

COLUMBIA



UPDATE OCTOBER 2023



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

COMINGS AND GOINGS: We bid a fond farewell to Andy Andrews, Department of Public Works Highway Foreman. Andy began working for the Town of Columbia 38 years ago as a general hand and progressed through the ranks to the position as Highway Foreman. In addition Andy served as a Tree Warden. Andy took tremendous pride in many significant projects completed throughout the town, including the continued development of the Rec Park field complex, the major overhaul of the Columbia Lake beach, additions to the Beckish Senior Center and new firehouse, numerous school projects, countless paving and drainage projects, and many years working tirelessly through snowstorms plowing the roads. His dedication, expertise and unwavering commitment to the Town of Columbia and the community will be sorely missed. We wish Andy all the best in his retirement!

We welcome Kyle Pelletier who will be replacing Andy as the new Highway Foreman.





TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Indigenous Peoples Day celebrates and honors indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. In Columbia, we share an important history with the Mohegans and their neighbors, the Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugusett, Nipmuc, and Lenape peoples.

Columbia presented "Columbia's Recognition of its First Peoples" in a dedication of the Samson Occom Memorial Garden in 2022. The recognition is below in its entirety.

The significance of the garden exemplifies Mohegan Samson Occom's efforts to bring both worlds together through his writing and education.

Samson Occom (1723-1792) became a Christian convert and studied under the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock in his "Latin School" here in Columbia from 1743 to 1747. Occom's achievements became the inspiration for Wheelock's founding of Moor's Indian Charity School in 1754, which aimed to educate Native American youth to become missionaries to their people.

In addition to his work as a Presbyterian minister, Reverend Occom used the English-style education he had received to become an advocate for Native American education and rights. Through his preaching and writings, he sought to bridge the wide gap between the very different English and Native cultures.

Columbia's Recognition of its First Peoples

"We stand together on lands which Sachem Uncas and his family used as a hunting and fishing preserve. These lands in Eastern Connecticut that encompass Columbia and neighboring towns were stewarded by Mohegan ancestors. We also recognize that our town has a highway that transects these lands, an Indigenous pathway connecting Connecticut's shore communities to the Connecticut tidal river in the northwest, used by Mohegans and their neighbors, the Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugusett, Nipmuc, and Lenape peoples. It registered the footsteps of the 90 or so Native students, boys and girls, from 11 tribes from eastern North America who came here to attend Moor's Charity School from 1755 - 1770." **From the Occom Garden Blessing Ceremony – September 25, 2022**



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT: Columbia has been very blessed by the generous grants given to us through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and through the Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) program. These grants aim to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to our department. These grants help fire departments obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel.

This summer U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal came to Columbia to announce a \$136,000 grant for the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department that allowed the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCUBA). This equipment protects fire fighters from toxic fumes.

On another good note, Senator Cathy Osten and Representative Tim Ackert just announced a grant award of \$250,000 to go towards a new replacement for our 1989 forestry vehicle. With the expansion of the Mono Pond State Forest to a new total of 600 acres we will be better prepared to respond to all kinds of emergencies from forest fires to lost or injured hikers.





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

Meet Your Legislative Delegation

State Representative Tim Ackert & State Senator Cathy Osten



State Rep. Tim Ackert

Beckish Senior Center

188 Rt. 66

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

11:00 AM



State Sen. Cathy Osten

RepAckert.com | Senatedems.ct.gov/Osten

**TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
FOR COLUMBUS DAY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023**



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

SWIM FOR SOUP UPDATE: The Town of Columbia would like to thank everyone who donated so generously for the fourth annual *Swim for Soup*. This event raised \$7,995 for the Town of Columbia Food Bank!



Columbia resident James Young swam the entire Columbia Lake which is approximately 4 miles. We thank James for his willingness to help others in need and for his big heart!

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.

10/02/23 Mon: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM

10/02/23 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM

10/02/23 Mon: Board of Education, 7:30 PM

10/03/23 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM

10/04/23 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM

10/05/23 Thur: Recreation Commission, 6:30 PM

10/10/23 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

10/11/23 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM

10/11/23 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM

10/16/23 Mon: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM

10/17/23 Tue: Hop River Preserve Committee, 5:30 PM

10/17/23 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM

10/18/23 Mon: Safety Committee, 1:30 PM

10/18/23 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM

10/19/23 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM

10/23/23 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

10/25/23 Wed: Commission on Aging, Special Meeting, 10:30 AM

10/26/23 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM

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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

**Municipal Election
November 7, 2023
6am-8pm
YEOMANS HALL
323 Route 87, Columbia CT 06237**

If you need to register to vote:

- Register online at voterregistration.ct.gov,
- Stop in the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours, or
- Contact the Registrars of Voters office with your name and address and we will mail a Voter Registration Card to you.

If you need an Absentee Ballot:

- Absentee Ballots will become available starting on October 6th.
- To obtain an Absentee Ballot, you must first fill out an application for an Absentee Ballot. You can find an application on the [Registrar of Voter website](#), or contact the Town Clerk at (860) 228-3284.
- Absentee Ballot Applications can now be completed online through the [Secretary of State's Office website](#) or by visiting our website above.



Please contact the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk with any questions.

Registrars of Voters

Karen Butzgy – Democratic

Gayle Mulligan – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113

registrar@columbiact.org

columbiact.org/registrar-voters

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSORS OFFICE: PERMITS - If you have taken or will take a building permit out from 10/1/2022 to 9/30/2023, please either send pictures with a paper stating the date on it, to show that either the work has not been performed, or at what status the work currently is, or book an appointment for a physical inspection. It usually takes about 15 minutes. This includes work that was COD. Please submit pictures to mhawley@columbiact.org by November 1, 2023. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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 228-9555.

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER: A featured artist on September 19th, Joby Rogers, visited the Senior Center for a 2-hour class on Makeup for Mature Women. Joby is a gifted entertainer whose talents gained him international recognition. Rogers is the only Michael Jackson Tribute Artist to appear on the cover of the Rolling Stone magazine. Joby was personally chosen by Michael Jackson as his #1 choice of Michael Jackson Tribute Artist after reviewing 116 of the top impersonators in the world.

