

Columbia

VIEWS

Volume 2 • Issue 4
Fall 2018



Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT



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Can anyone tell me where this summer has gone? A relatively uneventful season has passed. A season of 90° weather or raining, but I'll take it. At our home the garden flourished, and reports from our Recreation Department show that many of you enjoyed the summer at the lake. Now it's time to put away patio furniture and make sure the snow-blower is in peak running condition.



Let's talk about the winter. The key to surviving the winter in New England is to be ready. Our Department of Public Works, while still working at Rec Park finishing up various projects are already gearing up for the winter season. George Murphy, Public Works Director and his crew will be ready before the first snow flies. During the upcoming season I ask that you slow down and drive carefully while traveling the roads in Columbia. A crew could be clearing trees, freeing clogged drains, or fixing roads right around the corner, so please be aware.

Speaking of slowing down, I have received more than a few calls concerning the speed of vehicles traveling in Columbia. Not only have I notified our resident State Trooper, but I have asked for additional patrols from Troop K. Children waiting for buses or citizens walking the roads enjoying the beauty of fall should not have to worry about speeding cars. Please drive the speed limits.

I feel the need to mention our volunteer fire department and emergency medical personnel. In my position, I am notified of every emergency call that is received by our volunteers. These men and women leave the comfort of their homes and families to respond to every accident, medical emergency, or fire in our town and assist nearby towns when needed. Many times, they are forced to do it with minimal personnel required and they are always looking for new volunteers. They deserve our heartfelt gratitude for the job they do. To Chief Starkel and your entire team, THANK YOU!

If you have visited the Town Hall or Library, you may have noticed the Indian Moor's Charity School being stripped and repainted for preservation. The school is an amazing story – ending with Dartmouth college, but its beginnings were here in Columbia. Next spring Columbia will host a Dartmouth College reunion with the newly preserved school being at the center of the festivities.

The fall season will also mark the completion of my first year as your First Selectman. I am very proud to hold this position in our town and it is because of our many men and women who serve on the boards and committees and volunteer their time to continue to make Columbia a wonderful place to call home. No, we don't agree on everything, but that is a good thing. My door is always open, and I will always listen to what you have to say. In the end I am confident that our Board of Selectman will do what they truly feel is right for Columbia.

Steven M. Everett
First Selectman

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COVER PHOTO:

Columbia Lake Ravine by Paul Ramsey. A torrent of water is released through the ravine each fall as the level of the lake is lowered.

2018-19 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

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

MANSFIELD: Ad Deadline 3/8/2019
Mailed Week of 4/1/2019

2nd Q/19

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 4/6/2019
Mailed Week of 5/6/2019

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 5/10/2019
Mailed Week of 6/3/2019

MANSFIELD: Ad Deadline 6/7/2019
Mailed Week of 7/1/2019

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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.



There are many opportunities for community engagement. A key commission that is looking for volunteers is the Economic Development Commission (EDC). The EDC is looking for more members to help create a Tax Incentive Relief Ordinance to encourage local businesses to invest in Columbia instead of expanding into another community. Other boards and commissions that need your help are: Conservation & Agriculture Commission (2 openings); Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (2 openings); Open Space (1 opening); Planning & Zoning Commission (1 opening); Szegda Farm Management Committee (3 openings); and Youth Services Committee (2 openings).

Some of the feedback that I have received from residents include, affordable housing; user-friendly parks; walking and biking paths; preservation of our lakes, and a strong local and regional economic base that serves the needs of our residents. As we enter the next fiscal year's budget process these issues need your involvement as we move forward.

We have entered the 4th quarter of this year with several of our long-term capital plans either in progress or at completion. This includes the 1st phase of the Rec Park Master Plan that was approved in our budget discussion last season with a focus on safety and equality. The quotes are due October 11th for the new Girls Softball Field to achieve parity with the boy's fields and the new road has been surveyed to make the necessary safety improvements. A new Rec Park sign will be installed this fall and discussions have begun towards the next phase of the plan.



