

COLUMBIA



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL RAMSEY

UPDATE OCTOBER 2021

TOWN OF COLUMBIA



OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

As we head into the fall season, I'd like to take a moment to give thanks to all the residents and employees that have helped us as we navigate through these difficult times. This e-blast shows how much our community pulls together and cares for one another. You'll find information on the re-opening of the Senior Center and a new program that the Beckish Senior Center is starting called the R U OK Program. It is a FREE service that establishes a prearranged time for participants to receive a regular phone call inquiring about their welfare. Please scroll through to page 6 for more information.

Community Social Services Coordinator, Katie Wilt provides important information and resources that are available to residents through AHM Youth and Family Services, the Veterans Administration, State Social Services programs and many other sources. See page 8 for more information.

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.

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

The Board of Selectmen will be holding a Public Hearing on October 5, 2021, in Yeoman's Hall on the first allocation of the \$1.6 million in federal funding provided through the American Rescue Pan Act (ARPA) grant. For more information please see on the following page.

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett

323 Route 87

Columbia, CT 06237

severett@columbiact.org

860-228-0110

TOWN OF COLUMBIA



OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

As Steven mentioned the Board of Selectmen will be holding a Public Hearing on October 5, 2021, in Yeoman's Hall on the first allocation of the \$1.6 million in federal funding provided through the American Rescue Pan Act (ARPA) grant. The Town of Columbia will receive two ARPA disbursements over two years but have until the end of 2026 to spend all the funds.



The goal of the public hearing process is to make sure residents are given an opportunity to offer feedback on the best use of the funding and learn how the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC) are working to use the ARPA funds.

If unable to attend, please forward written communications to Mark Walter, Town Administrator, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237 by October 4, 2021.

The ARP plan allocated \$65.1 billion to municipalities throughout the country. Connecticut towns and cities will be receiving \$2.55 billion statewide, with \$1.56 billion to general government and an additional \$995 million to boards of education. Eligible uses for the funding are separated into five categories:

- 1) Support Public Health Response
- 2) Address Negative Economic Impacts
- 3) Investments in Water and Sewer
- 4) Broadband Infrastructure
- 5) Replace Loss of Revenue

Town of Columbia's proposed projects address improvements to air quality, increase handicap access and outdoor recreation facilities and improve remote training instructions.

The projects proposed in the first allocation of funding are as follows:

PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT
Concession Stand/Handicap Bathrooms/Storage at Recreation Park	\$200,000
Columbia Volunteer Fire Department HVAC	\$18,000
Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Plymo-vent Truck Exhaust Exchange) System	\$12,000
Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Audio/Visual System Upgrade	\$27,600
Town Hall HVAC Upgrade	\$45,000
TOTAL ARPA GRANT BUDGET (First Allocation of Funding)	\$303,400

First Selectman, Steven Everett, Town Administrator, Mark Walter, and Finance Director, Beverly Ciurylo met with Congressman Joe Courtney, a member of the House Appropriations Committee and his offices grant liaison to discuss possible projects for the funding. A wide range of projects are still being vetted for the proposed funding plan and will be brought forward after more clarity on funding rules are released. Areas being considered include an emergency generator for the Senior Center to enable the Senior Center to remain open as a heating and cooling facility during major power outages and to have a safe potable water supply; emergency equipment for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department; emergency communication radios upgraded to the State high band frequency to increase communication capabilities of our first responders for both Public Works and Fire and Ambulance, and lead removal and repairs to the interior of the Moor’s Charity Indian School Museum.

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

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

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

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

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

- 10/4/21 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 10/4/21 Tue: Board of Education, 7:30 PM (H.W. Porter Cafetorium)
- 10/5/21 Tue: Public Hearing ARPA Grant Funding, 6:30 PM (Yeoman's Hall)
- 10/5/21 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 10/6/21 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 10/12/21 Mon: Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 10/13/21 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 10/19/21 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 10/20/21 Wed: Financial Planning and Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 10/21/21 Thur: Open Space Committee, 8:00 AM
- 10/25/21 Mon: Planning and Zoning Commission Public Hearing, 7:00 PM
- 10/27/21 Wed: Commission on Aging, 9:00 AM
- 10/28/21 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 OFFICES WILL BE
CLOSED
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021
FOR COLUMBUS DAY**

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSORS OFFICE: The Assessor's Office is currently performing inspections on building permits and developing an updated personal property list. Below are upcoming tasks you may want to list on your calendar if applicable to you.

