

# COLUMBIA



*Photograph by Ken Koper*

UPDATE JULY 2020



# TOWN OF COLUMBIA

## OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

On May 20, 2020, the Annual Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was approved with no mill rate increase. We recognized that many residents have had to make sacrifices as a result of the pandemic, and we approached this budget season with that in mind. We focused our efforts on providing a balanced and responsible budget while maintaining the quality of life for the citizens of Columbia. Please click [here](#) to view the budget documents.

The Board of Selectmen adopted certain ordinances expanding property tax exemptions and abatements for veterans. These include:

- Ordinance for Additional Exemption for Veterans.
- Ordinance for Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents and Spouses.
- Ordinance for Tax Exemption on Motor Vehicles Equipped for Disabled Veterans.
- Ordinance for Increased Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans.

To find out more information please click [here](#).

As we celebrate Independence Day this Fourth of July we ask that you celebrate without fireworks. As many of you know, we have an adult pair of American Bald Eagles (Bertha & Harry) nesting near Columbia Lake and they have successfully hatched two eaglets, that we are affectionately calling Chuck and Berry.

Chuck and Berry are still in a critical stage of their growth. As fledglings they will remain in the nest for four or five weeks, taking short flights while their primary feathers grow and strengthen. Bertha and Harry will still provide the eaglets with food, but the eaglets will start learning how to hunt for their own food in late July through October.



*Photo credit: Ken Koper at kenkiper.zenfolio.com*

Brian Hess, Wildlife Biologist with CT-DEEP explains that “Loud, prolonged, and unpredictable noises like fireworks can cause young to leave the nest before they are able to fly, often leading to the bird’s death. To avoid harm to nesting eagles from fireworks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published guidelines recommending measures including a half mile restrictive buffer. The ultimate intent of these guidelines is to limit harm to eagles.”

The Board of Selectman has authorized the distribution of a letter to residents around Columbia Lake by Hess. We have confirmed that sparklers and fountains that can be purchased legally may be enjoyed at any time. Any other forms of fireworks is illegal in Connecticut.

We wish you a safe and happy 4th of July and would like to thank you for your help in protecting our nesting eagles.

Please check out some more terrific photos of the eagles on the American Bald Eagle on Page 26.

The 4th of July Parade sponsored by The Columbia Lion’s Club and the Town of Columbia has been regretfully canceled; however, The Columbia Congregational Church Honkin’ Hello’s will be organizing a 4th of July Car Parade on the 4th from 10:00-12:00. The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Columbia Scouts, Baptist Church, The Main Moose, Columbia Lions Club, Columbia Republican Party and Columbia Ford will be joining the parade.

People are encouraged to get their flags, make signs and bring out the noisemakers to greet the parade as it goes by.

The route is posted below and organizers are encouraging you to find a spot on the route (Town Beach parking lot, Town Green) where you can safely maintain proper 6-ft distance and wear your mask.

Start at school, right on Rte. 66

Right on Rte. 87 to Whitney Rd.

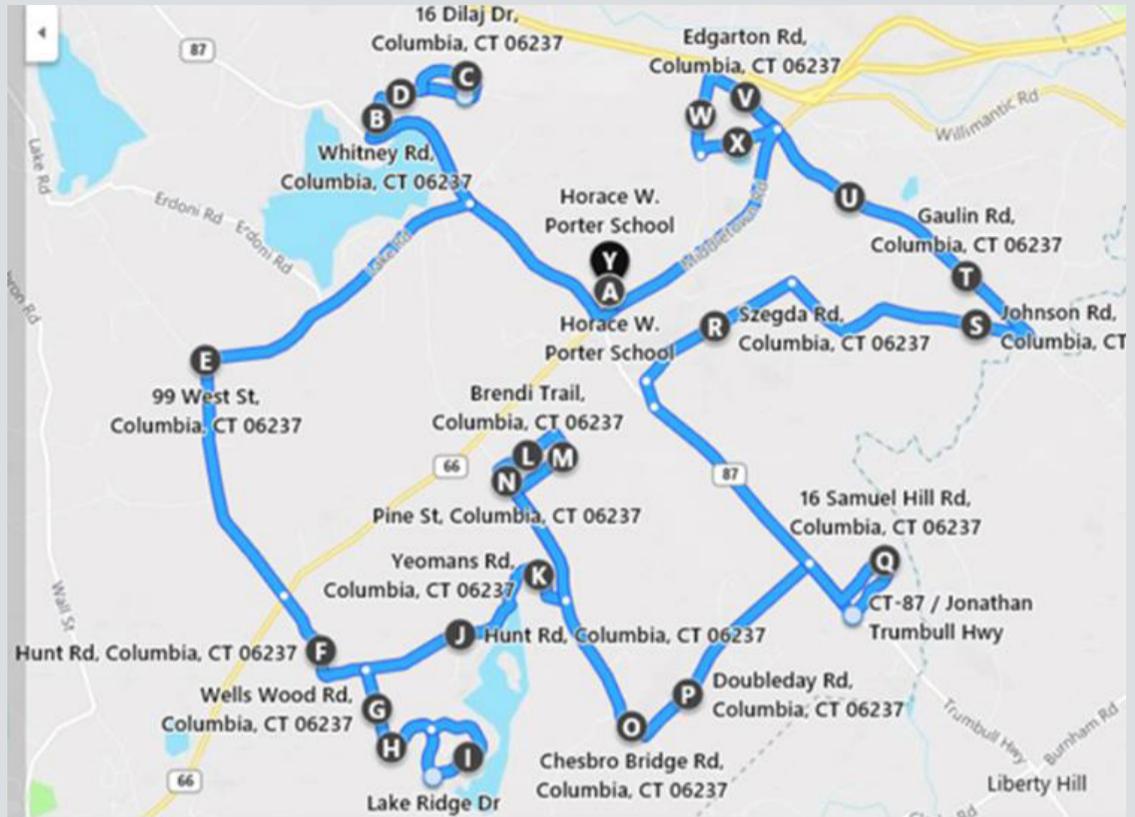
Right off Whitney on Heritage to Dilaj

Left on Whitney to Rte. 87

Left on Rte. 87 to Lake Rd.



