

COLUMBIA



Photo Credit: Paul Ramsey

UPDATE MAY 2024



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The **Annual Town Budget Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 in Yeomans Hall, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT, at 7:00 PM** to take action on the proposed Annual Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Copies of the proposed budget are available online at www.columbiact.org and at the Town Clerk's Office.

With nice weather and summer right around the corner there is a lot to do in Columbia! To kick off the summer come down to the beach on **June 14th** at 10:30 am for music with **Jim Blair**, fun water activities, drinks, pizza, and a variety of snacks! We will be hosting another great **SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** starting on **June 19th** we have at the Town Green a true favorite, **Bruce John** at 6:30pm. Pizza and beverages will be provided. **July 2nd** the concert series heads to Rec Park where **Nightshift** will take 'center stage'. **Cover2Cover** will be entertaining us on **July 30th**. To close out the Summer Concert Series, **Rock Solid Alibi** will play on **August 20th**.

For all three of our Nightshift, Cover2Cover, and Rock Solid Alibi concerts, there will be a food truck and the return of **Columbia Package Store**. The snack shack will also be open for other yummy treats as well! All three of these concerts will begin at 6:30pm.

JUST A REMINDER, beach/boating season will be here before we know it. Beach passes are available for purchase May 1st and can be purchased at the Recreation Department at the beach or online on the [Town's website](http://www.columbiact.org).

Boat launch gate keys can be purchased at the Recreation Department Office located at the beach. Gate monitoring is enforced at the boat launch, located at Columbia Town Beach. Prior to launching a watercraft, it is inspected for the presence of Aquatic Invasive Species. Help us to keep our lake clean by preventing the spread of 'aquatic hitchhikers' from being transported to Columbia Lake. Before leaving a boat launch of another water body, clean, drain, and dry or disinfect your boat.



On page 26 you can learn more about how to keep Columbia Lake healthy in the article "GREEN GRASS OR GREEN LAKE?"



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORIAL DAY: Please join us for the Town of Columbia Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 27th at 9:00 AM at the Veterans Memorial on the Town Green. Representative Tim Ackert will be our guest speaker.

Columbia Memorial Day Ceremony



9 am
Monday, May 27, 2024
Veteran's Memorial
on the Town Green



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

4TH OF JULY PARADE: The 4th of July Parade 2024 is around the corner! Come one, come all! The Lions urge their fellow Columbians to share in the excitement of this year's parade, either as a spectator or a participant. Like last year, the Lions invite all interested parties to enter a float of their own design that reflects this year's theme, "Dare to Dream." This theme was inspired by the prize-winning artwork of Ethan Roach, who will also be a parade participant. All floats are automatically entered into a judging competition, which offers the following cash prizes:

- 1st place - \$250
- 2nd place- \$150
- 3rd place - \$100

For more information about the parade, contact Lion Tom Egan at 860-578-7037 or write us at columbialions@gmail.com.



Photo Credit: Scot Fortna



**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN &
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

**MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024
MEMORIAL DAY
TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED**





TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

COMINGS & GOINGS: We bid a fond farewell and best wishes to Carol Price on her retirement. Carol began her career with the Town as the Republican Registrar of Voter (ROV) in 1991 and then as Deputy ROV until her transition in 1993 as the Assistant Tax Collector. Carol noted that both Astrid Belanger and Erminia Lowman graciously shared their knowledge and encouragement with Carol in her early years as both the ROV and the Assistant Tax Collector. Early in Carol's career as the Tax Collector she assisted with the new computerized tax system, which was a huge step in modernizing the Tax Office.



In 1995, Erminia resigned as Tax Collector and Carol was appointed as the new Tax Collector. Carol took tremendous pride in her work and in continually implementing new efficiencies in the office. She is very thankful for the opportunities that she has enjoyed while working as Tax Collector and would like to thank the many residents she has served over the last 34 years. She also will miss her co-workers and felt they were like her second family.



Carol enjoyed helping people and it showed in her work. Carol's sense of service to the community comes directly from her mother and father. Her father was a WWII veteran and both her mother and father always encouraged community service.

We wish Carol the best in her retirement. She will be leaving the Tax Office in good hands with Michele Manas. Michele has 19 years of experience as a Tax Collector, and we know she will do a fantastic job for Columbia.



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

COMINGS & GOINGS: We welcome Jake Plitt as the new Parks & Recreation Director. He has extensive experience working in other parks and recreation departments in CT, coaching and with camp programs. Jake grew up in Barkhamsted - a small town much like Columbia and is one of the reasons he was so eager to work for Columbia. Jake has been coaching high school girls basketball for the Housatonic Valley Regional High School for over eight years and has been head coach for the last three years. Please stop in and say hello to Jake - his office is located in the Murphy House at the Town Beach.



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

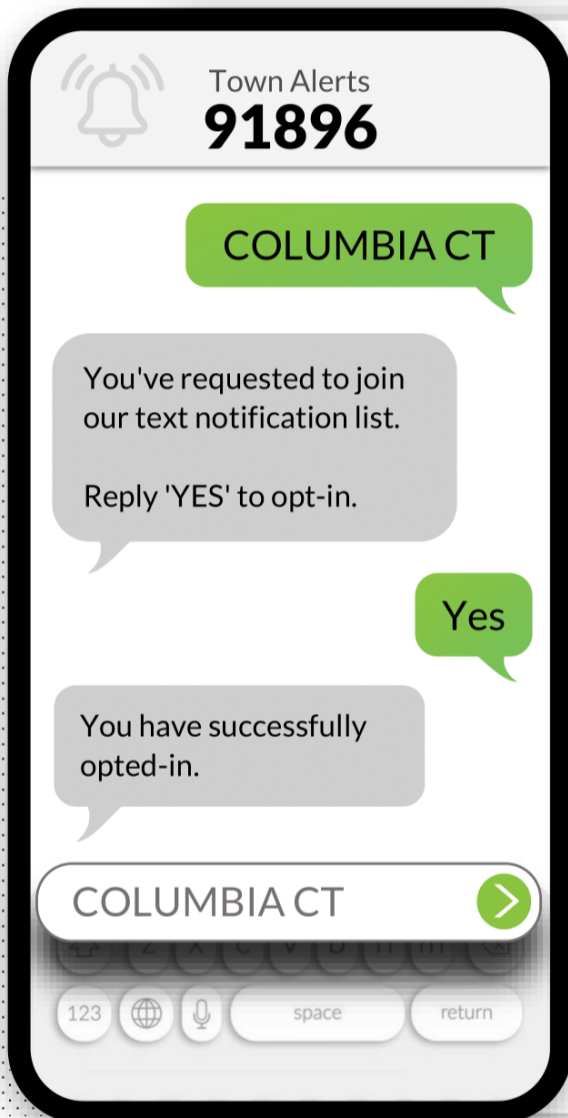
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Columbia

Text Notifications!

