

Columbia VIEWS

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Surveys inside
on pages
13 & 24

Volume 3 • Issue 3
Summer 2019

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Here we are in the full swing of summer; the lake is full of swimmers and boaters and if you are lucky you can catch a glimpse of our eagles soaring above Columbia Lake. The 4th of July parade was once again a successful and energizing event. The streets were lined with both the young and old and it seems that our state government was well represented this year with a visit from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator as well as state and local officials, but I think that the fire trucks and the candy were still the biggest hits.



The sun has begun to shine on a regular basis and that means that scheduled work can finally began. The new softball field at REC Park as well as the new entrance road will start to take shape. The existing tennis court will receive badly needed reconstruction and the basketball court will be replaced. For those who travel Cards Mill Road that too is scheduled to be re-surfaced soon.

Town employees are working to keep pace with the daily administrative tasks as well as being asked to submit ideas on the website development for a new town website. One area of concern will be our communication to the citizens of Columbia with news and events and assistance that can be and should be covered online. I appreciated those in the town who have shared their frustration of communication issues and have shared their ideas to make it better for all. On top of that we have launched Columbia's Sustainable CT program. The program helps to foster civic-minded sustainability and will allow Columbia to share ideas and experiences with other towns in Connecticut to enhance the quality of life in our town. This program includes a broad range of actions, such as improving watershed management, sup-

porting arts and creative culture, reducing energy use and increasing renewable energy, implementing "complete streets" (streets that meet the needs of walkers and bikers as well as cars), improving recycling programs, assessing climate vulnerability, supporting local businesses, and providing efficient and diverse housing options. This program will benefit every citizen in Columbia and if you

would like to get involved please contact the Town Administrative office at (860) 228-0110.

In closing, I would like to ask every one of you who has an idea or a concern, and would like to talk to me about an issue in the town, please call me at the same number (860) 228-0110. I do ask that if you have thought enough about your concern, then I'm sure you may have thought about a solution. I am always open to hearing of ways to make things better. I do not respond to social media believing that face-to-face or a phone conversation allows me to listen more deeply and ask additional questions to get a better understanding of how you feel and the complexity of the issue.

Soon I will be hosting informal meet-and-greet sessions at various locations within Columbia. Once time and location are established, we will send out an eblast, post on the Town website (<http://www.columbiact.org>) and on Facebook (Town of Columbia@TownofColumbiaCT). If you are interested in receiving email notifications, please sign up on our website.

Enjoy the summer, be safe, and drink plenty of water.

Until the next issue,

Steven M. Everett
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Hours: Mon-Fri 9 to 5; Sat 9 to 2 • Special Appointments Available Upon Request

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ON THE COVER:

Skiing on Columbia Lake

Photo by Paul Ramsey • Skier: Karen Vanderbilt

2019/20 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

4th Q/19

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 9/27/2019
Mailed Week of 10/21/2019

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 11/4/2019
Mailed Week of 11/25/2019

MANSFIELD: Ad Deadline 11/22/2019
Mailed Week of 12/9/2019

1st Q/20

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 1/3/2020
Mailed Week of 2/3/2020

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 2/7/2020
Mailed Week of 3/2/2020

MANSFIELD: Ad Deadline 3/6/2020
Mailed Week of 4/6/2020

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FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Fun facts on this celebration of our nation's birth

1. The original handwritten copy of the Declaration of Independence does not exist anymore.
2. The first copy made of the original is badly faded. It is on display along with the Constitution and the Bill of Rights at the National Archives Rotunda.
3. Together the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are called the Charters of Freedom.
4. Thomas Jefferson's first draft criticized the slave trade, but it was changed by Congress.
5. The first and largest signature on the Declaration of Independence is that of John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress.



This 4th of July, we reflect on the strength of America—its people and towns such as Columbia.

I moved to Connecticut with my family in 1995 and have loved it here ever since. It is still a great state and can be even better with an engaged and involved citizenry that values the principles the United States was founded on; education, industriousness, self-reliance, and equality for all.

I am reminded of all that is good in America by seeing our civic and political leaders and organizations, all marching in Columbia with a picturesque scenery that cannot be matched.

Happy Birthday America!



The Town of Columbia received the latest credit opinion from Moody's Investors Services. Moody's affirmed the town's Aa2 rating and removed the negative outlook on the town's outstanding debt. The outlook was assigned on October 16, 2017 and reflected the State of Connecticut's then ongoing budget impasse and the significant cuts to Columbia's state funding in the executive order that governed state spending during the impasse. We have a solid and stable tax base supported by access to employment opportunities, a history of stable financial operations, low fixed costs with manageable long-term liabilities, continued operating surpluses with greater year-end allocations to general fund cash, and unassigned fund balance. Our town's liquidity is expected to remain healthy in the near term.

Thanks again to everyone that help keep Columbia running and one of the top towns to live in.

Mark Walter
Town Administrator

860-228-0110
townadministrator@columbiact.org



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Happy Summer from the Town Clerk's Office!

Municipal election

Municipal elections will take place on November 5, 2019. Absentee ballots become available on October 4, 2019 through the close of business on November 4, 2019.

Absentee ballots

Voting by Absentee Ballot is a two-step process. The first step is to fill out an ED-3, Application for Absentee Ballot. The application can be picked up in the Clerk's office or

downloaded from the Town's website www.columbiact.org (Departments - Registrar of Voters - scroll to bottom of page and click on Can I vote by absentee ballot). When they become available, an absentee ballot will be issued. The absentee ballot application with an original signature must be on file with the Clerk in order for your vote to be counted. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding voting by absentee ballot.

Robin M. Kenefick
Town Clerk
860.228.3284

Gail C. McGrath
Assistant Town Clerk

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

News from the Public Works Department

Now that Summer is almost upon us, it's time to start thinking about road safety. Public Works is currently in the process of roadside mowing in town which makes a total of eighty-four miles of mowing often requiring several passes. Please use caution when passing the mower operator. We ask all residents when mowing their property to NOT discharge their grass clippings into the roadway. This can cause issues with debris clogging drainage swales and catch basin, on roadways.