Right on Lake Rd. to West St.  
 Left on West St., straight on Hunt Rd.  
 Right on Wellswood to Lake Ridge  
 Wildwood to Lake Ridge  
 Right on Hunt Rd. to Yeomans Rd.  
 Left on Hunt to Pine St.  
 Left on Pine St. to Russmar, Timber  
 Trail and Brenda Trail  
 Left on Pine St. to Chesboro Bridge  
 Left on Doubleday to Rte. 87  
 Right on Rte. 87 to Samuel Hill  
 Right on Rte. 87 to Szegda Rd.  
 Right on Johnson rd to Gaulin Rd.  
 Straight on Cherry Valley



Across to Edgarton Rd., left on Thompson Hill  
 Left on Macht Rd., right on Rte. 66 to school

**Columbia Lake Association (CLA) Boat Parade:** The CLA Board of Directors felt that with appropriate measures as noted below the annual Boat Parade can be safely held. The parade will be held on Saturday, July 4th at 4:00 PM.

The theme for this year's parade is "Unsung Heroes". In these trying times there are so many instances of individuals who have and are doing great deeds with little to no recognition. CLA's theme is an opportunity to recognize and thank our "Unsung Heroes". CLA looks forward to seeing the many innovative ways we can recognize these folks.



Per the Centers for Disease Control we advise that one and all participating in the boat parade continue to follow the guidelines of social distancing of two arms-length from others, wearing a face cover, covering cough and sneezes, washing hands before and after using your boat and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

Please see the submission from Ingrid Wood on the history of the 4th of July Boat Parade on page 27.

In other good news, the purchase of two parcels has been completed in the Wells Woods area that adds four-hundred acres to the Mono Pond State Park. The purchase of this important natural resource for the Town of Columbia was put together through funding with The Trust for Public Land and the State of Connecticut, the Towns of Columbia and Lebanon, personal donations and a generous donation from the Columbia Historical Society. See page 28 for more information.



The Town Hall will be open to the public by **Appointment Only**. Please see additional information on Phase 2 of reopening on the following pages. We encourage the public to visit the Town website at [www.columbiact.org](http://www.columbiact.org) for up to date information and I will also be providing weekly live updates on the Town of Columbia [YouTube](#) channel and on our [Facebook](#) page.

Thank you and please be safe.

Steven M. Everett, First Selectman  
severett@columbiact.org  
860-228-0110



# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

## ***JULY 2020***

The Town of Columbia is beginning to roll out eased restrictions under the new phase of reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. See below for updates:

**TRANSFER STATION** has resumed normal operations with the exception of the Swap Shop which will remain closed and hard cover and soft cover books will not be accepted. More information is listed on Pages 12 & 13.

**TOWN HALL** will continue to encourage residents to use on-line services. In-person appointments will be available on a department-by-department basis. For a staff directory to schedule an appointment please visit the [Town of Columbia's website](#) under "[Contact Us & Hours of Operation](#)"

Entrance to the building will be limited to Yeoman's Hall and exiting through Town Hall. Please respect our safety guidelines by wearing a mask when entering the building, use hand sanitizer at the entrance, and observe social distancing guidelines.

We have installed a lock box by Yeoman's Hall for payments, correspondence, permits, Transfer Station Applications, Dog License, etc. Tax Payments can be dropped off at the lock-box in front of Town Hall's front door.

**SENIOR CENTER:** The Senior Center will remain closed, but the Transportation Program will start back up with limited seating. Starting, Monday July 6th from 8am to 3pm we will begin providing transportation for our seniors and disabled persons. See Page 11 for more information.

**SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:** As of July 7th, the Library will continue to offer curbside service. Hours are changing to accommodate patron browsing times. Details can be found on the [Saxton B. Little website](#) and on Pages 21 & 22 of the Newsletter.

**COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION:** With Phase 2 of reopening, the playgrounds are once again open, we will begin renting the Rec. Park Pavilion with a max capacity of 100 people. The indoor bathrooms at the park are not open, due to this we have cut the rental fee and deposit in half.

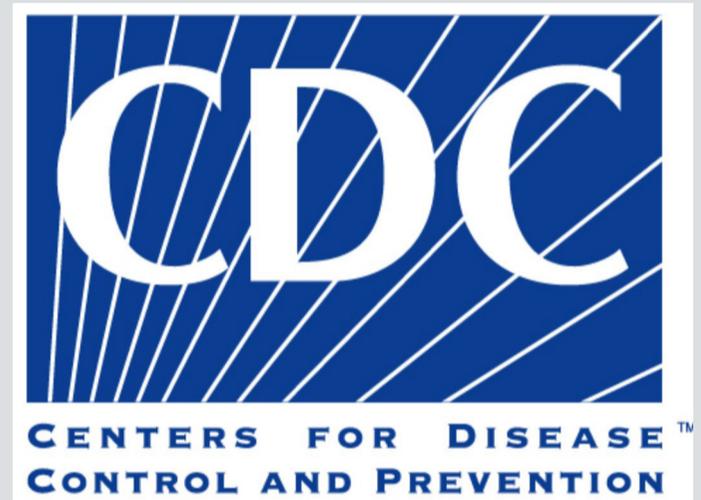
Beach passes can be purchased on-line on the Recreation Departments page. Beach passes are checked at the gate. The Beach capacity remains at 55 people until further notice. For updates on the number of people at the beach call (860) 428-1482. Kayak rentals have resumed at Columbia Lake (equipment will be sanitized after each use).

For more information on summer programs please go to Pages 17-20.

**THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA IS ACCEPTING ONLINE DONATIONS** through the [Recreation Departments Programs page](#). The donations are to assist those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations may be used for food supply, fuel assistance, protective equipment and other social services that will benefit those affected by COVID-19.

