

*Columbia*

# VIEWS

*Volume 4 • Issue 2*  
*Spring 2020*

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welcoming new patients



At the time of this Columbia View's publication we have as a community and a nation been dealing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic for many weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to update residents on town services, the budget process, and on-going projects; as well as resource information pertaining to COVID-19.



I will be hosting a weekly update via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/TownofColumbiaCT](http://www.facebook.com/TownofColumbiaCT)) and YouTube (Town of Columbia, CT).

The Town of Columbia is monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and are engaged in constant communications with local and state public health and safety officials. The health of our residents, staff, and families are our top priority. While we understand that life has been disrupted for many, the Town's services and projects continue. The Town Hall facilities and the Beckish Senior Center are closed to the public, as well as the Horace W. Porter School and Saxton B. Little Free Library; however, staff are working to provide services and assistance to our residents behind the scenes.

AHM Youth and Family Services has implemented a telehealth network for Columbia residents to have a place to call for services and resources. Staff members will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every weekday and are ready to offer support to residents who are experiencing anxiety about the Coronavirus pandemic. Call 860-228-9488 ext. 13 for general questions and concerns. Current Clients, or those who wish to obtain mental health services for youth can be directed to ext. 17

The Columbia Fire Chief, Peter Starkel, is asking residents to please limit the use of the ambulance for non-emergencies. Do not call for the ambulance because you think you might have Covid-19 or that you have been exposed or have minor symptoms. The first step is to call your healthcare provider, 211 or the Hartford Healthcare Coronavirus Hotline at 860-621-0600. The ambulance should be called if you have difficulty breathing, chest pain or other potentially life-threatening symptoms. If you have an emergency call for an ambulance.

### *Social gathering, distancing enforcement*

In an effort to keep our exposure to Covis-19 at a minimum please follow the Governors orders to limit gatherings to no more than 5 people. Enforcement is now possible with fines up to \$1,000 dollars per gathering.

### *Transfer Station: 4/16/2020*

The first Saturday of every month, starting Saturday, May 2, 2020 the transfer station will be accepting the following:

- Bulky Waste
- Metal
- Brush, maximum 2-inches in diameter
- Leaves
- Electronics

The following items will not be accepted:

- Mattresses
- Wood over 2-inches in diameter
- Oil
- Swap Shop items
- Propane bottles
- Tires
- Batteries
- Clothing
- Books
- Bottle and can donations for Scouting organizations

The Transfer Station will CONTINUE TO ACCEPT Household Waste and Recyclables. The Swap Shop will remain closed. No bottle returns, books or clothing will be accepted until further notice.

### *New meeting and budget virtual protocols*

Boards and Commissions will be holding their meetings via online conferencing until further notice. The meeting information will be posted on the respective boards/commissions agendas' on the Town's website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU? The Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Financial Planning & Allocation Commission (FiPAC) will be conducting their meetings via on-line video conferencing. We will be posting login information on the Town's website so that you can attend the meetings. Budget documents will be available on the Town's website for review and public comments will be accepted by email at [PublicInput@columbiact.org](mailto:PublicInput@columbiact.org) or by USPS mail and must be received prior to the meeting. The Host of the meeting will control the audio ability of allowing residents to comment. Based on the meeting agenda comments may be limited to certain times. If typing a comment on the Chat feature or sending a comment in on the [PublicInput@columbiact.org](mailto:PublicInput@columbiact.org), always include your name and address.

Executive Order 7S issued on April 1, 2020 allows certain municipal financial actions to be taken without complying with any town meeting requirements that may be imposed by statute, charter, ordinance or otherwise. As with the previous executive order 7I dealing with the budget adoption process, the intent is to eliminate the need for large numbers of individuals to gather in order to satisfy those town meeting or referendum requirements.

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ON THE COVER:

Fly Fishing on Mono Pond. Photo by Paul Ramsey.  
Fisherman is Columbia resident Mike Lake.

## 2020 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

### 3rd Q/20

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 7/10/2020  
Mailed Week of 8/2/2020

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 8/7/2020  
Mailed Week of 9/7/2020

### 4th Q/20

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 10/9/2020  
Mailed Week of 11/2/2020

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 11/6/2020  
Mailed Week of 12/7/2020

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Town of Columbia

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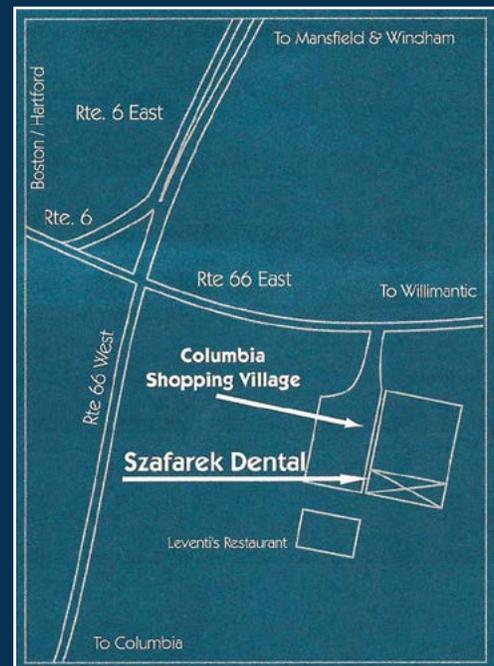
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Thur: 7:00 am–4:30 pm