Paving projects are all coming together under the Public Works Department. Our town parking lot came out great! Town roads are now complete including Macht Rd., Thompson Hill Rd. and Colonial Drive. Bids are due for our new Salt Shed to be in compliance with the Department of Environmental and Energy Commission.

The lead abatement and painting services began in September at the Moor's Indian Charity School with an anticipated completion in October.

Horace W. Porter School has new data lines installed and the LED lighting replacement project is completed. The new stairway and storage closet in the schools' cafeterium is wrapping up.

This is a small example of the many exciting projects our boards, commissions and committees are working on. All their meetings are public. By attending you can be involved in the creation of our 2019-2020 budget. Please send us your thoughts to; townadministrator@columbiact.org, check our Town Calendar to find your favorite committee and just show up. We will look forward to your thoughts and ideas.

Stop by and introduce yourself, my door is always open!

Mark Walter
Town Administrator



FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Assessor's Office is currently performing inspections on building permits and developing an updated personal property list. Below are upcoming tasks you may want to list on your calendar if applicable to you.

Personal Property

This notice is to remind all taxpayers who file a declaration for personal property to please do so no later than November 1, 2018. If not filed in a timely manner, per state statute a 25% penalty shall be applied. If you own a business or have unregistered motor vehicle(s) that are not currently on our list, please let us know and we will mail you a declaration.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Adjustments

To have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof. The first is a copy of the vehicle plate return or

How To Search Registration Status

Below is the link to look up your registration status. You need to keep track of this now since DMV may or may not send out your renewal notification or may have the wrong address. When you move you must notify DMV of your new address and tax town. It is important that your emissions testing be up to date. Even if you register your car it will not be considered registered if your emission is not up to date.

<https://dmvcivls-wselfservice.ct.gov/Registration/VerifyRegistration>

registration cancellation receipt that you get from DMV when you return your plates or from online. The second is something proving you got rid of the vehicle. Generally accepted proofs are a copy of the bill of sale, an out-of-state registration, an insurance statement that specifically states your vehicle was removed for sale or because it was sold, stolen or totaled. You can also submit a junked vehicle statement from the junk yard or a copy of your purchase agreement if you traded in a vehicle and bought a vehicle with lower value. If you traded a vehicle and kept the same plate do not bring us any documentation because DMV will automatically process it.

Please contact our office if you have any questions at 860-228-9555. 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.

You will need to enter your plate number; also known as your registration number. Then select the type of vehicle. Most are listed as passenger; but trucks are usually combination or commercial. Hit continue and the system will give you your registration status.

How To Search Emission Test Date

Go online using the link below:

<http://ctemissions.com/test-procedures/test-due-date-search>

Enter your vehicle's vehicle identification number (VIN) in the box.

The date of the test will appear in a green box below your VIN number (the box color could be different if the test is late).

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The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2019. The last day to pay without a penalty is February 1, 2019. This office uses the postmark as the date of payment.

Please make note of the change of address for the Town of Columbia, Tax Collector that became effective on July 1, 2018.

The new address to send tax payments:

Town of Columbia
 Dept # 347
 PO Box 150512
 Hartford, CT 06115-0512

Standard mailing address for the Tax Collector, Town of Columbia:

Town of Columbia
 Tax Collector
 323 Route 87
 Columbia, CT 06237-1156

Please note we are aware of an incorrect address stated on the yellow insert, please use the above address. We are sorry for any confusion.

Please feel free to leave payments or correspondence in the drop box at the right side of the entrance of the Town Hall. This box is emptied at 8:00AM. Please be aware that tax payments put in the drop box after 8:00AM will be processed the next day the tax office is open. Regular office hours for the tax office: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 8:00-6:00 and closed on Friday.

The tax office has extended hours during the tax collec-

tion months of July (and August 1st), and January (and February 1st): Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 8:00-6:00 and 8:00-12:00 Friday.

