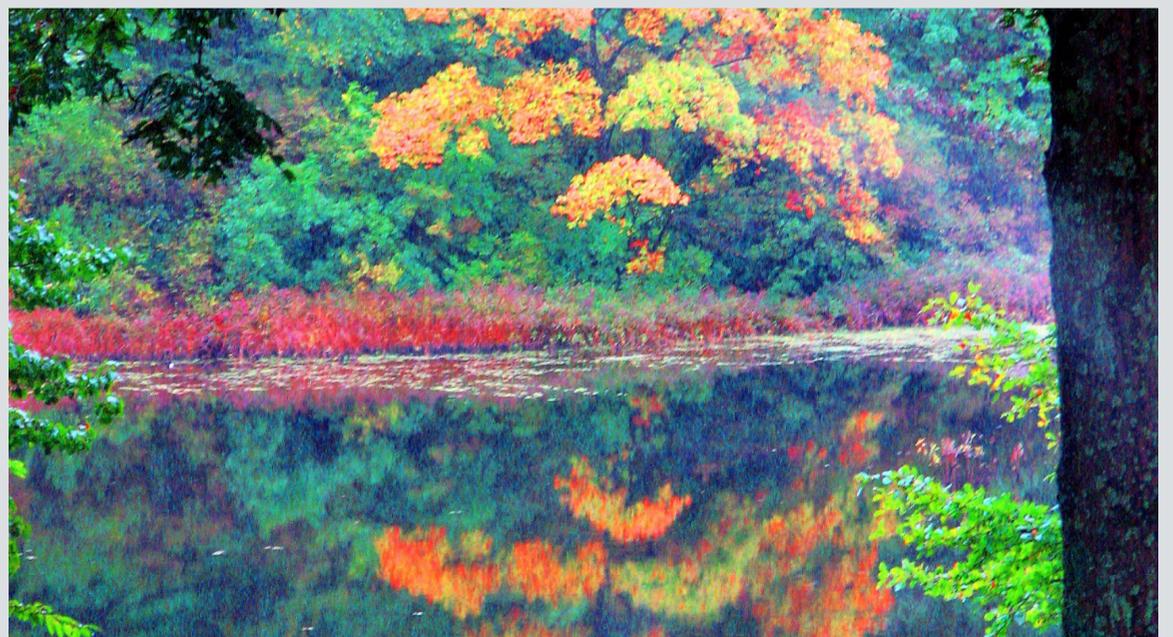


# COLUMBIA



UPDATE NOVEMBER 2019

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

Welcome to the Town Administrator's November 2019 update. The month of November is when we give thanks. I would like to thank all of our volunteers who serve on our Town Boards and Commissions, our Volunteer Fire Department, The

Lions Club, Scouts, PTO and many more. Volunteering on any number of our boards, commissions, and committees is an excellent way to contribute your voice and ideas on community issues. When residents become involved in the decision-making process, the more likely the final product will meet the most needs and address the most concerns possible. With diverse stakeholders, we can collectively determine what kind of community we want, what it should feel like, and whether the shared vision is economically feasible.

Go [online](#) to learn about our Boards and Commissions and submit a [Boards & Commission Volunteer Application](#). You can also contact Jennifer LaVoie, Executive Administrative Assistant at 860.228.0110 for assistance. Please consider volunteering your time!

I want to remind voters that the Municipal Election (**Tuesday,**

**November 5, 2019 from 6am - 8pm in Yeomans Hall**) for ballot consideration are Selectmen, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning & Zoning Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, and Financial Planning and Allocation Commission ([see sample ballot](#)).

**ASK THE SELECTMAN:** First Selectman, Steven Everett will have an *Ask the Selectman* event on **November 7, 2019** at the Horace Porter School Library from **6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**.

On behalf of myself and the Town staff we wish you a happy Thanksgiving and appreciate all the volunteer efforts to make this Town a great place to live.

