

*Columbia*

# VIEWS

*Volume 2 • Issue 2*  
*Spring 2018*



*Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT*



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It's springtime! Well, by the calendar anyway. The month of March has brought us four winter storms and only the thought of spring. Hang in there, I'm told it will be here.

The winter season has been busy, not only the late storms, but the dreaded budget season is in full stride. In my first year at the helm, I am grateful to the people I work with everyday here in our town, who have given me the information and tools I've needed to be part of the budget solution and not a hindrance. I am confident that we will bring to the town the very best budget we can, one of stability and growth, which is a delicate balancing act for sure. With numerous interests for different groups in town it will be a job of prioritizing to meet the needs of our town for tomorrow and beyond.

Looking ahead, the warm weather will bring the shouts of "Play Ball" from T-Ball to the Majors, whether it's wiffle-ball, softball or baseball. Numerous trails are cut through the town for the novice to experienced hiker to enjoy and don't forget to get your beach passes. The work at the town beach over the winter will provide more



usable, level beach and is now handicap accessible. In addition, the lake is filling in right on time for boaters and kayakers alike.

We live in a wonderful town, a small community of caring people. A town that works hard for what we have and are proud of it. A town where neighbors will look after each other because it is the right thing to do. But the truth is that we live in a very volatile time. The economics of our State will test us to

make the best decisions for our future, at the risk of angering a few for the needs of the many. It is with your input and the dedicated service of all the elected officials that we will endure.

I ask you to enjoy Columbia. Get involved by volunteering for youth activities, trail and open space maintenance, emergency/medical response, or by just helping a neighbor who won't ask for help but could surely use it. We are truly a blessed community and I am thankful to serve.

Steven M. Everett  
First Selectman



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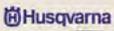


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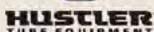


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COVER PHOTO: PAUL RAMSEY

## 2018-19 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

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**3rd Q/18**

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 7/6/2018  
Mailed Week of 8/6/2018

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 8/3/2018  
Mailed Week of 8/27/2018

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**4th Q/18**

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 9/28/2018  
Mailed Week of 10/22/2018

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 11/2/2018  
Mailed Week of 11/26/2018

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**1st Q/19**

**COLUMBIA:** Ad Deadline 1/4/2019  
Mailed Week of 2/4/2019

**HEBRON:** Ad Deadline 2/8/2019  
Mailed Week of 3/4/2019

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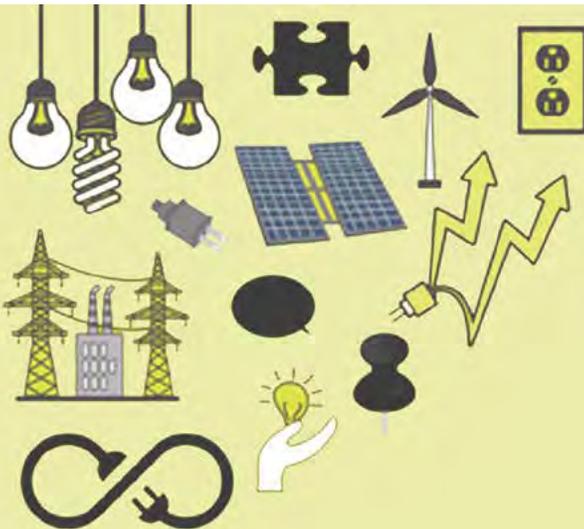
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Towns and cities in Connecticut stand at a crossroad. Back in mid-November 2016, the state legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis placed the state budget deficit of \$1.5 billion in 2017-2018, more than \$1.6 billion in 2018-19 and forecasted to be \$2.5 to \$3.0 billion by 2022. The state fiscal challenges are not new, or the state's strategies for coping with deficits. Looking ahead, all local governments in the state will have to depend on a greater percentage of local source revenue to balance budgets, as the state is unlikely to provide substantial additional aid to localities. It will be essential that the town continue to create forward-looking policies and budgetary planning to manage our reserves.



This great recession has hit Connecticut harder than almost any other state with no economic growth in thirteen years. This makes planning much more difficult. As mentioned in our audit and in the news, the state and nation are in the midst of economic uncertainty that has already affected the amount of intergovernmental revenues that the town receives. These cuts to our revenues are the cause of any mill rate increases in the 18/19 budget.

So how does Connecticut solve these challenges with our small geographic size and extreme economic interdependence? As local leaders we know that we must set aside party affiliations by working together for the greater good.

We must end the migration out of our state with a common vision for Connecticut, not a battle where some communities win, and others lose at the expense of our neighboring towns.

After lawmakers took 123 extra days last year to come up with a state budget, they tasked a 14-member commission with the "Mission Impossible" assignment of navigating Connecticut out of the hole.

