

# COLUMBIA



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL RAMSEY



PHOTO CREDIT: NANCY MILLERD

# UPDATE NOVEMBER 2021

# TOWN OF COLUMBIA



## OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

I want to take a moment to give thanks to all the residents and employees that helped us come out stronger from this pandemic. This is your town and it is meant to work for you; we encourage input and feedback from the public. Please feel free to contact us at [publicinput@columbiact.org](mailto:publicinput@columbiact.org) or at [townadministrator@columbiact.org](mailto:townadministrator@columbiact.org) and my office will assist you in any way we can. That is how things change, public input is the path needed to give us your individual thoughts and ideas.

One thing we learned is that the Town's social services had to be rebuilt and increased to handle the crisis in a way that residents preferred. Our Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring and her team focused on food delivery, transportation, and individual personalized calling to track needs and give moral support. See details of the reopening on the Senior Center page of this newsletter.

Our Community Social Services Coordinator, Katie Wilt, had her hours increased to handle the added uncertainty and new challenges facing our residents. Katie is a wealth of knowledge and should be your first call to learn of the many resources available to you through AHM Youth and Family Services, the Veterans Administration, the State Social Service agencies, and many other sources.

Veterans should check with our Assessors office to make sure they are receiving the added exemptions authorized by the Board of Selectman for Gold Star parents and spouses, 100% disabled Veterans and tax exemptions for motor vehicles of disabled veterans.

Improvements were made to all of our parks to enhance and increase outdoor activities. I have been impressed with how much pickleball and basketball we are now playing. The walking trails are being used at record levels and the new playscape is a hit for our kids and grandchildren.

Automation is now coming to the Building and Land Use department with the addition of PermitLink that will allow residents to fill out and submit a permit online from the comfort of your home. This tool will also give digital access to the information our employees need to perform their jobs from the field. We will be able to better track and approve a permit to immediately travel to the next department for sign off.



# TOWN OF COLUMBIA



## OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

We have completed a long project of digitizing our Town Ordinances for the Town Clerks office. This will improve the remote access to our ordinances and update them to be in compliance with Connecticut

State Statutes and laws.

This year our employees finished a conversion to a new website. I hope you find it easier to navigate and make it your first stop to staying current with all that is happening with Columbia. Make sure you sign up for our digital newsletter and email blasts to stay on top of our news on the Town's website under the "[Notifications](#)" tab.

We are proud of our business community for coming out of the pandemic with many improvements such as a big investment in the Columbia Plaza, The Main Moose, Columbia's Kitchen, The Thunderbird Café, Lee's Stir Fry, Motta's Bakery and the Heartstone Farm & Winery. For such a small town we have some of the best places to eat and socialize.

As we plan for the future, we look to continue financial responsibility and enhance the quality of life for those that reside in Columbia.

### **TOWN OF COLUMBIA VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021, 11:00 AM AT THE TOWN GREEN/YEOMANS HALL.**

Please join us in honoring our Veterans at Columbia's Veterans Day Celebration on the Town Green/Yeomans Hall. Luncheon for Veterans, their families and friends will be served at 12:00 pm at the Beckish Senior Center. All Are Welcome!!

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett

323 Route 87

Columbia, CT 06237

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

860-228-0110



# TOWN OF COLUMBIA



## OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Welcome to the Town Administrator's November 2021 update. The month of November is when we give thanks. I would like to thank all of our volunteers who serve on our Town Boards and Commissions, our Volunteer Fire Department, The Lions Club, Scouts, PTO and many more. Volunteering on any number of our boards, commissions, and committees is an excellent way to contribute your voice and ideas on community issues. When residents become involved in the decision-making process, the more likely the final product will meet the most needs and address the most concerns possible.

With diverse stakeholders, we can collectively determine what kind of community we want, what it should feel like, and whether the shared vision is economically feasible.

Go [online](#) to learn about our Boards and Commissions and submit a [Boards & Commission Volunteer Application](#). You can also contact Jennifer LaVoie, Executive Administrative Assistant at 860.228.0110 for assistance. Please consider volunteering your time!

I want to remind voters that the Municipal Election (Tuesday, November 2, 2021 from 6am - 8pm in Yeomans Hall). Please go to our website to see the [sample ballot](#) and also for the explanatory text for the [Ballot Question](#).