Mark B. Walter

Town Administrator

860.228.0110

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

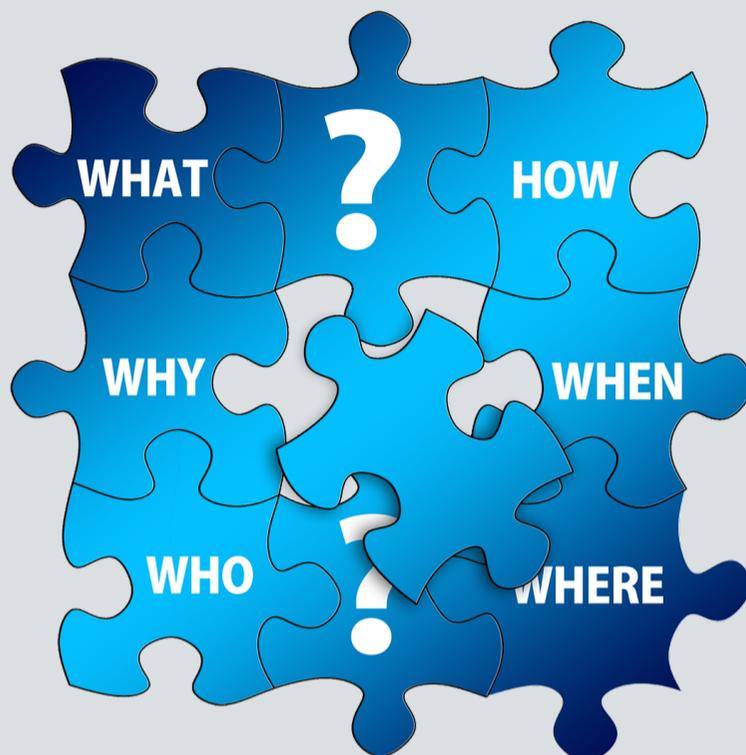


In November our orbit crosses the debris paths of comets and asteroids and we have an opportunity to see some amazing celestial sights. Check out the date on this page and additional dates on the following pages for all of the celestial sights in November.

NOVEMBER 2ND: Close Approach of the Moon, Saturn & Pluto

<https://spacetourismguide.com/night-sky-november/>

**WHERE TO GO FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION:** If you would like to receive the newsletter please sign up on the Town of Columbia's [website](#). We encourage residents to please sign up for [email notification](#) and the [Emergency Alert Program](#).



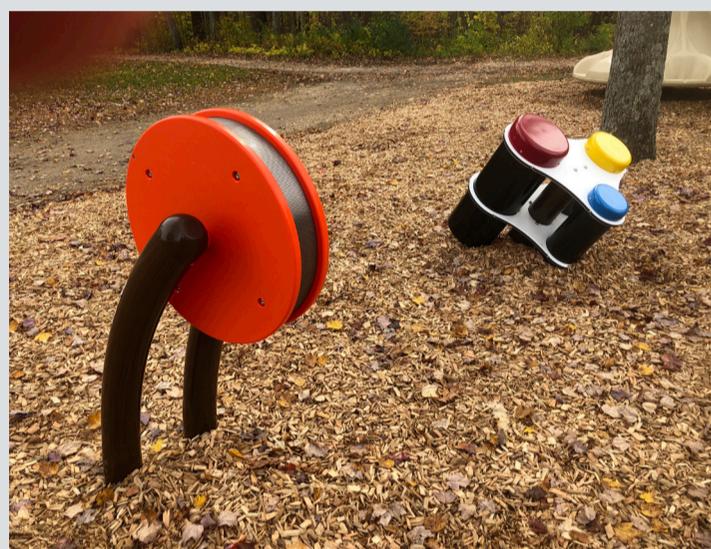
*Image by Pixabay*

Find us on 

**TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
VETERANS DAY**



**REC PARK UPDATE:** The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department recently added to the existing Rec Park playground. New equipment includes a ten spin, drums, spin cabasas, and sensory panels. All of these elements are ADA accessible units of play. The ten spin acts as a modern form of a carousel while the drums and spin cabasas are standalone musical instruments. Multiple sensory panels were also installed. These are colorful and translucent panels with different shapes and textures designed to provide a sensory experience for children and adults with sensory processing disorders, such as those on the autism spectrum. Our efforts to include these units reflect our mission statement; to positively impact the quality of life for all members of the community.



**REC PARK ROAD CONSTRUCTION:** The road entrance to Rec Park will be under construction beginning in November and will continue as weather permits. A portion of the walking trail will be impacted to re-route the new access road. The walking trail can be accessed at the back-parking lot. We appreciate your patience during the construction.