But the 14 members of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth have already done something the General Assembly failed to – They met a deadline. The group, who are mostly business leaders, produced a thoughtful, balanced, provocative 119-page report in 76 days. CCM, our town's advocacy group that represents 168 towns, has voted to endorse the report. Even though we do not all agree with all the suggested solutions, we do agree that big changes are needed.

"The platform is burning. The platform is on fire," said Co-chair Jim Smith, former CEO of Webster Bank. "We were able to take a holistic set of recommendations, which taken as a whole will change the course of Connecticut's future."

Cindi Bigelow, a commission member and CEO of Bigelow Tea in Fairfield, said factions need to come together as a model for the rest of the divided United States. "If we do not work together," Bigelow said, "our little, beautiful state is in serious, serious trouble."

The town's employees, boards and commissions, civic groups and elected officials must continue to work together to keep Columbia a very special place considering these continuing external challenges. Together, we can continue to improve the quality of life in Columbia.

Mark Walter  
*Town Administrator*

## FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT JENNIFER LAVOIE



Hi everyone and Happy Spring!!! With spring comes the time to renew Transfer Station stickers and Beach Passes. Both will be available for purchase May 1st. A town-wide mailer will be sent out

to all households with detailed information, including cost. For information on beach passes, please contact the Director of Parks and Recreation, Marc Volza at 860-228-8513. For questions regarding transfer station stickers, please feel free to call me at 860-228-0110 or email me at [jlavoie@columbiact.org](mailto:jlavoie@columbiact.org).

## FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The **Renter's Relief program** will begin on April 1, 2018 and will run through October 1, 2018. You will need proof of rents and utilities paid in the 2017 calendar year.

### Motor Vehicle Adjustments

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 ([www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org)) 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 June 1st. **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.

The Assessor's Office is open Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursdays 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. until Noon. Our telephone number is 228-9555.

## FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

Real Estate taxes on the October 1, 2016 Grand List that were due July 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018 that have not been paid by May 31, 2018 will have a continuing tax lien filed in the land records as required by law. **Any** tax not paid by June 30, 2018 will be listed by name and amount in the annual Town Report. This office uses the postmark for the payment date. 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 on the home page. The Q&A

page explains the service fees that are charged to online payments.

### Important payment information

Starting July 1, 2018 all tax payments will be mailed to Columbia's designated Post Office Box in Hartford, CT. This P.O. Box is managed by the Town's Bank, and payments will be processed by the Bank in July and January. The return envelopes that will be included with your tax bill will have the new P. O. Box number for your convenience. Other than the collection months of July and January mail can be sent to the Town Hall, Attn: Tax Collector, 323 Jonathan Trumbull Hwy Columbia, CT 06237. **After June 30, 2018 Post Office Box 25, Columbia will no longer be available.**

The tax office is open Monday through Wednesday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, Thursday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and closed on Friday. Special office hours during collection months of July and January are Monday through Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm and Friday 8:00am to 12:00 noon.

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NEW CLIENTS  
EXPIRES 5/31/18

**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, 2018 to avoid a penalty.** 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 the dog is newly spayed or neutered, include a copy of the veterinarian's certificate as well. **When renewing by mail, please include a self addressed stamped envelope with the proper postage.** If you are new to Town and have not registered your dog or you have a new dog that is at least six months old, stop by the Town Clerk's office to obtain your dog license. 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. For further information, contact the Town Clerk's office.

For information regarding rabies clinics, check the websites for the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association ([www.ctvet.org](http://www.ctvet.org)) and The Fox Memorial Clinic at the Connecticut Humane Society ([www.cthumane.org](http://www.cthumane.org)).

**Opening Day for Fishing was April 14, 2018. Effective March 9, 2018,** a Trout and Salmon Stamp is now required for anyone age 16 or older, *including everyone who is 65 or older*, who chooses to do one of the 2 following:

1. **FISH** in any one of the following areas:
  - a) Trout Management Areas
  - b) Wild Trout Management Areas
  - c) Trout Parks
  - d) Broodstock Salmon Areas
2. **HARVEST (keep)** trout or salmon anywhere in CT (except for places not stocked by the state).

The fee is \$5.00 for ages 18 and older and \$3.00 for ages 16-17. The stamp is good for the calendar year.

Please check the Angler's guide and the CT DEEP website ([www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)) for additional information.