#### **IMPORTANT LINKS FOR ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19**

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



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

- [Statewide: FAQ regarding the State of CT's actions related to COVID-19 from Governor Lamont's office](#)
- [Governor Lamont's Executive Orders.](#)
- Stay informed about corona-virus (COVID-19): Connecticut residents are urged to continue taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For the latest information and guidance click [here](#).

**BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** Our boards and commissions continue to meet virtually. We encourage you to join via Zoom and to provide your comments and input. We want to hear from you!

This can be done several ways; through the dedicated email for public input at [PublicInput@columbiact.org](mailto:PublicInput@columbiact.org) and during the meetings utilizing the "Chat" feature in Zoom, or providing comment during the Audience of Citizens/Public Comment portion of the meeting.

**EVERBRIDGE NOTIFICATIONS:** We will from time to time issue an Everbridge Notification with a message from the First Selectman, Steven M. Everett to help keep you informed. If you would like to sign up for Everbridge Notifications please go to the Town's website and on the [Everbridge Notifications](#) tab.



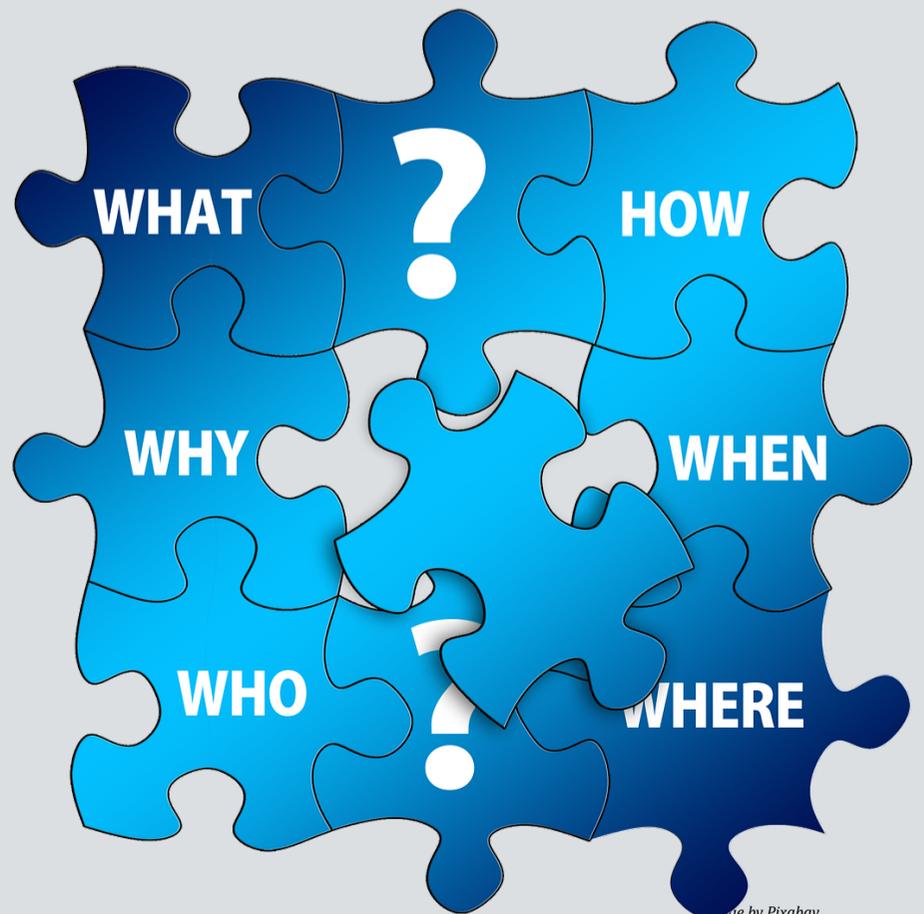
**EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS:** To receive Town news please go to the Town's website and click on the [Email Notifications](#) tab.

With Phase 2 reopening the health of our residents, staff, and families are our top priority.

Please follow the State guidelines for your safety and those in your community. If you need assistance please do not hesitate to call the Town Administrative Office or the First Selectman at 860-228-0110 or email us at [townadministrator@columbiact.org](mailto:townadministrator@columbiact.org).

Thank you,

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator  
323 Route 87  
Columbia, CT 06237  
860-228-0110  
[townadministrator@columbiact.org](mailto:townadministrator@columbiact.org)



Find us on 

# UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

**Due to the current COVID-19 Emergency, meetings will be held by utilizing remote access. Each board or committee will provide the information needed to join using an on-line conferencing platform. Please check the Town of Columbia's [website](#) for updates.**

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:

### **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY 8/11/20**

The Republican and Democratic Presidential Primary will be held on August 11, 2020 at HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL. Primaries in CT are "Closed Primaries", meaning that only voters registered in the party which is holding the Primary may vote. So only registered Republicans can vote for Republican candidates, and only registered Democrats can vote for Democratic candidates.



If you are not currently registered to vote, or not currently affiliated with a political party (registered as Unaffiliated), you can enroll in a party via mail until August 6, 2020 or in person until noon on August 10, 2020 and still be eligible to vote in the Primary. To register, go to [voterregistration.ct.gov](https://voterregistration.ct.gov) or contact our office.

**Absentee Ballots for the August 11, 2020 Primary:** Per recent decision by the Secretary of the State and Executive Order by the Governor, every eligible voter (registered Republican or Democrat) will be allowed to vote via absentee ballot for the August 11, 2020 Primary if they so choose. At the end of June, every eligible voter (registered Republican or Democrat) was mailed an application for an absentee ballot. Applications should be filled out carefully and returned to the Town Clerk's office. Once the application is approved, the voter will be mailed an absentee ballot after they become available on July 21st. If you did not receive an application for an absentee ballot or would like more information regarding Absentee Ballots, please contact the Town Clerk's office at (860) 228-3284.

