COLUMBIA





UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2022





TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON: The period from August to early October tends to produce the most hurricanes and tropical storms. September is the single most active month of the Atlantic hurricane season. Often with these storms we experience power outages, so it is important that our community is prepared before a storm arrives. The Capital Region Council of Governments implemented the <u>Capital Region Get Ready</u> program to promote preparedness measures in homes and communities. What are the steps that you can do to prepare for a storm?

Being aware of the most likely hazards in the Capitol Region is the first step in disaster preparedness, and here you'll find background information and checklists with specific steps you can take before a disaster strikes. You'll also find ways to help you stay informed about potential threats to your community through a variety of resources and tools.

While local emergency services (police, fire, emergency medical) are well equipped to quickly and effectively provide help when emergencies arise, each and every household must be ready to fend for their own needs for at least 72-hours (three days) after an emergency begins. Take steps now to plan ahead.



Take action in advance of an emergency or disaster to ensure you and your family are able to respond and recover. Disaster preparedness helps you be ready to respond to any emergency you encounter, no matter how small or large.



While local emergency services (police, fire, emergency medical) are well equipped to quickly and effectively provide help when emergencies arise, each and every household must be ready to fend for their own needs for at least 72-hours (three days) after an emergency begins. Take steps now to plan ahead.



When a disaster happens, emergency services may not be able to provide you with assistance for up to – and possibly exceeding – 72 hours after the event. Empower yourself and become a first responder for those around you.

We urge anyone with a medical condition or a disability that may require additional help during prolonged power outages to notify the Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring at 860-228-0759 or Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator at 860-228-1008.

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS: If there is an emergency, help our Fire Department find you! 911 reflective address signs ensure a quick response. To order the Reflective Address Markers please go to the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department's web-page and download the printable form or you can fill out the electronic



form on-line. The price is \$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.



With Labor Day and the start of the new school year, we leave summer behind and look forward to crisp fall days and busy schedules. School is in session and we would like to remind you to please show extra caution where students may be walking to/ from bus stops or school or getting on or off of their school bus.

BEACH SEASON: September 5th marks the official end of the 2022 beach season as the majority of the beach staff returned to school. Beaches are swim at your own risk when guards are not present.

The gate monitoring weekly schedule will end September 11th and resume for weekends only from September 17th to October 9th from 10:00am to 9:00pm (will adjust with sunset).

Thank you to the beach staff, lifeguards, and marine patrol!



TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2022.

RECREATION PARK CELEBRATION: The improvements to Rec Park are reaching completion and we will be hosting a Rec Park Celebration highlighting the various new projects that have been completed on October 22nd from 12-2 with food, music and games. Stay tuned for more information in our next monthly newsletter and on the Town of Columbia's website and Facebook page.

WE'RE HIRING: The Town of Columbia has two openings for Director of Parks and Recreation and Town Planner. Please visit our <u>website</u> for more information.



BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY: Just a reminder the survey to promote the 2022 **Connecticut Conference of Municipalities**Broadband Connectivity is still open. Your input will help guide federal investments in more reliable Internet access for Connecticut's residents. Please complete this very brief **survey** from your home network today!



The "Internet for All Initiative," will invest \$45 billion to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet by the end of the

decade. Each state is set to receive at least \$100 million and final funding allotment for each state will be determined by the broadband maps the FCC is expected to release early next year. For more information, visit CCM's website.

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
323 Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237
860-228-0110





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

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Thur: Szegda Farm Management Committee Special Meeting, 9:00 AM
9/01/22 Thur: Recreation Commission, 6:00 PM (Canceled)
9/01/22 Thur: Conservation and Agriculture Commission, 7:00 PM
9/06/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
9/07/22
       Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
9/08/22 Thur: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
9/12/22 Mon: Board of Education, 7:00 PM
9/12/22 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
9/14/22 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
9/14/22 Wed: Board of Assessment Appeals, 7:00 PM
9/14/22 Wed: Economic Development Commission, 7:00 PM
9/15/22 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
9/20/22 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
9/21/22 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
9/22/22
       Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM
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Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM

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

9/26/22

ASSESSORS OFFICE:

Renters Program: The Renters Program runs until October 1st so please call us or come in if you are interested in this program. You must be 65 or older or totally disabled. Please call us to find out what is necessary to file an application, or you can go to the Town's website under the Departments tab, click the Assessor's Office and click on the **Elderly & Totally Disabled Benefits** line item for further information.

