GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR FUTURE
- MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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

COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB:

COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB

Mike DiRaimo, President
Tim Anderson, Secretary
Richard Mlyniec, Treasurer



Meets 2nd & 4th Monday of every month
"WE SERVE"

P.O. Box No. 1
Columbia, Connecticut 06237

March 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Columbia and the Columbia Lions Club are sponsoring the Annual July 4th Independence Day parade here in Columbia. We are extending an invitation to your organization to join us in celebration of our nation's independence. As usual it is our goal to make this year's parade "the biggest and best ever" and to do this we need your participation.

The theme for this year's parade is "Let Freedom Ring". **We have increased the cash prizes that will be awarded for the floats that best represent this year's theme!** First prize is \$250, second \$150, and third \$100. The parade will commence at 10:00 am on the morning of **TUESDAY, JULY 4TH 2023**. The parade route is approximately 1.1 miles long. Please reference the enclosed Parade Orders and map for further details.

Please email confirmation as soon as your group has decided to participate. We look forward to having a great parade and would love to have you be a part of it!

Sincerely,

Marc Czarnowski
Parade Chairman
(860) 942-0471
ColumbiaCtLions@gmail.com

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

COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB:

PARADE ORDERS JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

ASSEMBLY: - (See Sketch Map)

1. **FLOATS:** Parking at Horace Porter School. Check in with Parade Unit Control by 8:15 to be eligible for judging.
2. **FIRE TRUCKS:** Trucks will Park in Firehouse Driveway and overflow into the Bank lot as needed. Check in with Parade Unit Control by 9:30.
3. **BANDS, MARCHING UNITS, DRILL TEAMS, BUSES etc.:** Assemble at Horace Porter School by 9:00. Check with Parade Unit Control for line of March to be announced that morning. Vehicles will proceed to pickup area at Lake Road. (see map)

In an attempt to reduce traffic congestion in the area of the fire house, please make every effort to arrive with your group. Ample parking is available in the field behind Horace Porter School.

JUDGING:

1. **FLOATS:** Judging will start promptly at 8:30 and will be completed by 9:30. To be eligible for awards, floats must be ready for judging at the appointed time. Awards will be presented at 9:45.

Please keep the parade route (see map) and potential obstacles in mind when designing your float.

2. **MARCHING UNITS, BANDS:** Units will be judged at the Judging Stand (see map).
3. **AWARDS:** The Float that best captures the theme will be awarded the following cash prizes:
1st Place - \$250.
2nd Place - \$150.
3rd Place - \$100.

Ribbons will be awarded to the Floats in the following categories:
-Artistic Float
-Float Organization

PARADE MARCH ORDER: This will be established by the parade Committee (considering strategic positions for Police & Fire Units) on the morning of the parade.

PARADE KICK-OFF: Promptly at 10:00 a.m.

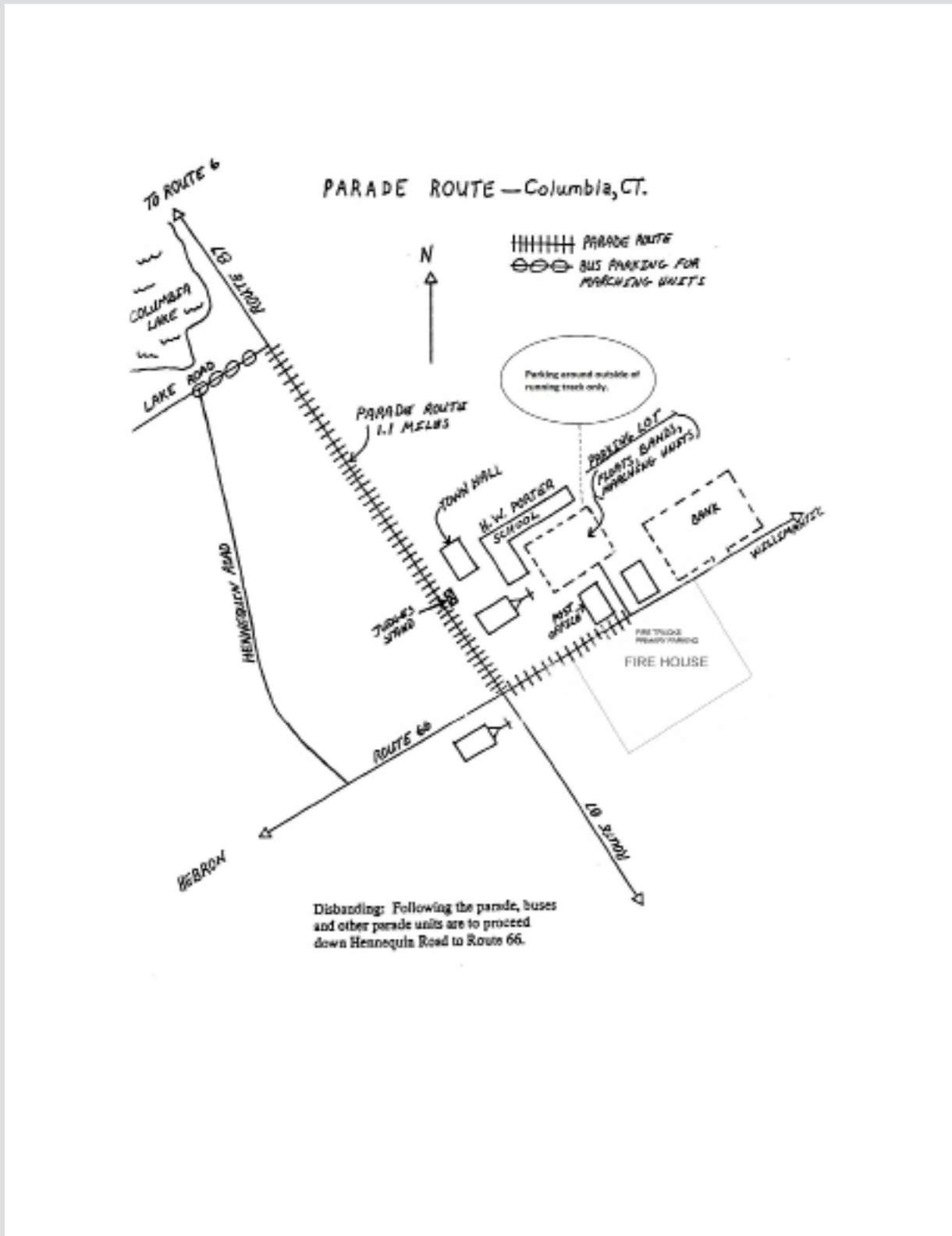
PLEASE NOTE: While many parade attendees enjoy getting wet, many do not: we ask that you exercise common sense and discretion in the use of water dispensing apparatus!!