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

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



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

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

Find us on 

**TOWN OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH AND FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH.**



# 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

- 11/01/21 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 11/01/21 Mon: Board of Education, 7:30 PM (H.W. Porter Cafetorium)
- 11/02/21 Tue: MUNICIPAL ELECTION, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM (Yeomans Hall)
- 11/03/21 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 11/04/21 Thur: Recreation Commission, 6:00 PM (Recreation Dept.)
- 11/04/21 Thur: Szegda Farm Management Committee, 6:00 PM
- 11/04/21 Thur: Conservation & Agriculture Commission, 7:00 PM
- 11/08/21 Mon: Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 11/09/21 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 11/10/21 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 5:30 (H.W. Porter Conference Room)
- 11/10/21 Wed: Youth Services Committee, 5:30 PM
- 11/16/21 Tue: Environmental Advisory Committee, 5:30 PM
- 11/16/21 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 11/17/21 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 11/18/21 Thur: Open Space Commission, 8:00 AM
- 11/24/21 Wed: Commission on Aging, 9:00 AM
- 11/18/21 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM

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



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

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

A declaration for real property or registered motor vehicles are not necessary.

Taxable personal property includes, but is not limited to: **unregistered motor vehicles, motor vehicles located in Connecticut but registered in another state**, office, manufacturing and farming equipment, machinery, tools, leasehold improvements, and unregistered trailers.

Please call the Assessor's Office for a full list or if you need clarification.

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

**BECKISH SENIOR CENTER:** Hello Columbia Seniors, Per the local Health Department, EHHD has approved the Beckish Senior Center to permanently reopen with proper framework around the safety of our seniors. This includes, social distancing, smaller groupings, mandatory masks for everyone including staff, no more than 50 people in the building at one time, and vaccination proof required. The guidelines are put in place so we can always stay open even when the town is in the red zone of high transmission. The guidelines are:

**Masks are required regardless of Vaccination status.**

**The only time masks can be removed are:**

1. During lunch when the seniors are physically eating – masks are to be put back on immediately after eating or if they are walking around the center.
2. During exercise classes seniors can remove their masks while exercising in their assigned spots, once they move from their spot the masks need to be put back on.

3. The only exception to wearing a mask is if you show medical proof from a licensed medical clinician stating you are unable to wear a mask due to medical conditions. This is following
4. the Governor's executive orders. We will provide a shield to wear instead of the mask.

**Proof of vaccination is required to enter the Beckish Senior Center.**

**The only exception:**

1. If you are unvaccinated, you may enter the building if you have a negative COVID-19 test dated within 5 days. If you leave the state within those 5 days, you will need a new negative COVID-19 test to enter.
2. Staff that is unvaccinated will have to get a rapid COVID-19 test every weekend that shows a negative test to come to work. They must also wear a mask, shield, gloves and have zero contact with the seniors.

**Social Distancing is required while in the Beckish Senior Center:**

1. Six Foot distancing always during exercise and during any events.
2. Four (4) people per table at lunch or movie time and cards.
3. Only 4 people in any of the 3 small rooms (Billiards room, Tv room, and food pantry room).

**The Beckish Senior center will have hand sanitizing units in each room, and each room will be wiped down after each use.**

**There is a maximum of 50 people including staff in the building at one time. Events will be appropriately scheduled to make sure we are not over capacity at any time.**

Sincerely,

Bernadette Derring

Director Senior Services & Transportation

Municipal Agent for the Elderly



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**BECKISH SENIOR CENTER CONTINUED: MOBILE FOODSHARE:** Held at the Beckish Senior Center 188 Route 66, Columbia EVERY OTHER THURSDAY - Rain, Snow or Shine From 1:00 PM TO 1:30 PM

**Nov 4th, Nov 18th, Dec 2nd, Dec 16th, Dec 30th, Jan 13th , Jan 27th, Feb 10th, Feb 24th, Mar 10th**

**NOTE CHANGE: PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR , SAFELY GET IN LINE ALONG SIDEWALK TO PICK UP YOUR FOOD AT THE TRUCK. BRING YOUR OWN BAGS.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME—NO PERSONAL INFO REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION**



**THE COLUMBIA SENIOR'S ORGANIZATION** is looking for new members. The CSO has an executive board and many different groups/committees. The groups are, Men's & Women's Group, Program Committee, Bereavement, Get Up and Go, Set Back, Bridge Group, Billiards, Walking, Movie, Art Committee, Quilting Group & Woodcarving Group.