TextMyGov™

Get town updates sent directly to your phone via text message.



Sign up to receive town text message notifications!

Get Started,

opt-in to any of the following notification lists:

- For Town-wide Notifications, text **"COLUMBIA CT"** to **91896**
- For Parks & Recreation Notifications, text **"COLUMBIA CT REC"** to **91896**
- For Beckish Senior Center Notifications, text **"COLUMBIA CT BECKISH"** to **91896**

What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply **YES** to verify opt-in.
- You may receive multiple text messages a month with a notification for each alert category opted-in to.
- Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for more details.
- You can text **STOP** at any time to remove yourself from ALL notification lists.

View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions





TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TEXTMYGOV: Opt-In for TextMyGov, the new text alert system to receive important Town information. Signing up is easy!

We encourage all residents to opt-in for these important notifications to keep informed of all town announcements. Signing up is easy. Opt-in to any of the following lists:

- **Town-wide Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT" to the number 91896.**
- **Parks & Recreation Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT REC" to the number 91896.**
- **Beckish Senior Center Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT BECKISH" to the number 91896.**

After sending the initial keyword, you will be asked to complete the opt-in process by responding with YES by text to 91896.

Users may opt-out anytime from future text alerts by simply texting STOP to 91896.

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.

Thank you and please be safe!

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

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator
townadministrator@columbiact.org
860-228-0110

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Many meetings will be held by utilizing remote access; however, some meetings are being held in-person or hybrid (both in-person and virtual). Please check the Town Calendar and the Agenda posted for directions on login information. 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.

5/01/24 Mon: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM

5/02/24 Tue: Szedga Farm Management Committee, 6:00 PM

5/02/24 Tue: Conservation & Agriculture Commission, 7:00 PM

5/06/24 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM

5/06/24 Mon: Board of Education, 7:30 PM

5/06/24 Wed: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM

5/07/24 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM

5/08/24 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM

5/08/24 Wed: Economic Development Committee, 7:00 PM

5/14/24 Tue: Annual Town Budget Meeting, Yeomans Hall, 7:00 PM

5/13/24 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

5/15/24: Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM

5/16/24 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM

5/20/24 Mon: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM

5/21/24 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM

5/28/24 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

Public Comment will be accepted by our dedicated email at PublicInput@columbiact.org or by USPS mail to 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237 and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

THE 2024 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES IS

HERE!!! The season opens **June 14th** at the Town Beach with the talents of Jim Blair playing during our Summer Kickoff Event at 10:30 am! Columbia Residents can come down to the beach for some fun water activities and purchase drinks, pizza, and a variety of snacks!

On **June 19th** we have at the Town Green a true favorite, Bruce John at 6:30pm. Pizza and beverages will be provided.

On **July 2nd** the concert series heads to Rec Park where Nightshift will take 'center stage'. Nightshift is a five-piece cover band that covers well-known songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s. The band is confident that you will enjoy every song they play, and all will want to dance from kids to grandparents!

Concert goers will not want to miss the dance party band, Cover2Cover, when they play at Rec Park on **July 30th**. C2C has been recognized as CT's premier dance party band playing all the hits from the 60s 70s 80s.

It is our pleasure to close out the Summer Concert Series with a new band, Rock Solid Alibi which will be at Rec Park **August 20th**. Rock Solid Alibi plays primo cuts from The Allman Brothers, The Cars, Eric Clapton, ZZ Top, Joe Jackson, The Ramones, John Cougar Mellencamp and more!

For all three of our Nightshift, Cover2Cover, and Rock Solid Alibi concerts, there will be a food truck and the return of Columbia Package store beverages for anyone who wants to buy a snack or a drink! The snack shack will also be open for other yummy treats as well! All three of these concerts will begin at 6:30pm.

We look forward to another great summer and we will see you soon!



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

MARINE PATROL NUMBER

860-256-9720

or

860-207-5081

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

If there is an emergency, please call 911.

The Marine Patrol is on duty from 10:00 am to Sunset

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):

GATE MONITORING & INSPECTION HOURS: As of April 15th, the Recreation staff is available at the following hours to inspect and certify motorboats:

- **Monday - Wednesday: 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM; Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM; Friday: 9:00 Am - 11:30 AM; Call the Rec Dept at 860-228-8513 to ensure they are available for inspections and launch during the outlined hours.**
- **As of Saturday, May 18th & Sunday, May 19th: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**
- **May 25th – September 8th : 10:00 AM – Sunset***
- **Weekends Only: September 14th to October 13th: 10:00 AM – Sunset***

* Gate closing will adjust with the sunset throughout the season.

The **MARINE PATROL NUMBER IS 860-207-5081 OR 860-256-9720**. They start patrol duties as of May 18th. Call them for inspections, on the lake assistance, and/or boating regulation questions.

2024 MOTORBOAT LAUNCH INSPECTION PROTOCOLS AND SCHEDULES ~ FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAKE!

Recently a town resident referred to the lake as “Columbia’s jewel”. Any precious commodity such as our lake needs a protection plan to maintain its brilliance. As we begin the 2024 recreational season the Board of Selectmen (BOS) shared that all town residents have a part to play in protecting the lake. The BOS emphasized the need for all town residents, especially those living in the 1,900-acre watershed area that feeds the lake, as well as users of the lake, to understand the importance of needed protections for the lake and those who use it.