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# COLUMBIA TOWN DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT		OFFICE HOURS	PHONE
<b>Administrative Office:</b>		Mon-Thur 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-0110
First Selectman	Steven M. Everett	Fri 8 am - Noon	
Town Administrator	Mark B. Walter		
Executive Assistant	Jennifer C. LaVoie		
<b>Assessor's Office:</b>		Mon-Wed 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-9555
Assessor	Mary Lavallee	Thur 8 am - 6 pm	
Assistant Assessor	Marcy Littlefield	Fri 8 am - Noon	
<b>Beckish Senior Center:</b>		Mon-Fri 8 am - 3 pm	860-228-0759
Director	Bernadette Derring		
Van Dispatcher/Program Assistant	Margaret Verizzi		
Social Services	Yolanda Irizarry		860-450-7400 x7418
<b>Building Department:</b>		Mon-Wed 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-0440
Building Official	Jason Nowasad	Thur 8 am - 6 pm	
Zoning Enforcement	Connie Kisluk	Fri 8 am - Noon	
Town Planner	Paula Stahl		
Sanitarian	Glenn Bagdoian		
Inland Wetlands Agent	John Valente		
Administrative Assistant	Terri Lasota		
Board Secretary	Flo Polek		
Fire Marshal/Burning Official	Michael Lester		
Assistant Burning Official	Stephen Postemsky		
Assistant to Building Official	Bud Meyers		
<b>Animal Control:</b>			
Animal Control Officer	Nancy Yale		860-337-1222
<b>Finance Department:</b>		Mon-Thur 8 am - 4:30 pm	860-228-8423
Finance Director	Beverly Ciurylo	Fri 8 am - Noon	
Accountant/Payroll Specialist	Lisa Rose		860-228-8423
Accounting Assistant	Jill Swenson		860-228-8423
<b>Fire Department:</b>			
To report a fire			911
Non-emergency calls			860-228-9602
Fire Chief	Peter Starkel		
Deputy Fire Chief	Michael Lester		
<b>Public Works Department:</b>		Mon-Fri 6:30 am - 3 pm	860-228-4270
Director	George Murphy		
Facilities Manager	Bud Meyers		860-228-0110 ext. 111
<b>Recreation Department:</b>		Mon-Wed 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-8513
Recreation Director	Marc Volza	Thur 8 am - 7 pm	
Recreation Assistant	Alexa Potter	Fri CLOSED	
<b>Registrar of Voters:</b>		Varies	860-228-0110
Democrat Registrar	Karen Butzgy		
Republican Registrar	Kate Morrison		
<b>Resident State Trooper:</b>		Mon-Fri 6:30 am - 3 pm	860-228-9846
	Gregory DeCarli		860-465-5400
	Dispatch		
<b>Tax Collector's Office:</b>		Mon-Wed 8 am - 2 pm	860-228-0230
Tax Collector	Carol W. Price	Thur 8 am - 6 pm, Fri CLOSED	
Assistant Tax Collector	Lisa McDonald	<i>extended hours in January and July</i>	
<b>Town Clerk's Office:</b>		Mon-Wed 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-3284
Town Clerk	Robin M. Kenefick	Thur 8 am - 6 pm	
Assistant Town Clerk	Gail McGrath	Fri 8 am - Noon	
<b>Transfer Station:</b>		Wed 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-4270
Transfer Station Attendants	Roger Roberge & Tristan Kandolin	Sat 8 am - 4 pm	

The Town has set up a dedicated page on our website for updates and information regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Please click on CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) tab on the website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org).



Under the COVID-19 Tab you will find the following:

- Town of Columbia has compiled an Operations Guide that will provide the public on what services they can expect to receive from the town government during the COVID-19 national health emergency. If you have questions about this guide, please refer them to the Selectmen's Office at 860-228-0110.
- The latest updates from the First Selectman regarding COVID-19.

**Town Hall:** Staff are working within the facility to provide services while minimizing exposure to others. The Town Hall Thursday late hours have been reduced until further notice from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Town Hall is still closed to the public; however, departments are available by phone and email.

**Senior Center:** Facility closed to the public until further notice; staff working within to provide services.

**Saxton B. Little Free Library:** Facility closed to the public until further notice. Please see the Library's website page for updates at [www.columbialibrary.org](http://www.columbialibrary.org) for more information.

**Firehouse:** Facility only open to volunteer firefighters.

**Horace W. Porter School:** Facilities closed to all until further notice. The school currently provides REMOTE Learning. Please use the link to the REMOTE website [www.hwporter.org](http://www.hwporter.org) for more information. Please see your high school's website for more information. The Board of Education are holding their meetings via remotely. To view the agenda and to get access to login information please go to the Town of Columbia's website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) and click on Boards and Commissions, then Board of Education. The login information is on the BOE Agenda. EASTCONN Food Services is providing meals which are available to all Columbia students.