The CSO needs members to join these committees in order to run smoothly. Your participation is key to the success of your Senior Programs. Specifically, the Program Committee is down to three members and needs at least 6 members to hold a meeting. The Program Committee is responsible for setting up all the CSO events within the center. For example, the Annual Dinner Dance, Holiday Parties, Tag Sales, Harvest Fest, and much more.

If you are newly retired, or just looking for something to fill your days or looking for something fun to do please call the Beckish Senior Center to get involved today.

Thank you,

The Columbia Senior Organization

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## November Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 8-12 Haircuts 10:00 Ping Pong 12-TVCCALunch 1:30 Virtual Yoga 4:30 Fit Fusion 	<b>2</b> 9:00 Women's Club 9:30-11:30- Wood-carving 1:00 Tai Chi 1:00-3 Open Pool 7pm—Line dancing	<b>3</b> 10-Men's Group 10-Walkin Group 1:00 Bridge 1-3 Social time 1-3 Open Pool 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>4</b> 9:00 Ping Pong 10-Coffee/Social time 12-3 Reflex/Mass 1:00 Mahjong 1-1:30 MobileFoodshare 1-3 Movie Time 1:30-3 Open Pool 6:30—Open Pool	<b>5</b> 9:00 Coffee/Social 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 1:15 Duplicate Bridge 1:00 Quilting 1:00 Open Pool 6:30 Setback Night	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 Ping Pong 12-TVCCALunch 1:30 Virtual Yoga 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>9</b> 9:00 Women's Club 9:30-11:30- Wood-carving 1:00 Tai Chi 1:00-3 Open Pool 7pm—Line dancing	<b>10</b> 10-Men's Group 10-Walkin Group 1:00 Bridge 1-3 Social time 1-3 Open Pool 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>11</b> Closed Observance of Veterans Day 	<b>12</b> 9:00 Coffee/Social 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 12:15—HHC Talk 1:15 Duplicate Bridge 1:00 Quilting 1:00 Open Pool 6:30 Setback Night	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> End of week is DEAD- LINE FOR October GEM	<b>15</b> 10:00 Ping Pong 12-TVCCALunch 1:30 Virtual Yoga 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>16</b> 9:00 Women's Club 9:30-11:30- Wood-carving 1:00 Tai Chi 1:00-3 Open Pool 7pm—Line dancing	<b>17</b> 9:00 Zumba 10-Men's Group 10- WalkinGroup 12-TVCCALunch 1:00 Bridge 1-3 Open Pool 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>18</b> 9:00 Ping Pong 10-Coffee/Social time 12-3 Reflex/Mass 1:00 Mahjong 1-1:30 MobileFoodshare 1-3 Movie Time 1:30-3 Open Pool 3-6pm FLU Clinic 6:30—Open Pool	<b>19</b> 9:00 Coffee/Social 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 1:15 Duplicate Bridge 1:00 Quilting 1:00 Open Pool 6:30 Set Back	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 Ping Pong 12-TVCCALunch 1:30 Virtual Yoga 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>23</b> 9:00 Women's Club 9:30-11:30- Wood-carving 1:00 Tai Chi 1:00-3 Open Pool 7pm—Line dancing	<b>24</b> 9-3 Reflex/Mass 9:00 Zumba 10- Men's Group 10- WalkinGroup 12-TVCCALunch 1:00 Bridge 1-3 Open Pool 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>25</b> Closed Observance of Thanksgiving Day 	<b>26</b> Closed Observance of Thanksgiving 	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8-12 Haircuts 10:00 Ping Pong 12-TVCCALunch 1:30 Virtual Yoga 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>30</b> 9:00 Women's Club 9:30-11:30- Wood-carving 1:00 Tai Chi 1:00-3 Open Pool 7pm—Line dancing	<b>1 Dec</b> 9-3 Reflex/Mass 9:00 Zumba 10- Men's Group 10- WalkinGroup 12-TVCCALunch 1:00 Bridge 1-3 Open Pool 4:30 Fit Fusion	<b>2 Dec</b> 9:00 Ping Pong 10-Coffee/Social time 12-3 Reflex/Mass 1:00 Mahjong 1-1:30 MobileFoodshare 1-3 Movie Time 1:30-3 Open Pool 6:30—Open Pool	<b>3 Dec</b> 9:00 Coffee/Social 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 1:15 Duplicate Bridge 1:00 Quilting 1:00 Open Pool 6:30 Set Back	<b>4 Dec</b>