One important protocol is inspections of all motorboats at the town launch. Why? As an example, an invasive species, Hydrilla, has been identified in neighboring lakes, e.g., Coventry Lake. One boat launched on our lake carrying Hydrilla could have devastating environmental and financial consequences that would impact the entire town. It is incumbent on all of us to avoid that outcome. In addition, town ordinances and CT boating regulations require documentation, proof of engine horsepower, and safety checks prior to launching on the lake. It is also as checking for invasive species. When approved, two town certification stickers will be placed next to the boat’s hull numbers. Once certified, at subsequent launches, invasive species inspections will be conducted at every launch.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

2024 MOTORBOAT LAUNCH INSPECTION PROTOCOLS AND SCHEDULES ~ FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAKE!

To begin a motorboat, which is defined as a vessel propelled by machinery, can only be launched, and removed at the town's designated launch located at 2 Beach Drive. The initial launch of the season requires motorboats to be inspected prior to launch. The initial inspection process includes providing proof of Columbia residency, a valid, current registration with hull registration stickers, proof of the engine's horsepower, a CT boating certificate, safety checks as well as checking for invasive species. When approved, two town certification stickers will be placed next to the boat's hull numbers. Once certified, at subsequent launches, invasive species inspections will be conducted at every launch.

The Recreation and/or Marine Patrol staff conduct inspections. For motorboats launched by marinas, the town has worked out a plan with the marinas for the required inspections prior to the initial launch. The same proof of residency, valid registration and boating license, horsepower, safety, and invasive species checks as listed above are required.



Photo Credit Paul Ramsey

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

ADULT EXERCISE PROGRAMS: MEN'S BASKETBALL: April 1st - May 20th 7-9 PM. Check Rec Desk for times as start time changes due to gym demands. Registration can be done online through [RecDesk](#) or a walk-in option.

FIT FUSION ~ Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 4:30 - 5:30 PM; Join instructor Carolyn Ritchie for a total body workout for all fitness levels.

YOGA ~ Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30 PM; Join Instructor Laura Jacques for an hour of Yoga that will have you feeling relaxed, stress free, and glad you took the time for YOU. All levels welcome.

For more dates and offerings, please visit our Website, follow us on [Instagram](#) and/or [Facebook](#).

RECREATION BUSINESS: MARINE PATROL needed for the summer at Columbia Lake. The Marine Patrol is comprised of Gate Monitoring and Boat Patrol. The work includes providing nautical education, safety, and vessel inspection services on Columbia Lake and at the Town Boat Launch. The work also includes enforcement of Town of Columbia Lake Ordinances and CT Boating Regulations, emergency response calls and maintaining accurate records during each work shift. Contact the Recreation office for more details at 860-228-8513, or on the town's [website](#).



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

Thank you, Jake Plitt, Parks & Recreation Director & Anyka Fagen, Assistant Recreation Director ~ 860.228.8513; Recreation@columbiact.org

Office Location: 18 Lake Rd. (Murphy House at the Town Beach), Columbia, CT 06237

Hours: Monday - Wednesday: 8 am - 4 pm

Thursday: 8 am - 6 pm

Friday: 8 am - 12 pm

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

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June 14th — Jim Blair at the Town Beach (10:30 am)

June 19th — Bruce John @ the Town Green (6:30 pm)

July 2nd — Nightshift @ Rec Park (6:30 pm)

July 30th — Cover2Cover @ Rec Park (6:30 pm)

August 20th — Rock Solid Alibi @ Rec Park (6:30 pm)

CONCERT SERIES



7

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

**SUMMER
CONCERT**

FEATURING BRUCE JOHN

June 19th, 2024

6:30 PM

Columbia Town Green

Free!

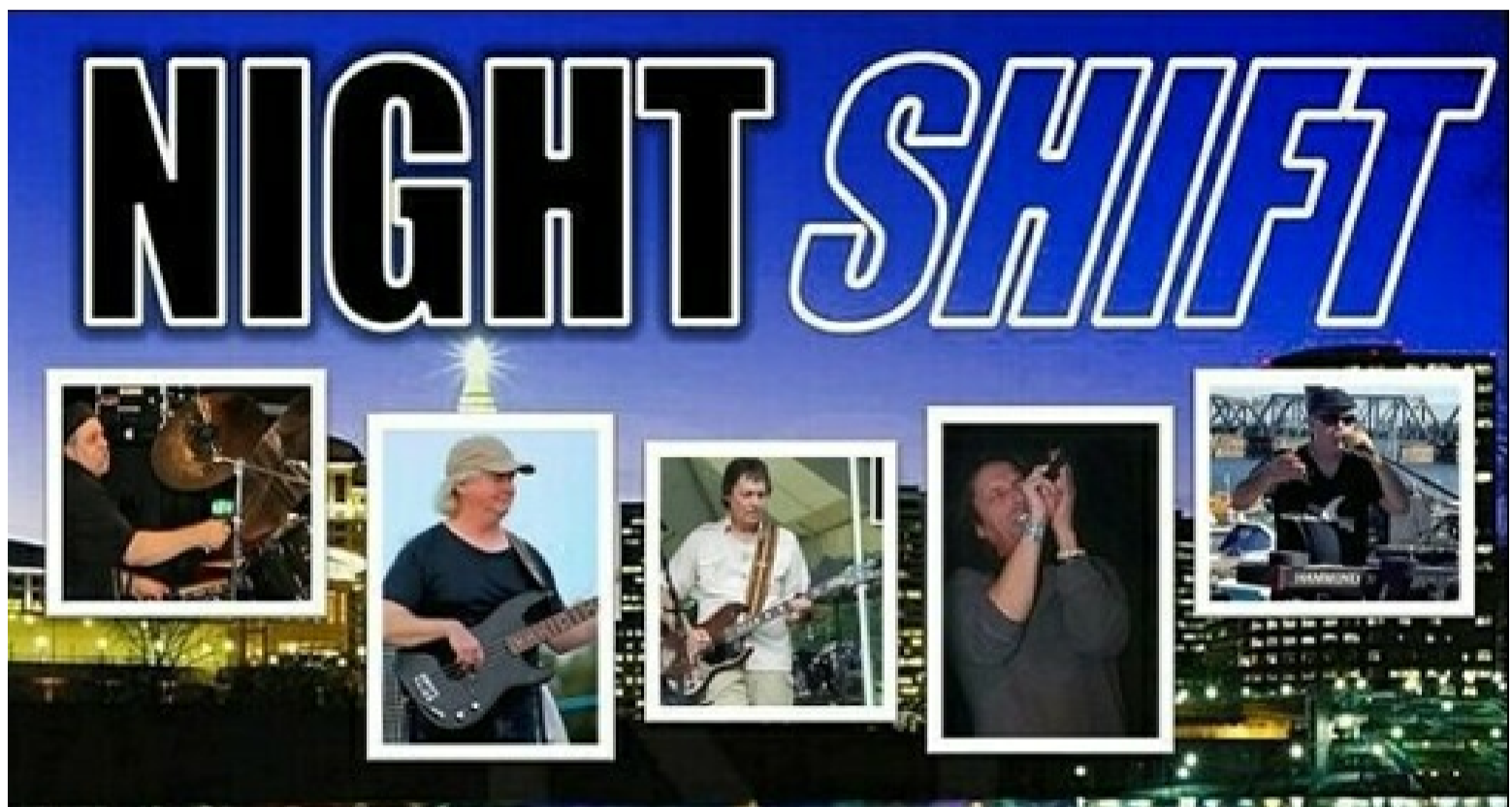
Join us for **LIVE
Music,
Pizza, and
Community Fun!**

Follow Us!
COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):



Columbia Summer Concert Series

Tuesday, July 2nd

6:30 – 8:30 pm

@ Rec Park

Bring a chair or blanket and settle down for an evening of 60's, 70s, and 80's music that will have you itching to get up and dance!