Beginning Thursday, October 5, Robin Barros, founder of the Spirit of the Lotus in Columbia, and trained in Integrative Manual Therapy will begin Reiki from 10 am to 12:30 pm, and 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Reiki is an energy healing technique that promotes relaxation, reduces stress and anxiety through gentle touch. Reiki practitioners use their hands to deliver energy to your body, improving the flow and balance of your energy to support healing. Please sign up at the senior center to attend these weekly sessions.

The Columbia Senior Organization will be hosting a talk on Genealogy on October 12 from 4:30pm to 7pm.

Please see the Gem, the [Beckish Senior Center's newsletter](#) for further information on all of our events, trips, exercise, and personal care offerings.

Bernadette Derring, Director of Senior Services
860-228-0759

beckish@columbiact.org

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

FIRE MARSHAL: As fall approaches it is time to have our furnaces and alternate heating devices checked and cleaned for proper operation and efficiency. Keep all combustible materials a minimum of 36 inches from all heating devices. Also, waiting for the time when you need your heat, is too late.

Fire Prevention week will begin on Sunday October 8 and run through Saturday October 14, this year's theme is "Cooking safety starts with YOU". Also, this is a great time to change

out those older alarms for newer ones. Fire alarms become less sensitive/reactive as they get older, seven (7) years is a good gauge to replace those older alarms. It is highly recommended to change the batteries twice a year, once in the fall when we go to standard time and then again in the spring when daylight savings time begins.

To obtain a permit to burn brush, please contact the Town of Columbia Land Use Department at 860-228-0440. Remember, the burning of leaves is not an acceptable practice in the State of Connecticut per D.E.E.P. regulations.

If you have any questions or need to obtain an open burning permit, please contact the Town of Columbia Land Use Department at 860-228-0440.

Michael Lester

Fire Marshal/Open Burning Official

**Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?
Cooking safety starts with YOU.**



**FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™**

**Pay attention
to fire prevention.™**

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, **Absentee Ballots**, etc.

For your convenience, there is a large white drop box 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.

STATE ELECTION: For information with regards to applying for an absentee ballot for the November 7, 2023 election, please refer to the **Registrar of Voter's** section in this issue. You can also check out the [Register of Voter's page](#) on the Town's website.

Absentee ballots become available on October 6, 2023 through the close of business on November 6, 2023.

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

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Storytime Walk through Rec Park ~ Looking for a way to exercise both your mind and body at the same time? Starting in early October, we will have a 'Story' along the walking path. Prepping for the Halloween season, our first story will be Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas. As you walk the path, take time to stop at each post along the way to read a 'page' of the story. Before you know it, you will have a loop completed and a story enjoyed. Share with a child, enjoy yourself ~ just right for everyone. The stories will change as the seasons change and 'brain teasers' will be implemented over time as well. Stay tuned for our programming along the walking trail at Rec Park!



As we close out September, we look back fondly on the many things we celebrated. From a spontaneous Beat the Heat Jim Blair Concert at the Beach to a 5K Road Race at Rec Park, and Monarch Butterfly releases in between. Parks and Recreation had a fun September to remember. The following page is a look back at some of our events.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued)



Beach goes cooling off at Columbia Lake into the late evening while listening to the beautiful tunes of Jim Blair.



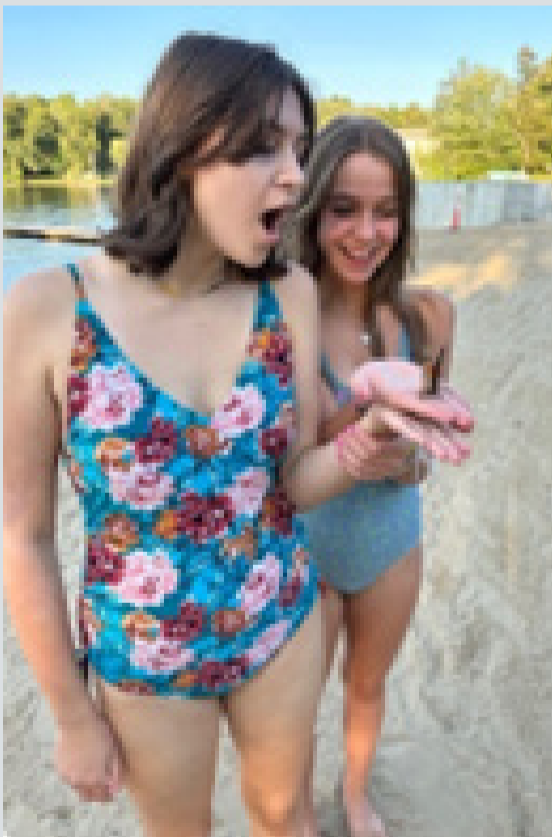
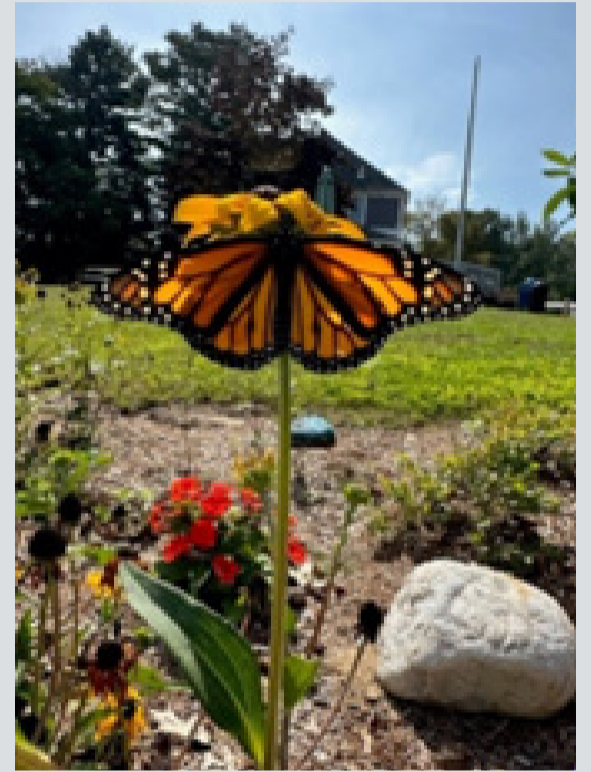
TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued) The Columbia 5K Road Race hosted 50 runners and walkers ranging in age from 10 to 74. The overall top male and female runners, Kevin O'Connor (17:31) and Sarka Harrington (24:00) earned FREE MOOYAH for a year. Our youngest runners of the event, Colton Strong and Amelie Lopez, finished first in the 18 and under division. Thank you to all who joined the fun. A special thank you to our volunteers, Casella for donating reusable water bottles to all participants, and Highland Park Market and Big Y for nutritional treats following the race. Go to [ItsYourRace.com](https://www.ItsYourRace.com) for photo finish pictures and results.