**TREE REMOVAL/SAFETY PRUNING:** In the last 18 months we have contracted with Asplundh Tree and Green Valley Tree Service to remove trees deemed unsafe by our Tree Wardens in the town road right-of-way. The number of tree's removed since January 2018 is 229 and 63 trees have been safety pruned.

Trees outside of the town right-of-way are the property owner's responsibility. If you have a concern about a particular tree, please call the Town Administrator's office at 860.228.0110.

There are numerous trees lining our roadways and for this reason it is prudent that residents check trees known to be on private property to ensure public safety on our roads.

Once a call has been placed with the town, our Tree Warden will review the tree to determine the condition and ownership. The tree will be evaluated for possible removal or safety pruning. We currently have an extensive list that is evaluated routinely to set tree priority. Please refrain from calling to determine your place on our list due to possible changes in priority.



On the night of November 12th, it's another astronomical double-header. First, head outside to try and spot some Taurids meteors as this shower peaks in activity on the 12th.

**NOVEMBER 12TH: Peak of the Taurids Meteor Shower**

<https://spacetourismguide.com/night-sky-november/>

This large asteroid will be at opposition on the night of November 12th.

**NOVEMBER 12TH: Vesta at Opposition**

<https://spacetourismguide.com/night-sky-november/>

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING:** Beginning this fall and into winter, members of the Town of Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission (CCAG) will be visiting the properties in town that have conservation easements attached to them.

The Land Trust Alliance defines a conservation easement as “a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values”.

A notice about the scheduling of the visit will be sent in advance to the property owner(s). Property owners are welcome to join the CCAG member(s) during the visit.

The CCAG members(s) will file a Conservation Easements Monitoring Report for each property. The report will include written and photographic documentation identifying the condition of the conserved property on the date(s) of the inspection.

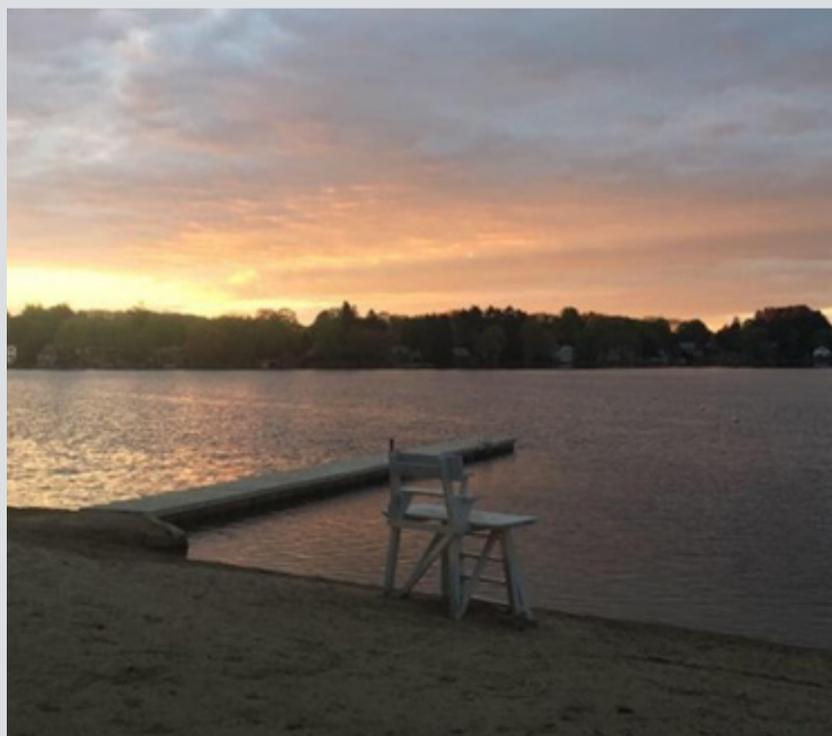
Over time many properties in town have changed hands and the new owners of the property are unaware that their property has a conservation easement or unaware of the limited permitted uses of the area under conservation easement. So, this is a great time for the CCAG member(s) to meet with and educate the property owners on its restrictions.