Columbia Package Store



THANK YOU,
PLATINUM SPONSORS!

Music, food, beverage and community.
Join us for a great night of fun!

Fun for the entire family!

Discovery Learning Center * Columbia CrossFit * Titan Energy *
Olivia Evans- REALTOR®/ Broker

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

Columbia Summer Concert Series

COVER COVER



Tuesday, July 30th
6:00 – 8:00 pm
@ Rec Park



An eclectic collection of tunes to suit all audiences!



Bring a chair and settle down for an evening of live music, food, beverage, and community fun.

THANK YOU, PLATINUM SPONSORS!



Discovery Learning Center * Columbia CrossFit * Titan Energy *
Olivia Evans- REALTOR®/ Broker

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

Columbia Summer Concert Series



TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH
6:30 – 8:30 PM
ROCK SOLID ALIBI
FLY

Bring a chair and join us for a fun evening of live music, food, beverage and community.



Rock Solid Alibi plays primo cuts from The Allman Brothers, The Cars, Eric Clapton, ZZ Top, Joe Jackson, The Ramones, and John Cougar Mellencamp to name just a few.

**THANK YOU,
PLATINUM SPONSORS!**



Discovery Learning Center * Columbia CrossFit * Titan Energy *
Olivia Evans- REALTOR®/ Broker

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

Swim Lessons

Session I
June 24th – June 27th
July 1st– July 4th
(Fridays reserved for make-up)

Level 1: 10:30am
Level 2: 11:00am
Level 3: 11:30am
Level 4: 12:00pm

Fees: Residents \$45 per week \$85 for 2 weeks/ Non-Residents \$50 per week.

Class Session: Classes are Monday – Thursday each week with Friday reserved for make-up if a lesson is cancelled due to inclement weather. The whole session is 2 weeks long.

Please note: Swim lessons are non-refundable and non-transferrable. In the event of a schedule conflict or your child being unable to participate, we cannot be held responsible for missed days.

Requirements to enter class: A completion card or mastery of skills of previous level

Register online at
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>
Phone: 860-228-8513
Email: recdirector@columbiact.org



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION


RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION
Boat Safe Connecticut, LLC

BOATING LICENSE CLASS

\$98 PER PERSON

SUPPLIES INCLUDED!



There will be breaks
1-day Class
Saturday, July 13th
8:30am- 4:30pm
@ Town Hall Conference Room

2- day Classes 6:00-10:00pm:
***June 25th & June 27th**
@ Beckish Center

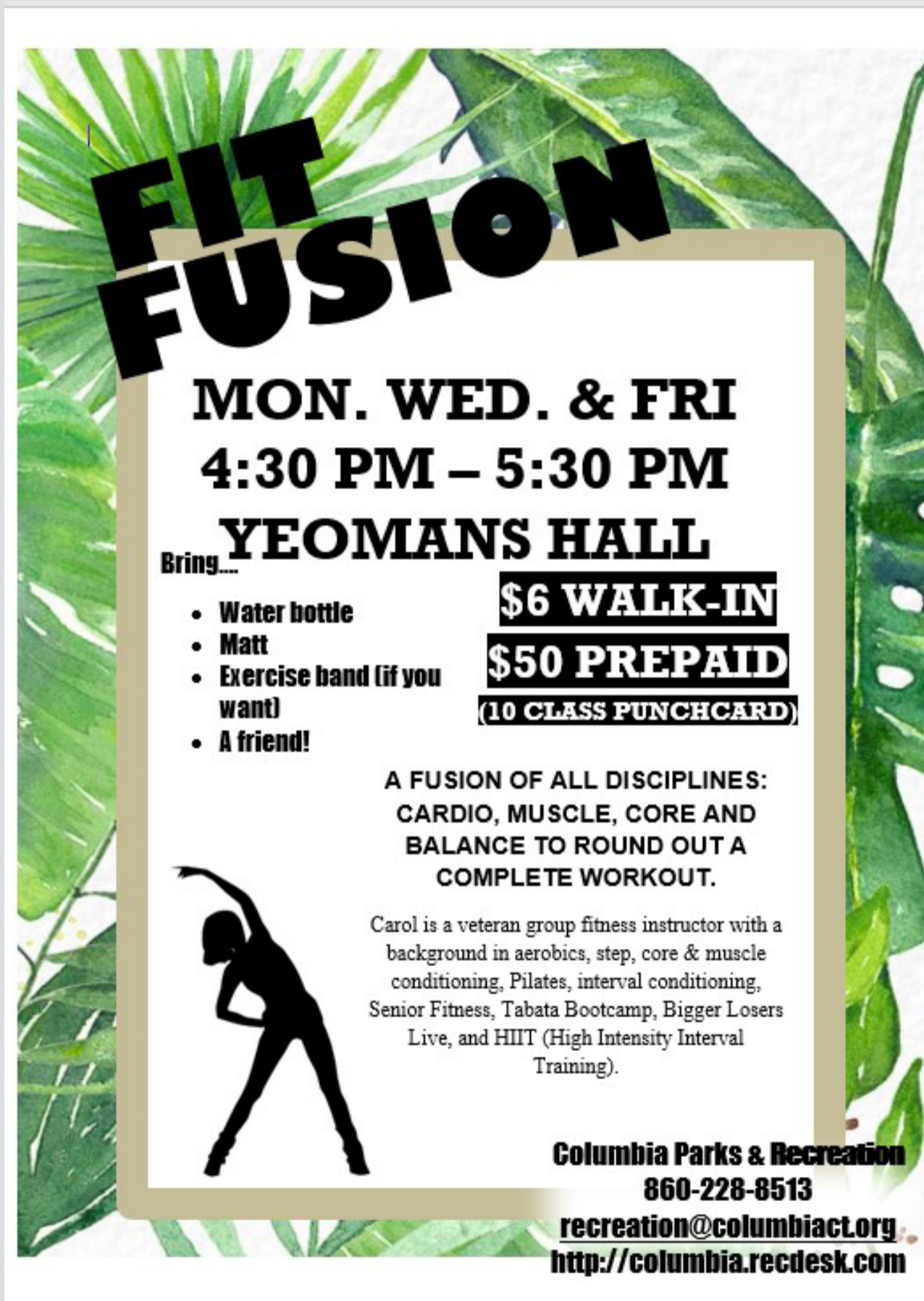
***July 16th & July 18th**
@ Beckish Center