Please check our [Registrar of Voters](#) page on the town website or contact our office for more information.

Registrars of Voters

Karen Butzgy – Democratic

Katherine Morrison – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113

[registrar@columbiact.org](mailto:registrar@columbiact.org)

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

## **BECKISH SENIOR CENTER:**

### ***Columbia's Transportation Program***

The Town of Columbia's Transportation Program will start back up with limited seating. Starting, Monday July 6th from 8am to 3pm we will begin providing transportation for our seniors and disabled persons. The seating will be limited on the 14-passenger van to 1 wheelchair and 3 passengers plus your driver. The Town of Columbia is also in the process of purchasing a Ford Escape SUV 2020 for medical transportation. We are hoping to have the medical car ready by end of July 2020. The medical car will also only allow for 2 people plus the driver to insure proper distancing.



If you have a medical appointment or would like to go food shopping please call the senior center to book your rides. Please call Lisa at 860-228-0759 ext. 2 only. I am sure we will be filling up fast due to limited space on the van. To ensure the safety of you and our drivers the following rules will need to be followed:

1. You and your caretaker must always wear a mask during your ride.
2. We will be using a scanner to check your temperature. If you are running a fever of over 100 degrees, we will not be able to transport you.
3. After each round trip per person the driver will wipe down all surfaces of the van to properly sanitize.
4. If you are feeling sick on the day of your ride please contact our office as soon as possible to reschedule.
5. Sanitizer and gloves will be available on the van.

Thank you!

Bernadette Derring, Senior Center Director

Ph:860-228-0759 or email at [beckish@columbiact.org](mailto:beckish@columbiact.org)

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

**BUILDING/LAND USE DEPARTMENT:** To make an appointment with the Building Department please call (860) 228-0440 or by email [LandUse@columbiact.org](mailto:LandUse@columbiact.org). Permits or applications for land use can be safely dropped off in the lock box located by the front entrance to Yeomans Hall. The box is checked every morning. Please make sure that the envelope is clearly marked with the town department name and include your contact information on your envelope placed in the lock-box.

Please click [here](#) for all permit paperwork.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: *The Transfer Station will be closed Saturday, July 4th, but will be open on Monday, July 6th.***

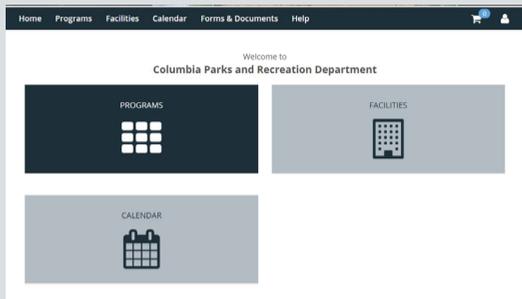
The Transfer Station has resumed full service with the following exceptions:

- Swap Shop is Closed.
- Hard & soft cover books will not be accepted.
- Textiles (clothing) will not be accepted. Please dispose of textiles in the regular garbage.

When providing payment please use exact change. There is a box mounted on the outside of the Transfer Station custodians office for your payments. The Scouts BSA Redemption Shed will be open. We ask residents to please be respectful as always of this shed and to please only deposit CT redeemable bottles and cans.

Applications can be picked up at the Transfer Station or [on-line](#). Please mail in your application to 323 Route 87, Columbia CT., attention Town Clerk, drop off at the lock box located outside Yeoman's Hall. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. You can also call the Town Clerk's office for an appointment at 860-228-3284.

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)



You can also purchase your Transfer Station stickers on-line on the [Reckdesk](#) page. If you have not previously set up an account in our Reckdesk system you will need to do so. Once your account is set up click on the Programs icon and scroll down to Transfer Station Pass and click to go to the on-line application process.

Category: Community Garden						
Community Garden 2020						
Date(s)	Day(s)	Age(s)	Grade(s)	Openings	Remaining	Register Now
7/30/2020	Thu	-	-	n/a	n/a	
Category: General						
Boat Launch Gate Key Application						
Date(s)	Day(s)	Age(s)	Grade(s)	Openings	Remaining	Register Now
7/1/2020	Wed	-	-	n/a	n/a	
Category: General						
Donations for Covid-19 Support						
Date(s)	Day(s)	Age(s)	Grade(s)	Openings	Remaining	Register Now
7/1/2020	Wed	-	-	n/a	n/a	
Category: General						
Transfer Station Pass						
Date(s)	Day(s)	Age(s)	Grade(s)	Openings	Remaining	Register Now
7/31/2020	Fri	-	-	n/a	n/a	
Category: Swim Lessons						

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



**REMINDER: When using the Transfer Station, please remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing.**

Some of the projects that the DPW have been working on include:

- New solar walkway lights installed at the Town Hall Annex.
- New solar powered scoreboard installed at Columbia Recreation Areas new Softball Field.
- New construction of Basketball and Pickleball courts is scheduled to begin in July, weather permitting.
- Completed construction of a new entrance road at Columbia Recreation Area, wooden guardrail soon to be installed.
- Resurfaced the walking paths at Columbia Recreation Area
- New landscaping installed at the Beckish Senior Center with the help of volunteers.
- Milling of Lake Road and West Street Extension has begun and anticipated completion will be the week of July 6th.



Ongoing projects: Tree work will continue throughout the Town. Eversource will be using Asplundh for tree work clearing along power lines.

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

**FIRE MARSHAL:** OPEN BURNING - The Town of Columbia allows campfires and the burning of brush. Both are governed by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regulations and town ordinance 15-8. These regulations and guidelines can be found on-line at [CT.GOV website](#) or the [Town's website](#).

## ***Campfire Safety***

- No permit is required, but follow safety guidelines.
- Campfires should not be larger than 3 feet in diameter.
- Burn tree wood only.