Road repairs are taking place on Sharrington, Gavin and Randazzo Roads this year in preparation for new pavement. Some construction for road work has already begun with catch basin repairs prior to Milling and Paving scheduled for mid-July, weather dependent. Additional work is also planned for resurfacing of Cards Mills Road from Village Hill Bridge to Baker Hill road.

The new town Salt Shed is nearing completion. Public Works will now have ability to store upwards of a thousand tons of salt that will allow for any future needs of the town. No longer will Columbia be concerned with availability of salt deliveries during the winter months.

Work continues at Columbia Recreation Area for work on the new Softball Field now that the weather has improved, and the rain subsided, work has started back up again. Soon new topsoil and grass seed will be planted to help stabilize the field construction. A new entrance road design to improve pedestrian safety is awaiting approval from Eversource for use of their Right-of-Way. Upon Eversource approval work is scheduled to begin in the Fall.

Wishing all town residents, a safe and happy Summer.

George Murphy
Director of Public Works

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COLUMBIA TOWN DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT		OFFICE HOURS	PHONE
Administrative Office:		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		
Assessor's Office:		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	
Beckish Senior Center:		Mon-Fri 8 am - 3 pm	860-228-0759
Director	Bernadette Derring		
Van Dispatcher/Program Assistant	Margaret Verrizzi		
Social Services	Yolanda Irizarry		860-450-7400 x7418
Building Department:		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			
Fire Marshal/Burning Official	Michael Lester		
Assistant to Building Official	Bud Meyers		
Animal Control:			
Animal Control Officer	Nancy Yale		860-337-1222
Finance Department:		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
Fire Department:			
To report a fire			911
Non-emergency calls			860-228-9602
Fire Chief	Peter Starkel		
Deputy Fire Chief	Michael Lester		
Public Works Department:		Mon-Fri 6:30 am - 3 pm	860-228-4270
Director	George Murphy		
Facilities Manager	Bud Meyers		860-228-0110 ext. 111
Recreation Department:		Mon-Wed 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-8513
Recreation Director	Marc Volza	Thur 8 am - 7 pm	
Recreation Assistant	Alexa Potter	Fri CLOSED	
Registrar of Voters:		Varies	860-228-0110
Democrat Registrar	Karen Butzgy		
Republican Registrar	Kate Morrison		
Resident State Trooper:		Mon-Fri 6:30 am - 3 pm	860-228-9846
	Gregory DeCarli		860-465-5400
	Dispatch		
Tax Collector's Office:		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>	
Town Clerk's Office:		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	
Transfer Station:		Wed 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-4270
Transfer Station Attendants	Roger Roberge & Tristan Kandolin	Sat 8 am - 4 pm	



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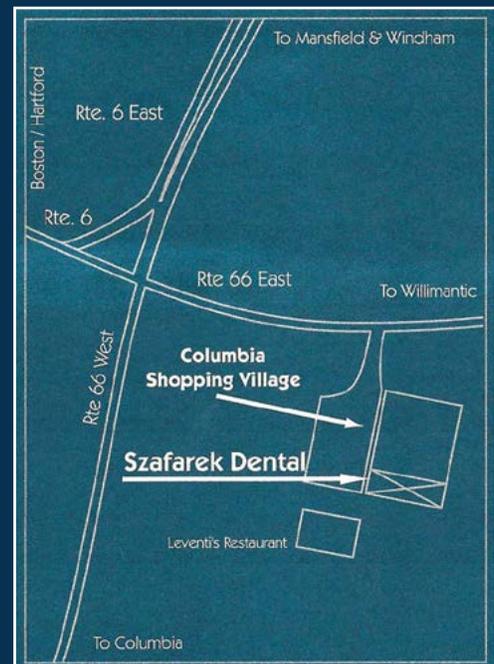
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Thur: 7:00 am–4:30 pm

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SAXTON B. LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Summer Fun at Your Local Library

As you read this, our summer reading program is in full swing, and if you haven't visited the Library in the last month, you've missed some very exciting events! In keeping with this year's theme, A Universe of Stories, we've hosted some out-of-this-world experiences ranging from space cakes to painted plates, solar ovens to Jedi training.

If you missed some of these events, don't worry – we have more to come! Visit us on August 6th for a discussion of UFO sightings in Connecticut; on the 14th, we'll listen to and remember the music popular in the summer of '69; and on the 15th, there's a special story time, read by astronauts in the space station.

Our summer reading program officially ends on August 16th, but that doesn't mean things will slow down at the

Library. Our free film screenings continue on Monday afternoons in August during our sci-fi cinema series. Then, we switch back to Friday afternoons in September, with a theme selected by you, our patrons! You can join one of our four adult book groups, including the Children's Picture Book Discussion for adults, the only one in the state! Mark your calendars: on September 17th, the Library partners with the Historical Society to bring you the History of Columbia; and, if all this is too overwhelming, you might enjoy our minimalist program scheduled for October 1st.

There's much more happening at the Saxton B. so please stop in, say hello, and check out the newest outfits of the 'infamous' Saxton Mouse!

Su Epstein
Library Director



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Who Are The Friends of The Saxton B. Little Free Library?

If you are a resident of Columbia, you received a recent mailing from us requesting that you join us. We are a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide money for the Library. This membership money helps support some of the programs and activities at the Library. Currently, we have about two hundred members who help us with this goal and act as advocates and supporters of our Library.

Our main fundraising endeavor is to hold four used book sales per year. We are privileged to be able to do this from the Chapel on the Green situated adjacent to the Library. We have a truly unique situation with having use of this historic building and work hard to care for it so it can continue to serve us and our community in the future.

We have wonderful, hard-working volunteers who work

many hours to collect, sort and place the best books onto the shelves for the sales. Behind the scenes are others who manage the finances, the publicity and provide the volunteers for the sales. We cannot do all of this without them. A heartfelt thank you from the Board of Directors.

We also provide books for the "Book Nook" at the Library itself. This is a good place to find a good read to take on vacation or keep on hand if the weather does not cooperate in the winter. There are books there for children as well.