PERSONAL PROPERTY: This notice is to remind all taxpayers who file a declaration for personal property to please do so no later than November 1st annually. If not filed in a timely manner, per state statute a 25% penalty shall be applied. If you own a business or have unregistered motor vehicle(s) that are not currently on our list, please let us know and we will email, fax, or mail you a declaration.

SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE ADJUSTMENTS: In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof. The first is a copy of the vehicle plate return or registration cancellation receipt that you get from DMV when you return your plates or from online. The second is something proving you got rid of the vehicle. Generally accepted proofs are a copy of the bill of sale, an out-of-state registration, an insurance statement that specifically states your vehicle was removed for sale or because it was sold, stolen, or totaled. You can also submit a junked vehicle statement from the junk yard or a copy of your purchase agreement if you traded in a vehicle and bought a vehicle with lower value. If you traded a vehicle and kept the same plate do not bring us any documentation because DMV will automatically process it.

REVALUATION: Revaluation Questions and Answers are provided on the Assessors page on the website (www.columbiact.org) under the Revaluation tab.

Please contact our office if you have any questions. The Assessor's Office is open Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursdays 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. until Noon. Our telephone number is 860-228-9555.

Respectfully, Mary Lavalley, CCMA II, Assessor Town of Columbia.

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER: The Beckish Senior Center is permanently reopened to the public and all activities are in place. Proof of vaccination is required to enter the building. If you are unvaccinated you need to show a negative COVID-19 test dated within 5 days. Masks are required unless you show medical proof from a licensed medical clinician stating you are unable to wear a mask due to medical conditions. In this case we will have you wear a shield. The only times masks can be removed is when you are exercising or eating. These rules and guidelines are put in place, so we do not have to open and close depending on the transmission rates or zones of Columbia.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER CONTINUED: Please find my newsletter [online](#) or at the Senior Center, Teds Supermarket and Town Hall.

Columbia's R U OK Program: The Beckish Senior Center is starting the R U OK Program. It is a FREE service that establishes a prearranged time for participants to receive a regular phone call inquiring about their welfare. This program is to keep seniors who prefer to live independently safe and to provide them with the added security of being monitored for safety. During the call participants are asked "Are You OK?" If they answer "yes" they may simply hang up and continue with their day. If a concern is expressed, the volunteer caller will determine the nature of the concern and if some sort of response is necessary. Unanswered calls or busy signals are called back. If there is still no response after a preselected number of missed calls, the volunteer caller may request that an officer be dispatched to the location for a safety check.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please call Bernadette at the Beckish Senior Center at 860-228-0759 ext. 1 to be added to the list. Select a day of the week and time you would like to be called. We have many local volunteers in Columbia to help with this new program, and we are looking forward to getting it started. Your health and safety are our number one concern, let us help you stay safe and connected.

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

We are no longer doing the contact less/drive through method for Foodshare. Please park your car and safely get in line along the sidewalk to pick up your food at the truck. Bring your own bags. A single serving per person only. No substitutes.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME—NO PERSONAL INFO REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION

Thank you

Bernadette Derring

Director Senior Services & Transportation

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES: As we continue to progress through the pandemic and head into winter months, there are programs available to help with utilities, heat, and rent.

PROGRAMS TO HELP WITH UTILITIES, HEAT, AND RENT

UniteCT – Rent, and/or Electric Utility Payments: For tenants and electric utility customers affected by the pandemic: Up to \$1,500 toward last six months of electric bills and up to \$15,000 in rental assistance may be available.

Eligibility: Available to CT residents with incomes below 80% of the HUD AMI (area median income) who have either a rental or electric utility unpaid balance due to COVID-related reasons. 80% AMI for Columbia is as follows:

- Household of 1: \$54,950
- Household of 2: \$62,800
- Household of 3: \$70,650
- Household of 4: \$78,500
- Household of 5: \$84,800
- Household of 6: \$91,100

Apply: [Online](#) or contact Access Agency for help applying at 860-450-7400 ext. 7420

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) – Heating Benefit: Helps pay for heating costs. Available to all heating customers (electric heat, gas heat, oil, kerosene, etc). Households with heat included in their rent may also qualify.

Eligibility: NO ASSET LIMIT THIS YEAR!! Households with incomes up to 60% of the state median income may qualify. 60% of the state median income 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

Apply: In person or by phone by calling Access Agency for an appointment at 860-450-7400.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:

New Start – Eversource Arrearage Forgiveness Program: Payment plan through Eversource that helps to eliminate arrearages.