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED): How cool it was to watch our caterpillars grow and metamorphose into beautiful Monarch Butterflies. We grew, tagged, and released 12 butterflies over the past month. Thank you to all who watched, nurtured, and helped release our butterflies.




TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):


UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCTOBER 5TH & 12TH ~ CO-ED BASKETBALL PRE-SEASON TRAINING: The sessions will be led by E.O. Smith boys Basketball Coach, Jeff Belanger. Coach Belanger is excited to lead the participants through a series of drills, games, and competitions to work on all aspects of the game and prepare the players for their hoop season ahead. The cost is \$20 for both sessions. Click her to [register](#). All proceeds will go to the Parks and Recreation Department for basketball equipment.



**CO-ED BASKETBALL
PRESEASON TRAINING**
WITH E.O SMITH BOYS BASKETBALL COACH JEFF BELANGER

**OCTOBER 5TH AND
OCTOBER 12TH**
6:00-7:15PM -3RD & 4TH GRADERS
7:30-8:45 -5TH & 6TH GRADERS
@ HORACE PORTER GYM
\$20.00 FOR BOTH SESSIONS- SIGN-UP ON RECDESK



**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
TOWN OF COLUMBIA'S
RECREATION DEPARTMENT.**



**REC BASKETBALL
SIGN-UPS ARE
OPENED**

Register on RecDesk By
October 16th
To avoid late fees
Click here: [Columbia Parks and Recreation Department > Home \(recdesk.com\)](#)

Assessment Night Schedule:

Monday October 16th
6-7pm: 3 /4 Grade Girls
7-8pm: 5 /6 Grade Girls
Wednesday October 18th
6-7pm: 3 /4 Grade Boys
7-8pm: 5 /6 Grade Boys



YOUTH REC

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN ~

Hoop season will be here before you know it. Register on RecDesk by October 16th to avoid higher registration fees.

OCTOBER 16TH & 18TH ~ REC BASKETBALL ASSESSMENT NIGHTS FOR 3RD – 6TH GRADERS:

Mark your calendar to attend. Participants will be put through a series of drills and play. The intent is for coaches to see all players and determine the best combination of players to create equitable teams. See the flyer for more details.

OCTOBER 19TH ~ 7TH & 8TH GRADE COACHES CLINIC AND ASSESSMENTS: **We have a special**

opportunity for all 7th and 8th grade players registered for the 2023 – 2024 Rec Basketball season. E.O. Smith Boys Basketball Coach Jeff Belanger will be leading a Coaches Clinic for all Columbia Rec Basketball Coaches. 7th/8th grade players are invited to attend as basketball participants and will be coached to demonstrate various skills, drills, offensive and defensive sets throughout the clinic. The participants are sure to get a full load of basketball to help refresh them for the season ahead. The clinic is FREE for all participants and coaches. If you would like to sign-up your child for the 10/19 clinic, please rsvp to recdirector@columbiact.org so we may plan accordingly for numbers attending.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED:

OCTOBER 14TH ~ DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT AT

REC PARK! Join us for a day of fun for all levels of Disc Golf enthusiasts. Introduction and free learning sessions of the game will be available in the a.m. followed by tournament play for various age groups and skill levels in the afternoon. Stay tuned for registration details coming soon.

ADULT PROGRAMS @ HORACE PORTER SCHOOL

GYMNASIUM: It is that time of year where we make the transition from outside play to indoor play. Registration can be done online through [RecDesk](#) or a walk-in option.

The following programs are currently in action:

- **Men's Basketball: Monday evenings: Check Rec Desk for times as start time changes due to gym demands.**
- **Co-ed Volleyball: Tuesday evenings: 7 – 9 p.m.**

ADULT FITNESS CLASSES AT YEOMAN'S HALL:

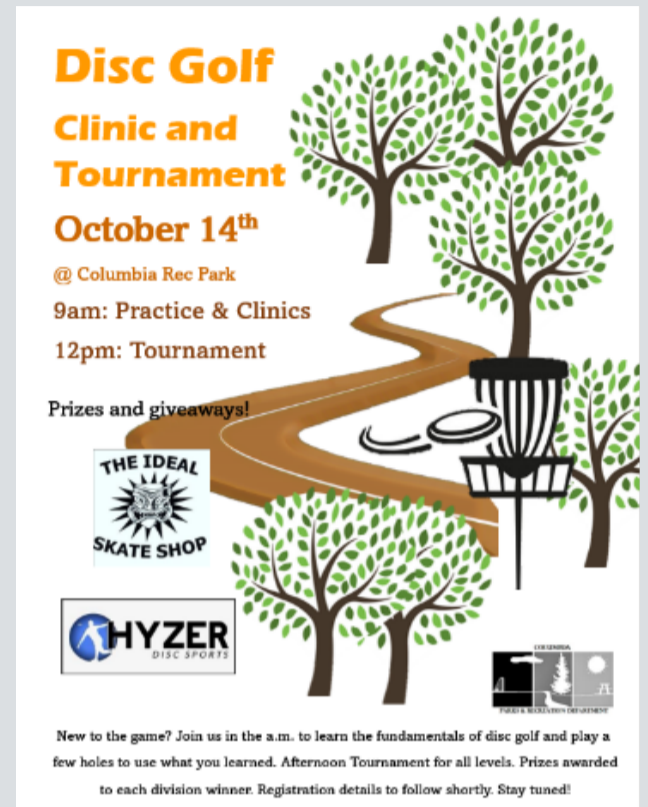
FIT FUSION ~ Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 4:30 - 5:30 PM; Join instructor Carolyn Ritchie for a total body workout for all fitness levels.