We welcome all bibliophiles to come and help at the Chapel. Perhaps there is a section you would like to manage in preparation for our sales or you may want to help with our sales.

Our recent Spring sale was a good one and we hope to see folks come for our next one the weekend of August 9, 10 and 11.

Antoinette Ellzey and Laurie Rogers
President and Secretary of the "Friends"

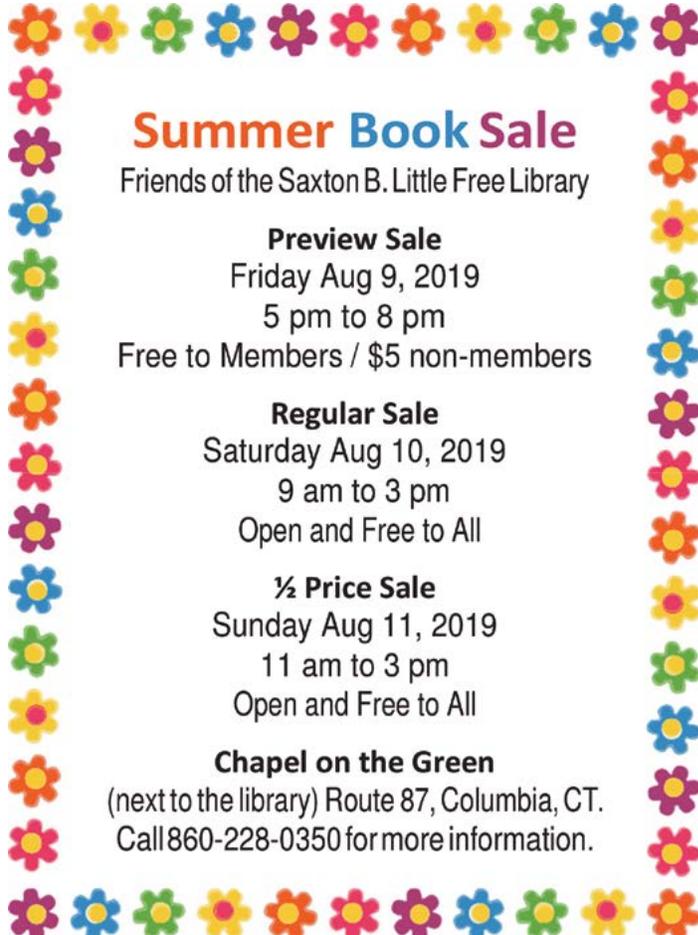
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Summer Book Sale

Friends of the Saxton B. Little Free Library

Preview Sale
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Regular Sale
Saturday Aug 10, 2019
9 am to 3 pm
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Encouraging Business Development in Columbia

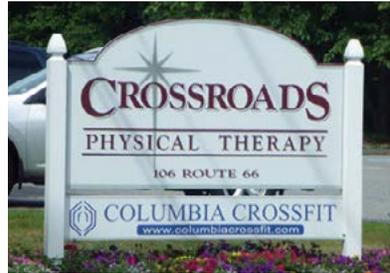
“Columbia’s existing businesses are able to grow and prosper and new businesses find opportunities to establish in Town”

– Goal of Columbia Plan of Conservation and Development

For the past several months, the Columbia Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) has been working on revising the current business and commercial zoning regulations to meet that goal. The PZC recognizes that economic development is an important component of the town as businesses provide jobs, deliver services needed by residents, and expand the Columbia grand list.

The proposed revisions to the zoning regulations would:

- Streamline the approval process for new and expanding businesses,
- Revise dimensional standards to encourage development,
- Revise the existing commercial and manufacturing zone boundaries that would be available for economic development,
- Respect adjacent residential districts, and
- Encourage economic development that meets the needs of Columbia residents while preserving the town’s character.



The Columbia PZC has scheduled a public hearing for Monday, August 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room, 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT to explain the proposed revisions and to hear comments and concerns before the changes are considered for adoption. Copies of the proposal will be available on the Town’s website, in the Town Clerk’s Office and in the Building and Land Use Department.

Paula Stahl, LLA, AICP
Columbia Town Planner

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Countryside Realty of Hebron Ranks #1 in 2018!

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BECKISH SENIOR CENTER

The Beckish Senior Center celebrated our 8th Annual Rose Marrotte Art Show. The event was a great success and was very well attended. The art show is in memory of the late Rose Marrotte who later in life found a deep love for art. Rose started many art classes here at the Beckish Senior Center, and she also created many beautiful art pieces that have been displayed in the senior center over the years.

This year the Rose Marrotte Art Show was June 3rd – June 7th. The categories were, Paintings, Photography, Crafts, Wood Carving, and Quilting. Artists could bring in one art piece from each category. The artwork was displayed throughout the week and the public could come in and vote on their favorite piece. This was called the Popular Vote Award which was given to the most popular piece in each category. Judges voted on their favorite piece in each category. There were first, second and third place winners. On June 7th we had an awards ceremony and we handed out monetary awards and certificates. Everyone was able to browse and look at the beautifully displayed artwork and enjoy refreshments and desserts. Every year the talent of our community amazes me. This



is a wonderful way to show off our local artist and allow new artist a chance to be known. Get out your paint brushes, cameras, fabric and wood, and start working on your masterpieces. We welcome everyone to participate in our Art Show so get those creative juices flowing! We look forward to seeing your final pieces next year. The Columbia Senior's Organization will be starting various art classes this fall and displaying local artists artworks each month. Please stay tuned, more information in our newsletter will follow.

Congratulations to our 2019 Rose Marrotte Art Show Winners:

Painting:

First–Janet Gaylor
Second–Brian Tracy
Third–Janice Leitch
Popular Vote: Alice Mellor

Photography:

First–Robert LaMay
Second–Sue Audette
Third–Paul Ramsey
Popular Vote: Robert LaMay

Crafts, Woodcarving & Quilts

First–Kim Komdonowy
Second–Dennis Tormey
Third–Richard LaCosse
Popular Vote: Nichole Potter

A portrait of Anthony Raggi, a man in a dark suit and light blue shirt, smiling. To his right is a red background with the text "Combine & Save." in white, and icons of a house and a car.