Eligibility: Households with incomes up to 60% of the state median income may qualify (see above income chart). Customer must have an arrearage of at least \$100, and the arrearage must be at least 60 days old. Customer makes monthly payments based on averaged usage; arrearage is reduced by 1/12th until there is a zero balance.

Apply: Contact Eversource at 800-286-2828 or contact Access Agency at (860) 450-7400 for assistance.

For questions or assistance regarding the above programs, please contact Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator at kwilt@columbiact.org or 860-228-1008.

Sincerely,

Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:

Partners in Independence



BECOME A LEARNING PARTNER.

Meet with a trained Mentor who will share practical life experience and provide thoughtful guidance to help you develop the strategies you need to achieve positive outcomes.

Becoming a Learning Partner can help you:

- Recognize Strengths
- Identify barriers and how to change them
- Decide on goals and how to make them happen
- Develop effective ways to budget and manage expenses
- Improve time management
- Develop strategies for finding employment
- Prepare for a job interview
- Make use of community resources
- Continue education
- Improve health and wellness

If you or someone you know would benefit from becoming a Learning Partner with Partners in Independence, please contact:

Merle Potchinsky

Partners in Independence Program Coordinator

hsmanager@waimct.org

860-456-7270 ext. 106



WAIM

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry

860.456.7270

www.waimct.org

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:



UniteCT

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY

Have you been financially impacted by COVID-19?



Are you struggling to pay your rent and utilities?

Apply for **UniteCT**, a rental assistance program supporting CT residents who earn up to **80% of the HUD Area Median Income** and their landlords.

You may qualify for the opportunity to receive...

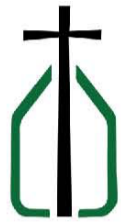
- ✓ **Missed electric outstanding payments**
- ✓ **Missed rent or future rent payments**

To learn more and see if you qualify, visit: www.bit.ly/UniteCT scan QR code:



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:



CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF NORWICH

Caring for those
of all faiths
throughout
Middlesex, New
London, Tolland
and Windham
Counties

INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT (ICM) EMERGENCY BASIC NEEDS

Provides comprehensive care and coordination of services for families and individuals in need. When an unexpected crisis deters people from their most basic needs, Catholic Charities will provide assistance with food, clothing, utility, rental and holiday needs. Our Case Managers will work one-on-one with our clients to create a tailored plan to enhance their use of services and to restore or maintain greater independent functioning to the fullest extent possible. These plans may include financial and budgeting classes, job readiness skills, pregnancy and parenting education along with referrals to community resources to help stabilize each family and individual.

Services provided:

- One-on-One Crisis Intervention
- Financial & Budgeting Education
- One-on-One Job Readiness & Development Classes
- Emergency Food Assistance
- Rental / Utilities Assistance & Shelter Referrals
- Clothing & Children's School Uniforms (when available)
- Pregnancy Support Groups & Baby Supplies
- Parenting Education
- SNAP Assistance—Through a generous grant from the Walmart Foundation, the program provides SNAP outreach and enrollment services to help meet the food needs of the unemployed and underemployed
- Bus Passes (when available)
- Information & Referrals to Community Resources



Office Locations:

Norwich - 860.889.8346
New London - 860.443.5328
Willimantic - 860.423.7065
Middletown - 860.346.0060

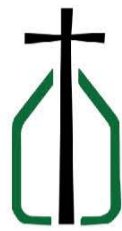
**There is no fee or charge
for these services**

For more information, visit
www.ccfns.org



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:



CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF NORWICH

MANEJO INTENSIVO DE CASOS NECESIDADES BÁSICAS DE EMERGENCIA

Sirviendo familias
y personas de
diversas creencias
en Middlesex,
New London,
Tolland and
Windham

A través de este programa, ofrecemos y coordinamos servicios integrales para personas necesitadas. Cuando una crisis inesperada impide que familias e individuos satisfagan sus necesidades más básicas, *Catholic Charities*, provee ayuda humanitaria y servicios esenciales. Nuestros administradores de casos, evalúan las necesidades de cada cliente para crear un plan personalizado que fomente la autosuficiencia y el bienestar. Entre los servicios que ofrecemos, se encuentra: alimentos de emergencia (“food pantry”), asistencia para pagar renta, luz y agua, además de ropa y artículos básicos para infantes. También brindamos consejos financieros y de presupuesto para el manejo adecuado de dinero, educación sobre el embarazo y la crianza de hijos y clases de preparación laboral. Referimos casos a otros recursos de la comunidad de ser necesario. La misión de *Catholic Charities* es de servir a individuos y familias con necesidades apremiantes y fomentar la transformación de cada individuo, mientras combatimos la pobreza y marginación.