**Rec Park:** Grounds are open to the public; facility is closed except in special circumstances. Please note that social distancing is recommended even in open parks, and that group sizes should be kept under 5. The use of the playground equipment is prohibited.

### *Important links for assistance and information related to COVID-19*

**Corona Virus:** As the details of the COVID-19 outbreak change and the likelihood of community transmission increases, Easter Highland Health District (EHHD) has real-time information on their website [www.ehhd.org](http://www.ehhd.org) with an embedded link to the CDC (COVID-19 Information from the CDC).

If you have specific questions, please contact EHHD directly at (860) 429-3325.

**Census:** We would like to remind residents that the 2020 Census is happening now. You can complete your questionnaire on-line, by phone, or by mail. To find out how, please go to the Census website.

**Boat Launch Gate Key:** We have implemented a new procedure for obtaining Gate Keys. Residents can fill out the application and test on-line through the Rec Department's web page. Go to [Columbia.RecDesk.com](http://Columbia.RecDesk.com) click on Programs and then scroll down to Boat Launch Gate Key Application. This will take you through the Boat Launch Gate Key Application, Test and payment feature. We will then call you to arrange to pick up the key or if you prefer, we can mail the key to you. If mailing, please allow approximately 5 to 7 business days.

**The Transfer Station:** The Transfer Station will **continue to accept** Household Waste and Recyclables. The Swap Shop will remain closed. No bottle returns, books, mattresses, oil, tires, batteries, propane bottles or clothing will be accepted until further notice.

The First Saturday of each month starting May 2nd the Transfer Station will accept Bulky waste, brush, maximum 2" in diameter, leaves, electronics and metal.

**Transfer Station Permits (Stickers):** 2019 permits expire June 1, 2020. 2020 permits are available for purchase May 1, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, stickers can be purchased online at <https://www.columbia.recdesk.com/>. or mail the application to the Town Clerk at 323 Rte. 87, Columbia, CT 06237. Applications are available at the Transfer Station or on the Town's website at <http://www.columbiact.org/transferstation>. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if mailing and allow two weeks for receipt of stickers. Applications can also be dropped off at the drop box located at Yeomans Hall.

The standard permit price (2 stickers) is \$40 per household for non-seniors and \$20 per household for seniors (62 and over). Up to 2 additional stickers may be

*Continued on page 6*

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## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR (CONTINUED)

*Continued from page 5*

purchased at \$20 each. At the time of this mailing the Town Hall is not open. Please check the Town's website at <http://www.columbiact.org> for information on when Town Hall will be open to the public.

**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.

The health of our residents, staff, and families are our top priority. Please stay home and stay safe and we will get through this together. 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 [town-administrator@columbiact.org](mailto:town-administrator@columbiact.org).

Mark Walter  
Town Administrator

# COVID-19

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The Library has been closed, but Library staff have been hard at work! For the past several months and we expect in the months to come we are working on altering our programs and services to accommodate social distancing. Our books groups, discussion groups and reference services will continue whether we are in our building or not. Summer Reading will go on regardless. We will continue to evaluate and purchase materials both physical

and electronic. It's been a hard road, and the journey is not over. But the Library continues to be here for the Columbia community, and we wish for you to know, that this is one thing that will not change!

Please visit our website, our Facebook page and sign up for our newsletter to be in the know! And know that we are always happy to hear from you and will do our best to assist!

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN (CONTINUED)

*Continued from page 1*

Executive Order 7S permits the Board of Selectmen, together with the budget-making authority of the municipality (FIPAC), by a majority vote of each body, to authorize any supplemental, special or additional appropriations in an amount less than one percent (1%) of the current total municipality budget under CGS 7-348 or any comparable provisions of any special act, charter, or ordinance without a town meeting or referendum if one or both of those would be required.

**What does this mean to you?** The vote to finalize the \$30,000 contribution to the purchase of the Mono Park State Park expansion, known as the Inzinga property, was approved at the on-line BOS meeting on April 7th and then the FIPAC meeting on April 8th. The closing, with the State of Connecticut purchasing this property with Columbia as a management partner should happen in late May.

Thank you for your patience and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett  
First Selectman



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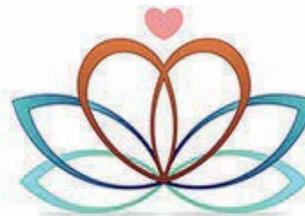


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At the time of this publication, Columbia Town Hall is closed to the public due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but offices are staffed. You can reach the Town Clerk at 860-228-3284.

Sports licenses for Fishing and Hunting for 2020 are available for purchase online at [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing) and [www.ct.gov/deep/hunting](http://www.ct.gov/deep/hunting). For further information or assistance, contact the Town Clerk's office.