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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):



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@columbiact.org
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE: Regular office hours for the TAX OFFICE: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and closed on Friday.

You can view and pay taxes online. Service fees for tax payments are .95 cents to use a bank account and 2.99% for credit and debit cards.

To find your tax bills online:

- go to www.columbiact.org and click on the pay taxes online tab.
- on the next page click on the square that says view/pay tax bills.
- The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. last name, space, and your first initial.

You can also utilize this site to look up your payment history. Locate your bill using the instructions above, then hover over the icons in the option column and select tax payment history. If you have any problems using the online system, please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org and we will gladly assist you.

For those seeking an immediate clearance for DMV due to delinquent taxes please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org for information on the process. **Paying the tax bill online does not clear you immediately at DMV. You will need to contact the tax office during tax office hours for assistance.**

Michele Manas, 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, Marriage licenses, Certified copies of Vital Records, Fishing and Hunting licenses, Dog Licenses, **Transfer Station stickers**, etc.

TRANSFER STATION PERMIT STICKERS: Transfer station permit stickers for 2024 (Effective June 1, 2024), will be available for purchase in the Town Clerk's Office beginning May 1, 2024. Applications can be found on the Town of Columbia [Department of Public Works page](#).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE (Continued):

Applications for Transfer Station stickers can also 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 at www.columbia.recdesk.com/.

Should 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 Karen (atownclerk@columbiact.org).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

GREEN GRASS OR GREEN LAKE?

This question was posed at the recent Connecticut Federation of Lakes Annual Meeting. The discussion highlighted that the nutrients, phosphorous and nitrogen, which feed our lawns are also 'junk foods' feeding algae and aquatic vegetation. Nutrient pollution is where too much nitrogen and phosphorus, are added to water bodies and act like fertilizer, stimulating excessive growth of algae and vegetation.

For nearly a decade Columbia Lake has experienced cyanobacteria algae patches. Cyanobacteria in elevated concentrations can pose health risks to aquatic life, people, and pets. And there are possible interventions, from issuing health alerts to avoid contact, to limiting recreational use, as have been done at other CT lakes. Actions by watershed and lake front property owners to preserve Columbia Lake's water quality can avoid limitations to use of the lake. For the sake of the lake, consider 'lake protective' DO & DO NOT actions.

IN WATERSHED & LAKE FRONT AREAS ~ DO	IN WATERSHED & LAKE FRONT AREAS ~ DO NOT
Do get a soil test! Soil test results will tell you what, if any, nutrients you need and how much to apply. Consider an application of 1/3 of the manufacturer's suggested rate to reduce waste and curb non-absorption.	Do not apply fertilizers containing phosphorous within 15' of the lake – it's CT law; use the same 15' buffer strip for no nitrogen fertilizers and no pesticides.
Do use slow-release nitrogen if needed to correct nutrient deficiencies. Slow-release nitrogen delivers a steady supply of nutrients over a long period of time. Slow-release nitrogen provides for more even growth, lowers the risk of fertilizer "burn," and lessens runoff and leaching of fertilizer into surface and ground water.	Do not use fertilizers in the Spring or Summer. If you choose to use fertilizers do so in the Fall, especially after the drawdown and before a frost. Check the packaging for the three-digit number code, i.e. 15-0-11, which corresponds with the N (nitrogen), P (phosphorous) and K (potassium) nutrients in the fertilizer.
Do apply organic fertilizers. These are naturally slow-release and build soil as they feed plants. Examples are bone meal, fish emulsion, and kelp meal.	Do not allow runoff into the lake. If using fertilizers, do not apply fertilizers when rain is in the forecast.
Do add compost as a top dress. Consider Dirt Booster Plus, a powerful, natural, nutrient rich compost, with Biochar, Humic Acid, Corn Distillates and Molasses. It is a 'long-term' solution to improve your lawn versus fertilizers that are constant 'stimulants'.	Do not allow commercial vendors to use chemicals or fertilizers that pose a threat to the lake. For example, avoid animal manure fertilizers, as horse and chicken manure are phosphorous rich nutrients for algae. Avoid pesticides that may harm aquatic life.
Do cut back on lawn size. The quickest way to reduce reliance on lawn chemicals is to reduce the size of your lawn. Turf grass demands more nitrogen and general maintenance than most other landscape plant choices. Replacing lawn with trees, shrubs, flowers, groundcovers, and other mixed plantings reduces the need for fertilizer.	Do not over cut or over water lawn. Mowing should not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade; weekly mowing is commonly a good rate. Over watering leads to runoff, discourages root growth and depth and encourages fungal and disease growth.
Do use cover crops. Planting cover crops helps to prevent erosion, suppress weeds, and aerate the soil. They add organic matter and nitrogen to the soil.	Do not rake or blow leaves or grass clippings into the lake or wetlands areas. Bag or collect and/or dispose of leaves and grass clippings at the Town Transfer Station

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



325 Route 87
860 228 9306



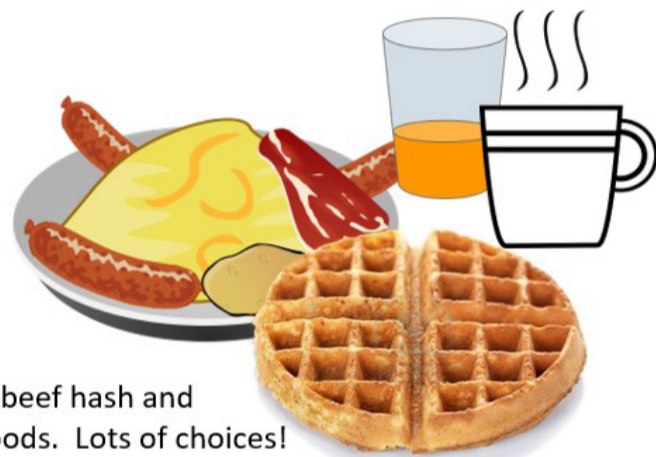
2nd Saturday Community Breakfasts

May 11 June 8 July 13 Aug 10



Share Food and Joy with
Family and Friends
7:30 AM to 10 AM

All you can eat; Special Rates for Families
with Children



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

Simple Sustenance

Sunday, May 26th

Order **Zuppa Toscana (sausage potato soup)**
& **Sun-Dried Tomato Basil Bread** to go!