Columbia residents can view and pay taxes online (service fees apply). To find your bills online, go to www.columbiact.org. On the Columbia home page (you may need to scroll down) click on the view/pay square and on the next page click on view/ pay square again. The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. Enter your last name, a space, and then your first initial. You can also utilize this site during income tax time to look up your payment history. Locate your bill using the instructions above then hover over the icons in the option column and click on the one that says tax payment history.

If you have any problems using the online system, please contact the tax office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org and we will gladly assist you.

Happy Holidays!



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TOWN DIRECTORY

| DEPARTMENT | | OFFICE HOURS | PHONE |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| Administrative Office | | 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 | | |
| Assessor's Office | | Mon-Wed 8 am -4 pm | 860-228-9555 |
| Assessor | Mary Lavallee | Thur 8 am -6 pm | |
| Assistant Assessor | Marcy Littlefield | Fri 8 am -Noon | |
| Beckish Senior Center | | Mon-Fri 8-3 | 860-228-0759 |
| Director | Bernadette Derring | | |
| Social Services | Yolanda Irizarry | | 860-450-7400 x7418 |
| Van Dispatcher/Program Asst. | Margaret Verrizzi | | |
| Building Department | | 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 | | |
| Animal Control | | | |
| | Nancy Yale | | 860-337-1222 |
| Finance Department | | Mon-Thur 8 am - 4:30 pm | 860-228-8423 |
| Finance Director | Beverly Ciurylo | | |
| Accountant/Payroll Specialist | Lisa Rose | | |
| Accounting Assistant | Jill Swenson | | |
| Fire Department | | | |
| To report a fire | | | 911 |
| Non-emergency calls | | | 860-228-9602 |
| Fire Chief | Peter Starkel | | |
| Public Works Department | | Mon-Fri 6:30-3 | 860-228-4270 |
| Director | George Murphy | | 860-234-2195 |
| Facilities Manager | Bud Meyers | | x111 |
| Recreation Department | | Mon-Wed 8-4 Th 8-7 | 860-228-8513 |
| Director | Marc Volza | Fri CLOSED | |
| Recreation Assistant | Aleza Potter | | |
| Registrar of Voters | | Varies | 860-228-0110 |
| Republican | Kate Morrison | | |
| Democrat | Karen Butzgy | | |
| Resident State Trooper | | | |
| | Gregory DeCarli | Mon-Fri 6:30-3 | 860-228-9846 |
| | Dispatch | | 860-465-5400 |
| Tax Collector's Office | | Mon-Wed 8-2 | 860-228-0230 |
| Tax Collector | Carol W. Price | Thur 8-6 Fri CLOSED | |
| Assistant Tax Collector | Lisa McDonald | <i>extended hours in January and July</i> | |
| Town Clerk's Office | | Mon-Wed 8-4 | 860-228-3284 |
| Town Clerk | Robin M. Kenefick | Thur 8-6 Fri 8-12 | |
| Assistant Town Clerk | Gail McGrath | | |
| Transfer Station | | Wed 8-4 | 860-428-1482 |
| Attendant | Michael Stewart | Sat 8-4 | |

Registrars of Voters

Karen Butzgy – Democratic
 Katherine Morrison – Republican
 (860) 228-0110 x113
 registrar@columbiact.org



Gubernatorial Election

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

We will be in our office in Yeomans Hall on Tuesday, October 30st from 9am to 8pm to accept voter registrations. 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.

Election Workers Wanted

Do you know a student looking for volunteer hours? Or are you interested in being involved in the election

process? We are always looking for new faces to work with us on or around Election Day. There are various jobs and opportunities available for our community to be involved. Contact our office for more information.

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



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State Election

State elections will take place on November 6, 2018. Absentee ballots become available on October 5, 2018 through the close of business on November 5, 2018.

Permanent Absentee Ballots

An elector with a permanent physical disability, who is unable to appear in person at their poll on Election Day, may file an absentee ballot application along with a doctor's certificate (on letterhead) with the Town Clerk. This will place the elector on the Permanent Absentee Ballot list. A copy will be forwarded to the Registrar of Voters so that the permanent status can be noted on their registration. Throughout the year, for any election, primary or referendum, the Town Clerk will automatically

mail an absentee ballot to the elector as soon as they become available. Please contact our office at 860-228-3284 if you have any questions.