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We need your help!

This survey is for EVERYONE! Please take a moment to fill out this much needed information. Thank you for your support!

–The Columbia Commission on Aging

For statistical information, please check off your age group.

21-30 _____ 31-40 _____ 41-50 _____ 51-60 _____
 61-70 _____ 71-80 _____ 80-100+ _____

According to the Connecticut State Data Center at the University of Connecticut Libraries Map and Geographic Information Center –MAGIC (2012)

Future Population projections based on the 2010 Census
 By the year **2025, 38% of Columbia Residents will be 65+.**
 In 2015, Columbia Residents 60+, was 27% of the population, which is significantly above the state average.

1. If Senior Housing is available in Columbia, would you or a family member consider living there?

YES _____ NO _____

a. If your answer was yes, what accommodations would meet your needs?

Please check all that apply:

- 1. Number of bedrooms _____
- 2. Garage _____
- 3. Basement _____
- 4. Storage _____
- 5. Community Room _____
- 6. Washer/Dryer _____
- Other: _____

2. If the following types of services were available in Columbia and affordable, which of them would you or a family member use? Check all that apply.

- _____ a. Help finding services you need. i.e. energy assistance
- _____ b. Food Assistance
- _____ c. Information about local resources
- _____ d. Legal Assistance
- _____ e. In-home help with household chores
- _____ f. Home repairs or home modifications

Other: _____

**DEADLINE DATE FOR COMPLETED FORMS:
 AUGUST 15, 2019**

The Members of the Commission on Aging would like to thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire. Completed surveys can be dropped off at the First Selectman’s office, Saxton B. Little Library, or the Beckish Senior Center.

Or mail it to: The Beckish Senior Center
 188 Route 66
 Columbia, CT 06237

Commission Members are:

- Catherine Rowe, *Chair*
- Lyn Buonocore, Bernadette Derring, Maggie Ewald, Marjorie Golden-Mossberg, Jill Livingston, Edith Prague, Millie Ramsey



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 EMAIL **robhs44@aol.com**
 WEB **www.hellstromlandsurveying.com**

A barbecue, a dinner dance and an art show, along with trips, card groups, clubs, movies, and exercise classes, have kept our Columbia seniors busy during May and June. There are many things to keep a person active physically, mentally and socially. And we need more of you to join up to help us keep going. You can make an impact on what seniors do. We need volunteers to help with program planning, decorating, working on our fund-raising sales, sending cards out to seniors who are sick, advertising, and much more. Your input and participation are needed.

Maybe my personal story will encourage some of you to join us. When I retired from work, I realized that I had lost a very important peer group in my life. I could have become one of the busiest readers in Columbia, but I would not have made friends and interacted with people. I realized that making and having new friends was an important component for a healthy life. I called up the Beckish Senior Center, got a tour, met people and engaged in some of the activities. I started coming to lunch (it's not fun to cook for yourself) and soon was attending the ladies' group. Then I started coming to some of the special events and shortly found myself helping on the program committee. There's more to my story but it all points to one very important point. I found friends to share my time with and to do things with. My life is richer for it, and I am thankful for each and every one of them.

My hope is that some of you will connect with us. We all have a great time together and there are so many things to do that it is almost impossible not to find your niche. For information about the Beckish Senior Center please call 860-228-0759. For information about the Columbia Seniors Organization you can call me (Sheran Smith) at 860-228-9543 or sherans@aol.com.

Submitted by Sheran Smith



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Columbia Lions College Scholarships

The Columbia Lions Club has awarded its 2019 college scholarships to two recent high school graduates. The winners are Kathleen Fritz, a graduate of E. O. Smith High School, and Keira Francis, a graduate of Bolton High School.

Each scholar was awarded \$1200. The winners were chosen by a scholarship review committee appointed by the Columbia school superintendent's office.

Ms. Fritz will attend Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, and plans to major in psychology and criminology.

Ms. Francis will attend Plymouth State University in New Hampshire where she plans to play varsity basketball and major in Health Sciences, specializing in Strength and Conditioning.

The scholarships were awarded based on demonstrated academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, and service to the community. The last criterion is the

most heavily weighted one, given the Lions mission to serve others and engage the community. The Columbia Lions raise money for its scholarships through various club projects and through a scholarship raffle that takes place annually in the fall.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 5: Walking tour of the Green

The Columbia Historical Society is hosting a walking tour of the Green during the Walktober event. Please join us on October 5th at 10:00 am and on October 20th at 2:00 pm. We will meet in front of the Moor's Charity School. You will learn what life was like in Columbia during the 1700's and also hear about Eleazar Wheelock and Samson Occom who were both important people in the forming of Dartmouth College. Please call Judy Ortiz at 860 228-3263 if you have any questions.



Time for
Columbia Lions
Annual Chicken Bar-B-Que

Sunday, August 18, 2019
12:00 noon to 3:00 PM
Recreation Park, Hennequin Rd.,
Columbia, CT.



It's a Sizzling Good Time

For Tickets and Information Contact:
Bob Fowler - 860-614-8585
Mike DiRaimo - 860-228-8241

Seniors (62+) - \$11.00 Adults \$12.00
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Proceeds from this Bar-B-Que help fund the many programs and charities sponsored by the Columbia Lions Club.



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The close of a school year provides an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of students, and to refocus and prepare for a new beginning. Our eighth-grade students are off to high school and our high school graduates are launched into an exciting new world. What a wonderful time for staff, families, and students!

Each year we welcome each student, and strive to recognize his or her interests, strengths and challenges. Our goal is to provide learners a strong educational experience so that they grow into well-educated, socially competent, young adults who develop a strong voice, a love of learning, and who positively contribute to our world. We value that students, as we all do, take their own paths toward becoming their future selves. Our students are musicians, poets, writers, scientists, dancers, educators, athletes, artists, activists, and scholars.

Many of our students have been recognized over the course of this year for their accomplishments: Porter Middle School Girls Track and Field are State Champions; Porter music ensembles are Gold Medal winners; and students were recognized for their scholarship, leadership, and community service by Porter School, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, and Connecticut Association of Schools.