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES:** You may qualify for help towards your heating bills this year, even if you did not qualify in the past. New this year, there is NO ASSET LIMIT for Energy Assistance! This program is available to all heating customers (electric heat, gas heat, oil, kerosene, etc). Households with heat included in their rent may also qualify. Funds may be available for furnace repair, clean, tune and tests!

## **INCOME ELIGIBILITY IS AS FOLLOWS:**

- HOUSEHOLD OF 1: \$39,027
- HOUSEHOLD OF 2: \$51,035
- HOUSEHOLD OF 3: \$63,044
- HOUSEHOLD OF 4: \$75,052
- HOUSEHOLD OF 5: \$87,060
- HOUSEHOLD OF 6: \$99,069

(Households must provide proof of recent income for all household members.)

**TO APPLY:** In person or by phone by calling Access Agency for an appointment at 860-450-7400. Applications are being accepted now through May 31, 2022 (fuel deliveries end on May 2, 2022).

For questions, guidance, more information please contact me at 860-228-1008. Town of Columbia also has a Fuel Bank for emergencies and Holiday Programs for families in need. Please reach out for more information!

I can also be contacted to:

- Talk with a social worker
- Receive guidance/advocacy with eligibility/benefits/energy needs
- Learn about what programs you may qualify for
- Get referrals to appropriate programs/services

My typical office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Contact me by phone at 860-228-1008 or email at [kwilt@columbiact.org](mailto:kwilt@columbiact.org).

Sincerely,

Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** COLUMBIA LAKE DRAW DOWN – NOVEMBER 1, 2021.

The Town of Columbia Department of Public Works will open the gate at Columbia Lake on Monday, November 1, 2021 to begin the annual winter draw down. Residents are reminded to remove boats as soon as possible. The lowered water level allows an opportunity to make minor repairs to docks and seawalls. Major repairs or replacements require a permit from the town. For more information please call the Town Administrator's Office at (860) 228-0110.

**LEAF AND BRUSH DISPOSAL:** Please refrain from disposing leaves and yard waste into ditches, catch basin structures and culverts. The Town does not pick up leaves; however, the Transfer Station accepts leaves at no cost.

**TRANSFER STATION:** The Columbia Transfer Station is located at 89 Route 6 and is open on Wednesday and Saturday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For the Transfer Station brochure please click [here](#).



**Town of Columbia**  
**RECYCLING**



**Rinsed Plastic Bottles, Cups & Containers**



**Rinsed Food & Beverage Cans, Aluminum Trays & Foil**



**Paper**



**Cardboard & Paperboard**



**Food & Beverage Cartons**



**Rinsed Glass Bottles & Jars**



**Do NOT include:**

**NO Food Waste**



**NO Plastic Bags**



**NO Foam Cups & Containers**



To learn more, please visit [www.recycleCT.com](http://www.recycleCT.com)

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS [ONLINE AT RECDESK.](#)**

Marc Volza, Director of Parks & Recreation

323 Route 87, Columbia, CT, 06237

[recreation@columbiact.org](mailto:recreation@columbiact.org) or 860-228-8513

HOURS: Mon-Wed: 8am-4pm, Thurs: 8am-7pm

**COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION**

*Drive Thru  
Winter Wonderland*

NO COST TO ENTER!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**Where: Rec Park  
When: December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6-8pm**

[HTTPS://COLUMBIA.RECDESK.COM](https://columbia.recdesk.com)

2014 JIMMY  
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



# **FIT FUSION**

**MON. & WED.**

**4:30 PM – 5:30 PM**

**YEOMANS HALL**

**Bring...**

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

**\$6 WALK-IN**

**\$50 PREPAID**

**(10 CLASS PUNCHCARD)**

**A FUSION OF ALL DISCIPLINES:  
CARDIO, MUSCLE, CORE AND  
BALANCE TO ROUND OUT A  
COMPLETE WORKOUT.**

Carol is a veteran group fitness instructor with a background in aerobics, step, core & muscle conditioning, Pilates, interval conditioning, Senior Fitness, Tabata Bootcamp, Bigger Losers Live, and HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training).