REFRESHMENTS:

The Columbia Lions Club will provide free beverages following the parade. Location of beverage stand is along Lake Road.

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

COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB:



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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: A reminder to all that the Library will be closed on May 27th and May 29th. Enjoy the parade and have a safe holiday.

If you are looking for something to do, please join us:

- Tue 16th, 6:30 Adult program on Replicating Revolutionary War Headstones
- May 18th, Kid's painting program
- May 27th Senior Book group will pick next year's selections
- On-going programs: Adult Fiction book group, 2nd Tues, Adult Non-fiction book group, 4th Tues day; Middle School book group 2nd Wednesday, Stitchers every Wed at 2:30

As always, check our calendar and website for more!

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

Sue Epstein, Library Director

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

Who knew that using flood lights, outdoor lighting and streetlights could be dangerous to wild animals, especially migrating birds? We thought night lighting keeps us safer. Research indicates It does not. Meredith Borges, Yale Divinity School student, and Co-Chair of "Lights Out, CT", gave a talk explaining the hazards of night lighting at the Saxon B. Little Library in January. Her mission was to let people know how lighting has harmed a multitude of nocturnal animals, pollinator insects, but especially migrating birds. Most importantly, she presented some simple solutions to help mitigate the significant loss of bird populations due to light pollution and made suggestions how we might preserve the night sky.

How are birds damaged by light? 80% of the world's birds migrate two times a year over many days as part of their normal life cycle, and 60% of those migrate at night. We humans depend on roadmaps and GPS to navigate, but birds have evolved a navigation system that relies heavily upon cues from the bright stars and the moon. Night lighting creates a "sky glow" that obscures those cues. This disorients migrating birds resulting in an early- morning landings in places they would normally not land. This has two negative outcomes. Taking even a short "wrong turn" or detour on a journey thousands of miles long can critically deplete the fat stores upon which the birds rely to fuel the journey to their breeding grounds. Additionally, when disoriented birds land in brightly lit urban or suburban areas, they do not land in places that are safe for them. The worst threat to them is caused early in the morning when they crash into large windows in brightly lit buildings, or when they land in places where they are unlikely to find food, they need to finish their journey. Ms. Borges explained that research shows the population of migrating birds, including our warblers, juncos, orioles, and hummingbirds, has decreased by 25% since 1970.

Thanks to new awareness of the harm from night lighting, Connecticut is one of several states that has proposed bills that would require state-owned buildings to reduce or change lighting from 11pm to 6am. What can you, as private citizens do to protect pollinator insects and especially our birds right away? You and I can turn off floodlights, turn off decorative lighting, or reorient lighting downward onto pathways. Where night lighting might be deemed essential, motion detectors would light up only momentarily when needed. The easiest, most economical thing to do is simply turn off outside lights. With a restored dark night sky, we can help protect endangered birds and we humans might sleep better too.

Kathy Tolsdorf

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:



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! MAY HAPPENINGS



Services 10 AM Sundays with Rev. MaryAnn Purfill
Live & on YouTube

Church School during services May 7th & 21th

Bible Study Thursdays 10:30 AM Live & on Zoom

Watch Parties Wednesdays 7 – 9 PM "The Chosen"

2nd Saturday Breakfast 8 – 11 AM May 13th

Simple Sustenance Soup & Bread Pick up Sunday May 21st

For details check out our webpage: Columbiacongregationalchurch.org

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

AHM



STORYVILLE!

AHM Youth Theater is proud to present Storyville, a fun one act show based on popular fairy tales and fables! All students will be assigned parts in this funny and light-hearted production, and will work together as an ensemble to bring the magic and stories of Storyville to life!

Mondays: April, 17th, April 24th, May 1st, May 8th, May 15th, May 22nd, June 5th.

Two "tech" rehearsals - Monday, June 12th, and Tuesday, June 13th, 4-7pm

Final Dress: Wednesday, June 14th, 4-5:30pm

Performance: Wednesday, June 14th, 6pm, open to family and friends.

K-2nd grade 4:15 - 5:15 pm \$80 per student
3-6th grade 5:15 - 7:15 pm \$130 per student
7-12th grade 5:15 - 7:15 pm \$130 per student

SCAN ME



REGISTER AT: ahmyouth.org/programs-services/youth-theater/