Servicios que proveemos:

- Intervención de crisis (individual)
- Educación financiera y de presupuesto
- Clases de preparación laboral y de desarrollo profesional (individual)
- Alimentos de emergencia
- Asistencia para renta y utilidades públicas, y referencia a albergues
- Ropa y vestimenta escolar para niños (cuando esté disponible)
- Grupos de apoyo para embarazadas y artículos para bebés / infantes
- Clases de paternidad y maternidad responsable
- Orientación para solicitar al programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP) – Por medio del subsidio de *Walmart Foundation*, un programa que apoya a familias y individuos en el proceso de inscripción a SNAP con el fin de ayudar a satisfacer las necesidades alimentarias entre los desempleados y personas de bajos recursos económicos
- Pases de autobuses (cuando esté disponible)
- Información adicional sobre recursos de la comunidad y referencias a otros programas / servicios

Llame a la oficina más cercana a usted:

Norwich - 860.889.8346
New London - 860.443.5328
Willimantic - 860.423.7065
Middletown - 860.346.0060

Walmart  org



Los servicios se ofrecen
gratuitamente, sin costo
alguno

Para más información
visite, www.ccfns.org

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:

**THE BIG
4**

4 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VAPING

By 2014 we had almost completely eradicated underage cigarette use, little did we know vaping was only getting started. With the rise and fall of Cigarette smoking, emerged a trend that began to create new nicotine users.

NICOTINE CONSUMPTION

Mod, pod or disposable each vaping device delivers large amounts of nicotine each and every time you hit the vape. At base line, Juul delivers 1 pod to 1 pack of cigarettes while being one of the tamer devices. These would be considered "heavy smokers" 20 years ago.



WHAT'S IN YOUR VAPE?

A better alternative to cigarettes? **NO!** We have learned that these devices have as much and often more chemicals in them than a traditional cigarette. We know the long term effects already from cigarette smoking – What happens when you add electricity and metal? Only time will tell.



IT'S AEROSOL, NOT WATER VAPOR!

As we have learned it is not only **NOT WATER VAPOR**. It's thousands of chemicals put into an aerosol that is not only harmful to you but also produces the traditional second hand exposure and third hand as well.



SECOND-HAND AEROSOL & THIRD-HAND AEROSOL

Much like smoking, walking through a puff of aerosol is harmful to not only your body but those around you. Even worse is the trail of mess vapes leave behind in the form of third-hand aerosol.



THE MORE YOU KNOW

The more you know, the better you can educate young people about the dangers of vaping. As they say, it takes a village, and there is a lot of power behind a well educated village dedicated to keeping youth safe.



For More information:
Contact Katie Wilt, Town of Columbia Community Social Services Coordinator, at 860-228-1008



This infographic was created for the Town of Columbia with funding from SERAC



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA ART COUNCIL:

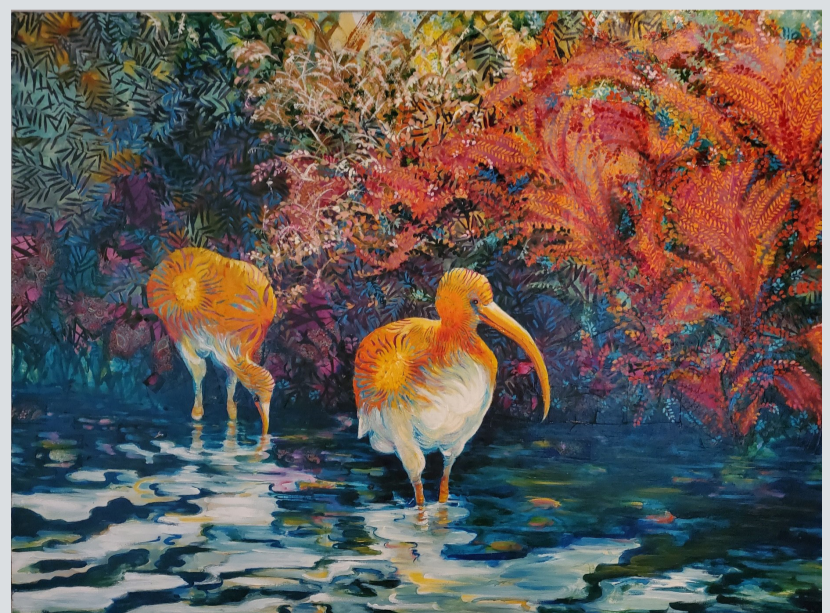
Kim Kordonowy – Columbia Visual Artist

A new exhibit by Columbia artist Kim Kordonowy has been installed in the parish hall gallery of the Columbia Congregational Church. The exhibit features large charcoal drawings of a variety of dogs in motion. These drawings convey focused observation and deep appreciation of the movement and personalities of individual dogs. This exhibit will continue for several months; it is currently being enjoyed by folks attending Second Saturday breakfasts at the church.