**Columbia Parks & Recreation**

**860-228-8513**

**[recreation@columbiact.org](mailto:recreation@columbiact.org)**

**<http://columbia.recdesk.com>**


# ZUMBA With Martin Ricardo

**Tuesday's  
7 PM – 8 PM  
YEOMANS HALL**

**\$6 WALK-IN**

**\$50 PREPAID  
(10 CLASS PUNCHCARD)**

**\$90 PREPAID  
(20 CLASS PUNCHCARD)**



**Columbia Parks & Recreation  
860-228-8513  
[recreation@columbiact.org](mailto:recreation@columbiact.org)  
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>**

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

**TAX DEPARTMENT:** Taxes are due within 30 days of the due date, July 1st. If they are not paid on or before August 2, 2021, a penalty of 1½ % per month (or a minimum of \$2.00, whichever is greater) is charged **per vehicle or property** from the due date of July 1st (3% for July and August, 4.5% Sept., 6% Oct. or 7.5% in November). A \$1.00 fee will be charged for **each** delinquent motor vehicle reported to DMV. All registrations in the name of a delinquent taxpayer will be blocked from renewals and new registrations until all taxes in their name are paid in full. This includes any motor vehicle registrations that are registered under multiple names.

**For those seeking an immediate clearance for DMV due to delinquent taxes please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or [taxcollector@columbiact.org](mailto:taxcollector@columbiact.org) for information on the process.**

Columbia residents can view and pay taxes online, service fees for tax payments apply, .95 cents to use a Bank account and 2.95% for credit and debit cards. To find your bills online, go to [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org). On the Columbia home page click on the view/pay tab and on the next page click on view/ pay square. The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. Enter your last name, a space, and then your first initial. If you have any problems using the online system, please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or [taxcollector@columbiact.org](mailto:taxcollector@columbiact.org) and we will gladly assist you.

Please feel free to leave payments or correspondence in the drop box at the right side of the entrance of the Town Hall or in the drop box 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 (see hours below).

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

Carol Price, Tax Collector

860-228-0230

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



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **TOWN CLERKS OFFICE:**

### **MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Municipal elections will take place on November 2, 2021. Voting will be in Yeoman's Hall between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots became available in the Clerk's office on October 1, 2021 and are still available through the close of business on November 1, 2021. Absentee ballots can be returned in the **Official Ballot Drop Box** located outside the doors to the Administrative Offices entrance to Town Hall.

There is a question on this year's ballot pertaining to the Town Charter. Please remember to vote on the question.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** The Town Clerk's office is fully open to the public – no appointment necessary. We are here for those services you might need – Recording and Searching of Land Records, Dog Licenses, Transfer Station stickers, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage licenses, Fishing and Hunting licenses, etc.

Due to the continuing pandemic, the need for social distancing and for your convenience, a large white drop box was installed outside the doors to **Yeoman's Hall**. This box can be used to drop off items for the Town Clerk and is shared with other offices in Town Hall. Masks are required to enter Town Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us (860-228-3284) or reach out to us by email – Robin Kenefick, Town Clerk ([townclerk@columbiact.org](mailto:townclerk@columbiact.org)) or Gail McGrath, Assistant Town Clerk ([atownclerk@columbiact.org](mailto:atownclerk@columbiact.org)).

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:**

### **Municipal Election November 2, 2021 6am-8pm Yeoman's Hall**

- Election Day Registration will be available at Yeomans Hall on November 2nd, 6am-8pm. ID & proof of residency will be required.
- The deadline to request an Absentee Ballot is Monday, November 1st at 4pm. Contact the Town Clerk if you wish to vote via Absentee Ballot (860) 228-3284
- Absentee Ballots must be received by 8pm on November 2nd. They can be returned via Mail, Ballot Drop Box located outside Town Hall, or to the Town Clerk's office. Absentee Ballots cannot be accepted inside the polling place.
- Please contact the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk with any questions.