Fishing and Hunting

We would like to remind you that Sports licenses (fishing and hunting) for the 2019 season become available for purchase in December 2018. A perfect Holiday gift for the sportsperson in your family!

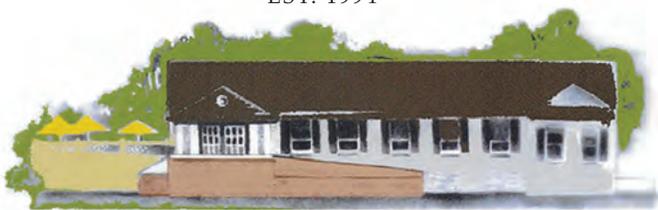
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Gail C. McGrath
Asst. Town Clerk

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Columbia, CT from the Landmark Building

Recent Crime Trends in Our Community

Access to critical information is very important in keeping our community safe – this informational article on recent crime trends in Columbia is to help residents who may not have access to the Columbia Resident State Trooper Facebook site.

Recently in Columbia and our neighboring towns we have been seeing a drastic increase in unlocked vehicles that are being burglarized and stolen if the keys are located inside them. Usually these vehicles are recovered in a few days in urban areas such as Hartford, and the crimes are usually being committed by juveniles out of these urban areas. Nearly all of the burglarized and stolen cars were unlocked sitting in the victim’s driveway. Most of the crimes occurred at night between 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM.

What can you do? We are urging residents to lock their vehicles and keep the keys to your vehicle in a safe location inside your house. Also, take any valuables like your wallet or purse out of your vehicle. Not only will this help prevent it from being stolen, but it would save you a lot

of time and hassle if you had to cancel credit cards, get a new drivers license, and protect your identity if these items were stolen. Also take any valuable items that you may keep in your yard and put them in a locked garage or shed. Installing motion lights and video cameras can help to deter any thefts. We call this target hardening, you’re basically making it not worth the risk and effort to break in and steal your property, thus having the criminals move on to another location or an easier target.

Several times these juveniles were caught in the act of burglarizing a vehicle, but the victim or a witness didn’t call the police until the next morning. We are also asking you to report any suspicious behavior to Troop K at 860-465-5400 at the time you see it, so that an officer can respond and be alerted to potential criminal behavior in the area. If you have any questions you can email me at Gregory.decarli@ct.gov.

Thank you,

Trooper Greg DeCarli
#1090



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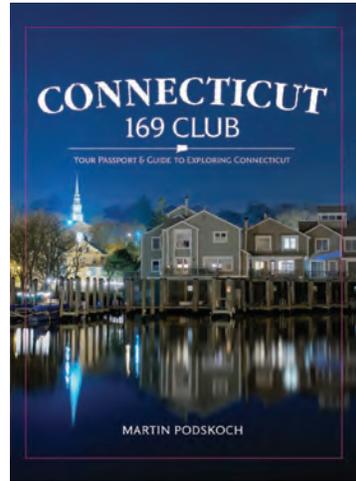


TOWN HISTORIAN

Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport & Guide to Exploring CT

A new travel guide featuring historic and public venues in each of Connecticut's 169 towns and cities will be published late October 2018 by Podskoch Press. Local award winning author and historian Marty Podskoch conceived this travelogue-type adventure guide on the successful model of his earlier publications Adirondack 102 Club and The Vermont 251 Club. These spurred "authentic" visitor experiences in upstate New York and Vermont, employing a self-guided passport approach. The guide includes lesser known public spaces that define the special character of each town on "roads less traveled".