Robin M. Kenefick  
Town Clerk

Gail C. McGrath  
Assistant Town Clerk

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# TOWN DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT		OFFICE HOURS	PHONE
<b>Administrative Office</b>		Mon-Thur 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-0110
First Selectman	Steven Everett	Fri 8 am-Noon	
Town Administrator	Mark Walter		
Executive Assistant	Jennifer LaVoie		
<b>Assessor's Office</b>		Mon-Wed 8 am -4 pm	860-228-9555
Assessor	Mary Lavallee	Thur 8 am -6 pm	
		Fri 8 am -Noon	
<b>Beckish Senior Center</b>		Mon-Fri 8-3	860-228-0759
Director	Bernadette Derring		
Social Services	Yolanda Irizarry		860-450-7400 x7418
<b>Building Department</b>		Mon-Wed 8-4	860-228-0440
Building Official	Jason Nowasad	Thur 8-6	
Zoning Enforcement	Connie Kisluk	Fri 8-Noon	
Town Planner	Paula Stahl		
Sanitarian	Glenn Bagdoian		
Inland Wetlands Agent	John Valente		
Administrative Assistant	Cindee Hodge		
Board Secretary	Terri Lasota		
Fire Marshal/Burning Official	Michael Lester		
<b>Animal Control</b>			
	Nancy Yale		860-337-1222
<b>Finance Department</b>		Mon-Thur 8 am - 4:30 pm	860-228-8423
Finance Director	Beverly Ciurylo		
<b>Fire Department</b>			
To report a fire			911
Non-emergency calls			860-228-9602
Fire Chief	Peter Starkel		
<b>Public Works Department</b>		Mon-Fri 6:30-3	860-228-4270
Director	George Murphy		860-234-2195
Facilities Manager	Bud Meyers		
<b>Recreation Department</b>		Mon-Wed 8-4 Th 8-7	860-228-8513
Director	Marc Volza	Fri CLOSED	
<b>Registrar of Voters</b>		Varies	860-228-0110
Republican	Kate Morrison		
Democrat	Karen Butzgy		
<b>Resident State Trooper</b>			
	Gregory DeCarli	Mon-Fri 6:30-3	860-228-9846
	Dispatch		860-465-5400
<b>Tax Collector's Office</b>		Mon-Wed 8-2	860-228-0230
Tax Collector	Carol W. Price	Thur 8-6 Fri CLOSED	
		<i>extended hours in January and July</i>	
<b>Town Clerk's Office</b>		Mon-Wed 8-4	860-228-3284
Town Clerk	Robin M. Kenefick	Thur 8-6 Fri 8-12	
<b>Transfer Station</b>		Wedn 8-4 Sat	860-428-1482
Attendant	Michael Stewart	Sat 8-4	

### Buy local and support your local farmers

Whenever Columbia folks are asked what they love about their town, the one thing that is always high on the list is how much they value our rural character. The forests, farm fields, horse pastures and stone walls we see as we drive our streets and roads define Columbia.

But we often forget that a farm is also a local business. Agriculture is a vital component of Columbia's business community that produces vegetables, fruits, wine, maple syrup, cheese, poultry, livestock, eggs, dairy, equine, silage corn and hay.



Studies have shown that local businesses, including agriculture, contribute to the local economy in a far more beneficial way than non-local businesses. As a local business, agricultural businesses reinvest in their community by hiring local workers and by buying local products and services. Conversely all non-local businesses buy more products and services outside the local economy removing money from the local economy.

The results of a recent survey of Columbia residents showed that 74% of the respondents believed that our rural character was very important to them. This mirrors the results of the 2001 survey that found 78% of Columbia residents felt the Town's character was very important, and 70% identified working farms as an important component of the Town's character. These surveys show that most residents consider Columbia's rural character a benefit and want to protect the rural, small-town setting found in Columbia today.

If we value our rural character, we need to be mindful that farms are businesses too and must sell their products so they can stay in business. Buy local and support your local farmers!

Paula Stahl, LLA, AICP  
Columbia Town Planner



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*Free electronics recycling at the Columbia Transfer Station*

We would like to remind residents that they may, **free of charge**, bring their **unwanted electronics** to the Columbia Transfer Station located at 89 Route 6. Hours are: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8am-4pm.

All electronic equipment is safely packaged by Take 2 and transported to their facility for responsible and secure recycling.

**Accepted materials include**, but are not limited to: Computers, Laptops, Printers, Fax Machines, Monitors, TVs, Cell Phones, Tablets, Video Games, game consoles, VCR/DVD Machines, Remotes, Keyboards, Computer Mice, Modems, Small Appliances, and Stereo Equipment. **Unaccepted materials** include: smoke detectors, paint, household hazardous waste.

**About Take 2 Inc.**

Take 2 Inc. is a Waterbury based electronics recycler. Take 2 is approved by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as a Covered Electronics Recycler in conjunction with Connecticut's Electronics Recycling Law, RCSA 22a-638-1.

**Take 2** secure electronics recycling

PLEASE PLACE ITEMS IN DESIGNATED BINS OR ON DESIGNATED PALLETES

**Residential Electronics Recycling**

**Accepted Electronics:**

- Computers
- Monitors
- Printers
- Televisions
- VCRs
- DVD Players
- Copiers
- Fax Machines
- Scanners
- Video Game Machines

- iPods/PDAs
- Modems
- Keyboards
- Computer Mice
- Stereo Equipment
- Telephones
- Cellphones
- Cameras
- Tablets & e-Books
- Microwaves
- Other small appliances

**Not Accepted:**

- NO Smoke Detectors
- NO Hazardous Materials (no lighter fluid, liquids, paint, etc.)