**June is dog licensing month in Connecticut.** Dog license renewals will be mailed out in the month of May to all owners who registered their dog(s) the previous year. New licenses must be obtained before July 1, 2020 to avoid a penalty. **The license year for your dog runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.** Whether you are renewing your dog's license in person or through the mail, if their rabies vaccination has expired, please provide us with a copy of their current rabies vaccination certificate. If your dog has been spayed or neutered, include a copy of the veterinarian's certificate as well.

**Please note: If your dog's rabies vaccination expires in the month of June, you will not be able to renew the dog's license for the new year (which begins on July 1, 2020) until we receive a current rabies certificate.**

If you are new to Town and have not registered your dog, contact us. Dogs six months of age or older need to be licensed. License fees are \$8 for altered dogs and \$19 for unaltered dogs. Licenses will be considered late as of July 1 and a late fee of \$1 per month per dog thereafter will be assessed.

**When renewing by mail, please include a self addressed stamped envelope with the proper postage.** For further information, contact the Town Clerk's office.

Robin M. Kenefick  
Town Clerk

Gail C. McGrath  
Assistant Town Clerk

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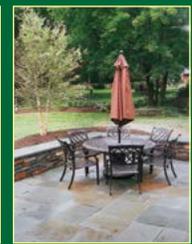
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The Renter's Relief program will begin April 1st and will run through October 1st. You will need proof of rent payments and utilities paid in the 2019 calendar year.

**Motor vehicle adjustments**

In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof because the tax is a car tax not a road tax.

- The first is a copy of your motor vehicle plate return receipt
- The second is something proving you got rid of the vehicle. For a list of accepted proofs look on the assessor's website or call the office.
- If you traded a vehicle and kept the same plate do not bring us any documentation because DMV will automatically process the adjustments.

**Income and Expense Forms**

Connecticut General Statute 12-63c requires all owners of rental real property to annually file an Income and Expense form with the Assessor's Office by August 15th.

The information filed and furnished with this report will remain confidential and is not open to public inspection. Any information related to the actual rental and operating expenses shall not be a public record and is not subject to the provisions of Section 1-19 (Freedom of Information) of the Connecticut General Statutes. All properties that are rented or leased, including commercial, retail, industrial, land and residential properties, except "such property used for residential purposes, containing not more than six dwelling units and in which the owner resides," must file and in the case of a non-residential property that is partially rented and partially owner-occupied.

In accordance with Section 12-63c(d), of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, any owner of rental real property who fails to file this form or files an incomplete or false form with intent to defraud, shall be subject to a penalty assessment equal to a Ten Percent (10%) increase in the assessed value of such property.

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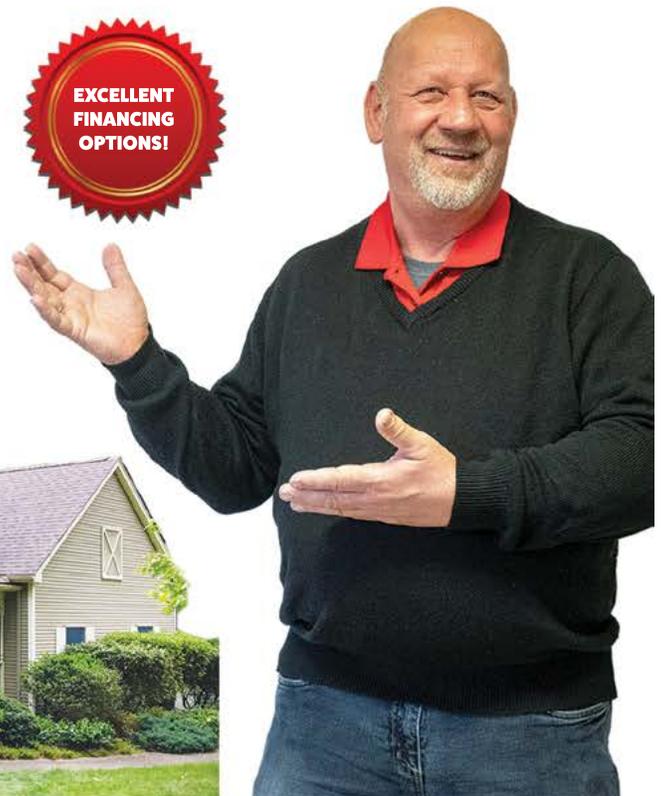
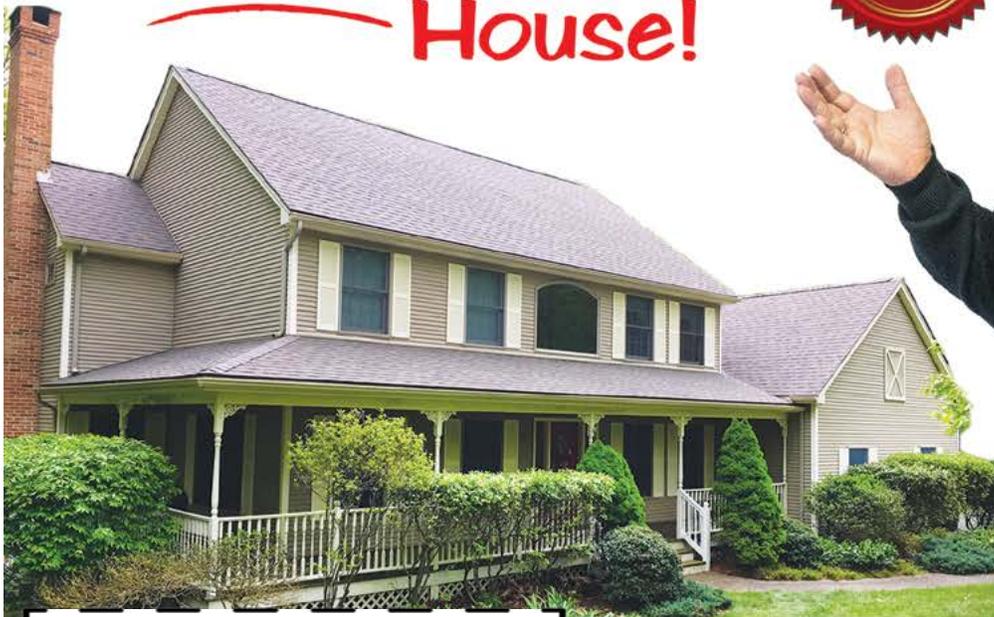