If you have any questions regarding the above programs, you can reach the Assessor's office at 860-228-9555.

Mary Lavallee, Assessor Town of Columbia Assessor's Office 323 Route 87 Columbia, CT 06237

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER: Katie Wilt, the Community Social Services Coordinator, is continuing the "More you Know," Wellness Series for Seniors. The discussion aims to educate, connect, and support our community's mental and physical health. Please join us for these informative presentations. **The GEM**, the newsletter, will have the dates listed each month.

The Beckish Senior Center will be celebrating 25 Years on Thursday, October 27th. There will be food and fun for everyone! Stay tuned!

Please stop by the Beckish Senior Center to view the works of Pat Morris, an artist depicting all types of wildlife. Pat's works will be on display in the month of September.







Check the upcoming Beckish Senior Center trips coming up in September:

- The Big E is planned on September 21, Connecticut Day. Please sign up, we need 5 more people to make the trip! Bus Departure Time: 10:00 am Approx. Return Time: 4:00 pm. Cost: \$22.00 per person, Payment due at Sign-Up. (Price Includes Ticket, Bus and Gratuities. Write Checks payable to Town of Columbia)
- A trip to the Hartford Convention Center to see the Beyond Van Gough on September
 15th
- Free trip to Hebron Harvest Fair on Friday, September 9th at 12 noon using our senior van. Admission is free from 12-4pm for 65+.
- Enjoy the Beyond Van Gogh, The Immersive Experience at The Connecticut
 Convention Center. Thursday, September 15th. Depart Beckish at 12:15. Timed Entry
 at 1:15pm. Cost: Sponsored by the CSO's Art Committee

Movie Day starts up on September 1st. Check the **GEM** for the weekly movie.

Hartford Healthcare will sponsor a Mobile Health Clinic at the Beckish Senior Center on October 13, from 10am to 2pm. The CareVan clinics offers many services.

Do not forget Columbia's Fire Department Open House and Entertainment scheduled on October 1, from 11am to 9pm.

Please check the Beckish Newsletter, The Gem, for all activities and trip details.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Summer!

Bernadette Derring
Director Senior Services & Transportation

bderring@columbiact.org

860-228-0759

MARINE PATROL: The mission of the Marine Patrol Unit 's goal is to promote safety for recreational boating on Columbia Lake by conducting regular safety inspections of recreational vessels. Inspections are completed to ensure proper safety equipment, compliance with boating regulations and licensing and to educate boaters while promoting safety on the water. The Marine Patrol is observant of boating violations that hold the potential to cause a hazard or danger to others using the water.

2022 MARINE PATROL SCHEDULE

GATE MONITORING: MAY 23RD - SEPTEMBER 11TH: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

WEEKENDS ONLY: SEPTEMBER 17TH - OCTOBER 9TH:10:00 AM-9:00 PM

BOAT PATROL: DATES: MAY 28TH - SEPTEMBER 11TH

WEEKENDS: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

MARINE PATROL NUMBER 860-256-9720

Please call the Marine Patrol number if assistance is needed for boating violations or to assist operators with disabled watercrafts at 860-256-9720.

If there is an emergency, please call 911.

The Marine Patrol is on duty: weekends from 11:00 am to 8:30 pm and on weekdays 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

If you need assistance with the Gate or have questions regarding the town beach, please contact the Recreation Department at 860-228-8513.

PUBLIC WORKS - TRANSFER STATION: Below is a list compiled by John Ciurylo-Transfer Station Attendant, that will help residents navigate and understand the rules of the Columbia Transfer Station. *Please remember* you must have a Transfer Station Sticker. Please see the Town Clerk's Office to purchase your sticker. The sticker must be affixed to the vehicles window.

General Conduct:

- Driving safety and vehicle awareness:
 - Drivers must stop at the stop sign when entering the facilities.
 - Drivers must watch out for pedestrians and other vehicles while driving.
 - No speeding while driving around the facilities.
- The attendants should always be informed when visitors have anything other than household trash and recycling.
- If there are any questions about where something goes, what to do, or how to do it, then the attendants are available to answer questions and to provide directions.
- Visitors should pay attention to the signs located around the facility as the signs explain where to go and what to do in order to effectively make use of the facility.
- The Transfer Station is for residents only, **NO** Commercial Businesses allowed.