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Residents may also, free of charge, bring their unwanted electronics to Take 2 Inc.'s facility located at 567 South Leonard Street, Building One, Waterbury, CT. Hours are Monday through Friday from 7am-3:30pm and Saturdays from 8am-Noon. Additionally, residents may bring their electronics to any of Take 2's electronics recycling events. For a listing of upcoming events, go to: www.ewaste-recycle-ct.com. For your convenience at events and at Take 2's facility, Take 2 employees will unload electronics from your vehicle for you.

Thanks to the Columbia's Public Works Department, especially Brian Paul, for getting us ready for opening day of track season. Rain or snow! How is this for April 10th?

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## FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

Campfires are popular during the summer months and are an enjoyable way to continue outdoor activities into the evening.

Campfires are allowed providing that they are no larger than three (3) feet in any direction and the State of Connecticut D.E.E.P has not issued a "RED FLAG" warning. No permit is required, but basic fire safety practices should be followed at all times.

- Clear all light combustible debris, leaves, pine needles, and small branches.
- Use rocks, concrete, or a purchased fire pit to contain your fire.
- Burn only natural wood (firewood). Do not burn manufactured lumber or furniture, as these products are almost always treated with chemicals.
- Be prepared in case the fire happens to exceed the boundaries you have set. You should always have a pail of water and metal rake nearby.
- Keep pets and small children a safe distance from the fire, as it is dangerous for them to be exposed to smoke and sparks.

For a permit to burn brush, please contact the Columbia

Land Use Department at 860-228-0440.

Mike Lester  
Fire Marshal  
Town of Columbia

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Spring has sprung and trail clean-up on the hiking trails has begun! Powerful Nor'easters have caused many branches and trees to fall on Columbia's hiking trails.

Pictured here is Scott Dunnack, a Joshua's Trust volunteer, removing a large tree that fell across a trail on the Utley Hill Preserve in Columbia.

## BUILDING AND LAND USE

Spring is arriving quickly and many of you will be thinking about your spring projects. Please remember to call the Building and Land Use Department for information regarding permits. It is important to keep in mind that most projects require a permit, if you are unsure as to whether or not a permit is required for your project



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The general rule of thumb where permits are concerned is that "everything supported by the ground is considered a structure and will require some sort of permit or approval." Your project may be constructing a small building or having a small storage shed delivered; building a deck; installing new windows or doors; finishing a basement or a bonus room; a kitchen or bathroom remodel; or installing a **swimming pool** (of any size) – **ALL** require a permit or approval of some sort.

After the recent storms and with spring approaching you may want to do yard clean up. Please remember to call for a Burn Permit. Once contacted, the Open Burn Official will inspect what is proposed to be burned and approval results in an issuance of a Burn Permit.

If you decide to have your driveway paved, you are required to pull a permit if you are paving to the roads edge.

Wishing you all a happy and safe spring!!



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## Columbia making fitness fun!

As you grow older, an active lifestyle is more important than ever. Regular exercise can help boost energy, manage pain and illness as well as improving your independence. Senior exercise and fitness tips can even reverse some of the symptoms of aging. Exercise is not only good for your body it is also good for your mood, mind and memory. Therefore, the Beckish Senior Center promotes health and wellness by providing a vast variety of exercise programs.



We start the week off on Monday mornings at 9:30am with Zumba Gold classes for all levels with Patty Flubacher is a Silversneakers flex instructor and Friday Mornings at 9:00am with Lisa Weir. The hour-long classes involve dancing to a beat of Latin inspired as well as all other types of music while sneaking in both low and high intensity moves suitable for seniors.

On Monday afternoons at 1:30pm we provide an all levels Yoga class with Tina Catanzaro. Tina comes back to teach a Yoga Pilates Chair class at 9am. This class is for all levels, providing a gently way to exercise. This class will improve posture, give you a better balance, a stronger core, increased overall physical awareness and de-

creased stress.

Tuesday afternoons at 1:15pm and Fridays at 1:15 Patty Flubacher teaches an all levels Silversneakers Flex Class. This Silversneakers Flex Class will increase muscle strength, range of motion, and improve activities for daily living. You will have a chair for seated exercises and for standing support.

Wednesday mornings at 9am we have a Strength and Balance class with Tonia Viteritto. Tonia's class will help you to improve your balance in your daily ac-

tivities, improve your energy levels, mobility and overall strength.

The Beckish Senior Center offers an exercise room equipped with an elliptical, treadmill, yoga mats and blocks, hand weights of various sizes, yoga balls and other exercise items.