## ***Brush Burning***

- A permit is required.
- Do not burn to clear land.
- Brush should be 3 inches in diameter or less.
- Burn piles should not exceed 10 feet in diameter or height.

## ***Safety Tips for All Fires***

- If the smoke affects your neighbors, find a different location to burn.
- Have a 5-gallon bucket of water and a metal rake available, if needed.
- No burning of garbage, furniture, tires, manufactured lumber, stumps, or hazardous materials.
- Do not place fire under electrical lines, the smoke can be a conductor.
- Always burn safely and never leave a fire unattended.

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

Michael Lester  
Fire Marshal/Open Burning Official  
Town of Columbia

**COLUMBIA'S**  
**MOBILE FOODSHARE**  
**NEW SITE LOCATION**

**HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL**  
**3 SCHOOL HOUSE ROAD**

**EVERY OTHER THURSDAY:**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup> – June 18<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup> –**  
**July 30<sup>th</sup> – Aug 13<sup>th</sup> – Aug 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:00 PM TO 1:30 PM**

**DRIVE THROUGH ONLY—NO CONTACT  
OPEN TRUNK OR CAR DOOR AND WE WILL  
PLACE ITEMS IN YOUR CAR AND YOU CAN  
DRIVE AWAY SAFELY. PLEASE DRIVE  
SLOWLY THROUGH THE PARKING LOT  
AND FOLLOW THE VOLUNTEERS  
DIRECTIONS**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME—NO PERSONAL INFO  
REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION**



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

**TAX OFFICE:** The tax bills have been mailed as of Monday, June 29, 2020. In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive orders Columbia has adopted the Deferment Program. This defers the last day to pay taxes until October 1, 2020. The exception to this program is: Real Estate bills for landlords and Real Estate escrowed accounts, they are due on or before Monday August 3, 2020.

All motor vehicle taxes, and the 1st installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on or before October 1, 2020.

Please check your bill for the last day to pay printed below the July 1st tax amount.



Beginning July 1st, you can view and pay tax bills on-line (service fees apply). Payments may be mailed by using the envelope enclosed in your tax bill to TOWN OF COLUMBIA, DEPT. #347, P.O. BOX 150512, HARTFORD, CT 06115-0512. (323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237), or put in the lock box to the right of the Town Hall front door or paid on-line. If you need assistance please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or email at [taxcollector@columbiact.org](mailto:taxcollector@columbiact.org).

To Pay Online and 2019 Tax Payment Information click [here](#). The Town of Columbia, in partnership with Invoice Cloud, is excited to offer residents an easy and secure way to view, print and pay their real estate, personal property and motor vehicle tax bills on-line.

Another way of paying taxes is to call ahead to the tax collector's office to ensure the department is staffed and when we can expect your arrival. Payments can be put in the key box outside the front door of the Town Hall.

At this time, the Tax Office is requesting that payment be made with a bank check or money order if motor vehicle clearance is needed before 2 weeks. Please do NOT make your payment with cash.

Motor vehicle clearance will be on a case-by-case basis. Please be prepared and pay your taxes at least a month before you need to register a vehicle to make sure the release will be able to be processed.

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

**TOWN CLERKS OFFICE:** Please call our office to make an appointment at 860-228-3284. It is business as usual for those services that you might need – Fishing and Hunting licenses, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage Licenses, Transfer Station stickers, etc.

WE ARE HERE! ASK A QUESTION! LET US HELP!

Give us a call (860)-228-3284 - send us an email (Robin – [townclerk@columbiact.org](mailto:townclerk@columbiact.org) ) or (Gail – [atownclerk@columbiact.org](mailto:atownclerk@columbiact.org) ) – we will do our best to help you.

Take care. Stay safe.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** Please note that the Parks and Recreation Department is now located at the Murphy House at Columbia Lake. Follow us on [FaceBook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

With Phase 2 of reopening beginning today, we have some exciting updates about our programming. Beginning today playgrounds are once again open. We will begin renting the Rec. Park Pavilion with a max capacity of 100 people. The indoor bathrooms at the park are not open, due to this we have cut the rental fee and deposit in half. Kayak rentals have begun at Columbia Lake (equipment will be sanitized after each use).

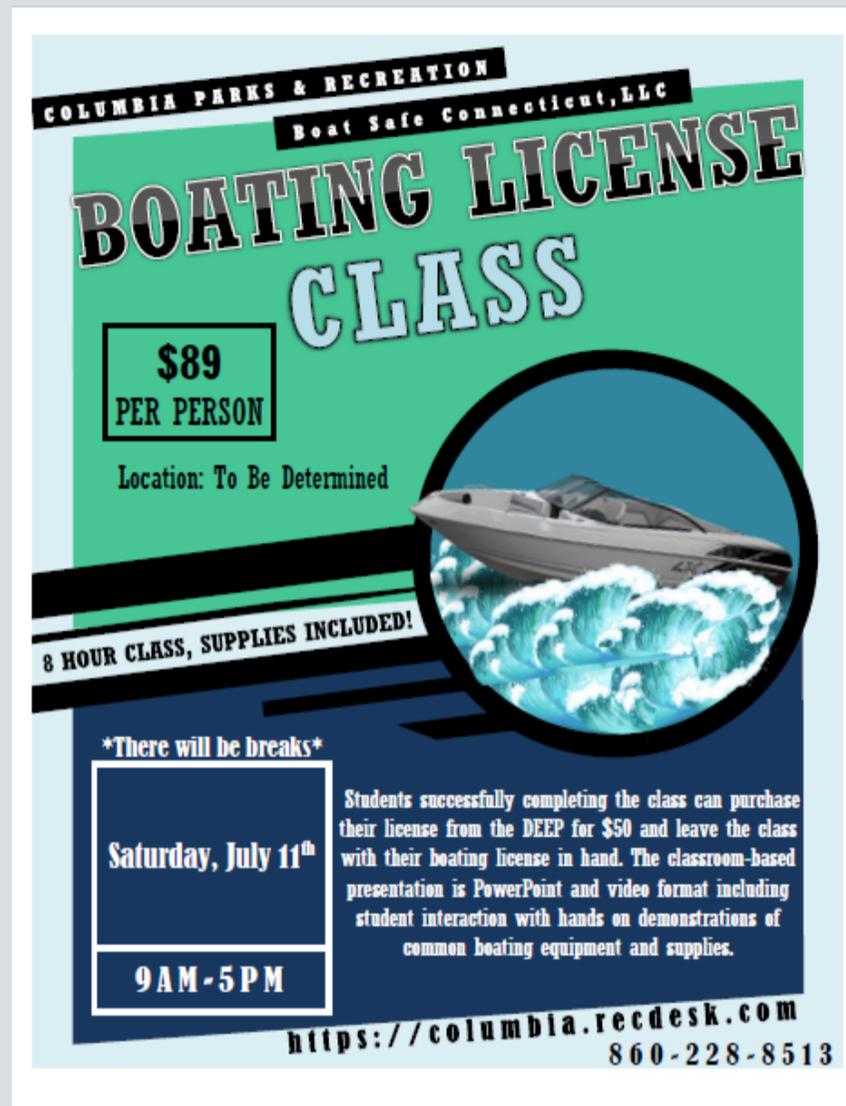
Fit-Fusion will begin again in Yeoman's Hall. We will have a max occupancy of 12 people per a class and our asking that you reserve your spot by emailing [recdirector@columbiact.org](mailto:recdirector@columbiact.org).