Registrars of Voters

Karen Butzgy – Democratic

Kate Morrison – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113

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

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

**SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:** We would like to remind all: Masks are required by everyone in the public spaces of the Library.

If someone does not wish to wear a mask, we remind all that Curbside service is still available.

Happy Veteran's Day!

The Library will be closed Thursday November 11th.

Story time and Baby Bees will be out side for the first two weeks of November (weather permitting). We will be taking a short break over Thanksgiving, then returning to Zoom in December. Call the Library for a standing Zoom code.

The Library is welcoming some new staff members – please be patient as we complete the training process!

Wishing every one a Happy Thanksgiving!

The Library will close at 3:00 pm on Wed November 24th and be closed 11/25 -11/26; regular hours resume Saturday 11/29.

To sign up for a program or get more information, contact the Library at (860.228.0350) or email us or check our [website](#) for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sue Epstein, Library Director



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

**AHM SERVICES:** 25 Pendleton Drive Hebron, CT 06248. Phone (860) 228-9488. Fax (860) 228-1213.

**AHM ONLINE HOLIDAY AUCTION:** Are you looking for that perfect holiday gift? Look no further. AHM will be hosting its second annual online Holiday Auction, November 17-December 1. This year will feature for area businesses, a scrolling 24/7 advertising logo display. We are also looking for donations of new items or gift cards to feature in the auction. All proceeds will support mental health services for Columbia, Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough children. To learn more click [here](#).

**CHILDREN'S THEATER:** AHM will be offering a theater experience for children in grades K-6 this fall in partnership with Playhouse on Park. The program will take place in the performing arts hall at 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron. Watch for more details on the [AHM website](#).

**TASKS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS:** Are you a Columbia senior citizen who could use help around your home? AHM may be able to provide you with some assistance with yard work, garage decluttering, and more at no cost. Contact AHM's main number to speak with the TASKs Coordinator, Patti Scigliompaglia-Vigue, [pattis@ahmyouth.org](mailto:pattis@ahmyouth.org) at (860-228-9488). We are also looking for TEEN WORKERS for the TASKs program.

**YOUTH AND FAMILY COUNSELING:** You are not alone. If your child, teenager, young adult, or family members need mental health counseling, we are here for you. All counseling appointments are confidential and are now being accepted by calling the AHM offices at 860-228-9488. If you or a loved one are struggling with an addiction, please visit our AHM website, [www.ahmyouth.org](http://www.ahmyouth.org) for links to weekly SMART Recovery support groups".

**AHM FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER:** There is still room for Columbia children in Play and Learn groups held at Gilead Hill on Mondays and Thursdays! The groups are for children ages Birth-5 and caregivers and include activities, crafts, and circle time, information on child development and parenting topics, and a chance to meet other families! Masks are required for children ages 3 and up and for adults. Groups will start the week of 9/27. Click this [link](#) to register. Please contact Becky Murray at 860 573-1260 or [beckym@ahmyouth.org](mailto:beckym@ahmyouth.org) with any questions.

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

## **COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:**

### **BAZAAR and CRAFT FAIR**

Saturday, November 6th  
10AM to 3PM

**Columbia Congregational Church**  
**325 Route 87 Columbia**

Craft Booths

Baked Goods

Handmade Items

Take a Chance

Deacon's Diner (Possibly Take Out)  
Serving from 11AM to 2PM

Our famous Corn Chowder, Salad,  
Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Pies, Cider,  
Coffee and Tea

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

## COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

Columbia Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 177  
Columbia, Connecticut 06237  
Phone: (860) 228-9306



Seasons Greetings!

November 2021

November 2021 marks the 46th year of the annual **Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**. Many families have benefited from your donations in the past, and your continued generosity is greatly appreciated. This year has been especially hard for all of us. Your donations are needed more than ever to help your neighbors in need.

The idea behind the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to contribute to the fund instead of sending cards to your friends and family in town. Your name will then be listed in the Town of Columbia quarterly newsletter Columbia Views.

The purpose of the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to help Columbia families in need. These situations present themselves more often than we would like to believe, and as government programs have been reduced, the need for the local community to respond has become greater. Join your neighbors in continuing or even increasing your support

This past year alone the fund has been used to help with holiday food baskets for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, back to school supplies, emergency food supplies and help with electrical bills.