The Beckish Senior Center welcomes everyone to come and join in the fitness fun. The center is open 8am to 3pm Monday –Friday. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about what is happening at the center, please call 860-228-0759.

Bernadette Derring  
Director

## Seniors on the go

The Columbia Seniors Organization (Inc.) is gearing up for a very busy spring season. We hope that you are going to spend some of your time with us. We enjoy a great time socializing and having fun.

On May 19th we will be hosting our **Annual Tag Sale**. That Saturday we will be opened for business from 9am to 2pm at the Beckish Senior Center. We will be offering items such as crafts, toys, jewelry, household items, glassware, and linens (we will not be accepting magazines, large furniture, computers, and broken items). We will also have a Knick-Knack room, plant sale and yummy bake goods to purchase. Our kitchen will also be open for lunch and we will be serving hotdogs, sandwiches, chips and drinks. We are accepting donations for our sale until May 15th. If you have questions, please call the Beckish Center at 860-228-0759 or Sheran Smith at 860-228-9543.

Save the date!!! – On June 2nd we will celebrate a great

year with our **Spring Fling Dinner Dance**. This year our theme is “South of the Border.” We will feature Mexican inspired appetizers, a main meal catered by Audibert's Catering, and finish up with a selection of tasty desserts. Then we will dance to the delightful music of Bruce John and the Bandoleros. It is a great night to make new friends and visit with old (but “young”) ones.

In July we will have our **Bring Your Grandchildren to the Movies** event. There will be a movie that will be fun for both adults and children and the best part of the afternoon will be making your own sundae. The movie and the date are to be determined, so check with us.

We hope to see you for these events. These are just some of the activities that go on every month. We sponsor trips, movies, a quilting group, and many others. The Beckish Senior Center also has many exercise groups and additional activities. You can check on dates, times and the occasional cost by calling the Senior Center at 860-228-0759 or checking in the Beckish newsletter, The Gem.

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### Countryside Realty Ranks #1 in 2017!

Countryside Realty, of 30 Main Street in Hebron, ranks #1 for the 5th straight year in number of homes SOLD in total for Hebron, Lebanon, Columbia, and Andover!\*

Everyone at Countryside Realty credits their success to an emphasis on preparation, relentless focus on customer service and a deep understanding of the market. Countryside Realty would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to their clients for their loyalty, referrals and repeat business throughout the years.

\*According to The Greater Hartford Association of Realtors and the Connecticut MLS



### Columbia Lake – Through the Years



On May 20th, the Columbia Historical Society will open its first exhibit in its new home, The History Place (across Rt. 87 from the Library). On selected Sunday afternoons through October, the exhibit will be open to the public at no cost.

The exhibit will trace the history of the Columbia Lake Watershed from

its early use by Native Americans, to its industrial uses during the 18th and 19th centuries, and its recreational use since the early twentieth century. It also examines the more recent history of stewardship by the town and private groups, to ensure that it provides scenic and recreational resources for humans and important habitat for wildlife well into the future.

In addition to a “Fishing” experience for children within the exhibit, the Columbia Historical Society will also be sponsoring several walks in the watershed as well as boat trips on the Lake to provide a first-hand look at the sites that played an important role in the watershed’s history. Details about these outings, as well as the schedule of exhibit open hours may be found on the CHS website, [columbia-history.org](http://columbia-history.org).

### Norwich Technical honors students win third place in regional history competition

Norwich Technical High School Honors Students, Class of 2018, from left to right, Mary Grossi, Noelis Guzman, and Wendalis Landron proudly exhibit their third-place award medals in the regional history competition, as part of their National History Day project in Manchester, Connecticut on March 2, 2018. Their exhibit title was “Oppression or Aid: Moor’s Indian Charity School”. It included a poster and presentation on the origins and history of Wheelock’s curriculum as well as a small-scale replica of Moor’s Indian Charity School built by student carpenters. The overall theme of the national competition this year is “Conflict & Compromise in History”. The honors students contacted me in January and February to help them with this project. They, their teacher, and parents visited Moor’s Charity School and Columbia in mid-February to put the final touches on their project. Their next step is the state-level competition in April. I look forward to their continuing success.

National History Day is a non-profit organization that promotes research into historical topics. Its mission is to improve the teaching and learning of history in middle and high school by means of innovative, on-site, critical inquiry into primary source material. National History Day is endorsed by many history and cultural organizations, as well as the National Association of Secondary School Principals. This contest is the most publicly visible outcome.

Ingrid Wood  
Town Historian



# TOWN BEACH

Beach passes are sold at the Parks and Recreation office starting May 1st or can be purchased online. Day passes are the only passes that are sold at the Beach.