ORDER and PAY BY **May 19th**

Pick up **MAY 26th** at **Columbia Congregational Church**
after the service.

Drive-through Pick-up service **11:30-12:30 PM**

Order online at www.columbiacongregationalchurch.org
Or Pick Up An Order Form At Church



The profits from Simple Sustenance support both the church and local charities.
Any questions? **Email us at CCChurchFair@gmail.com**

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (Continued):



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



10 AM Sundays Worship Services with Rev. MaryAnn Purtill
Church School during the Service

Bible Study Thursdays 10:30 AM

2nd Saturday Community Breakfast
7:30 – 10 AM Saturday May 11th

Simple Sustenance
Zuppa Toscana & Sun-dried Tomato Basil Bread
order by May 19 pick up May 26

For details check out our webpage: Columbiacongregationalchurch.org

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

JOIN US FOR RIDE THE EAST ON JUNE 8, 2024!



Saturday, June 8, 2024 @ 7:30 AM

Jillson House Museum, 627 Main St, Willimantic, CT 06226

Explore the scenic Air Line Trail with the East Coast Greenway Alliance and Trust for Public Land!

Select from two out-and-back ride options (48-mile and 18-mile) on the stone dust Air Line Trail State Park. Both rides include a short on-road loop (on back roads) to Mono Pond to learn about Trust for Public Land's efforts to acquire land for public use. The 48-mile ride continues to the cranberry bog in East Hampton where riders will learn about the 111-mile Central Connecticut Loop Trail, which will extend from East Hampton.

Registration starts at 7:30 AM at the Jillson House Museum followed by a special ceremony at the museum at 8 AM. The 48-mile ride starts at 8:30 AM; 18-mile ride starts at 9 AM. Helmets required. Snacks and water provided and there will be several restroom stops along the way. Free parking at the museum or the rec center (1 Jillson Square). Riders will receive special offers from local businesses to continue the fun after the ride!

This ride is presented by the East Coast Greenway Alliance and Trust for Public Land and sponsored by the Jillson House Museum and Windham Region Chamber of Commerce.

Please note: This is a nonprofit event. We are not able to issue refunds for no shows or cancellations.

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

JOSHUA'S TRUST: Join Joshua's Trust on any of the following MAY guided walks. Weather may cancel these events, so be sure to visit [Joshua's Trust website](#) for details, changes and cancellations.

Wednesday walk at Tinkerville Brook

Preserve: 05/15/2024 9:00 AM, 135 Armitage Road, Ashford, CT. Joshua's Trust's Tinkerville Brook in Ashford boasts a beautiful 2 mile loop through wetlands, mountain laurel thickets and a stop by a historic mill site. Be sure to visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, updates and cancellations.

Tree Identification walk at Iron Mine Valley

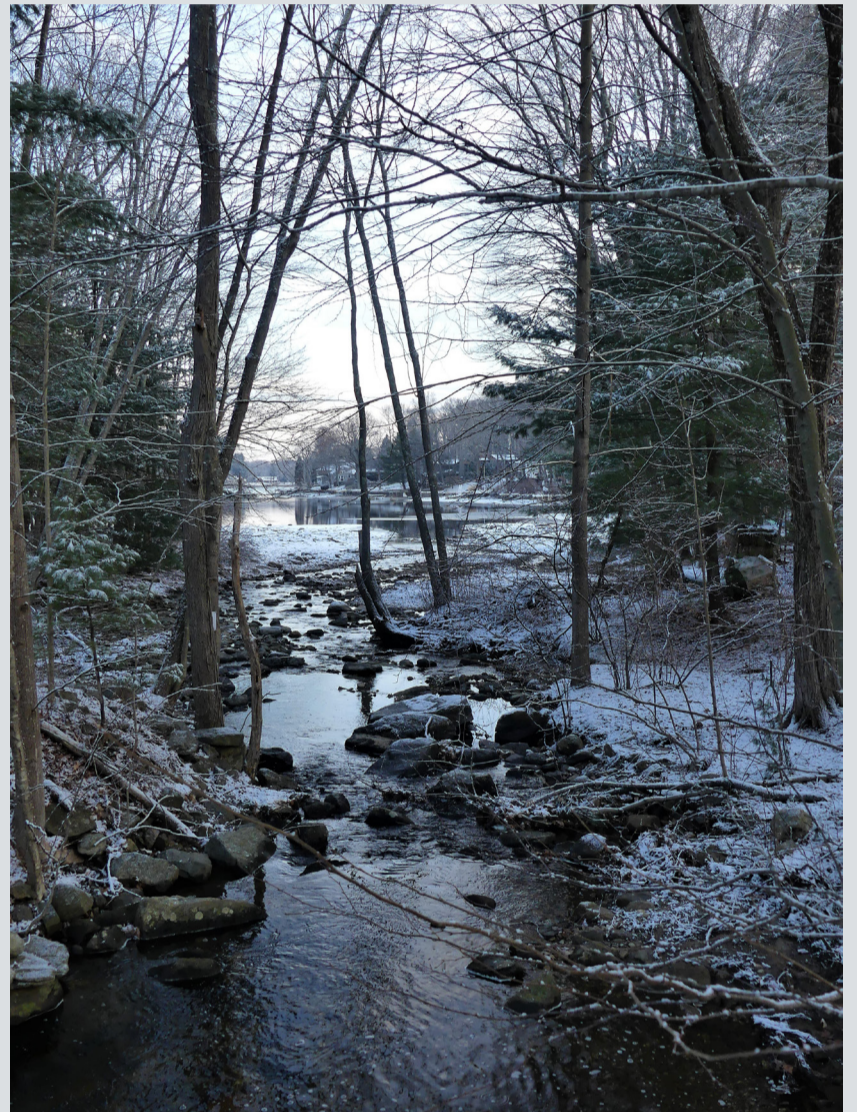
Preserve: 05/19/2024 3:00-4:30 PM, Iron Mine Valley Preserve, 31 Sand Hill Road, Ashford, CT

UConn Ecology and Evolutionary Biology PhD candidate, Michael Lascaleia, will help us learn to identify common New England trees and discuss their importance to our native ecosystems as we hike the trail through Iron Mine Valley Preserve.