YOGA ~ Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30 PM; Join Instructor Laura Jacques for a workout that will have you relaxed and energized all in one.

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

COMMIT ~ Wednesdays, 6 - 7 PM; Join Instructor Karen Ricardo for a fun, high intensity interval training style dance class from music all over the world. All ages, fitness levels and abilities welcome!

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



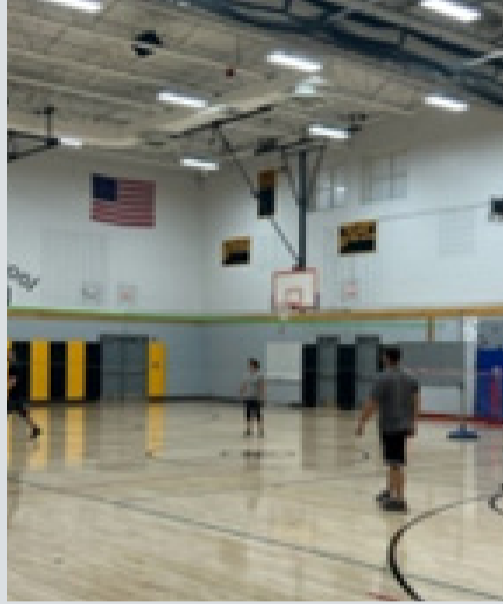
TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

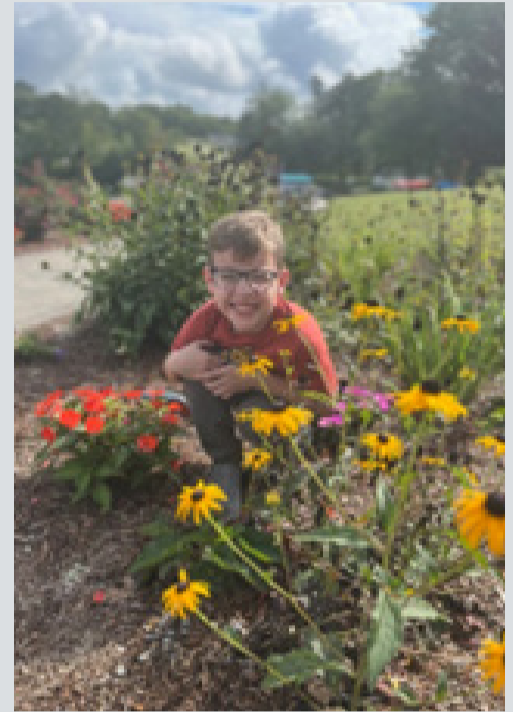
AROUND TOWN



Men's Basketball



Co-ed Volleyball



Gardens at Murphy House



Szegda Farm Community Garden



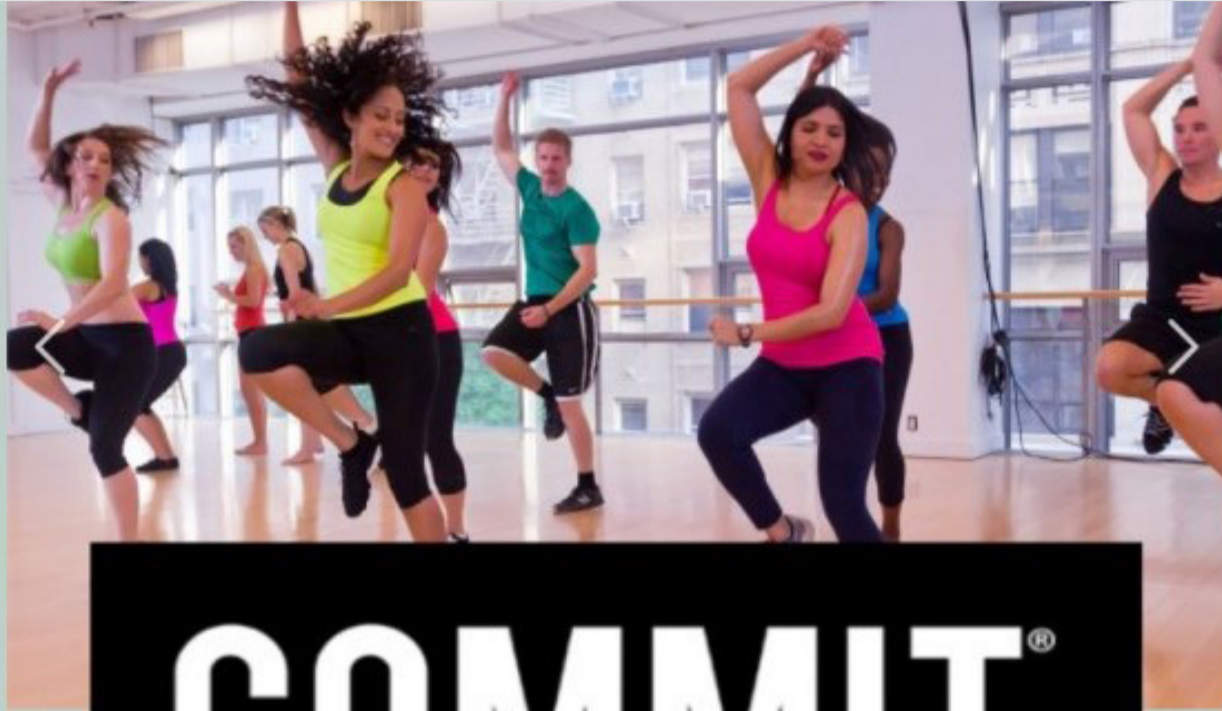
Wildlife at the Lake

We wish you a happy Autumn and look forward to seeing you at an event around town!

Debbie Fiske, Parks and Recreation Director, 860.228.8513, Recdirector@columbiact.org

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



KAREN RICARDO

Wednesday's from 7PM-8PM

Located at Yoemans Hall

\$6 Walk-in

\$50 Pre-Paid (10 Class Punch Card)

\$90 Pre-Paid (20 Class Punch Card)

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



ZUMBA
With Martín.