Please remember that the CCAG members(s) are NOT involved with enforcement regarding findings of un-permitted activity. Enforcement is under the jurisdiction of the Town of Columbia Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO).

Thank You – CCAG Secretary Tom McGrath

**COLUMBIA LAKE DRAW DOWN – NOVEMBER 1, 2019:**

The Town of Columbia Department of Public Works will open the gate at Columbia Lake on Friday, November 1, 2019 to begin the annual winter draw down. Residents are reminded to remove boats as soon as possible. The lowered water level allows an opportunity to make minor repairs to docks and seawalls. Major repairs or replacements require a permit from the town. For more information please call the Town Administrator’s Office at 860.228.0110.



**SUSTAINABLE CT COMMUNITY MATCH FUND:** Through an innovative partnership, Sustainable CT and ioby are now offering match funding and one-on-one fundraising coaching to Connecticut residents working to make their communities more sustainable, equitable, and vibrant.

### **About Sustainable CT**

Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program to recognize thriving and resilient Connecticut municipalities. Sustainable CT provides a wide-ranging menu of coordinated, voluntary actions that municipalities can complete to become more sustainable. Municipalities register with Sustainable CT, then choose and implement specific Sustainable CT actions to earn points toward certification.

Sustainable CT is expanding its work to incorporate new ways to support sustainability projects led by towns, nonprofits, public schools, community groups and residents through the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund. The Sustainable CT Community Match Fund is a flexible, low-barrier funding resource for bringing sustainability projects to life.

### **About ioby**

ioby is a nonprofit crowdfunding website, but we're so much more than that. We're growing a movement of community-led positive change and we want you to be a part of it.

- Be located in a Sustainable CT registered town
- Align with Sustainable CT's mission of creating equitable, sustainable communities
- Be specific and concrete with a planned timeline for completion
- Have a budget of \$50,000 or less
- Be determined eligible by Sustainable CT staff

ioby gives local changemakers the tools and resources they need to build real, lasting impact from the ground up. Our crowdfunding platform helps connect leaders with support and funding from their communities to make our neighborhoods safer, greener, more livable and more fun.

ioby stands for "in our backyards," but it also stands for taking care of each other, for civic muscle, and for trusting our neighbors to know what's best for the neighborhood. So far ioby project leaders have raised over crowdfunding \$6 million in citizen philanthropy.

When you crowdfund with ioby for an eligible project, Sustainable CT will match what you raise dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000 per project. And while you fund raise, ioby's experienced team of crowdfunding coaches will support you every step of the way.

Eligibility Eligible projects include renewable energy programs; improvements to sidewalk or bike lanes; public trails or trail systems; community gardens; arts and culture projects and much more!

**Funding is available statewide for many kinds of projects in the following areas:**

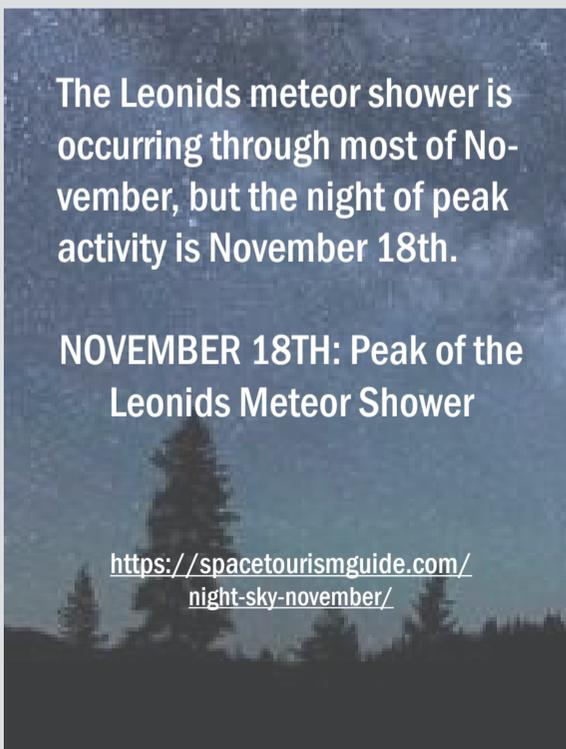
- Arts, Culture, and Local Economies
- Land and Natural Resource Conservation
- Public Transportation
- Waste Reduction
- Renewable and Efficient Energy Use
- Equity & Inclusion
- Healthy & Sustainable Food Networks

**To be eligible, projects must:**

Visit [ioby.org/SustainableCT](https://ioby.org/SustainableCT) to read the full eligibility guidelines and see if your project qualifies! There's no deadline to get started, and no lengthy application. Funding will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to all eligible projects as they fund raise.