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Real Estate taxes on the October 1, 2018 Grand List that were due July 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020 that have not been paid in full by May 31, 2020 will have a continuing tax lien filed in the land records as required by law.

Any tax not paid by June 30, 2020 will be listed by name and amount in the annual Town Report.

You can view and pay your tax bills online, go to [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) and click on the view and pay button located on the lower right side of the home page. This brings you to the Q&A page. Click on the same view/pay button (square) to go to the search screen. The service

fee for online payments are as follows: using a Bank account is .95 cents and 2.95% for credit and debit cards.

By law this office uses the postmark as the payment date. You can look up your 2019 tax payments using the online system.

To lookup your 2019 tax payments go to [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org). On Columbia's home page, scroll towards the bottom and click on the square that says view/pay tax bills. This brings you to the FAQ, online payments page. The directions will be listed.

### Important change to tax deadlines

On April 1, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont signed Executive Order 7S. This Executive Order requires Municipalities to enact one or both programs listed below to offer support to eligible taxpayers who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A. The "Deferment Program" shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by three months (Sec. 1(b) of Executive order 7W) of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles that becomes due and payable July 1, 2020. This defers the deadline not the tax, giving taxpayers three months to pay the first installment of taxes and motor vehicle taxes.

B. The "low interest rate program" reduces interest to 3% for three months beginning April 1, 2020. After the three-month grace period interest reverts to the existing interest rate of 18%.

On April 21, 2020 the Board of Selectmen voted to participate in the "Deferment Program" only and has ex-

tended eligibility to ALL taxpayers with exceptions in accordance with the executive order of Landlords and Financial Institutions and Mortgage Servicers that hold escrow funds. If you are a Landlord or your taxes are paid by escrow funds and you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector at 860-228-0230.



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**Chris Rice, Service Manager**  
[contact@tireandbrakeclinic.com](mailto:contact@tireandbrakeclinic.com)

*Transfer Station:*

In an effort to protect the health of our residents and staff and curb the spread of COVID-19, the Transfer Station is adjusting its operations to limit personal interaction.

The Transfer Station will remain open during its normal hours, but the “swap shop” is closed temporarily. According to reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the COVID-19 virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours if they are not cleaned. Among other changes, please note below the items that will not be accepted and the change in items that will only be accepted on the first Saturday of each month.

The changes are meant to protect both attendants and residents. The precautionary changes may slow down business slightly, but we thank residents for their patience during this time.

The first Saturday of every month, starting Saturday, May 2, 2020 the transfer station will be accepting the following:

- Bulky Waste
- Metal
- Brush, maximum 2-inches in diameter
- Leaves
- Electronics

**The following items will not be accepted:**

- Mattresses
- Wood over 2-inches in diameter
- Oil
- Swap Shop items
- Propane bottles
- Tires
- Batteries
- Clothing
- Books
- Bottle and can donations for Scouting organizations

The Transfer Station will **continue to accept** Household Waste and Recyclables. The Swap Shop will remain closed. No bottle/can returns, books or clothing will be accepted until further notice.

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We will remain open for phone calls, however if you do need to leave a voicemail, please be sure to include your name, phone number and email address, and your address. We can be reached at 860-228-0440. The office will be closed to the public, but we will be taking applications and correspondence by postal mail, and by email to: [LandUse@columbiact.org](mailto:LandUse@columbiact.org).

A lockbox has been installed by the Yeomans Hall entrance and applications and other Land Use documents can be dropped off in the box as well. PLEASE be sure to seal your paperwork in an envelope with your name, address, email address, and phone number clearly printed on it. We are working on implementing on-line services for permits. Please check the Town's website for upcoming information on this service.