We are thankful for Porter educators who are actively engaged in continuously improving their practice to keep pace with a rapidly changing world. It is truly magical to watch dedicated and skilled educators create the conditions for all students to be successful in the classroom. We would like to recognize Kim Dingle as our Teacher of the Year and Robert Lazzari as our Paraprofessional of the Year.

We thank those staff who have retired this year for their service and wish them well. Please join us in recognizing Mike Hetherington and Theresa Cooper as they transition to new adventures! In addition, we congratulate Jennifer Hill, Assistant Principal/Director of Teaching and Learning, on her appointment as Principal of Windermere School in Ellington, CT.

We are fortunate to welcome Karen Caputo, previously our School Social Worker, as our Assistant Principal! Karen will lead our efforts to implement a positive behavioral framework to improve school climate at Porter School. We will focus on explicitly teaching school and classroom expectations, and support staff with positive strategies and age appropriate behavioral interventions. In addition, we welcome Dr. Kate Cunningham who will support school-wide efforts focusing on our curriculum and instruction.

We look forward to welcoming students, families, and staff back to Porter School for the 2019-2020 school year!

Maria Geryk
Superintendent



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Columbia Lake Association Lake Trivia #2

Columbia Lake is a wonderful asset for our community. Let's have some fun and increase the awareness of our lake through trivia questions. Answers can be found below.

1. How big is the lake in terms of acres?
2. How deep is the lake?
3. What is the average depth of the lake?
4. What is the length of the dam?
5. What is the height of dam?
6. What is the size of dam gate used to lower water level?
7. Can one fish on the lake?
8. If it rains one inch how much does the lake level rise?
9. How is the lake fed?
10. Can anyone use the lake?
11. Can anyone use the town public beach?

The Columbia Lake Association (CLA) designed these trivia questions. The CLA serves to promote and protect Columbia Lake as a natural and recreational resource. We hope the questions help you become more knowledgeable about Columbia Lake. Membership in the association is open to all town residents. Information can be found by contacting our Secretary, Sharon Ladd at columbialakeassociation@gmail.com. Come S.A.I.L. with the CLA ~ Socialize, Advocate, Influence and Learn!

Answers:

1. 281 Acres give or take. Some sources as the engineering firm that designed the dam repairs say 290.
2. The deepest point is 27 feet.
3. 8-12 Feet
4. 295 feet
5. 28 feet
6. 24 inches
7. Residents may fish on the lake with a valid fishing license issued by the State of Connecticut DEEP.
8. When the ground is somewhat saturated the level will rise 4 inches for every inch of rain. If the ground is dry, more will be absorbed so the level will rise less than 4 inches.
9. By rain, surface run-off and two tributaries
10. Town Residents can use the lake. Power boats must have a valid State of Connecticut registration.
11. Residents and out of towners may use the beach. There are fees associated with the use. Contact the Town Recreation Department.

Names you know.
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The Fourth Annual Columbia Classic Car Show

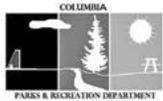
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Near South – in plain sight?

Celebrating 300+ Years of the Columbia Congregational Church by Andrea Stannard asks about Lebanon Crank's first meeting-house. Where was it and what did it look like?

Peter Benes in *Meetinghouses of Early New England* (2012) reveals Connecticut's early 1700s meeting-houses were primitive, defensive, square, hip-roofed, two or more story structures with few windows, massive doors, and had a central look-out turret or cupola. In Lebanon Crank where frontier defense was not a concern, features were adapted to the practical needs of the parish. For example, the size (40 – 50 feet square) needed to be sufficiently large for the growing number of families using it on Sabbath and for administrative secular use as a town hall. First meeting-houses were usually privately owned and maintained by proprietors or benefactors. Puritan town centers were located on a hilltop, at the convergence of roads connecting nearby towns. The common was reserved for livestock grazing, an animal pound, a graveyard, schools, assembly of militias, and most importantly, a meeting-house.

The first three ministers, Reverends Smith (1720), Gager (1725), and Wheelock (1735) occupied lands of the 100-acre reserved parcel called the Minister's Farm. Their family farms were located mostly east of the Hartford Road, today's Route 87. This area now includes the Town Hall, Library, Horace W. Porter School and eastward. In 1725 Church records reveal a vote to move the meeting to the house of Benony Clark, son of Proprietor William Clarke; and then later to pay John Mory 12 shillings for sweeping the meeting-house. It was "seated" by 1733. Some 1740s deeds refer to local roads to Meeting House Green as directional boundaries and a reference to the village center.

Eleazar Wheelock's pastorate required a larger meeting-house by 1747. From Colonial Records of Connecticut, May 1748, page 381: "Upon the report of Joseph Strong, John Phelps and Zephaniah Swift, a committee appointed to affix a place for a meeting-house for the second society in Lebanon, who have reported that they have fixed a stake at a certain place on a small knoll about ten rods near south from their old meeting-house, which they have set for a place for said society to build a meeting-house, the sills of the said house to compass the said stake: Resolved

by this Assembly, that the said place be the place whereon to build the said meeting-house." This statement specified two important locations.

Where was the first, old meeting-house in relation to the stake affixed to a small knoll on the common? If you were standing at the stake on the small knoll near today's residence at 320 Route 87, where we suspect the 1748 sky-blue meeting-house was raised; and you were facing east (towards the Wheelock House); then south was to your right. Ten rods **near south from the old meeting-house** means the old meeting-house was on the south side of this brand new reference point, this stake on the knoll which represented the site of the future 1748 meeting-house!

Another example, the name "Near South Chicago" helps clarify. Near South [from] Chicago is the community also called Chicago's South Side, directionally south from the center of Chicago, the city's center reference point. Similarly, near south from the old meeting-house, is directionally about 10 rods south of a new stake for the new meeting-house, the new 1748 center reference point on the common.