Connecticut municipalities can also earn points toward Sustainable CT certification from projects implemented through the Community Match Fund.

Ready to share your project idea? Contact Sustainable CT Community Outreach Manager Abe Hilding-Salorio at (860) 465-0256 or [hildingsalorioa@easternct.edu](mailto:hildingsalorioa@easternct.edu).



## UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

*Please check the Town of Columbia's website for any updates.*

- IWWC Meeting - Conference Room, Monday, November 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Education - H. W. Porter Cafetorium, Monday, November 4, 2019 at 7:30 PM
- Lake Management Advisory Commission (LMAC), Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 7:30 PM
- Rec Commission - Conference Room, Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:00 PM
- Szegda Farm Management Committee - Conference Room, Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:00 PM
- Columbia Conservation & Agriculture Commission - Conference Room, Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Selectmen (BOS) - Conference Room, Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) - Building and Land Use Department, Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Fiscal Policy Board - H.W. Porter Conference Room, Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 8:30 AM
- Youth Services Committee - Conference Room, Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 5:30 PM
- Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting - Conference Room, Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 5:30 PM
- Board of Selectmen (BOS) - Conference Room, Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Financial Planning & Allocation Commission (FiPAC) - Conference Room, Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Commission on Aging (CONA) - Beckish Senior Center, Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 9:00 AM
- Open Space - Conference Room, Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 8:00 AM
- Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) - Conference Room, Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) Conference Room, Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Please visit our website to access the [Community Calendar](#).



## **Municipal Election**

The Municipal Election will be held on **Tuesday, November 5th, 6am – 8pm** in Yeomans Hall. Please contact the Town Clerk if you need to vote via absentee ballot.

Election Day Registration (EDR) will also be available on the day of the election. Remember proper identification and proof of residency is

required to complete voter registration.

### **Party Enrollment Change Deadline**

The Presidential Preference Primary will be held on April 28th, 2020. 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 in the Republican Primary and only registered Democrats can vote in the Democratic Primary. The deadline to transfer registration from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the Primary of the new party (Democratic or Republican) is January 28th, 2020. This deadline also applies if you are currently registered in a minor party (Independent, Green Party, Libertarian, etc.).

Please check our [Registrar of Voters](#) page on the town website or contact our office for more information. On our website you will find offices being voted for in the upcoming Municipal Election.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE Registrars of Voters**

Karen Butzgy – Democratic

Katherine Morrison – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113

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

## COMING EVENTS

### **11/2/19: COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (323 CT-87) ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR, SATURDAY FROM 10:00 AM TO 3:00**

**PM:** Columbia Congregational Church will be hosting it's Annual Craft Fair from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

### **11/6/19: PARISH COMMUNITIES OF CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY AND ST. COLUMBA CHURCH: WHAT'S NEW IN DENTISTRY: NOVEMBER 6TH FROM 7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM:**

St. Columba is hosting a free presentation by Doctor Mark B. Desrosiers, DMD, highlighting the many new aspects of dental care today. Dr. Desrosiers will discuss prevention, orthodontics, trauma, replacing teeth with implants, regeneration, and new materials. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Presentation will be held on **Wednesday, November 6 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at St. Columba Church parish center, 328 Route 66, Columbia, CT 06237.