Please go to the Town of Columbia website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) and click on the Departments Tab, the Building/Land Use Tab for all permit paperwork.

Be sure to call or email ahead to verify permit fees (by check only, made out to Town of Columbia), or to address



Land Use lockbox

other questions. Work that is to be done by a contractor must include a copy of their State license, and certificate of insurance with workman's comp, and should include a signed authorization from the property owner. Inspections will be carried out by appointment only for exterior inspections as well as inspections of non-occupied structures (new construction/additions) will continue.

**PERMITTING & INSPECTION INFORMATION:** Inspections will be carried out by appointment as always but with the following restrictions; interior inspections

of occupied buildings for items such as, but not limited to, kitchen/bath remodels, air conditioner or furnace replacements, or other minor interior repairs/alterations will not be completed at this time. Please remember to call when the emergency passes. All exterior inspections as well as inspections of non-occupied structures (new construction/additions) will continue.

We are making our best effort to protect the public and staff health while maintaining some level of progress.

A promotional graphic for Fenn Agains Irish Pub & Restaurant. The background is a blurred image of a pub interior with a Guinness tap handle on the left and a decorative sign on the right. In the center, there is a framed logo for "Fenn Agains IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT" with a shamrock above the name. Below the logo, text reads "FULL MENU AVAILABLE FOR TAKEOUT INCLUDING BEER AND WINE • OPEN THU-SUN • NOON TO 8PM". At the bottom, it says "54 MAIN ST | HEBRON 860-530-1213" and "FIND US ON: f [Facebook icon] [Instagram icon] [Twitter icon]".

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## REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

### *Presidential Primary*

The Republican and Democratic Presidential Primary has been postponed to August 11, 2020. It will be held at **Horace W. Porter School**. Primaries in CT are “Closed Primaries”, meaning that only voters registered in the party which is holding the Primary may vote. So only registered Republicans can vote for Republican candidates, and only registered Democrats can vote for Democratic candidates. The last day that a registered voter can transfer from one party to another and still be eligible to vote in the Primary is May 11, 2020. If you are not currently registered to vote, or not currently affiliated with a political party (registered as Unaffiliated), you can

enroll in a party via mail until August 6, 2020 or in person until noon on August 10, 2020 and still be eligible to vote in the Primary.

For information about obtaining an Absentee Ballot, please contact the Town Clerk at (860) 228-3284.

Please check our Registrar of Voters page on the town website or contact our office for more information.

Registrars of Voters  
Karen Butzgy – *Democratic*  
Katherine Morrison – *Republican*  
(860) 228-6843 x113  
registrar@columbiact.org

## COLUMBIA OPEN SPACE

### *Roots (music) for roots*

Open Space supporters from far and wide turned out to listen and dance to the music of the Mapletones, from Saugerties, NY, and the Fox Chasers, from Brooklyn, NY, on February 9, 2020, at Yeoman’s Hall. This event was held to raise money to put toward the acquisition of land that will comprise Mono Pond State Park. The event generated over \$750 in donations, all of which was contributed to the Mono Pond State Park initiative, through the Sustainable CT IOBY matching grant program resulting in a total contribution of \$1,500. Many



thanks to Hosmer Mountain, Wick-ed Slice, Angie’s, and the Log Cabin for food and drink donations, and to Rich Grotton, North Windham School educator, for the use of his PA system.

Anyone who would like to donate to the Expansion of Mono Pond State Park may do so by mailing a check payable to The Trust for Public Land, with “Mono Pond” on the memo line, to this address: The

Trust for Public Land, 101 Whitney Avenue, 2nd Floor, New Haven, CT 06510.

All donations are tax deductible.

## COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL

On February 18, 2020, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the establishment of a Columbia Art Council that supports Sustainable CT Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems. An eight-member committee created a mission and vision statement for the establishment.

The Columbia Art Council’s Mission Statement: Enhance the quality of community life by promoting opportunities for residents to experience and participate in forms of innovative expression and communication through the arts.

The Columbia Art Council’s Vision Statement: Trans-

forming the community and lives through the power of creative expression.

The committee is working on action items that include a Poet Laureate and artists-in-residence. Additionally, we hope to have dedicated space in the Columbia Views, the Town’s website, and the Town’s Administrator Monthly Newsletter. In the future, we hope to create an events calendar to provide information to the Community.

Whether it is art, music, dance, or theatre, the Council hopes to showcase many Columbia artists.

**Recreation Department:** All programs and events are cancelled until further notice.

Follow us on FaceBook and Instagram!

**Rec Park Projects:** We've had a busy year construction wise at Rec. Park. The new softball field is complete and awaiting installation of the scoreboard. The roadway has been re-routed to go along the outside edges of the field instead of through the middle of the park. This year we will be working on converting the lower parking lot and old roadway, and construction of a new basketball court among other projects.



Rec Park Road



Rec Park softball field

As of the beginning of May the Parks and Recreation Department will have a new home in the Murphy House located at Columbia Lake. We are looking forward to a fun filled summer at the Beach and Park and home to see you at the events!