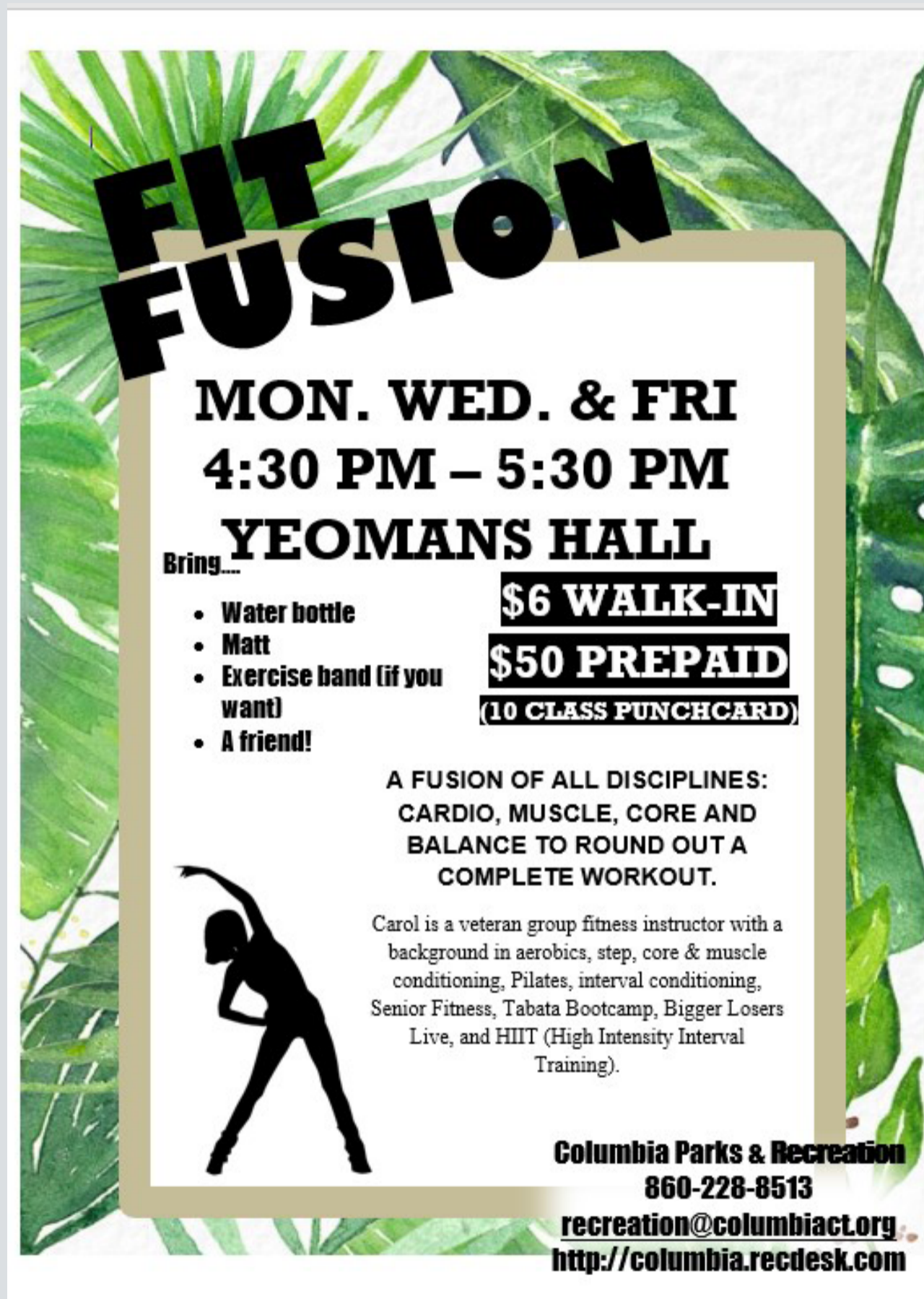
TUESDAY 7:00 PM

\$6 Per Class.
\$50 Ten Class Punch Card.
\$90 Twenty Class Punch Card.

Dance away with Zumba® and experience the exhilaration of Latin-inspired and globally-inspired beats while getting fit and staying active! All skill levels are invited and encouraged to join in the fun!

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

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

HORACE PORTER SCHOOL

**\$20 RESIDENTS
\$30 FOR NON-RESIDENTS
\$5 WALK-INS**



**SEPTEMBER 5TH –
OCTOBER 24TH
TUESDAYS 7-9PM
EXCLUDES OCTOBER 11TH*

****MUST BE 18 TO
PARTICIPATE***



Register online or contact the Columbia Recreation Department
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>
recreation@columbiact.org
860-228-8513

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



BASKETBALL

2023 - 2024

Sept. 11th - Oct 2nd 7-9PM
Oct 16th - March 25th 8-10PM
April 1st - May 20th 7-9 PM

\$60 Residents	\$75 Non- Residents	\$5 Walk-ins
--------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------

AGE:
18+

PORTER SCHOOL GYM

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION

Fall 2023 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OPEN GYM

Wednesdays, 7-9 PM

September 6th – October 18th
**Except September 27th*

Porter Gym

\$20 Resident, \$30 Non-Resident
\$5 walk-in

18+

Register online or contact the Columbia Recreation Department
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>
recreation@columbiact.org
860-228-8513

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

Yoga **At Yeomans Hall**



Mondays

6:30-7:30 pm

September 11th – November 20th

Walk-in \$ 10

Pre-pay: \$85 for the entire session

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Heating Assistance: With the winter season approaching, a reminder that there are resources for heating assistance:

The State of CT Energy Assistance Program: Applications for the 2023-24 energy assistance program are underway. This program is available regardless of heating source. Gross income cannot exceed \$41,553/year (single) and \$54,338 (couples). There is no asset limit. Documentation needed: last four weeks of gross income and utility bills, as proof of rent/mortgage. If you are receiving cash assistance or SNAP you can provide benefit documentation instead of proof of income. If you are new to the program DSS requires your Identification and Social Security cards for everyone in the household as well as income and utility bills.

To apply please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-100/kwilt@Columbiact.org or visit the [Department of Social Services website](#).

Operation Fuel: Applications are being accepted through October 27, 2023. Income limits are \$51,941 gross for a household of 1 and \$67,923 gross for a household of 2. Grants are for fuel and utility emergencies. You can apply [online](#). For questions, please reach out to Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008.