Season	Hours
June 18 <sup>th</sup> – August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mon-Fri: 10:30am-6:45pm Sat-Sun: 12pm-6:45pm
<u>Weekends Only</u> May 26 <sup>th</sup> - June 17 <sup>th</sup> August 18 <sup>th</sup> - September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12pm-6:45pm

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5-17	\$25	\$5	\$45
18-61	\$35	\$5	\$45
62+	\$15	\$5	\$45

## NON-RESIDENTS

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18-61	\$300
62+	\$150

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# SAXTON FREE LIBRARY

## Summer's coming soon!

You might have noticed our photo of Saxton Mouse in the last publication. Since then, Saxton Mouse has visited South Korea! No, really! We sent him via the Postal system to a friend, who has graciously hosted him, helped with his wardrobe changes and taken him to visit the sights. We are all jealous of his travels. Back here in Columbia, we settled for sampling Korean food when the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project came to the Library and offered patrons a multi-course feast. Our movies, writer's group, and multiple books groups are also going strong!

As I write this in March and you read this in May, the Library is preparing for our Summer Reading Program! Our Summer Reading Program is made possible through a grant from the SBM Charitable Foundation, to whom we are grateful. This year's theme is Library's Rock! From Geology to Rock 'n Roll the Library is planning events for all ages. With a kick-off, June 25th, be sure to check in for a schedule of events and sign up for summer fun such as



Left: A true feast was presented for Library program participants as they learned about Korean food and culture, from New York's Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project.

Below: Saxton Mouse wears a traditional Korean outfit as he prepares for his journey to South Korea.

rock painting, Grease sing-along, classical music concert, Hula-hoops, dance party, movies and more! We have something for everyone. The Library will once again also engage our "Read for Feed" program, so there is even something for our furry friends. Please come join us.



## May

# 18th, 19th & 20th

## Friends of Saxton B. Little Free Library

# SPRING BOOK SALE

**Chapel on the Green**    Route 87, Columbia CT  
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Preview Sale	Open and	Open and Free to all
Free to members	Open and	Special Discount Day
\$5 non members	Free to all	Everything is half price

Our next meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, MAY 9,  
at 9am in the Library.

Please join us on WEDNESDAY, MAY 16,  
from 6:30-8:00 for a Social in honor of  
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- Dispose of excess prescription drugs properly.

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the **SCRIPT**



This publication is funded in whole by grants from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the CT Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or HHS.

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*Horace W. Porter School news*

There is so much happening at Porter that we can't possibly list it all. Be sure to check out our website for more information! Here are a few highlights over the past few months.

Students Bryn Pedersen and Nicholas Haddad awarded the CT Assoc. of Public School Superintendents award.

Principal Alyssa Gwinnell and Assistant Principal Jennifer Hill showing St. Patrick's Day spirit!

Many students Caught Doing Good and having lunch with the Principal!

Panther's Players presents Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.!



Jaymeson Morrison, Mila Covino and Addie Kenney were the top 3 HWP Invention Convention presenters and wowed the judges at the Regionals so they will be heading off and competing at UConn—Good luck!

Please visit [www.hwporter.org](http://www.hwporter.org) for more and updated information!



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*Fifth annual Horace W. Porter 'Mini Mud Run' invites you*

On behalf of the Horace W. Porter School PTO, we would like to invite you all to the 5'th annual HWP 'Mini Mud Run', scheduled for June 3rd, 2018. The Mini Mud Run is truly a special day for the children, families, and community here in Columbia.

Children ages preschool through eighth grade participate in a 1.5-mile loop filled with over 20 obstacles ranging from rock wall climbs and tube crawls, to mud pits and a forest adventure. The course is assembled by parent volunteers while the Columbia Fire Department fill the mud pits. On race day, to keep everyone safe, the obstacles are attended by parent volunteers and local community groups including the Scouts, UCONN, HWP teachers, and our very own Fire Department. After completing the run, kids can wash off under the spray of a truck hose manned by members of the Columbia Fire Department.

In addition to the obstacle course, participants and spectators will be able to enjoy food trucks, a DJ, and lots of great photo moments. And new this year we will be offering a Bike Safety Course. With the help of local Police Officers, kids will learn knowledge of traffic as well as bike handling skills to effectively prevent accident situations.

For more details about the event, feel free to contact the Mini Mud Run Coordinator, Bryan Tarbell at tarbell.bryan@gmail.com or at (860-560-3477). We are also seeking

energetic volunteers to help make this a FUNTASTIC day! Also, if you are a local business and would like to help sponsor the event please contact us to find out more.



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### Girls Scouts at Junior First Lego League

On Saturday, March 17th, 6 Girl Scouts from Horace Porter participated in the Junior First Lego League Expo at the Connecticut Science Center. Third grade Brownies Amelie, Cailyn, Kate and Peyton, with fifth grade Junior's Abby and Lucy worked over the course of 6 weeks to research a local problem with water.