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## Meet The Sandwich Kids!

Hebron, CT, March 2 – The Sandwich Kids Project has been in operation for approximately seven plus years at the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron, CT. The goal of the project is to directly involve the parish children in a community volunteer project which benefits food challenged members of the extended communities in our region - shelters in Willimantic and Hartford. The children bring sandwich fixings to an established monthly work session and work with their peers making sandwiches. Sandwich fixings donations from parishioners are often added to the surplus.

As the students work making the sandwiches, information about the two donation centers is shared with the children. The Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic and the St. Vincent DePaul Place in Norwich are the two recipients of the donations each month.

The Faith Formation classes at the church are often times the sandwich making participants. The monthly time slots filled up quickly each month with volunteers.

The number of sandwiches made each month has varied from 50 to 326. All donations are accepted with great appreciation by the two centers.



Sandwich Kids groups 1 (above) and 2 (below)



A monthly update with the number of sandwiches made is published in the church bulletin. A friendly and giving competition often happens among the classes!



## Hartford and Willimantic Shelters Receive Blessing Bags From Church of the Holy Family Kids

Hebron, CT, February 24 – This month religious education students, at Church of the Holy Family, Hebron, CT,



Blessing Bags group

in grades K-6, worked together to assemble 55 Blessing Bags. Each bag contains personal hygiene items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and hand sanitizer, as well as a snack, water bottle, and pair of socks. Bags will be donated to shelters in Willimantic and Hartford.

In the on-going effort to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Beckish Senior Center and Transportation Program are closed to the public until further notice. The Beckish Senior Center will be open on Tuesdays from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm for donations to the food pantry to help those in need. We are asking if gift cards could be donated to help those with special dietary needs. It has been said that gift cards are the safer choice of donation during this time to prevent further spread of COVID-19. The Meal on Wheels program is still on going, and we are now accepting new clients in Columbia. Tuesdays will be the delivery day for all Meal on Wheels (MOW) clients and those who rely on the congregate meal program. Senior Center Staff will also be making deliveries to those in need on Tuesdays between 11am and 1pm. The Director, Bernadette Derring will also be available by phone or email Monday - Friday 8-3pm or those who might need items on non-delivery days. Please call to request items in need.

All trips for April and May are canceled

All Senior Center programs are canceled until further

notice. (Podiatrist, diabetes and memory clinics, blood pressure clinics etc.)

No Transportation Services

No Congregate meals

**Monetary Donations:** If anyone would like to donate to the Columbia Food Pantry, please write a check to “Town of Columbia” and mail to 188 Route 66 Columbia, CT 06237. Gift cards of any type (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Teds IGA, Walmart, Aldi’s, Stop & Shop etc. ...) can also be sent to the above address. Thank you!

Please call the Beckish Senior Center at 860-228-0759 for any questions or concerns. Please check the town website [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org), Beckish Senior Center Facebook page , as well as The Gem Newsletter for future updates.

**Contact Info:**

Bernadette Derring – Director Senior Services & Transportation

Phone: 860-228-0759 ext. 1 (Only use extension 1)

Email: [beckish@columbiact.org](mailto:beckish@columbiact.org)

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.

*2020 Marine Patrol Schedule*

**Gate Monitoring**

May 16th & 17th: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

May 23rd – September 13th: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Weekends Only: September 19th - October 11th: 10am-8pm

**Boat Patrol:**

Dates: May 16th - September 13th

Weekends: 11:00 am – 9:00 pm

Weekdays: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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## A Brief History of the United States Decennial Census

As April 1, 2020, marked our nation's 24th Census Day, the history of our nation's every ten year population count seems fitting. Our first nationwide census was conducted on August 2, 1790, a year after President George Washington's inauguration. It was mandated by Congress in the U.S. Constitution for the purpose of setting rates and apportioning taxes among the states. It took about six months to complete by personal interview.

"Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct."

Congress commanded US marshals of US judicial districts to count five categories of persons: free white males 16 years and upward, including heads of families; free white males under 16 years; free white females, including heads of families; all other free persons, and slaves. The conclusion, published in 1791, revealed a total population of 3,893,635.

Virginia was the most populous state at 747,610 and Delaware the least populous at 59,094 including slaves. Connecticut's total population was 237,946 persons, just 6.1% of the total US population inclusive of Vermont and Maine. Both President George Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson believed the census undercounted. In 1790 the census included the original 13 colonies, the Republic of Vermont, sections of Maine,

and Kentucky. New York, Philadelphia, and Boston were by far the largest cities.

Some of Congress' stated provisions were revised as slavery was abolished in 1865 in the 13th Amendment. The 14th Amendment (1868) removed the three-fifths rule. Native Americans and those living in American territories were taxed by 1940. The implied concept of direct taxation based on number of persons identified in the census was never implemented, according to the US Census Bureau (2003).