Last January Marty contacted me to write a small chapter on Columbia's "open to the visiting public" venues and amenities. Our resident State Historian Walt Woodward



guide will be available in area bookshops and retailers, priced at \$24.95 plus tax.

penned the forward to Connecticut's special visitor experiences. So this is to alert you that we may have more visitors to our town in the coming months. Those who actually visit all 169 Connecticut towns will receive the Leatherman's Patch Award, emblematic of the famed Leatherman who once walked all over Connecticut. The travel

Ingrid Wood
Town Historian

FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

Statistics show house fires are more likely to happen during the winter months. Here are a few fire prevention reminders that will help keep your home safe through the holidays. If you choose to put up decorations, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and use. Extension cords are meant for temporary use only - unplug them when not in use. Remember to check and clean alternate heating devices and to keep

combustibles at least 36" from all heating equipment. Check smoke and CO alarms weekly to ensure that they are working properly. It is recommended to completely replace any alarm device that is over seven years old.

Michael Lester
Fire Marshal
Town of Columbia



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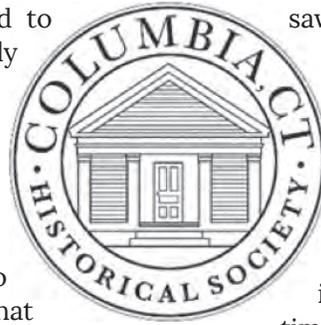
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Columbia, CT
patrickstone@columbiaCrossfit.com



The Columbia Historical Society is pleased to have Ben Cooper, a WWII veteran, with family ties in Columbia, as our guest speaker on **Sunday, October 28th at 2:00 PM in Yeomans Hall on Route 87.**

Ben Cooper's Infantry division liberated the Dachau concentration camp on April 29, 1945. Cooper was so traumatized, so heartbroken, over what he had witnessed that it took him 45 years to talk about it. But once he did, he found that sharing his experience was a healing process for himself and an eye-opener for those who listened. "Telling my story continues to be my mission. It is crucial to preserving history," Cooper says.

For years Cooper didn't tell his wife or children what he



saw at Dachau. He didn't tell anyone. He couldn't.

"I had it hidden here," Cooper says. "And it bothered me. It just, like festered there all the time. And I couldn't talk to anybody about it. There was no one to talk to, you know. That's why I didn't talk for 45 years."

"But now I do. Now I want people to know it happened." Ben has told his story numerous times—to high schools, colleges, civic groups and to historians at the Veteran's History Project.

Excerpts from Heartbeat Nov/Dec Issue 2017

Light refreshment will be served. An afternoon not to be missed. For additional information visit our website at www.columbia-history.org

HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL

School is off to a great start! On Friday, September 7th we had our welcome back Porter Pride and shared a wonderful slide show of summer adventures!

I am pleased to announce our Paraprofessional of the Year: Mrs. Kristen Bacon – Congratulations!

It is my pleasure to announce our Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Lorraine McLeish – Congratulations!

Open House was a success on September 13, 2018 – it's always great to see families, teachers and the community get together and meet each other.

A special thank you to Mr. Lol Fearon as he has retired

from the Columbia School District.

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Maria Geryk as the new Superintendent for the Columbia School District. She will be joining us on October 1st

Middle School Conferences are on October 10th and October 11th

Our first Porter Pride is Friday, November 2nd at 1:30pm.

Elementary Conferences are on November 19th and November 20th

Cheers to our awesome PTO!

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Veterans History Project

Recent memorial tributes to The Honorable John S. McCain III appeared in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. In addition to his own 2003 contributions to this project, he appears in the collection of Air Force veteran and former prisoner of war John E. Stavast, who in 1967 “meticulously recorded the internment roster of incoming airmen to the ‘Hanoi Hilton’” (<https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2018/08/fair-winds-and-following-seas-sailor/>).

The Veterans History Project (VHP) was created by an act of Congress in 2000; Public Law 106-380 which received unanimous support. The purpose of this effort is to collect and preserve first-hand interviews, narratives, oral histories, and associated documentary memorabilia (memoirs, original photographs, letters, maps, and other historical documents) from veterans who served in the US armed forces from WWI to the present. The intent is to make their personal accounts accessible to better understand the realities of a period of war. This is to become an important collection of veteran experiences in a permanent accessible national archive. The collections may be viewed online or by appointment at the Library of Congress. In 2016 the Gold

Star Families Voice Act; Public Law 114-246 was enacted to expand the project to include immediate family members of veterans who died as a result of their service. This project receives financial support from the United States Congress and corporate sponsors such as AARP, as well as State Chapters of the American Legion.