Columbia Fuel Bank: Residents must apply for all other eligible programs first. Must provide verification of income and meet with a social worker. This is a once a year grant for heat or electric emergencies. Please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 if you are in need of assistance.

Senior Wellness Series: "The More You Know" Wellness Series meets every second Friday of the month at the Senior Center. This free program has covered topics such as integrating hope into our thoughts when we feel concern, coping strategies when feeling stress, how to keep an open mind when communicating, tips on talking to a loved one who may be misusing substances. We are building a community that believes in "being kind to your mind" and "mental health is just as important as physical health". Come join us!

To make suggestions, share ideas or get involved in future prevention work for the Town of Columbia please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 or kwilt@Columbiact.org.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Medicare Open Enrollment: Open Enrollment for Medicare begins October 15 and ends December 7 with changes effective January 1. If you are looking to switch your Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare Part D plan, call Senior Resources to speak with a CHOICES certified counselor. This a free unbiased service. You will be asked to provide an accurate list of your medications so that a counselor can find a plan that best suits your needs. Contact them at 860-887-3561 and ask for a CHOICES counselor or [visit](#).

Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator

860-228-1008

kwilt@Columbiact.org

Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 am-4:30 pm and Friday 8:30 to 12:30 pm

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE: Taxes are due within 30 days of the due date, July 1st. If they are not paid on or before August 1, 2023, 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% in September or 6% in October). 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 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 2.99% for credit and debit cards. To find your bills online, go to 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 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

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

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

This month, we welcome Julie Styles as our new Library Director! Julie starts at SBL on October 2, 2023, and brings many years of library service to Columbia. She has previously worked as the Library Director at Kent Memorial Library in Suffield, Assistant Director of Public Services at Hartford Public Library, and Professional Development Coordinator at the CT State Library, among other positions. Although her experience has primarily been in bigger libraries, she looks forward to tackling the work unique to a “small but mighty library,” as quoted by an SBL patron in our recent end-of-summer survey. Stop by SBL anytime we’re open to welcome our new Director – we’ll have an official welcome reception later on in the month, which will be announced on our website and social media.

Adults – As of this writing, we still have some space available in our Growing Up Haunted program on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30pm. At this event, author Courtney McInvale will discuss her family’s time living in a haunted house in East Hampton that was eventually investigated by the famed Warrens. Please call the Library to save your seat!

Are you a member of our Spice Club? This month, we’re trying out three different kinds of chili powder. To participate, stop in to SBL anytime after the first of the month to pick up a sample of the month’s spice and a recipe packet. (Limited quantities available.) Then, join us on the fourth Monday of the month at 3:00pm to learn about the spice’s history and usage, and sample some food made by your fellow Columbians.

Kids – The annular solar eclipse is coming up, so come to SBL on Thursday, October 12th at 6:00pm to Make an Eclipse Viewer! If the weather is good, we’ll also have the library’s telescope available for night sky viewing. This program is best for ages five and up, and we have limited seating, so call us ASAP to sign up.

Then, make your own stuffed animal at our DIY Owl Stuffie program on Thursday, October 26th at 6:00pm. This event is best for ages four and up, and younger crafters may need adult assistance. Give us a call to register today.

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED): This month's Drawing Club for kids aged five and up meets on Tuesday, October 24th at 4:00pm. Join us to practice your drawing skills through fun prompts and projects. Registration for our October session opens on 10/2.

Did you know that SBL has over 8,000 DVDs and Blu-rays available to borrow with your Library Card? We have something for everyone – brand new releases, classic films, TV series that aren't available on streaming services, and more! Search our catalog at sax.agverso.com to see what you can borrow – all DVDs and Blu-rays circulate for a week at a time.



Saxton B. Little's Drawing Club had fun with some quick drawing games at September's meeting

We hope to see you at SBL soon!

columbiactlibrary.org

860-228-0350

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):

DRAWING CLUB
AT THE SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY

Join us to practice your drawing skills
through fun prompts and projects.
Ages 5+.

Drawing Club will meet on the last Tuesday of
each month at 4:00, except where noted.
Registration opens for each session on the first
of that month. Call 860-228-0350 to register.

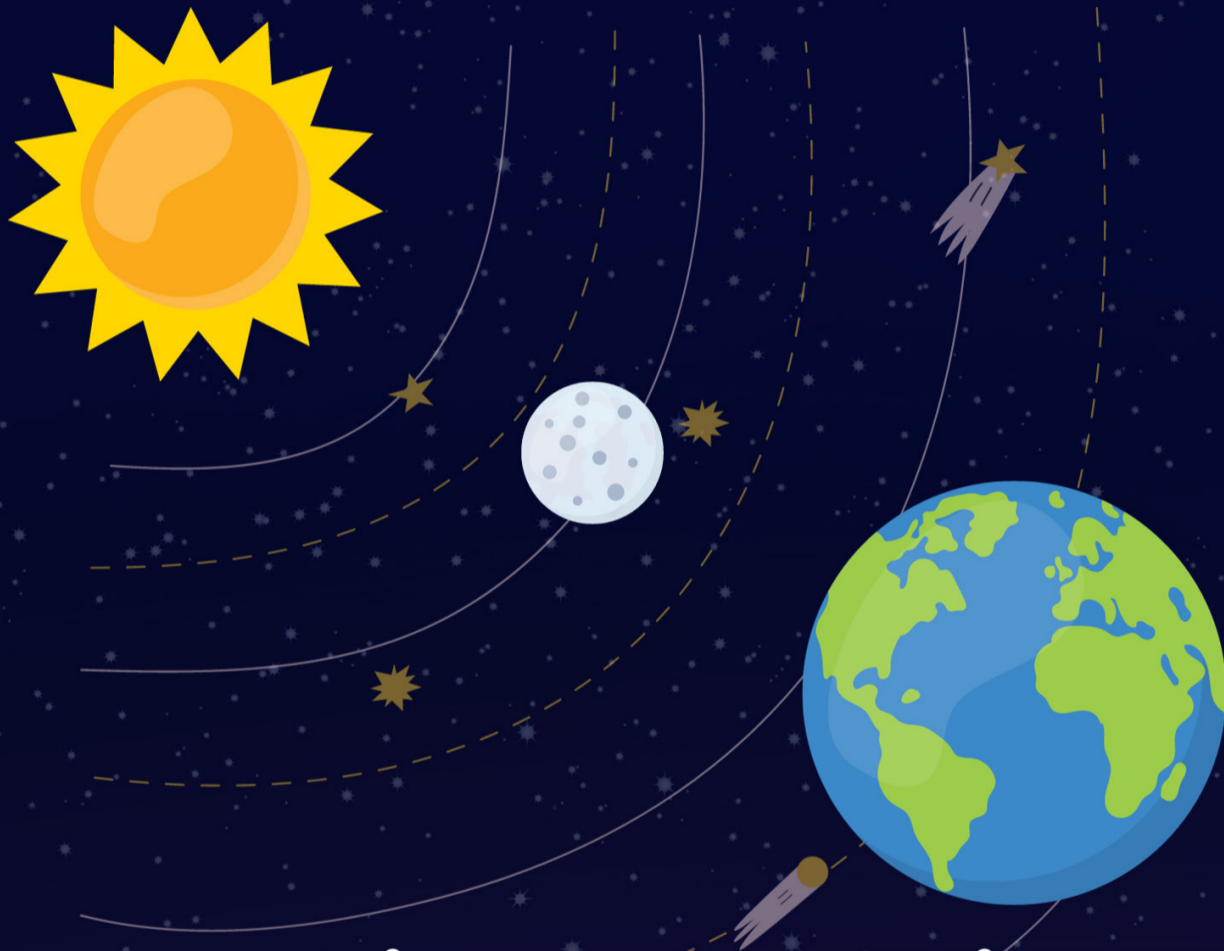
2023 Dates:
June 27th
July 25th
August 29th
September 26th
October 24th (4th Tuesday)
November 28th
December 26th