Beach passes can be purchased on-line using this [link](#). If you want to purchase a day pass throughout the year you will be able to do it on-line. If you need to purchase one in person you will be able to do so using credit/debit card. If you would like to use cash we ask that you bring exact change to limit the exchange of cash. We also ask that you respect the space of staff that you may be interacting with for everyone's safety.

**Rec Park:** Grounds are open to the public. Please note that social distancing is recommended even in open parks, and that group sizes should be kept to an absolute minimum. **The use of the playground equipment IS prohibited.**

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

We will be having another boat licensing course on July 11th. Register on-line today!



**COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION**  
**Boat Safe Connecticut, LLC**

## BOATING LICENSE CLASS

**\$89 PER PERSON**

Location: To Be Determined

**8 HOUR CLASS, SUPPLIES INCLUDED!**

**\*There will be breaks\***

**Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9 AM - 5 PM**

Students successfully completing the class can purchase their license from the DEEP for \$50 and leave the class with their boating license in hand. The classroom-based presentation is PowerPoint and video format including student interaction with hands on demonstrations of common boating equipment and supplies.

<https://columbia.recdesk.com>  
860-228-8513

The advertisement features a central image of a white speedboat on blue waves, enclosed in a circular frame. The background is a mix of green and blue, with black banners containing text.

## MARINE PATROL AND GATE MONITORING:

### GATE MONITORING

- May 16th & 17th: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- May 23rd - September 13th: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
- Weekends Only: September 19th - October 11th: 10:00 am-8:00 pm

### BOAT PATROL

- Dates: May 16th - September 13th
- Weekends: 11:00 am - 8:00 pm
- Weekdays: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

## Swim Lessons

**Session I**  
**July 6<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>**  
(July 16<sup>th</sup> make-up)

**Level 1: 10:30am or 5 pm**  
**Level 2: 10:30am or 5 pm**  
**Level 3: 11:10 am or 5:40 pm**  
**Level 4: 11:10 am or 5:40 pm**  
**Level 5: 11:50 am**  
**Level 6: 11:50 am**

**Session II**  
**Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
(August 13<sup>th</sup> make-up)

**Level 1: 10:30am**  
**Level 2: 10:30am**  
**Level 3: 11:10 am**  
**Level 4: 11:10 am**  
**Level 5: 11:50 am**  
**Level 6: 11:50 am**

**Fees: Residents- \$85 per session/ Non Residents- \$90 per session**  
**Class Session: There are 8 days of lessons with the 9<sup>th</sup> day reserved for make-up if a lesson is cancelled due to inclement weather.**  
**Please note: Swim lessons are non-refundable and non-transferrable. In the event of a schedule conflict or your child being unable to participate, we cannot be held responsible for missed days.**  
**Requirements to enter class: A completion card or mastery of skills of previous level**

**Register online at**  
**<http://columbia.recdesk.com>**  
**Phone: 860-228-8513**  
**Email: [recreation@columbiact.org](mailto:recreation@columbiact.org)**



# TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

The Road Race has a new name, date, and location. We have partnered with 02 Events Productions to bring you the Summer Sizzler. Sign up quick as entries are limited this year. Proceeds support Columbia Parks and Recreation. For more information and to register click [here](#).

A promotional poster for the Summer Sizzler Airline Trail 5K race. The background is a vibrant blue. At the top, a large, stylized sun with yellow and orange rays is centered. Inside the sun, the words "SUMMER SIZZLER" are written in a green, bubbly font. Below this, a blue banner with yellow text reads "AIRLINE TRAIL 5K". Underneath the banner, "COLUMBIA, CT" is written in green. At the bottom of the sun graphic, "AUGUST 14TH, 2020" is written in green. Below the sun graphic, the text "Register Online: [www.lightboxreg.com](http://www.lightboxreg.com)" is displayed in bold black font. Underneath that, "Early Registration Discount!" is written in bold black font. A smaller line of text in orange reads "On-line registration will be open until 1:00 pm on race day. On-site registration is from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM; fee will be \$30." At the bottom of the poster, a black-bordered box contains the following information in bold black text: "Starting Point:", "22 Willimantic Road, Columbia", and "Start Time: 6:45 PM". The bottom edge of the poster features a decorative border of green grass blades.

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

## **SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: CHANGES COMING JULY 7TH!!**

As of July 7th, while we will continue to offer curbside service, our hours are changing to accommodate patron Browsing Times. (Hours for Browsing and Curbside are listed below.)