A second opportunity to view and enjoy Kim Kordonowy's work will be an exhibit of her mixed media landscape paintings at the Saxon B. Little Library from December 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022. Mixed media is an approach Kim frequently employs in her work. Kim is an experimental artist who works in charcoal, watercolor, acrylic and oil. Her favorite expression is a multimedia process of embedding her sister's quilt scraps in her acrylic washes. Finished with oils. Her subjects are often animals.

Kim and her husband moved to Columbia in 2019 to be closer to their family. In addition to her Columbia exhibits, several of her pieces have been exhibited through the Spectrum Gallery in Centerbrook, CT. Kim is also an active member of the Columbia Arts Council and has taught art classes at the Beckish Senior Center.

A graduate of The University of Missouri with a degree in interior design, Kim Kordonowy worked professionally while living in Missouri, was active in art organizations, had solo shows, received juried awards, conducted workshops and demos, and was a member of a dedicated exhibiting artists group.



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

FIRE MARSHAL: Fire Prevention Week is October 3 – 9. This year's FPW campaign, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!" works to educate everyone about the different sounds the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms make. Knowing what to do when an alarm sounds will keep you and your family safe. When an alarm makes noises – a beeping sound or a chirping sound – you must take action.



What if someone in my home is deaf or hard of hearing?

There are smoke alarms and alert devices that alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices include strobe lights that flash to alert people when the smoke alarm sounds. Pillow or bed shakers designed to work with your smoke alarm also can be purchased and installed. For more information go to firepreventionweek.org and go to the page on Fire Safety for the deaf or hard of hearing section.

We hope that you are able to spend time talking about fire safety in your home, place of business or at school. The fall is a good time to upgrade your smoke and CO detectors and to discuss your emergency exit plan, which should include a meeting place outside of the building. Also, if you have a fire, remember to never re-enter the building for any reason.

In the fall we should:

1. Take the opportunity to have your homes heating system cleaned and serviced for the upcoming winter.
2. Clear combustible materials a minimum of 36" away from all heat sources, this helps reduce the risk of them being ignited.
3. Clean and service your wood, pellet or gas stove.
4. Reduce electrical extension cord use.
5. Check www.nfpa.org for other Fire Prevention Safety Tips.

If you have any questions regarding fire safety, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 860-228-0440 to schedule an appointment. Michael Lester, Fire Marshal

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.](#)



A blue poster with a white grid pattern. At the top, the text 'YOUTH BASKETBALL' is written in white, uppercase letters. Below this, the phrase 'IT'S GAME TIME' is written in large, white, stylized, italicized letters. To the right of this text is a large orange outline of a basketball. Below the main text, it says 'Registration now opened Grades K-12' in white. Underneath that, the registration fees are listed: 'K-2 \$50', '3-8 \$80', and '9-12 \$90'. The poster is framed by orange lines at the top and bottom, and features orange basketball outlines in the corners.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

**IT'S
GAME
TIME**

Registration now
opened Grades K-12

K-2 \$50
3-8 \$80
9-12 \$90

Marc Volza, Director of Parks & Recreation

323 Route 87, Columbia, CT, 06237

recreation@columbiact.org or 860-228-8513

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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX DEPARTMENT: Don't forget!! The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2022. The last day to pay without a penalty is February 1, 2022. Bills are not sent for the second installment, please put a reminder on your calendar!

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.

The Tax Office has extended hours in the month of January and February 1, 2022: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and Friday 8:00-12:00.

Mailing address for tax payments:

Town of Columbia

Dept # 347

PO Box 150512

Hartford, CT 06115-0512

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.

- Go to www.columbiact.org
- On the home page click on the pay taxes online tab.
- On the next page click on to view/pay tax bills.
- The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. Enter the last name, a space, and then the first initial of the first name.

You can also utilize this site during income tax time to look up your payment history. Locate your bill using the instructions above, then hover over the icons in the option column and click on the one that says tax payment history. You will also find written instructions on the pay taxes online page. 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.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

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

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 become available in the Clerk's office on October 1, 2021 through the close of business on November 1, 2021.