Household Trash and Single Stream Recycling Compactors:

- Only household trash and single stream recycling belong in the compactors.
- Construction debris and furniture are considered "bulky waste".
- Trash bags should be carried and placed into the compactor chutes, not thrown from a distance.
- To prevent rips and spills, trash bags should not be overloaded.
- No resident shall climb on fencing or enter the compactors and their chutes.

Compost Pile:

- Only soft vegetation without wood should be placed in the compost pile.
- Garbage, trash, and other inorganic items do not belong in the compost pile.

PUBLIC WORKS - TRANSFER STATION CONTINUED:

BulkyWaste, Scrap Metal, and Cardboard Dumpsters:

- The dumpsters are labeled with signs to indicate what belongs in them.
- Specific items should not be deposited anywhere other than where they belong:
 - Nonmetal items should not be deposited into the metal dumpster.
 - □ Electronics and other electrical items have their own container.
 - □ Large household appliances belong in the metal dumpster, but appliances containing freon, such as refrigerators, have their own designated area.
- Items meant for any of the dumpsters should not contain oil or fuel.
- The attendants can provide directions for where to go and which dumpster to use. These instructions must be followed without exception.

Swap Shop:

- Items should be in good, usable condition for donation; meaning that they must be clean, unbroken, with a complete set, etc.
- Health and safety guidelines for items are posted on signs located on or nearby the swap shop and should be followed.
- No items with unknown history, prescriptions, or for personal use, such as medical equipment, toiletries, etc. are allowed in the swap shop.

Bottles-and-Cans Bin - To help the Boy Scouts:

- Some items are not returnable for profit, such as wine bottles, Gatorade, Minute Maid,
 Arizona, etc., and should be recycled instead.
- Donations must be clean, unbroken, returnable and secured in bags.
- No items other than bottles or cans should be deposited in the bin.

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!

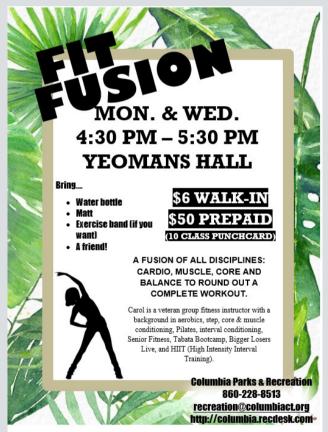
UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS ON-LINE AT RECDESK.

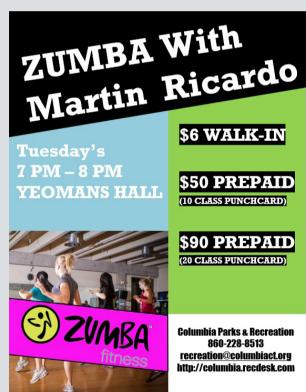
EXERCISE PROGRAMS held at Yeoman's Hall.

Fit Fusion: Monday/Wednesday, 4:30-5:30pm in Yeoman's Hall

Zumba: Tuesday, 7pm to 8pm in Yeoman's Hall

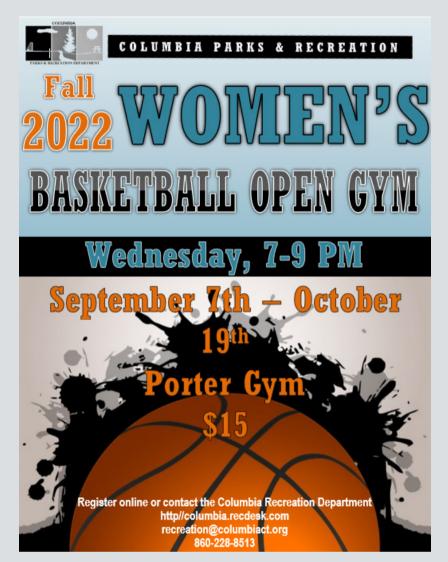
For all exercise classes we have a max capacity of 12 people per a class. Due to this we are asking those who wish to attend to email ahead to reserve a spot recdirector@columbiact.org. Walk-ins will be accepted if the class is not already at capacity.