So, exactly where is Lebanon Crank's first meeting house if it was about 10 rods or 165 feet south from the 1748 stake (somewhere in front of today's residence at 320 Route 87)? My best estimation is that Lebanon Crank's early meeting-house framing (c. 1724) is likely embedded in the nearby symmetrical square hip-roofed structure, part of the Landmark Building at 326 Route 87, formerly the old Lebanon Crank Inn in the 1750s.

According to essayist John S. Yeomans in the **150th Anniversary of the Organization of the Congregational Church in Columbia, Conn.**, (October 24, 1866) on "October 5th, 1749, [the congregation] voted to improve the old Meeting House towards finishing the new one, either by sale or any other way. In 1750, the parish voted to allow Samuel Woodward and his brethren liberty to build them a Sabbath day house, somewhere near the old Meeting House..." This old meeting-house was sold, remodeled, re-used and recycled, improved, and converted to an inn, the Old Lebanon Crank Inn in the 1750s. It served as a stagecoach stop along the Hartford – Norwich Road. And we know its venerable history after that.

Ingrid Wood
Town Historian

More Reflections on Constitution Oak

In response to my Spring 2019 article Columbia's Constitution Oak (ca. 1901 - 1997) the Dubay family of Columbia graciously shared their history, photographs, and memories. Former Columbia resident nationally acclaimed master wood-turner and educator Kenneth Dubay created an extraordinary, over-sized wooden bowl from the trunk of Columbia's 96-year-old Constitution Oak after it was felled for public safety reasons in 1997. This magnificent natural-edge bowl is one of approximately 3,000 signed works of art and nature Kenneth Dubay created in his studio, Over Hill Turnings on Strickland Road, Columbia. It was spotted at a Town of Bolton art show by State Representative Pamela Sawyer



Photographs courtesy K. Dubay and I. Wood.

of Connecticut's 55th District in 1998, who thought it should be prominently displayed in Connecticut's State House. Today this bowl is now on

display in the office of State Representative Ann Dubay Dauphinais of Connecticut's 44th District. A smaller bowl can be seen at Columbia's Saxton B. Little Library. They are loving tributes to former artist-teacher Ken Dubay, his generosity, artistry and skill, and to Columbia's grand Constitution Oak.

Ingrid Wood
Town Historian

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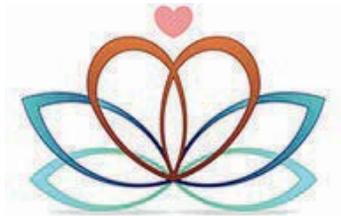
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- **Community Building** - Enhanced connection of your residents to your local community, engaged partnership to improve your community, and enhanced resident awareness.
- **Health and Wellness** - Optimal health and wellness for all residents.

Survey for Farmers Market and Bike Trails

In this issue of the Columbia Views the Columbia Sustainable Team is asking for input from the public on a Columbia Farmers Market and Bike Trails (mountain & road). The survey will also be sent via e-blast to residents that have signed up for notifications and on the Town's website, www.columbiact.org and [Facebook](#) page.

TREX SPONSORED PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING CHALLENGE

Columbia currently has a 6-month town-wide challenge underway from May to November 2019.

Columbia Sustainability Team and the Town of Columbia are challenging Columbia residents to RECYCLE your plastic bags. Residents can bring their clean, dry, empty plastic bags and film packaging to the recycling bins strategically placed around Town (Town Hall, Transfer Station, Saxton B. Library, Senior Center). If we collect enough plastic, we will be eligible for a trex park bench made from the recycled plastic.

Let's Get Recycling Columbia!!!!

Farmer's market survey

This message is being sent to you by the Columbia Sustainable Team. We are writing to you to inquire as to whether you would be interested in a farmer's market and if you would like to be involved in the Farmers Market. The first market would be-



gin this fall in September. Next year we would like to run it the second Saturday in the months of June, July, September and October. We are only in the preliminary phase of the formation of a farmer's market and we are reaching out to the community to see if there is interest.

The location would be at the Columbia Town Hall, both inside Yeomans Hall and out in the parking area. We would close-off traffic coming into the Town Hall that day. Only vendors would be all allowed in until one hour before opening. Parking would be at Porter School. We would rent out spaces with very competitive prices. We



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plan on having a diverse group of agricultural products available to the public. Our local farmers would have preference. We would offer spaces to them first, then open it up to other farmers from the area. We are also considering having food trucks.

Please take moment to take a quick survey to let us know how you feel. We would like your feedback either way. Please follow this link to the survey or click on the barcode to the right.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XZ2TCZJ>

Thanks in advance for your input.

Bike trail survey

This message is being sent to you by the Columbia Sustainable Team. We are writing to you to inquire as to whether you would be interested in Mountain biking or road biking trails, and if you would like to in be involved in the creation of such trails. We would also like to mark the trails with location and distance markers. Possibly create maps and signage. Maybe even develop parking areas. We are only in the planning stage of this initiative and are just reaching out to the community to see if there is interest.

We have created a map of walking trails that already exist in Town and would probably start in those areas to develop adjacent trails for the purpose of biking only. We are also considering creating more rigorous trails up near the Wells Woods area for more advanced riders.

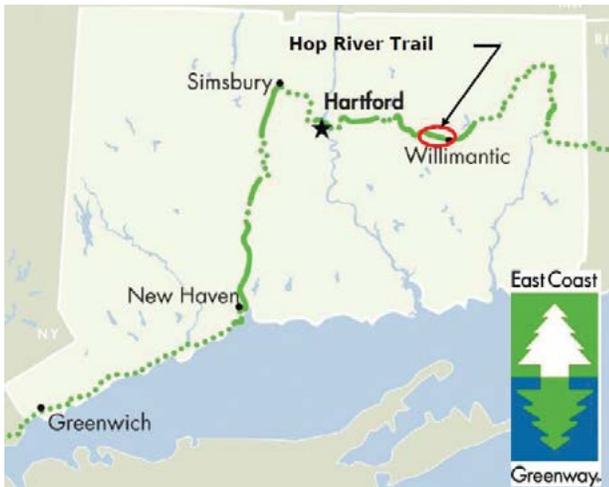


Please take a moment to take a quick survey to let us know how you feel. We would like your feedback either way. Please follow the link below or click on the barcode to the right to take the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3K58W3V>

Thanks in advance for your input.