The trail includes a mix of swamp, marsh and upland forest. Strongly recommend bug protection. Please note that we will begin at the trail head near 31 Sand Hill Rd, Ashford, CT (41.89910° -72.16769°). Be sure to visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, updates and cancellations

Wednesday Walk at Wolf Rock Preserve, 05/29/2024 9:00 AM, Near 62 Crane Hill Rd, Mansfield Center, CT

Joshua's Trust's Wolf Rock Preserve is a fairly hilly, 2-3 mile loop with spectacular views and a trip to the marsh along the Nipmuck Trail. Be sure to visit <https://joshuastrust.org/events/> for details, updates and cancellations.



Utley Creek: Photo Credit Paul Ramsey

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

COLUMBIA PTO:



**Family
FUN RUN**

SATURDAY, May 18th
From 12-1pm
At Horace W. Porter School

Color, Mud, Obstacles, Music,
Slushies, Foam and More!!!!

REGISTER NOW
horaceporterpto@gmail.com

\$10 per person
Pay at event or with PayPal:
porterptotreas@gmail.com

The PTO is a registered 501(c)3 organization

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

COLUMBIA PTO:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD



Nominate someone and let them know....

**their time and effort goes a long way towards making
a big difference! We see You!**

**Please email your nominees to horaceporterpto@gmail.com. Eligible nominees' requirements:
Columbia resident/ business/ or involved in Columbia community. This person should have done
something extraordinary for the community and deserves recognition.**

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

COLUMBIA PTO:

**RAFFLE
TICKETS**

Contest

Benefits HORACE W PORTER PTO

HUGE PRIZES!

DRAWING AT THE FUN RUN | **ON MAY 18, 2024**

Enter at <https://go.rallyup.com/bf8f12>

WIN
OVER 30+ PRIZES

ADMIT ONE
Ticket

**PRIZES
FOR
ALL!**

HORACE W PORTER PTO is a registered 501c3 organization
Contact horaceporterpto@gmail.com with questions

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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

COLUMBIA PTO:

A flyer for a glow party. The background is black with vibrant, glowing neon lines in shades of green, blue, and purple. The text is centered and uses various colors and fonts to create a festive and eye-catching look.

**Ready Set
GLOW!**

Horace W. Porter PTO Glow Party

May 31, 2024

\$10 PER PERSON

Food/DJ/ Photo booth/ Glow Merchandise Available For Purchase

◆ — • • ◆ • • — ◆

*From 7:00-9:00pm
Horace W. Porter School
RSVP: horaceporterpto@gmail.com
6th-8th Graders Only
HWP PTO is a registered 501c3
organization*

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Welcome to May at your local library!

Happy Spring! SBL Staff are preparing for our busiest summer yet – our program “Read, Renew, Repeat” begins in late June. Get a first-peek at all our upcoming plans by subscribing to our [email newsletter](#).

Back by popular demand this month: Join us to make your own mini **Fairy Garden at SBL!** This program for kids/teens takes place on Thursday, May 30th at 6:00pm – call the Library to sign up.

Participate in our **Community Art Show** by bringing home an art kit! Right now, we have art kits available for you to create upcycled art reflecting our Summer Reading theme of “Read, Renew, Repeat.” Bring home an art kit (or attend our Community Art Night on Thursday, May 23rd) and then see your art on display in the Library all summer. Adults can make art, too! Give us a call for more details.

On Tuesday, May 21st at 6:00pm, we welcome Kathy Caton, Horace Porter School’s Music Teacher, for her program **Life Stories: Finding Your Roots**. Kathy had been chasing her ancestry all the way back to Brig. General John Mead when she learned during the pandemic lockdown that Richard “Boss” Croker, leader of Tammany Hall, was her great-great-granduncle. She began collecting a plethora of information about Croker and decided to compile all of her research into a biography about him, his life, and work in New York. Come explore how Kathy was able to research her family history and how you can as well! Please call us at SBL to sign up to attend.

Join Julie at **Cookbook Club** this month! We’ll be discussing *Black Food* edited by Bryant Terry. As a group, we’ll meet to discuss our experiences with this book – the good, the bad, the delicious, the disappointing – it’s all up for discussion. If you’d like to bring a sample of something you’ve made from the book, feel free – but it’s not required, and neither is tasting. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30pm – copies of the cookbook are available to borrow from SBL now.

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED): Did you know SBL has a “**Library of Things**”? We have a variety of uncommon, once-in-a-while items available to borrow for a three-week period with your SBL Library Card. Check out a pickleball set, a mini sewing machine, a button maker, a microscope, and so much more! Stop in to visit us for all the details.

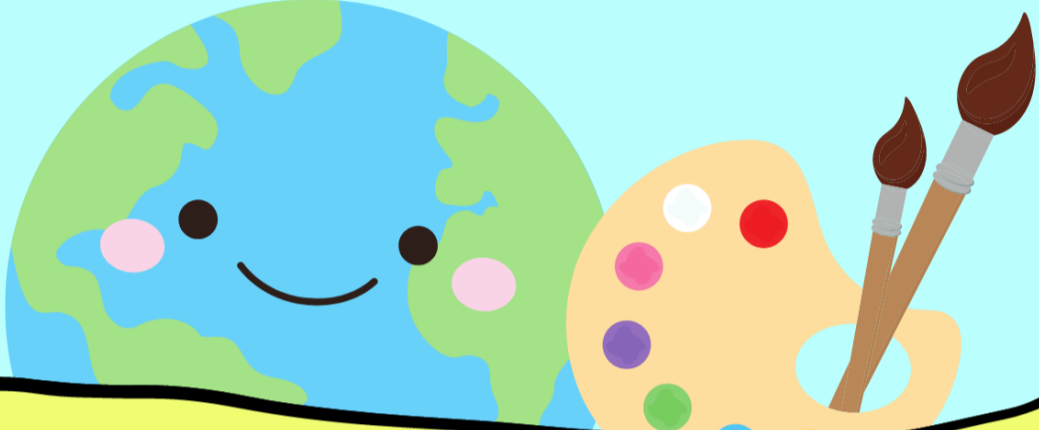
We hope to see you at SBL soon!