Please note that Browsing the Library will be a different experience than you are used to:

- All browsing will take place in the large main room of the Library. New and featured materials will be on display.
- Stacks and Children's area are accessible to staff only.
- No public rest rooms will be available.
- Magazines will be available by reserve only.
- If you wish for an item not on display, staff will take your request and if available will retrieve the item or place it on reserve of you. Likewise, we are always happy to look something up or make a suggestion.
- All returns must be made in the book drops, outside the building. (Note: Fines are still discontinued and book returns are still being quarantined.)

Patrons need to know:

- Children younger than 1st grade are asked to stay home. (Because we love our kids and our grandparents!)
- Patrons are encouraged to come alone or with only one family member. (Space is limited and social distancing tight. Fewer family members will help us to accommodate more Browsers.)
- All patrons are **REQUIRED** to wear a mask and engage in social distancing **AT ALL TIMES**. (Note this is non-negotiable.)
- Due to social distancing, we have a limit of 10 patrons allowed in the Library at one time. Patrons may be asked by staff to wait outside and enter when someone leaves.
- If a patron (of any age) does not follow the Library's code of conduct, rules, or safety requests, the patron will be asked to leave. Refusing to comply may result in more significant response, including loss of library privileges or calling the police.

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## **SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED)**

We thank you for your continued support and for following our rules. We know we all share the goal of keeping our community safe and preventing the spread of COVID-19, so that we may return to 'normal' sooner. Please continue to monitor the website should our situation need to change.

### **CHANGES IN OUR HOURS AS OF JULY 7TH.**

#### ***Phone Hours:***

Monday & Saturday: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 11:00am - 7:00 pm

Friday: 10 am - 3 pm

#### ***Curbside Pick-up Hours:***

Thursday: 12:00 – 4:00 pm 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Friday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Saturday from 11:00 am – 1:00pm

#### ***Browsing Hours:***

Tuesdays: 1:00pm - 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Saturday: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Please see our [website](#) for instructions on curbside service (and look under the *Search Our Catalog* for this info and tutorials that can help you 'browse' and find things from home.)

Want something to read or watch, but you're not sure what that something is? We can help! Use our Tailored Titles service. We are happy to make suggestions based on your likes/dislikes. Or be surprised: ask for a grab bag! We will pick out a few titles for you to try. Don't like them? We won't be offended; we'll just keep trying!

If you have questions or need to contact us, please call the Library at 860-228-0350 or email us at [SBL@columbiactlibrary.org](mailto:SBL@columbiactlibrary.org). Watch our [website](#) for updates and be sure to sign up for our newsletter to be e-mailed directly.

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

## **EVERSOURCE REPLACING TRANSMISSION STRUCTURES BEGINNING IN JULY**

**2020:** Eversource will be replacing transmission structures in Mansfield, Coventry, Columbia, and Lebanon later this summer. In Columbia, these structures are located on a transmission right-of-way that runs from the Mansfield Substation on Eagleville Road, through the King's Brook area, and ends at Stafford Road.

The Project includes replacing existing, aged wood structures with new steel structures, as well as installing new communication and grounding wire, called Optical Ground Wire (OPGW), on the existing transmission structures. This wire will improve electric reliability by enabling communication between Eversource's substations.

Construction is anticipated to begin in July 2020 with Project completion and restoration of disturbed areas occurring in the summer of 2021. The hours of construction will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Community Outreach representatives would typically go door-to-door to speak with property owners who live near the right-of-way to make them aware of this work and to answer any questions. Due to the health concerns with COVID-19, Eversource has discontinued door-to-door outreach at this time. Prior to any work beginning, nearby property owners will receive a letter in lieu of our door-to-door outreach. Eversource will also attempt to make phone calls to property owners who have public contact information and our public Transmission Project hotline is always available to them (1.800.793.2202 or ProjectInfo@eversource.com)

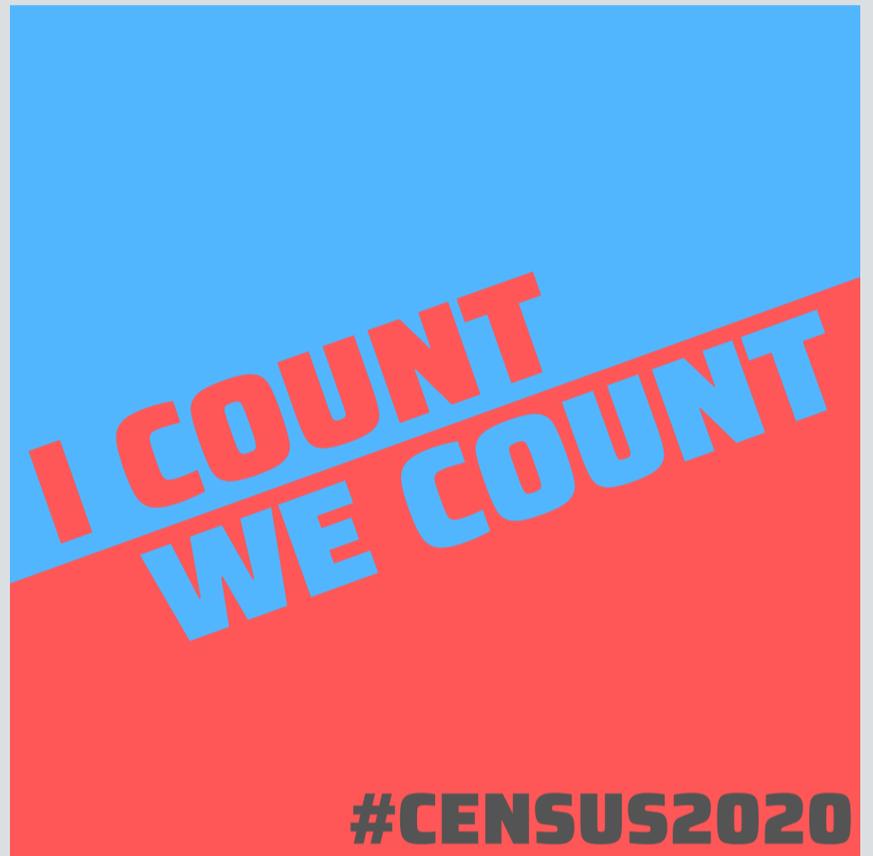
# NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **2020 CENSUS:**

The 2020 Census is still on-going. It is not too late to respond! Go to [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) or call (844)-330-2020.