The 3,000-mile East Coast Greenway (ECG) runs from Key West Florida to Calais, Maine and serves 15 states and D.C; 450 communities and 25 million people. In CT we have 200 miles of the ECG and currently 48% of the trail is finished. Residents of Columbia, bikers, walkers and trail enthusiasts will be delighted to know that the segment of the Hop River State Park Trail has been slated for improvements connecting the gap to the completed trail sections.



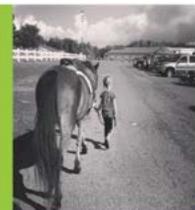
The estimated construction cost is approximately \$4.0 million and is 100% State funded. The anticipated start will be the spring of 2021 with an anticipated completion by the summer of 2022.

The maps and other material are available for viewing in the Town Administrators office at the Town Hall. The PowerPoint presentation from the June 25th public informational meeting is available on the Town of Columbia's website and hard copies are available in the Town Administrators office.

Jennifer C. LaVoie
Executive Administrative Assistant

The proposed work will include safety and operational elements which include; fencing, wayfinding and operational signage, gates and bollards (access control), and new crosswalk and signage. The existing bridge over the Hop River is recommended for a full replacement with prefabricated steel truss supported on reinforced abutments and the proposed recommendation for the cattle crossing structure is to replace the structure with pipes. The existing culvert at Flanders Road is recommended for replacement with a new wider and taller culvert to accommodate trail use and maintenance equipment.



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Columbia Student-Athletes Lead E.O. Smith Girls Basketball, Softball Successes

Four daughters from two Columbia families - the Golembiewski's and Verboven's - contributed to E.O. Smith Girls Softball and Basketball successes for the past four years and counting..

This year seniors, Hailey Golembiewski and Taylor Verboven led their teams to outstanding seasons. Hailey, a four year Varsity pitcher for the Panthers took her team to a 19-4 record and an Elite Eight round in the CIAC Class LL State tournament. Hailey earned All State honors in her Senior and Junior seasons. She will continue her education at Western Connecticut and pitch for the Colonials.

In her primary sport, basketball, Taylor Verboven led the Panthers Girls Team to a stellar 22-4 season that included winning the Central Connecticut Conference Championship and attaining the Sweet Sixteen of the CIAC Class LL State tournament. Taylor was the team's statistical leader averaging 16 points per game, 7 rebounds and 3 assists per game. She earned All Conference and All State accolades for her accomplishments. Taylor's college choice is Hartwick where she'll play basketball for the Hawks. Taylor also contributed to E.O. Smith's softball successes as an All Conference shortstop.

Not to be outdone younger sisters, Taylor Golembiewski and Olivia Verboven return to E. O. Smith for their Ju-



Hailey Golembiewski pitching.



Taylor Verboven and Taylor Golembiewski at the All Conference Basketball tourney.

nior and Sophomore years. Taylor a talented basketball player earned All Conference status last year as a sophomore as the team's second leader scorer and rebounder at 14 points and 6 rebounds per game. Olivia, a field hockey and basketball player made Varsity status on both teams as a freshman as an energetic, hustling contributor in both sports.

These young ladies give back to Columbia by supporting our next generation of rising student-athletes. They are youth instructors, umpires, camp counselors and/or cheer on Columbia teams whenever they can. An example of their support was hosting the Porter Girls Basketball and Columbia travel teams who participated

in 'Columbia Junior Panthers Night' at an E.O. Smith Girls Basketball game in January. Continued success and best wishes to these four student-athletes!

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TRIBUTE TO OUR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND, CINDEE HODGE

Much of our lives are spent with the people we work with, not only sharing the everyday workday tasks side-by-side, but also our lives outside of work – our families, our kids, our pets and our interests. As colleagues who have worked together for a long time, or for those that have only known Cindee for a short time we were incredibly fortunate enough to have known her.

Cindee began her career as an Administrative Assistant in the Building and Land Use Department almost 20 years ago. In her interview, Robin Kenefick (Town Clerk) fondly remembered that one of the tests Cindee had to pass was deciphering the Inland/Wetlands Agent, John Valente's handwritten notes. She passed with flying colors! John hired Cindee in the winter of 2000 and remembered her directness and confidence in the interview. Those traits served Cindee well in her position in a multi-faceted office. John remarked he was happy to be included in Cindee's life not only as a co-worker, but as a friend and was highly honored to act as a role model for her son Daniel.

Cindee's priority was always to the residents of Columbia. She shared her extensive knowledge, carefully guiding residents through the various daunting and sometime confusing processes of building and land use applications and permitting. People trusted her and searched out her advice on their projects. She was passionate about her work, arriving early because it was important to her to have everything in order for the contractors when they arrived in the morning.

Cindee cared about everybody - and it showed. Terri Lasota, Building and Land Use Secretary said, "It was amazing to see her interact with a resident and watch relationships grow and bloom." Terri added, "She had so many friends, more than she realized."

In addition to Cindee's dedication to her work, she always found time for her colleagues, friends and family, especially her son Daniel. She was extremely devoted to Daniel, always speaking of him with such love. Cindee loved animals, especially her dog "Miss Shellee." Cindee also kept, "Irving" the pet turtle in the office, occasionally letting him out to frolic in the Little Tikes Turtle Sand-



box or take a stroll around the office.

Cindee's generosity and big heart always showed through each holiday season when she would spearhead the annual collection of gifts for a needy family in Columbia. She would have reams of wrapping paper, ribbons and boxes ready for wrapping the gifts she would collect from the staff, excitedly gathering all the gifts and then delivering the packages to the family.

It was a privilege to have been a part of Cindee's life. Although much too short, Cindee's life was well lived. She was vivacious, kind, committed, of the highest integrity and had a strong work-ethic that she shared with all of us every day we walked into the Building and Land Use Department.

Cindee was a devoted and loving mother, sister, daughter, friend, and cherished colleague. She will be missed by many but will never be forgotten.