The team, named Girl Scouts of The Sea, enlisted the help of Mandy Smith, a Columbia resident who is the Supervising Sanitary Engineer from the Drinking Water Section of the CT. Department of Public Health, to help them learn about our water supply here in Columbia and the problems we face. She taught the girls about the recent drought conditions that had been affecting the area, and the girls came up with a design to filter rainwater to provide extra potable water for household needs.

The team designed and built a working model of a house out of the provided Lego set, and then coded and created a program on an iPad complete with sound effects to run the motor of the filter. It took a bit of engineering and troubleshooting, but they figured it out. They also created an informative display board for the judging panel.

On the day of the Expo, the girls packed up their model and board and headed off to the Science Center. Their project was evaluated by a group of local women and men in engineering, and they received the Inquiring Minds Award for their passion and research. They also



had the chance to watch the inspiring movie, Dream Big, and spent the afternoon designing marble roller coaster tracks with some actual women engineers. What an amazing opportunity!

All of this was made possible by a grant from the Petit Family Foundation and Pitney and Bowes. We would not have been able to have this experience without their generous support. The girls are looking forward to using our experience at this level to move up to the next level of competition for future seasons!

## CHURCHES

### Columbia Congregational Church

10AM Sunday Worship Service with Church School and Nursery.  
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#### May

Saturday, May 12th  
Community Breakfast/Parish Hall  
8AM-11AM

#### June

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD  
8:30AM – Breakfast for Confirmands, Mentors and Family Members

Saturday, June 9th  
Community Breakfast/Parish Hall  
8AM-11AM

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH  
10AM- Worship Service with Church School Children,  
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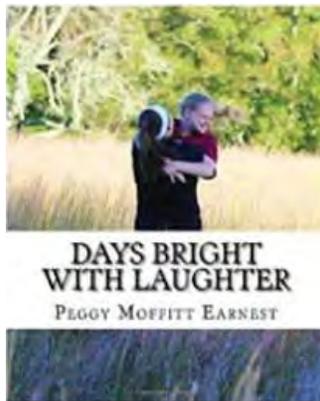
#### July

Saturday, July 14th  
Community Breakfast/Parish Hall  
8AM-11AM

*The high cost of finding your voice*

Have you ever heard the sweet sound of a child's first words? Can you recall how easily the words seemed to form and how quickly the words became phrases and the phrases became a non-stop monologue? For all kids, those words are priceless but for some, those words are also very expensive.

Children with significant speech and language difficulties do not develop spoken language as easily as children without delays. Some children struggle with understanding words while some struggle with being able to move their mouths in order to form them. As they grow, the inability to communicate simple wants and needs can become frustrating both for themselves and for their families. Many of these children require years of speech and language therapy to do what



comes quite naturally to most children. For some families, especially those whose insurance does not cover speech therapy, the costs associated with intensive therapy can be overwhelming.

This is the reason a Columbia-based Speech-Language Pathologist decided to put her talents together to publish a children's book entitled *Days Bright With Laughter*. *Days Bright With Laughter* is an inspiring read-aloud book which pairs the words of a poem with bright, beautiful candid photographs of some very special children. All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to establish a grant fund for local families who need assistance with speech and language therapy expenses. The book is available at amazon.com for \$15.00 per copy or you can contact Peggy Earnest, PhD, CCC-SLP at [peggyearnest@columbia-motorspeechtherapy.com](mailto:peggyearnest@columbia-motorspeechtherapy.com) to purchase a copy directly.

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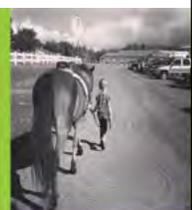
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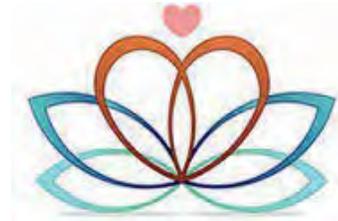
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## A sweet story, part 2

Submitted by Jack Sabine • continued from last issue

We built a new sugarhouse in the summer of 1988 and purchased a more efficient, professionally manufactured evaporator. To provide more sap for the new evaporator, we began using lengths of tubing to connect groups of sugar maples together. We collected the sap in five-gallon plastic buckets. This reduced the need to visit every tapped tree and made more trees accessible for tapping. The tubing also reduced the time and labor involved with the daily sap collection. We also procured a used stainless-steel milk tank to use as a sap storage tank. That season the new evaporator worked like a charm and we produced about twenty-three gallons of syrup! With a new finishing/filtering unit the quantity and quality of syrup was high enough to start selling our product. The demand was overwhelming and we quickly sold out what we made that season.

In the years between 1989 and 1996 our production increased mainly due to friendly neighbors who allowed us to tap their trees.