Veteran US servicemen may voluntarily contribute their experiences and stories at any time. Scout members, historians, individual volunteers, business and professional associations, university educators, or adult family members may conduct interviews. The participation guidelines and detailed information is available in “Frequently Asked Questions About the Veterans History Project” which can be found on the Library of Congress website: www.loc.gov/vets/vets-questions.html. The participation guidelines kit is available: www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html. If you would like to participate and are in need of someone to interview you, please contact me at the Town Hall Administrative Office at 860-228-0110 or townhistorian@columbiact.org.

This information was excerpted from the Library of Congress website: www.loc.gov/vets/about.html.

Ingrid Wood
Town Historian



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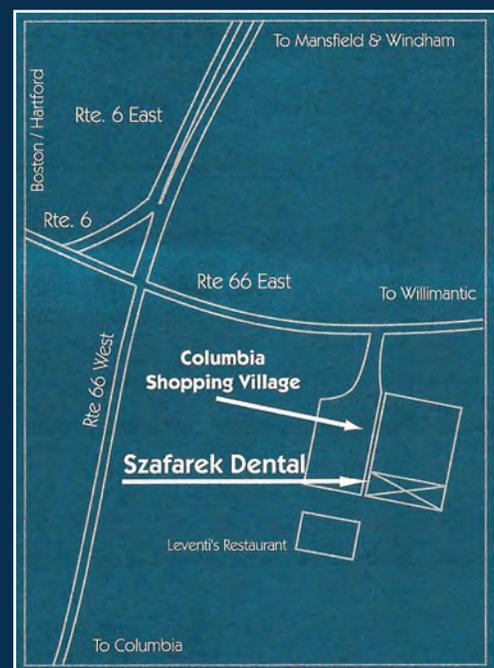
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Beckish Sailing the Open Seas!

The Beckish Senior Center is traveling near and far. We have had many successful trips this year; traveling to Newport, Newburyport, Rhode Island, Mystic, New York and many other destinations. The seniors are now going to test the open seas and take a trip to Bermuda on the Norwegian Gem Cruise line. The trip will be from May 3-10, 2019 with the best pricing around. The price includes: Round trip Motorcoach transfer to Boston Cruise Terminal; 7-night Cruise accommodations based on double occupancy; Port and departure taxes; All meals, activities, and entertainment aboard ship; Prepaid gratuities aboard ship; Ultimate Beverage package, and Trip protection and portorage of one bag per person. Prices do not include shore excursions.

| Category/Cabin Type | Price |
|--|--------|
| IA Inside stateroom, two lowers/queen | \$1249 |
| OB Oceanview, 2 lowers/queen, large window | \$1449 |
| OK Obstructed Oceanview, porthole/ picture window, sleeps up to 4 | \$1379 |
| BA Balcony, 2 lowers/queen & sofa bed, floor to ceiling window | \$1889 |

The Norwegian Gem is purposely built for Freestyle Cruising, and has been updated with vibrant colors, impressive array of entertainment in the 1,150- seat theater, world class casino, bowling alley and a Roman Spa & Fitness Center. This cruise features three full days at King's Wharf on the island's western end. The dockyard includes the fascinating Bermuda Maritime Museum, an atmospheric pub, craft market and Bermuda Snorkel Park. It is the closest port to the beautiful south shore beaches with their pink sands and coral bluffs. A short ferry ride takes you to Hamilton on Front Street in the heart of the shopping district. Explore Bermuda underwater Exportation Institute, the Bermuda Aquarium or Museum and Zoo. Play Golf, dive the clear waters with an awe-inspiring array of coral reefs and schools of fish, or just spend time exploring elegant shops. This cruise includes two free perks for all passengers, including free drinks (Ultimate Beverage Package) and pre-paid gratuities.