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) or Gail McGrath, Assistant Town Clerk (atownclerk@columbiact.org).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:

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

- The deadline to register to vote is October 26th. Register online at voterregistration.ct.gov or contact the Registrars of Voters.
- If you miss the registration deadline, Election Day Registration will be available at Yeoman's Hall on November 2nd, 6am-8pm. ID & proof of residency will be required.
- Absentee Ballots must be received by 8pm on November 2. 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

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: We're happy to welcome Fall at Saxton B. Saturday hours have returned! 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.

Our stacks remain open for browsing; our programming room remains closed. However, our programming (children's and adults) continue and are held outside as much as possible.

Book groups and Writers group continue and new members are welcome anytime!

Please join us via Zoom on Tue, Oct 5th for a Master Gardiner to answer all your questions.

On October 14, 7 pm, we'll be engaging in a discussion of George Washington's Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior pamphlet, as part of our American Library Association, Libraries in Transition grant.

On Oct 19, we're offering a virtual presentation on the History of Halloween! Sure to be a scary good time.

Also be sure to drop off your old puzzles in anticipation of our next Puzzle Swap which will take place on Friday October 1 (rain date Oct 8).

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

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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 Sciglimpaglia-Vigue, 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 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 with any questions.

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

COLUMBIA LEOS: Greetings from the Columbia Leos! We hope everyone had a great summer! The Columbia Lions held their Chicken BBQ after a year's hiatus. We were extremely proud to be able to help them with this event. It was a great success! Thanks Lions and thanks to all who bought tickets!

The fall is really the start of our year, and we've got some plans! The Leos will be holding Food Drives on October 23 and November 20. All those donations will be given to the Town of Columbia Food Pantry. We will also be collecting gently used coats and winter apparel through the month of November, culminating with The Lions Gazebo Lighting! The coats are given to WAIM. We will put out more info as to where and when we are accepting donations, stay tuned!

Our President Maddy Ross has gotten us off to a great start! Maddy and all the Leo members are looking forward to a great year! In addition to our fall campaigns, we are planning our annual Variety Show. Last year was on Zoom, and it was really awesome. It is available to watch on the Columbia Leos You Tube Channel, we encourage you to check it out if you can! We are hopeful that we will be able to put on a full live production at Yeoman's in April 2022. We'll keep you posted!

President Maddy and Vice President Elle Gaucher made a great video talking about their experience with the Leo club and what it means to them. We will try to post that to our You Tube Channel soon. Maddy and Elle joined while they were in the 7th grade at Porter and are currently juniors at EO Smith. This is very typical, as our members are 12-18 years old, and Columbia residents. If you are in that age group, and would like to be a member of our team of volunteers, please email Advisor Jim Blair at jbland15@earthlink.net. Our members enjoy working as a team to serve our community, Columbia. And we have fun doing it! If this sounds like something for you, don't hesitate to reach out.

The Columbia Leos would like to thank the Town of Columbia for its unwavering support. Thank you for helping us to serve our community, together we can make a difference!

Contact Information: Lion Jim Blair, Advisor, 860-428-2916, Jbland15@earthlink.net

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 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.

Columbia Volunteer Fire Department

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKER ORDER FORM

Please complete the following information:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, ST Zip _____
 Phone Number _____

Address Number Requested

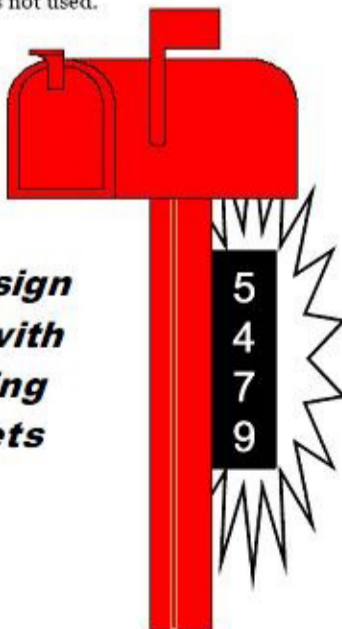
Note: If your address has fewer than 5 digits, please X those boxes not used.

Mounting Preference

HORIZONTAL _____
 VERTICAL _____

HORIZONTAL

VERTICAL



*\$10 per sign
or \$12 with
Mounting
Brackets*

Mail to:

Columbia Volunteer Fire Department
 PO Box 26
 Columbia, CT 06237

(860) 228-9602

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



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>