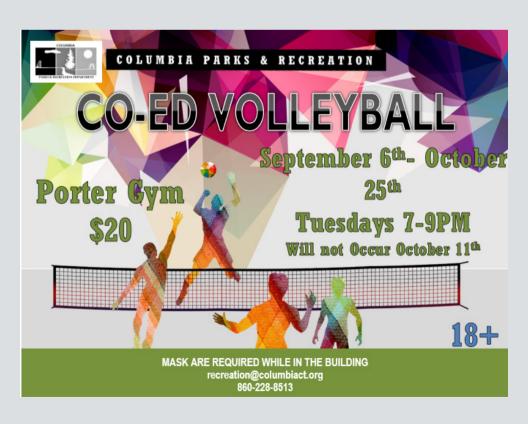


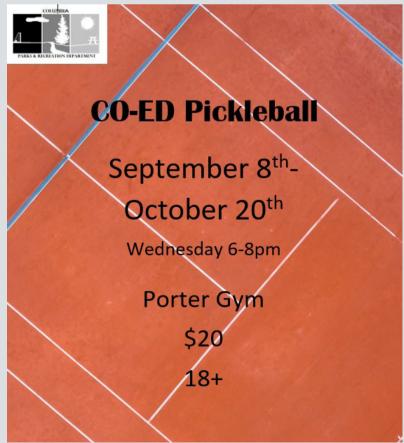


RECREATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUED:









REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:

ELECTION

NOVEMBER 8, 2022

6AM-8PM

HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL

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 7th.
- 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.

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

Registrars of Voters

Karen Butzgy – Democratic

Alyson Cranick – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113

registrar@columbiact.org

columbiact.org/registrar-voters

SOCIAL SERVICES: The "More you Know", Wellness Series for Seniors: The Columbia Social Services Senior Wellness Series, "The More you Know" continues! It's been wonderful to see familiar faces and new faces. Each person adds something special.

Join on Friday September 16th at 11:00 am at the Beckish Senior Center. This Wellness Series aims to educate, connect, and support our community's mental and physical health.



This is a free, in-person program for seniors and does not require pre-registration. For more information, ideas, or questions, please contact Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator, at 860-228-1008.

CT Energy Assistance – Beginning this Fall! The CT Energy Assistance Program helps pay towards heating costs. Benefits range depending on your income level, household size, and whether there is a vulnerable member in the household. Applications are typically completed by mail, online, or through an agency.

At the time of this printing, the details of this year's program (such as eligibility and benefit amounts) are in a proposal stage. Applications are not yet being accepted but it is expected that they will be accepted sometime in September. Updated details can be found at the State of CT website. For questions, fuel emergencies, resources please reach out Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008.

Webinar: Emergency Solutions for Powering Durable Medical Equipment and Assistive

Technology: A free recording of the webinar Emergency Solutions for Powering Durable Medical Equipment and Assistive Technology by the AT3 Center is available on their site or on the AT3 YouTube channel. It provides planning resources, options, and considerations for back-up power during emergencies for up to 72 hours to support various types of durable medical equipment (DME) and assistive technology (AT) for older adults and people with disabilities.

SOCIAL SERVICES (CONTINUED): Memory Café – Social Support Group for People

with Dementia and their Caregivers: The concept of the memory café is to offer a friendly

space where people living with dementia and their caregivers can relax and form friendships for mutual support and socialization. The group takes place every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Bishops Corner in West Hartford from 11am-12pm. The group is open to non-residents of West Hartford as well as residents. The next session is September 21st. Pre-registration is required. Call 860-561-7583 or email whsc@westhartfordct.gov. The group is facilitated by Keren Paquette, LCSW.

Renter's Rebate: Columbia residents who rented in 2021 and were age 65 or older by 12/31/21 or those receiving Social

MEMORY Bishops Corner Join our Social Support group designed specifically **3rd Wednesday of Every Month:** What is a Memory Café? August 17, 2022 **September 21, 2022** ia, their caregivers and families. Discussions can October 19, 2022 range from practical tips for coping with dementia, avoiding caregiver burnout or information about November 16, 2022 11am-12pm even outside the Memory Café setting. Facilitated by Keren Paquette, LCSW The Town of West Hartford including masking, staying socially distant and hand N-PERSON AT BISHOPS CORNER SENIOR CENTER. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. PLEASE CALL 860-561-7583 OR EMAIL: WHSC@WESTHARTFORDCT.GOV

Security Disability may be eligible for a rent rebate if their income was \$38,100 or less for a single person or \$46,400 or less for a married couple. Proof of 2021 income and 2021 rent, heat, electricity paid are required. Contact the Town of Columbia Assessor's office at 860-228-9555 with questions or go into the Assessor's office to apply. Apply by Friday, September 30th as the program runs until October 1st!