Saxton B. Little Library

860-228-0350 / columbiactlibrary.org

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:



**READ, RENEW, REPEAT!
COMMUNITY ART SHOW!**

AT THE SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Pick up an art kit at the Library starting April 1st

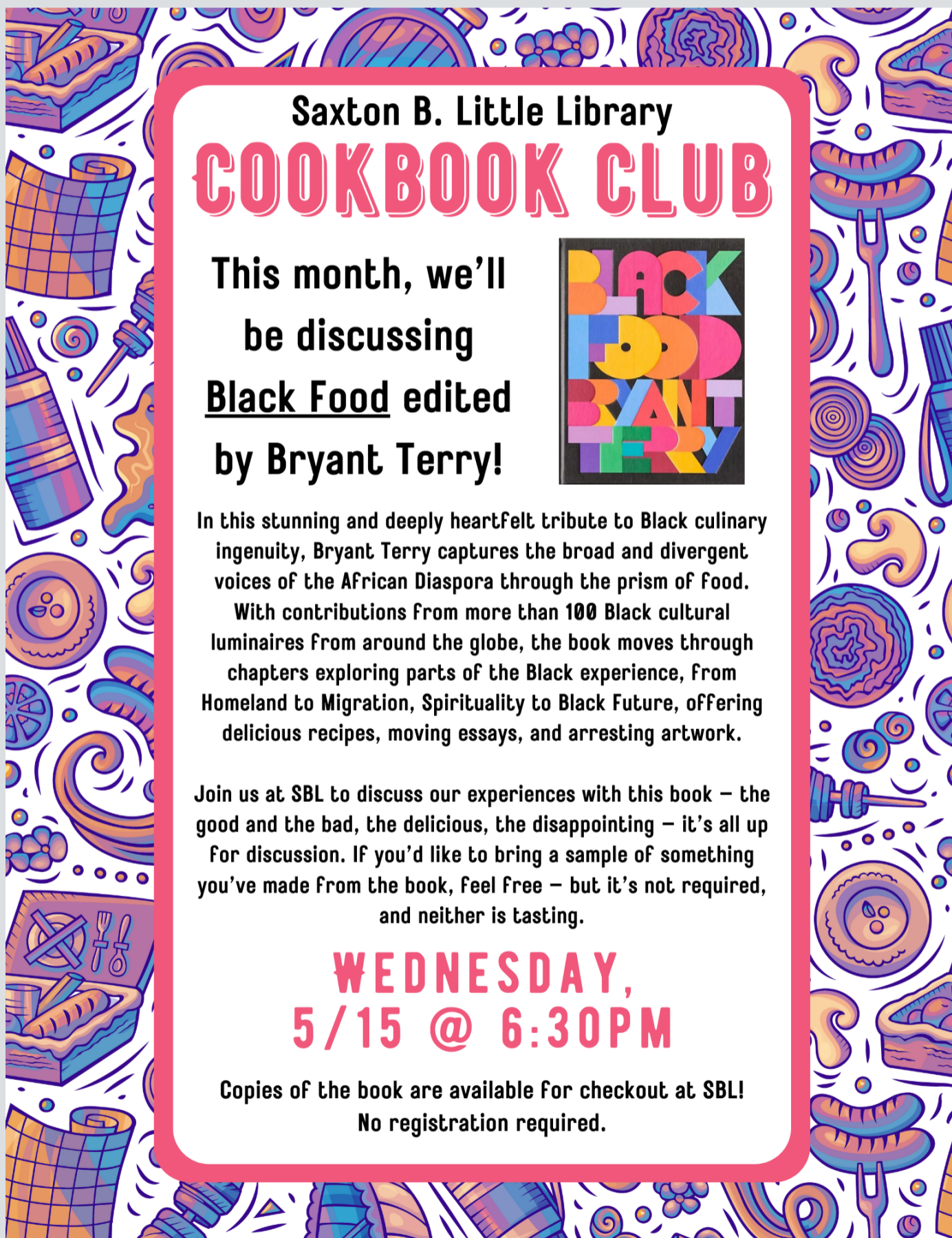
— OR —

Attend our 'Community Art Night' on Thursday, May 23rd (drop-in 3:00 - 7:00). Create upcycled art reflecting our Summer Reading theme of 'Read, Renew, Repeat,' and see your art on display in the Library all summer.

ALL AGES WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!
Registration required to attend the Art Night on 5/23.
Stop in or call the Library @ 860-228-0350 to register.


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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:



Saxton B. Little Library
COOKBOOK CLUB

**This month, we'll
be discussing
Black Food edited
by Bryant Terry!**



In this stunning and deeply heartfelt tribute to Black culinary ingenuity, Bryant Terry captures the broad and divergent voices of the African Diaspora through the prism of food. With contributions from more than 100 Black cultural luminaires from around the globe, the book moves through chapters exploring parts of the Black experience, from Homeland to Migration, Spirituality to Black Future, offering delicious recipes, moving essays, and arresting artwork.

Join us at SBL to discuss our experiences with this book – the good and the bad, the delicious, the disappointing – it's all up for discussion. If you'd like to bring a sample of something you've made from the book, feel free – but it's not required, and neither is tasting.

**WEDNESDAY,
5/15 @ 6:30PM**

Copies of the book are available for checkout at SBL!
No registration required.

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:



SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY | COLUMBIA

Life Stories: **Finding Your Roots** with Kathy P. Caton

Do you want to preserve the life of your ancestors and their stories? If so, then you'll want to know how to write a family history book.

Kathy Caton, Columbia's own Horace Porter School Music Teacher, had been chasing her ancestry, all the way back to Brig. General John Mead. However, when she learned during the pandemic lockdown that Richard "Boss" Croker, leader of Tammany Hall, was her great-great-granduncle, she began collecting a plethora of information about Croker. She then decided to compile all of her research into a biography about him and his life and work in New York.

Come explore how Kate was able to research her family history and how you can as well!

Tuesday, May 21st @ 6:00pm

Registration requested - call 860-228-0350 to sign up!