The U.S. Census Bureau, in coordination with federal, state and local health officials, will begin a phased restart of some 2020 Census field operations in select geographic areas this week. As part of the phased restart of operations, the Census Bureau will resume dropping off 2020 Census invitation packets at front doors of households in areas where the majority of households do not receive mail at their home. This operation is also known as "Update Leave". About 5% of households are counted in the Update Leave operation, where census workers will confirm or update a household's physical location address and then leave a census questionnaire packet during the months of July and August. For more information, please visit the [2020 Census COVID-19 operational adjustments](#) page.

Furthermore, if any Columbia household has not filled out the 2020 Census the Censes field representatives will be going door to door in mid-to-late August.



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



Parish Communities of  
**Church of the Holy Family and St. Columba Church**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jo Montgomery

Phone: 203-641-3590

Email: [jomontgomeryemail@gmail.com](mailto:jomontgomeryemail@gmail.com)

## Online Mass Available Any Time

**Hebron, CT, June 16** — Since the lockdown of houses of worship, the Church of the Holy Family and St. Columba Church have been live streaming Masses. Weekday Masses are now commencing on a limited attendance basis, however, live stream Masses will continue, until full resumption of Masses occurs.

Just visit [holyfamilyhebron.org](http://holyfamilyhebron.org):

- Every Sunday 9:30 AM
- Every Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Photo:** Far right Deacon Ben LoCasto stands behind Fr. Michale Phillipinno at Mass being live streamed this Sunday.

*The Church of the Holy Family and St. Columba Catholic Church, being a community of worshipers and Disciples of Christ, live the Gospel through prayer and service, bearing witness to God's love, compassion, and mercy. Each Parish remains separate and distinct, but at the same time share resources to better meet the needs of the people of God. Regardless of your past faith tradition, we welcome you to come as you are. We hope you will find one of our parishes will feel like home. Visit our websites at <https://holyfamilyhebron.org/> and <https://saintcolumbacatholicchurch.org/>*



In 1961, President John F. Kennedy expressed his view on the eagle in a letter to the Audubon Society.

"The Founding Fathers made an appropriate choice when they selected the bald eagle as the emblem of the nation," Kennedy wrote. "The fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolizes the strength and freedom of America. But as latter-day citizens we shall fail our trust if we permit the eagle to disappear."



**Female American Bald Eagle - Bertha**  
Photo Credit: Ken Koper



**Bertha & Harry - Photo Credit: Ken Koper**



**Chuck & Barry**  
Photo Credit: Pat Morris



CAROL E. BOWER  
PHOTO-GRAPHICS

**Chuck & Barry as brand new fledglings!**

## FOURTH OF JULY 2020 ON COLUMBIA LAKE

Cheers to Columbia Lake Association for proceeding with this pandemic year's Fourth of July Parade of Boats, with all good measure of health and safety precautions, of course. So what are the cultural and historic origins of this neighborhood's delightful display? Yes, there has always been a tradition of public and private patriotic festivity in Columbia, but the August 1995 newsletter of Columbia Lake Association called *The Wave* offers a another tantalizing clue.

In an appeal to fellow lakefront homeowners immediately following the 1995 Lion's Club/Town of Columbia Fourth of July Parade commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII, Dr. Marc Scoles urged his neighbors to appoint their homes, docks, yards, and boats in red, white and blue...and "wouldn't it be a good idea to have a Fourth of July Parade of Boats" next year [in 1996] too? After all, he asserted, the Parade of Boats had a patriotic precedent in the spontaneous boat parade on Columbia Lake following V-J Day (August 15, 1945) signaling the end of a long and devastating naval war with Japan. The final and formal end of WWII occurred on September 2, 1945, however, with the treaty signed on the USS Missouri. If Dr. Scoles information about the symbolic origins of the very first organized parade of boats is correct, then the Columbia Lake Association's Fourth of July Parade of Boats, now in its 24th year, was inspired by this story marking the end of WWII.

Ingrid Wood, Town Historian



*Seen here, last year's 2019 Fourth of July Parade of Boats sponsored by Columbia Lake Association, revealing Saxton, the Saxton B. Little Library's iconic mascot mouse. Courtesy I. Wood.*

## **CONGRATULATIONS! FOUR HUNDRED ACRES ADDED TO THE MONO POND STATE PARK**

The Trust for Public Land and the State of Connecticut, with a bit of help from the Towns of Columbia and Lebanon, and many personal donations, have put together the funding to complete the purchase of two parcels in the Wells Woods area. We are especially grateful to the Columbia Historical Society for their generous donation to the cause.

The addition of this land to Mono Pond State Park connects it to the Airline Trail State Park, providing an additional 400 acres, along with increased recreational opportunities. Together with the Mint Brook parcel purchased by the Town of Columbia in 2018, this conserves a part of the Columbia Wells Woods 18th and 19th century "Ghost Town" historic sites. In the future, we hope to acquire more land in this area to connect to the Town of Hebron.

Conserving this land provides benefits for all the people of Connecticut, but especially for Columbia, Lebanon and Hebron. Imagine 1000 acres of conserved forest and wetland maintaining our drinking water supplies and clean air, with habitat for wildlife. Trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and horses will provide recreation for all. We aren't done yet, but we have made a great start!



Submitted by Ann Dunnack, Open Space Committee Chairman

August, 2020 Issue, Columbia Views