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/>

Contact: Jo Montgomery, Phone: 203-641-3590, Email: [jomontgomeryemail@gmail.com](mailto:jomontgomeryemail@gmail.com)

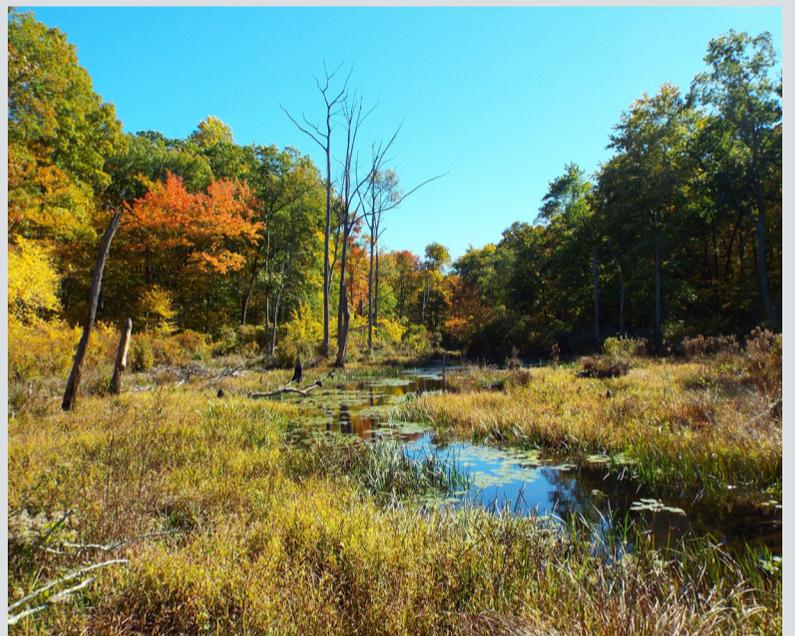
**11/7/19 & 11/21/19: MOBILE FOODSHARE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH AND 21ST FROM 1:15 PM TO 1:45 PM COLUMBIA-BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, 195 US-6:** An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Please bring your own grocery bag. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).



**11/7/19: Ask the Selectman AT THE LIBRARY AT HORACE PORTER SCHOOL (PTO MEETING) 6:00 PM TO 7:00 PM:** Please come and join the First Selectman, Steven Everett at the Library at Horace Porter School PTO Meeting November 7, 2019 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. No appointment is necessary!

**11/9/2019: COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (323 CT-87) COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019 AT 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Parish Hall:** Bring a friend! Breakfast Buffet Menu: Belgian waffles, omelets, eggs, toast, bacon, sausage, ham, potatoes, juice, milk, coffee, tea, fruits, homemade muffins & coffee cakes. Suggested free will offering: \$10.00 per person, Senior Discount \$1.00, \$28.00 – 2 adults and 2 children.

**11/9/19: JOSHUA'S TRUST - HISTORY HIKE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019 AT 9:30 AM AT REC PARK:** Joshua's Trust is sponsoring a History Hike that will cover the history of Columbia Lakes' watershed and mill system. Discussion will focus on watershed protection of Columbia Lake. The hike is 2 miles and will take approximately 2 hours. The hike level is moderate difficulty. Please join us!