In 1810 the 3rd decennial census included a list of manufacturers and goods produced. In 1830 this reverted back to a population count. Preprinted forms were used for the first time in 1830. In the 1810 - 1840 censuses the head of household was named, but other household members were usually listed only by age categories. Information regarding occupation, national origin, ability to read and write, language spoken, and schooling was collected. This information was tabulated by city or county. Rarely was it summarized by state or made publicly available.

By the 1850 - 1880 censuses, every individual in a household was listed by name and relationship. "Social statistics" including data on wages, the value of cattle and crops produced, land value, household asset value, mortgages, and indebtedness were detailed. In 1870 a tally device, punch cards, and tabulating machine were introduced. By 1880 "census experts", agents proficient in census methodology replaced US marshals. Debates about confidentiality and privacy became a foremost concern.

In 1902 Congress established the US Census Bureau. By 1921 agricultural harvest and manufacturing production data was collected separately. The breakthrough in tabulating census data occurred in 1950 using the UNIVAC for the first time. Then optical scanning of machine readable questionnaires started in 1960.

*Continued on page 24*



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*Columbia girls contribute to E. O. Smith Girls Basketball Central Connecticut Conference 2020 Championship run*

One of our town's strongest attributes is our commitment to our youth's educational as well as extra curricular development. This is exhibited in our robust boys and girl's youth sports program that includes basketball, soccer, softball and baseball development from elementary through middle school ages. Some of these youngsters then go on to compete in their sports at the high school level and beyond.

An example of that success at the high school level is four Columbia young ladies as members of the E O Smith High School Varsity Girls Basketball team played a role in the team earning the 2020 Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) Championship that concluded last evening. The conference consists of 32 teams throughout central CT. The team concluded the season with a 14-6 record which ranked 14th amongst the 16 teams that qualified for the tournament. In their journey they defeated the #3 seed, Northwest Catholic, the #6 seed, Glastonbury, the #10 seed, Conard and the #4 seed East Catholic in the championship game.

Congratulations to Taylor Golembiewski, Madison Hughes, Elizabeth Levine and Olivia Verboven for attaining this success. Taylor, a junior is



Taylor Golembiewski, Olivia Verboven, and Madison Hughes

EOS's floor leader spearheading the team's offense and defense. Maddie, a freshman earned a starting role with her strong post play. Olivia, a sophomore guard comes off the bench and energizes the team with her three-point shots and pesky defense. Elizabeth, a sophomore earned a post season Varsity roster spot for her hard work and effort.

Congratulations! We are proud of these young ladies who serve as examples of our commitment to developing our youth and their desire to continue competing in high school. Annually E O Smith's girl's team partners with our town's girls' basketball players to attend a game as Junior Panthers.



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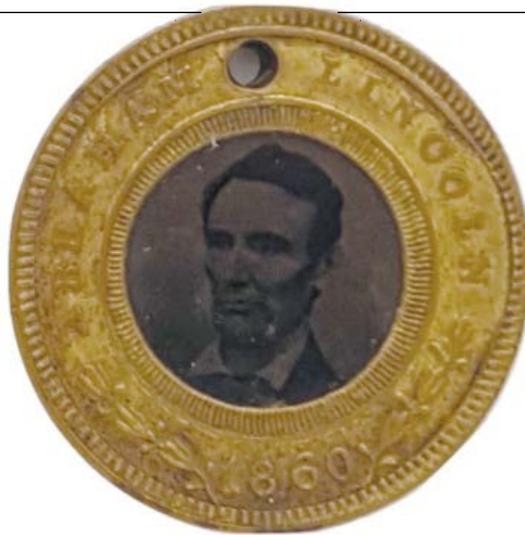
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[patrickstone@columbiaCrossfit.com](mailto:patrickstone@columbiaCrossfit.com)



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## A SLICE OF HISTORY



Left: 1860 Lincoln-Hamlin campaign token discovered by Mr. Kenneth Bennett in Columbia. Center: The campaign token shows (clean-shaven) Presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln on one side. Right: the token showing Vice Presidential candidate Hannibal Hamlin on the reverse side. Photos courtesy of Kenneth Bennett and the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Online Catalog.

## TOWN HISTORIAN

Continued from page 22

The value of the US decennial censuses 1790–2020 is that collectively they provide historical quantitative snapshots of our country as whole. This information yields much detail about 19th-century families and businesses, helpful to genealogists and historians. Unlike many

of the earlier census questionnaires, the 2020 census is simple and can be completed on various media in 10 minutes or less.

Ingrid Wood  
Town Historian

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YOUR LOCAL COLUMBIA REAL ESTATE OFFICE

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Aspen Realty Group has been in business for 9 years and has already grown to be the 6th largest real estate company in Tolland and Windham County for 2018.  
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- Customer Centric Culture
- Technology Based
- Full Service Real Estate Firm
- Locally owned and operated

**ASPEN REALTY GROUP is also a preferred broker for the Dept of HUD.** These "HUD HOMES" are great opportunities for first time home buyers.

Call Aspen Realty Group and get connected with an experienced HUD Home specialist to learn more about this.