Katie Wilt [she/her/hers] | Community Social Services Coordinator

Direct phone line: 860.228.1008 Email: kwilt@columbiact.org

(Typical office hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm)

16

TAX OFFICE: Taxes are due within 30 days of the due date, July 1st. If they are not paid on or before August 1, 2022, 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 2.95% 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 <u>TAX OFFICE</u>: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and closed on Friday.

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: *Reminder:* Saturday hours return on September 10th! We'll see you then.

Summer Reading has ended and we'd like to thank the nearly 200 participants! We'd also like to wish all our youth readers welcome back to school and hope you all have a great new year!

But just because summer is over, it doesn't mean fun at the Library is ending. We'd like to let you know of some exciting things happening this month, **join us:**

Tues 9/6 7 pm **Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement** will talk about their organization. This program is in conjunction with a special photography display on immigration, available for viewing until 9/15. Register at the Library.

Puzzle Swap is back 1-4 on Monday 9/19 – feel free to come by and grab a puzzle, even if you don't have one to swap!

Mother-Daughter book group still has space available, contact Megan.

As always, **Story times** are taking place Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am. **Baby Bees** are continuing Friday mornings at 10:30, both taking place outside as weather permits.

We ask that you sign up for **Friday Movies.** And don't forget to ask for this month's spice, and join us on September 26th for **Spice Club**.

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

Sue Epstein, Library Director

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:



COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT: EMT's and Firefighters Needed!



REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS: 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 on-line. The price is \$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.



COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

America's First Peoples Archaeology & Living History

October 22nd

9-12 AM

Artifact Identification Session & Stone Tool-Making Demonstration

Archaeologist Dr. David Leslie will identify Native American artifacts brought in by the public. Each person with items such as arrowheads, baskets, or ceramics, must pre-register for a 15 minute time slot, and may bring no more than 8 items.

Without registering, the public is welcome to observe identifications, browse displays, watch live stone tool-making demonstrations by Bob Inman, and visit the Columbia Historical Society's archaeology exhibit and native medicinal plant garden.



12:30-2 PM 17th Century Native American Life in New England



A one hour living history presentation by reenactor Drew Shuptar-Rayvis who will illustrate how life among the Algonkian people changed during the period when Native Americans first encountered the ways of European Colonists. Afterwards he will stay on to answer any questions from the audience.

The Columbia Historical Society's archaeology exhibit and Occom Memorial Medicinal Plant Garden will be open to visitors for an hour after this presentation.

Location: Yeoman's Hall 323 Rt. 87 Columbia, CT

To register or for more information contact Joan Hill at 860 228-2849 or jmhill003@gmail.com

All activities are free but donations gladly accepted

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

Celebrating 300+ Years

Columbia Congregational Church & "Lebanon Crank"

Sunday September 25, 2022

1:15 PM

The Occom Garden Plaque Blessing Ceremony

hosted by The Columbia Historical Society

Located behind the Moor's Charity Indian School and Columbia Congregational Church

2:00 PM

Free Community Concert

United States Coast Guard Brass Quintet



Columbia Congregational Church

325 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Rt. 87

Featuring a variety of music favorites
Plus the *premiere performance* of

REV. OCCOM'S TUNE : Modal Rhapsody for BRASS QUINTET

composed by Samson Occom (1723 -1792) and Gabriel Kastelle (2020)

Refreshment reception follows the concert ~ all are cordially invited!

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:



Start now to sort and collect your papers for the Paper Shred-A-Thon that will be held

Saturday, September 17th 9AM – 12PM

(At the Old Fire House on Route 66)

The Shred-A-Thon is a fundraiser for Columbia Congregational Church and a free will offering is appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 860-228-9306.

Suggested donation\$5.00/per bag.

Artists' Open Studios

Columbia Artists interested in participating in the Artists' Open Studios in the fall at the Columbia Senior Center--should contact Paul Ramsey now at Ramzphto@gmail.com.