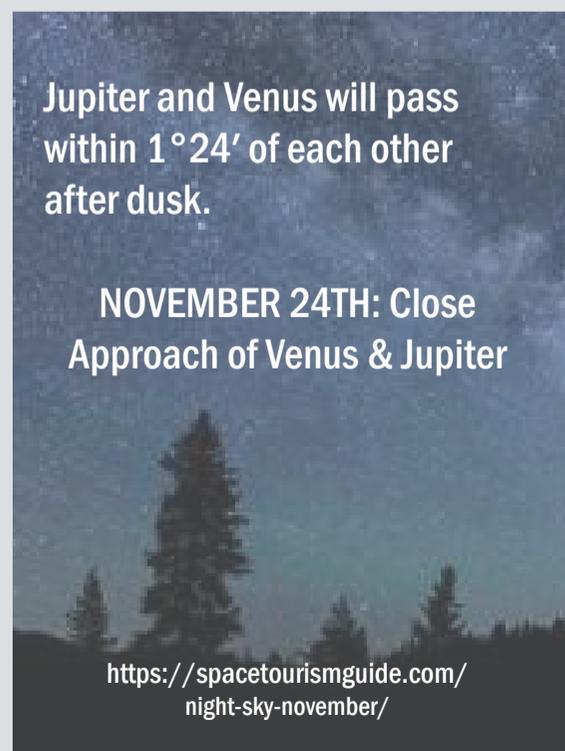
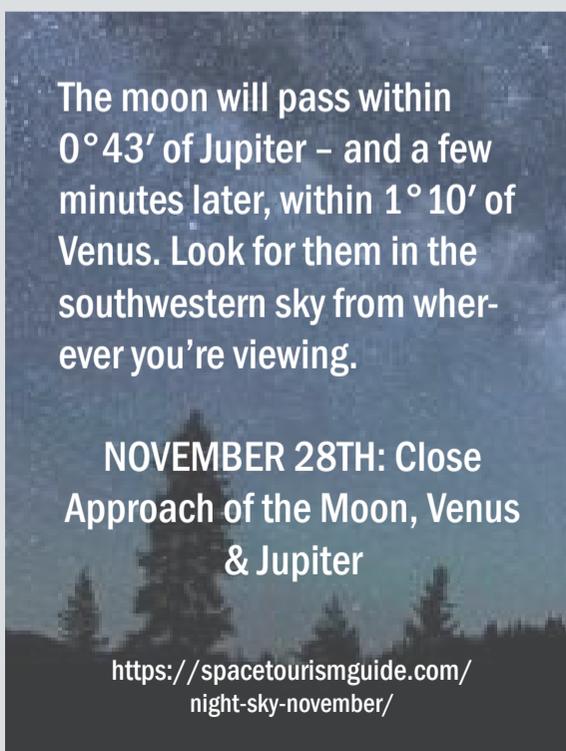
**11/10/19: COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY VETERANS DAY EVENT, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH AT 1:00 IN YEOMANS HALL:** You are invited to the Columbia Historical Society Veterans Day event on **Sunday, November 10th at 1:00** in Yeomans Hall, 323 Rte. 87, Columbia, CT. Meet Colonel Morton Katz (ret) while supporting the Columbia Historical Society. Colonel Katz, a WWII veteran, will introduce us to the **Library of Congress Veterans History Project**. This project collects, preserves and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations will better understand the realities of war. Morton is an engaging, passionate speaker. You won't want to miss his talk. Please spread the word and invite friends who are veterans of any war or conflict since WW I.

Please RSVP by **November 4th** to Millie Ramsey at 860 734-1046 or [millieramz@gmail.com](mailto:millieramz@gmail.com)

**11/11/19: TOWN OF COLUMBIA AND THE COLUMBIA SENIOR ORGANIZATION VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2109, 11:00AM AT THE TOWN GREEN/YEOMANS HALL.** Please join us in honoring our Veterans at Columbia's Veterans Day Celebration on the Town Green/Yeomans Hall. Luncheon for Veterans, their families and friends will be served at 12:00 pm at the Beckish Senior Center. All Are Welcome!!

**COLUMBIA PTO EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
					HWP Early Dismiss	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	All For Books Coin-a-Day Challenge			6pm PTO Meeting	6pm Craft Night	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	HWP No School	8am Fall Book Fair	8am Fall Book Fair 6pm Book Fair Famil	8am Fall Book Fair	8am Fall Book Fair	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	HWP Early Dismissal			HWP No School		



**TOWN OF COLUMBIA SIGN REGULATION:** Signs are a form of communication; helping direct people where to go or give them needed information. Signs can communicate a celebration, a warning or a reminder of an event. Signs are used to promote local business', school and town events, charitable organizations, residential tag sales, open houses, etc.

While we value the usage of signage for business', town functions, or community events; there are, however, Town Signage Regulations that most residents may not be aware of. Here is a link to the [Town Signage Regulations \(Go to Section 62 – Signs\)](#). We hope this will help you navigate the rules of posting signs.

If you are missing a sign, give us a call, it may have been removed because the placement of the sign violated the regulations. Please also be aware that no signage is allowed on the Town Green without approval by the Town Administrator.

Below are some funny signs that we hope might give you a chuckle. And of course, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the Town Administrator, Mark Walter at 860.228.0110 or send an email [townadministrator@columbiact.org](mailto:townadministrator@columbiact.org), or the Building and Land Use Department, Zoning Enforcement/Blight Officer, Connie Kisluk at 860.228.0440, [LandUse@columbiact.org](mailto:LandUse@columbiact.org) for more detailed information about Zoning Regulations.



**AHM YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES:** AHM Youth and Family Services announces three new programs for Columbia residents: an ADHD Support Group for parents and caregivers; and a SMART Recovery Support Group for young adults, family members, and friends.