Other interests, demands of home, family, and work caused us to cease producing maple syrup after 1996. I can't say I was too sad. Anticipation of the maple season was always exciting and I couldn't wait for it to start each year. However, about two weeks into collecting sap, boiling, and canning our product, I couldn't wait for it to end!

Things sat idle until 2013 when Sabine's Sugarhouse came back to life. Retirement for my wife and I gave us the time this avocation really needs. 2013 was an outstanding year for maple syrup. Weather conditions were almost perfect and improvements to the collecting and handling of sap led to a record year for us. We produced about forty gallons.

The improvements I mentioned included the use of mainlines and larger collecting containers. The mainlines are 3/4-inch water pipe and larger collecting containers (20 and 30-gallon plastic barrels). The mainlines allow

more trees to be connected together and thus the need for the larger collecting containers. I use a small water pump to take the sap from the collecting barrels to a 250-gallon tank in my truck. The sap is then transported to the sugar house and my stainless-steel storage tank. Usually what is collected is boiled and turned into syrup the same day.

There have been vast improvements in efficiency of making syrup over the past two decades. Vacuum to improve the flow of sap, reverse osmosis to concentrate the sap, and fuel oil fired evaporators. We take a more traditional approach to making syrup. Only gravity to get the sap to the collecting containers, no reverse osmosis, and only wood to fire our evaporator. We are extremely proud of the product we produce and I would match our quality with any maple syrup producer on the planet.

A few years ago, we discovered a historical connection to the town of Columbia. The land we now own was part of



a larger farm called Riverside Farm. They were the largest producer of maple syrup in Connecticut during the first half of the twentieth century. Every spring a hardy fellow named Thomas Traynum would come to Columbia from Virginia to make maple syrup for the Johnson family farm. He would be amazed to see how the art of making maple syrup has changed.

We are looking forward to many more years of making maple syrup. We usually start tapping the trees in late February and end by April 1st. We are located at 72 Johnson Road in Columbia and we always have syrup for sale.



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### *John Little Homestead Site Archaeological Survey with State Archaeologist Dr. Brian Jones*

*continued from previous issue*

Preliminarily, we diggers did not find evidence of a “burn layer” near the house, so we can definitely say it did not burn down. We did find lots of charcoal, presumably for cooking, heating, and perhaps light metal work. But a clue may be in Columbia’s Selectmen’s Orders which discontinue an important east-west road in 1805 that once traversed the northern boundary of today’s Utley Hill Swamp. We speculate the John Little Homestead became less accessible after the construction of the Columbia Turnpike through the Great Pine Swamp in 1810. The new Columbia Turnpike Road, later known as the Middletown Turnpike, was heavily promoted by Columbia’s very First Selectman, Stephen Hosmer (1804 – 1805). It was the direct and much faster road from Columbia Center to Hebron Center. So the 1805 discontinued “The Over the Hill Road” as it was called, was the original colonial thoroughfare which formerly connected Lebanon Crank’s center with Hebron’s center. It was laid out around the



northern edge of the Great Pine Swamp, and the John Little Jr. Homestead was on it. In the meantime, while the analysis is underway, here are some photographs (below) of what we found and the activities of our summer “dig”.

Some of the artifacts may very well tell an interesting story of early to mid-1700s life in frontier Lebanon Crank. Many thanks to Dr. Brian Jones, State Archaeologist, Horace Porter School students and their families, teachers, and administrators, the Town of Columbia, Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Columbia Historical Society, Joshua’s Trust, and Connecticut Historical Society for your active and dedicated participation and interest in unearthing our early history!

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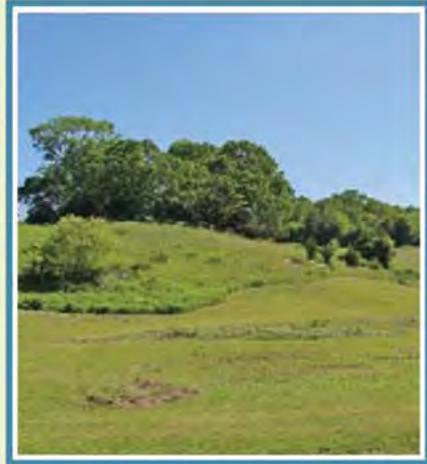
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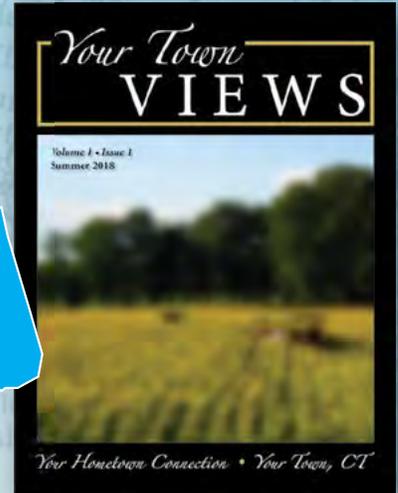
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