Thank you for your continued caring and God Bless You!

Sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church

-----  
Mail to:

Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund  
c/o Mark Smith  
P.O. Box 177  
Columbia, CT 06237

Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the "**Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**"  
Donations accepted online at the following link [https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page\\_id=1335](https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page_id=1335) please check the box for specific fund and choose and the Cardless Holiday Fund from the list.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not list my name in the Columbia Views **OR**  
\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my listing in the Columbia View to appear as (names only please):

-----  
(Please print clearly)

Please make checks payable to the "**Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**"  
Donations are tax-deductible.

**DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND**  
Deadline for printed listing Dec. 20, 2021



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

**COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**: Can a fire truck or ambulance fit in your driveway? Is your house clearly numbered?

In an emergency one of the first things you can do to help us, is to make sure your house is clearly numbered so we can find you. Less mentioned and equally important, especially if you have a long driveway, how well is that driveway maintained? Can a fire truck or ambulance fit in your driveway? We can handle a few small potholes, but if our fire trucks and ambulances can't get to your house it could seriously delay our ability to help you when seconds count. See the [Town of Columbia's zoning regulations](#) for minimum driveway and access requirements for new construction.

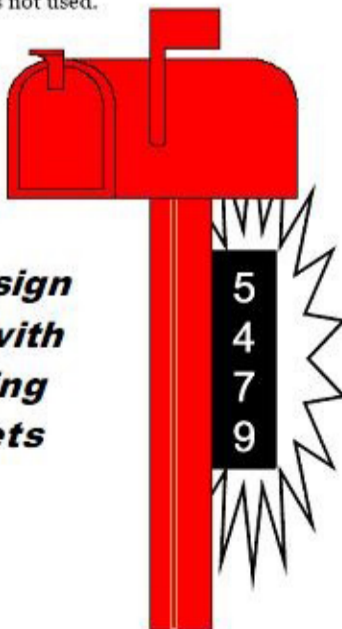
Help us help you!

Please maintain those driveway clearances left, right, and overhead.



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

**COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED:** Community members can help the volunteers who respond to calls by clearly marking your house number in a visible manner on the street. The CVFD makes and sells reflective house number signs that help us quickly and easily identify your house; this often saves precious time. To order the Reflective Address Markers please go to the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department's web-page at [www.columbiafire5.org](http://www.columbiafire5.org) and download the printable form or you can fill out the electronic form online. The price is \$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.

<b>Columbia Volunteer Fire Department</b>	
<b>REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKER ORDER FORM</b>	
Please complete the following information:	
<b>Name</b> _____ <b>Address</b> _____ <b>City, ST Zip</b> _____ <b>Phone Number</b> _____	
<b>Address Number Requested</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Note: If your address has fewer than 5 digits, please X those boxes not used.	
<b>Mounting Preference</b>	
<b>HORIZONTAL</b> _____ <b>VERTICAL</b> _____	<b>V E R T I C A L</b>
<b>HORIZONTAL</b>	
<b>Mail to:</b> Columbia Volunteer Fire Department PO Box 26 Columbia, CT 06237  (860) 228-9602	
 <b>\$10 per sign or \$12 with Mounting Brackets</b>	



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

**COLUMBIA LIONS and LEO's:** The Columbia Leo's will be hosting a coat drive during the month of November. Please keep a look out for the coat boxes. Further details will be posted on the Town website.

**COLUMBIA LIONS ANNUAL HOLIDAY GAZEBO LIGHTING AND CAROL SING -  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH STARTING AT 5:00 PM.**





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

**COLUMBIA PTO**

## FIND US ON



Horace W Porter PTO and  
Parent Community

---



Horaceporterpto@gmail.com

---



[https://www.columbiapublicschools.org/horace\\_w\\_porter.php](https://www.columbiapublicschools.org/horace_w_porter.php)

---



Join us by sending an email

---



Paypal for payments only:  
porterptotreas@gmail.com

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

**NEW! PORTER PTO SPIRIT WEAR DESIGNS AND PRODUCTS!**

<https://a-zdesignz.com/shop/ols/categories/porter-spirit>