**ADHD Support Group:** AHM is offering a support group for parents and caregivers of children with ADHD and similar conditions. This is a safe, non-judgmental space for sharing stories, strategies, challenges, joys, and resources. The main goal of the group is to support attendees in feeling more understood, less alone in their parenting struggles, and more informed and empowered in making a difference in their child's future. Group attendees shared: "so relieved to find a group of parents that 'get it' " and "the handouts and other resources are great, so helpful!"

The group meets from **6:30 PM – 7:30 PM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the AHM Community Center, 25 Pendleton Drive, in Hebron.** There is no cost to participate. If you are unable to get to the meeting you can also attend by calling in. Simply dial 712-770-8061 and enter the access code 773482. For more information please email: supportgroup@crpmail.com, or Megan Aldridge: [megana@ahmyouth.org](mailto:megana@ahmyouth.org) or call 860-228-9488."

**Young Adults SMART Recovery Program:** The AHM Board of Directors is very proud to announce the start of a SMART Recovery program for young adults. AHM was one of only a handful of organizations in the State of Connecticut to be awarded a grant for this program, thanks in large part to the support of DHMAS, DCF and Wheeler Clinic. According to AHM's Clinical Director Megan Aldridge: "We are starting a first-ever SMART Recovery Young Adult Group locally, which will meet **every Monday at AHM from 5:30-7 pm.**" The new program is for young adults ages 18-24.

AHM will also be continuing to offer a SMART Recovery Friends & Family group as well. This group meets every **Thursday at AHM from 5:30-7 pm.** AHM has 4 certified SMART Recover group facilitators! (Megan Aldridge, Didi Crowley, Dan Mixter, and Lauren Scharn)

**Goals of the SMART Recovery Young Adults Group helps:**

- To teach group participants self-empowerment and self-reliance.
- To encourage group participants to recover and live satisfying lives.
- To teach group participants tools and techniques for self-directed change.
- To offer group members meetings that are educational and include open discussions.
- To advocate group participants, the appropriate use of prescribed medications and mental health treatment options.

- To help inform group participants scientific knowledge as addiction recovery evolves.
- To empower group participants to fully access community resources that may help them in their recovery journey.
- To help group participants feel that they are not alone in their recovery journey by setting up networks of other caring community members.
- To empower group participants to fully realize their potential, whether through family life, personal dreams, education, or employment.

**The SMART Recovery Friends & Family group helps:**

- To encourage group participants to form networks with other families going through the recovery process.
- To teach techniques on how to communicate with loved ones about addiction.
- To provide parents/friends with QPR – (question, persuade, refer) gatekeeper training.
- To offer group members meetings that are educational and include open discussions.
- To share physical and mental health resources that can help their loved ones through the recovery journey.
- To serve as a bridge to help families access other mental health professional services.

AHM offers many other services to Columbia residents, including the Student Support Services program at Horace Porter School and the TASKs program for Columbia seniors. For more information, call the AHM offices at 860-228-9488 or visit [www.ahmyouth.org](http://www.ahmyouth.org)



**Columbia Congregationa United Church of Christ - Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund:**

November 2019 marks the 44th year of the annual **Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**. Many families have benefited from your donations in the past, and your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

The idea behind the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to contribute to the fund instead of sending cards to your friends and family in town. Your name will then be listed in the Town of Columbia quarterly newsletter Columbia Views.

The purpose of the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to help Columbia families in need. These situations present themselves more often than we would like to believe, and as government programs have been reduced, the need for the local community to respond has become greater. Join your neighbors in continuing or even increasing your support

This past year alone the fund has been used to help with holiday food baskets for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, back to school supplies, youth camp registration and help with electrical bills.

Thank you for your continued caring and God Bless You!

Sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church

---

Mail to:

Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund

c/o Dixie Silvestri

70 Johnson Rd

Columbia, CT 06237

Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the **“Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund”**

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not list my name in the Columbia Views **OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my listing in the Columbia View to appear as (names only please):

---

(Please print clearly)

Please make checks payable to the **“Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund”**

Donations are tax-deductible.

**DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND**

**Deadline for printed listing Dec. 20, 2019**