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):

MAKE AN ECLIPSE VIEWER

AT THE SAXTON B. LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



THURS. | OCT. 12TH | 6PM

Join us to learn about the solar eclipse occurring on Oct. 14th, and make your own eclipse viewer! If it is a clear night we will also have the Library telescope set up for viewing the night sky.

Best for ages 5+. Limited to 20. Call 860-228-0350
or stop by the Library to register.

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):



Saxton B. Little Library

FISHER OF CT

Join Paul Colburn, a CT Master Wildlife Conservationist, to learn about the history of fisher in Connecticut, as well as an overview of their habitat, diet, behavior, and reproduction. He'll also provide practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our fisher friends.

Tuesday, November 7th @ 6:30pm

Registration required. Call 860-228-0350 to sign up today!

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY | COLUMBIA | 860-228-0350

Growing Up **HAUNTED**

Author Courtney McInvale will discuss her family's time living in East Hampton, where during her childhood there was several accounts of haunting and paranormal activity for the family and visitors to the home.

Ultimately, the famed Warrens were called into the house to find the source of the activity and conduct a cleansing. Courtney will discuss some of the happenings at the house, what the Warrens found, and the impact that has made on her career. A mix of true paranormal stories and the reasons why a haunting can happen and types of haunting will be included.

OCTOBER 3 @ 6:30PM

LIMITED SEATING - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY | 860-228-0350

SPICE CLUB

THIS MONTH
CHILI POWDER

**TRY NEW SPICES & RECIPES FROM
AROUND THE WORLD!**

Here's how it works:
Pick up a sample of this month's spice from SBL. (Limited quantities available.) Then, join Cait for an additional program where we'll learn about the history of the spice and share information about our cooking adventures.

October 2 - Spices available for pick-up at SBL
October 23 @ 3:00pm - Live Info & Sharing Program

To register, call 860-228-0350 or email Cait at corlomoski@columbiactlibrary.org

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):



Saxton B. Little Free Library

DIY OWL STUFFIE

**Make your own owl stuffie! Younger crafters will
need adult assistance with sewing.**

Thursday | Oct. 26th | 6:00

**Ages 4+. Space limited. Stop by the Library
or call 860-228-0350 to register.**

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Save the Date!

Bell Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday December 17th 2:00 PM

Columbia Congregational Church, 325 Rt 87

Followed by Crafts Cocoa & Candy Canes

Holiday food & fun for all Ages!



Join us for one or both of these free events!



2nd Saturday Community Breakfast Saturday October 14th

Share Food and Joy with
Family and Friends

NEW TIME 7:30 - 10

All you can eat \$12; 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!



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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CONTINUED):

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Columbia/Gilead/Andover
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 1, 2023

COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT

WALK WITH US!

Starting and ending at
The First Congregational Church
of Andover 359 Rt. 6
Registration is at 1:45 PM,
Walk starts at 2:00 PM

All money raised will go to Church World
Service's international hunger relief
programs and to our local food banks.



The walk is sponsored jointly by the Congregational
Churches of Andover, Columbia and Gilead.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/columbiact>

For more info or to
register or donate
online, use link or QR code.



HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday November 4th
10 AM to 3 PM

Columbia Congregational Church
325 Route 87

Crafts Bake Sale Corn Chowder

Take-a-Chance Baskets



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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CONTINUED):



Simple Sustenance

Sunday, Oct. 22nd

Order **BEEF BARLEY Soup & PUMPKIN Bread** to go!

ORDER and PAY BY Oct 15th & PICK UP Oct 22nd

Order online at www.columbiacongregationalchurch.org

Or Pick Up An Order Form At Church

Any questions? Email us at CCChurchFair@gmail.com



The profits from Simple Sustenance support both the church and local charities.

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CONTINUED):

Cchurch@snet.net
Columbiacongregationalchurch.org

Rev. MaryAnn Purtil



325 Route 87
PO Box 177
Columbia, CT 06237
860 228 9306

Season's Greetings!

November 2023 marks the 48th 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.

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, Christmas gifts, supermarket gift cards and holiday supplies..