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Harvest Grove Farm

The Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission is pleased to meet two young farmers, Mike Nevelos and Deb Caswell, who are farming, and have a farm stand, on Route 66, at the corner of West Street and Hunt Road. Harvest Grove Farm also participates in both the Hebron and Andover Farmers' Market.

Mike is a chef in Middletown. "I've always loved to cook and work with food, so it was natural that I wanted to take it from beginning to end: from farm to table. So now I farm too." Deb is a full partner in the work of the farm, "I work every day right alongside Mike."

Together they grow not only tree fruit (apples, peaches, pears), but also strawberries, blue berries, and raspberries. Mike and Deb also have a large vegetable garden with tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, pumpkins, garlic, onions, eggplant, potatoes, squash, beets, greens, and flowers.

"We are always trying new things to see what people want," says Mike. Mike and Deb make and sell the most delicious cheeses! They also keep chickens to sell eggs.

Harvest Grove Farm uses minimal chemicals, and a drip-



line irrigation system that conserves water by efficiently delivering the water to the roots of the plants to minimize evaporation. "We try to use natural methods of pest control too. The flavor of the natural fruits and vegetables fresh from the orchard and garden is so much better than what you can get at the supermarket," says Deb.

You can visit the Harvest Grove website at harvestgrove-farm.com and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Having active farms in our Town benefits everyone. Farms provide fresh local food, contribute to Columbia's economy, and secure our rural and scenic character. Stop by Harvest Grove Farm and see and taste for yourself!



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To earn the rank of Eagle Scout is a tremendous achievement. In the *Boy Scouts of America Guide to Advancement* they reflect upon what it truly means to be an Eagle Scout, “It is not just an award; it is a state of being. Those who earned it as youth continue to earn it every day as adults. That is why an Eagle Scout IS an Eagle Scout—not was.”

Paul Abousamra exemplifies this in every way. When I asked Paul what it means to be an Eagle Scout, he didn’t hesitate; “It means a developed leader that resembles the Scouts law oath and slogan and to live every day by those values and principals. An Eagle Scout works well with others in a team and incorporates everything they do with a positive attitude.” He explained, “That’s what I’ve tried to do in my Scouting career from Cub Scout to Eagle Scout.”

Paul earned his Eagle Scout rank by meeting the requirements of “active participation, Scout spirit, merit badges, position of responsibility, service project, and unit leader conference.” Paul’s service project was to design and build a flag receptacle box for residents to dispose of their flags that are deemed unusable. According to United States Code, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 8, “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

The process took a little over 2 years. Paul first reached



out to State Representative Tim Ackert (R-8), the First Selectman and the Town Administrator about building and designing a more permanent collection box in Columbia. Paul felt that designing and building a well-constructed flag box was a way to show respect for the flag. Collectively, they felt the best place to put the box would be at the Beckish Senior Center. Once a site was determined Paul submitted his proposal and received approval by the Boy Scout Council, Unit Leaders, and Ms. Derring, Senior Center Director. His proposal included fundraising, obtaining permits, and estimating the cost of the project. Paul stated that this process teaches the scout time management, how to finance a project, and about completing a goal.

Paul was quick to add that he had a lot of help along the way, from his Scouting friends, Scout leaders and especially Mike Foss, a local carpenter who helped Paul with the woodworking of the box.

Paul’s future holds great promise. He’s off to Coast Guard boot camp in September. After boot camp he plans on taking some college courses and attending the Maritime Academy either in Maine or New York and would eventually like to be a New York City firefighter. We wish him the best and there is no doubt that Paul will exemplify in every way the essence of what it means to be an Eagle Scout.



COLUMBIA CELEBRATES DARTMOUTH'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

I have lived in Columbia most of my life and was taught, while a young student at H.W. Porter School, that Dartmouth College started in Columbia. The story at that time was that the town residents did not want Columbia to be a college town and were happy when Eleazar Wheelock took his plans to a different location. Reverend Eleazar Wheelock was one of New England's most famous pastors and was a pastor of "Lebanon Crank" (Columbia) for 35 years between 1735-1770. It is said that Mr. Wheelock "could melt his audience to tears with his full, harmonious and commanding voice". In order to augment his meager Minister salary, he started a school where he was teaching young English boys. Because he also wanted to convert the local Native Americans, he opened his school to a bright young Mohegan boy, Samson Occom. Mr. Occom was motivated to work with the Reverend Wheelock and successfully completed four years of learning while preparing to further his education at Yale. I have always been taught that Eleazar Wheelock was the founder of Dartmouth but have learned new information during the 250th celebration symposium that took place on 4/27/2019 in Columbia. I have also questioned why Dartmouth did not stay in Columbia and I now have a better idea why my town was not chosen.

Wheelock had recognized Samson Occom as a bright, persuasive man who was also very religious. Mr. Wheelock told Mr. Occom that he wanted to start a school for Native Americans in Columbia and asked him to travel to England with Reverend Nathaniel Whitaker of Norwich to acquire funding for this purpose. The Earl of

Dartmouth was so impressed with Mr. Occom, that he not only gave generously, but also secured a contribution of 200 pounds from King George. A fund of over ten thousand pounds was collected from both countries. Mr. Occom's excellent English and unassuming manner won friends for him and his cause wherever he went. This trip to England took about 2 years and Wheelock was supposed to take care of Occom's family during this time.

Upon Occom's return, he learned that his family was not cared for by Wheelock. He also was told that the money that he collected was not to be used to teach the Native American students and that the school would be built in Hanover, New Hampshire. Occom felt betrayed by Wheelock. I suspect that Mr. Wheelock did not feel a need to honor the promise that he made to a "Native American" man and only wanted to have the money that was raised.

I feel that it is important to know the actual history of Lebanon Crank. The Moor's Indian Charity School, where the Native American students were taught, still exists in Columbia. I would like to ensure that the residents of Columbia know that these students were taught in Columbia and some lived in the neighbor homes while attending school. We should know how Samson Occom was taken advantage of. If his goal was achieved, Dartmouth would have been built in Columbia and more Native American students would have attended. It goes to show how Power and Money motivated people in the 1700's as well as today.

Judy Ortiz



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