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 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**"

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL:

The Early Childhood Team of Horace W. Porter School is pleased to announce that we will conduct Preschool Screenings for Columbia 2-year and 9-month-old (turning 3 by December 31, 2023) and any 4-year-old not previously screened (and not turning 5 by December 31, 2023). Please call Deborah Dupuis at (860) 228-0585 if you would like your child to be screened. All public-school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The early childhood team in Columbia offers preschool developmental screenings for current resident children. The purpose of this screening is to collect information about each preschooler's early development in the areas of cognition, communication, motor functioning, and social interaction. This will help us to determine whether your child needs any special services in order to prepare for school success. If you have concerns about a child that has not yet turned 3, please contact the CT Birth-to-Three program at (800) 505-7000.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE'S:

Today our country is divisive and politically contentious. In contrast, Columbia has a long standing, special culture that we need to acknowledge and protect. Our local politicians have worked hard to encourage discussions on varied topics. Universal agreement is not desirable, as it indicates a lack of diversity in viewpoints. While individual needs may not be addressed and shared visions are not always created, thoughtful and considerate discussion provides the foundation for democratic governance. The leaders in Columbia respect each other's opinions, even when they do not universally agree. Many of our leaders and elected officials strive to maintain that respect, while encouraging strong and robust political and civic



debate.

As chairs of the Columbia Democrats (CDTC) and Columbia Republicans (CRTC), we understand that the cornerstone of continuing this culture depends on open discussion as, well as civic engagement. Regardless of one's politics, it is our duty to understand the basics of our local government and participate in different town activities. One of the first steps you can take is meeting the candidates who are asking for your vote on November 7th and engaging them in constructive dialogue.

Earlier this year, both of our groups participated in an event at the Beckish Senior Center where the public could hear from our town elected officials and learn more about our local government. With the November 7th municipal election approaching, the CDTC and the CRTC are again working together on another co-sponsored event. This time we will host a meet and greet where you will meet both Democrat and Republican candidates running for different Town of Columbia commissions.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE'S:

There will also be time for Questions and Answers. Please attend, October 28th from 2 to 4pm at the Beckish Senior Center. We look forward to showcasing our differing visions in a way that fosters the culture of respect in Columbia. Keep an eye out for future CDTC and CRTC co-sponsored events and civic engagement opportunities.



Susan Spiggle – Chair, Columbia Democratic Town Committee

Justin Riendeau - Chair, Columbia Republican Town Committee

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

REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE:



This October brings some exciting news from the Columbia Republican Town Committee! October 14th starting at 4pm, we will hold our second annual Fall Festival at Rec Park. We hope ALL will come to enjoy food, various activities, hayrides and a showing of the movie "The Goonies" at dusk. This is a true community event, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

This summer, the RTC held an immensely successful flag sale and disposal

fundraiser at the transfer station. We remain humbled by the support we received from the townspeople! We're going to plan a second flag sale, Saturday October 7th at the transfer station. Please come out and support us!

We're also gearing up for the November 7th municipal elections. The October 7th flag sale will mark our campaign season kick-off! Throughout the month you will have the opportunity to learn all about our amazing slate of candidates and help us support them up to, and after election day! We can't maintain our elected presence on the various boards and commissions without your support AND YOUR VOTE!

Finally, civic engagement is always at the forefront. The RTC holds our meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the town hall meeting room. Guests are warmly welcomed, and we hope that you can attend! Even if you have a busy schedule like me, we hope you will consider volunteering for various tasks, large and small!

We hope to see you at an event very soon! Best wishes from all of us at the RTC going into the fall season!

Art Rowbotham, RTC Event Committee

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Happy Fall!

First, thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting on September 14.

After a year of transition, we are pleased that we are finally back on track with book donations, book sales and membership.

We have a wonderful staff of volunteers working with us on a Sorting crew, a Transfer Station crew and Book Sales crew as well as people maintaining sections of books within the Chapel. That being said, we are looking for someone for our Online Sales position, we have a few sections at the Chapel that need some people to maintain them and we are also looking to fill some Committee positions.

Our Membership Drive over the summer had a fantastic response. We wish to thank all of you who joined or renewed and those who gave extra donations. We more than doubled our membership from last year. Your continued support allows us to fulfill our mission of giving to the Library to support programming needs, museum passes and other non-administrative needs.

We are still in the process of turning over our inventory by purging books we have had since before our Covid shutdown and taking in new donations. Please be patient with us as we go through this lengthy process.

Please note that we do NOT take;

- VHS tapes
- Magazines
- Photo Albums
- Anything that is NOT a book - other than music CD's and DVD's

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):

FOL would like to thank the Library Board for their support and help through their volunteer efforts with us.

We'd also like to welcome our new Library Director, Julie Styles. We look forward to getting to know her and working with her.

Our next Book Sale will be **Friday, November 10, 5-8 pm free to members and \$5 non-members, Saturday, November 11, 9am-3pm free to all and Sunday, November 12, 9am-3pm free to all.**

As always, the Book Nook is open at the Library during Library hours.

We look forward to what the Winter will bring and seeing you at our Book Sales.

Thank you for your patronage!

Sincerely,

Laurie Rogers - Secretary, Friends of the Library

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

AHM:



AHM Invites Parents & Their 6th Grader to Attend Impactful Film

“This film is a must watch because it presents information, data, and real life experiences of teens in ways that parents and their children in grades six through twelve can relate to and learn from. It answers many questions parents have concerning screen time and how it affects our youth. Most importantly it will make are kids more aware so they can make good choices as they navigate their tween and teen years.”
AHM Prevention Coordinator & Juvenile Review Board Case Manager, Jenn Boehler

Screenagers Under the Influence, explores how our tech revolution has impacted teens' views and behaviors around alcohol, vaping, cannabis, and other substances, and what parents, school, and teens can do to support healthy decision making, such as harm reduction education, restorative practices, and improved family communication.

While a few documentaries do exist regarding severe drug addiction, there is a pressing need for a film on the more common scenarios around substance abuse and the spectrum of drug and behavioral dependencies, including screen-related behaviors. Screenagers Under the Influence will explore these issues and, most importantly, examine a multitude of solutions. The film will interweave cutting-edge science with many stories to create a film experience that appeals to both youth and adults.

DATE: Tuesday, October 10, 2023
LOCATION: AHM Youth & Family Services
25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron
DOORS OPEN: 6:00 PM
FILM BEGINS: 6:30 PM
APPROPRIATE FOR: 6 - 12 graders with their parents or caregivers
RSVP TO: jenniferb@ahmyouth.org with number of adults and youth attending