This is an experience of a life time! Please see our monthly newsletter for more information and the reservation form. The Beckish Senior Center is always available for more information if your interested in getting your sea legs moving!

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Autumn leaves- they are beautiful to look at, but extra work in the yard. But even the leaves can't keep Columbia seniors from participating in some great activities.

The next special event is an important one. Our annual Veterans' Day luncheon is part of the town's celebration and remembrance of the accomplishments of our veterans. It gives us all an opportunity to express our thanks to them for defending our country. The Columbia Seniors Organization will provide a lunch for veterans and their families and friends. This lunch is free of charge and will take place on November.

In December we will have our New Year's Eve Potluck Luncheon including a White Elephant Grab Bag. We enjoy being together over a meal and picking out a white elephant item from the many wrapped gifts. Our selection process always comes with a few twists, but in the end we all have a good laugh. This event will take place at noon on December 31st.

During January and February, we take a break from the big events due to the uncertainty of the weather, but

that doesn't mean we don't get together. We will have more information in the newsletter.

One of the highlights of the fall season is our Harvest to Holly Fair. This year it will take place on Saturday, November 17th from 9am through 2pm. This fair is one of our major fundraising events of the year. It includes vendors, a Christmas Shoppe, a bake sale, and lunch. This year we will have baked potatoes with toppings as well as hot dogs. There are many ways to help. If you know a vendor - send them our way. You can also donate holiday items for our Christmas Shoppe. Lastly you can work with us on that day to make it a successful sale. And of course, you can come and shop.

We hope to see you for these events. We also sponsor trips, movies, a quilting group, and other opportunities. 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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Community Forests – A Long-Term Investment Strategy for Columbia

Establishing a Community Forest in the Town of Columbia will provide a positive long-term investment for the town, benefitting the local community, environment, and economy.

Town forests have a storied history in the Northeast, going back hundreds of years. These shared forests were managed for timber production, to augment tax revenue, while also providing opportunities for recreation, wildlife, and source water protection. Today's community forests provide a powerful conservation strategy to boost local economies and protect nature and outdoor recreation. Community Forests strengthen forest-based economies by supporting timber-related jobs and municipal income, while providing hiking, camping, hunting, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, and dog-walking.

As a national nonprofit, The Trust for Public Land protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Throughout New England,



Photo: Jerry Monkman, courtesy of The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land has helped to establish more than 20 community forests. The vision for each project is shaped by the community, encouraging public participation, connecting them to the decision-making process and to each other.

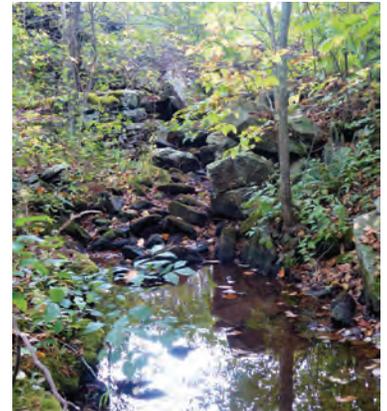


Photo: Paul Ramsey

The Trust for Public Land partnered with Meredith, New Hampshire to create Page Pond Community Forest, a 765-acre recreational and economic asset for this town on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee. The Trust for Public Land protected The Preserve, a 1,000-acre coastal forest, most of which is owned and managed by the Town of Old Saybrook. In both cases, residents that cherish these special places came together to plan, steward, and manage them for the benefit of their communities.

Most often, community forests are created using public funds from federal, state, local sources, and foundation grants and individual donations. The investment doesn't stop there. The Trust for Public Land conducted an economic analysis in Vermont and found that every \$1 invested in land conservation by the state returns \$9 in economic value in natural goods and services, such as water quality protection, flood mitigation, and food production, to the Vermont economy.

Bottom line, high-quality protected lands, like community forests, benefit towns throughout New England in countless ways. Columbia could be next.

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SAXTON B. LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Although summer is the busiest time for libraries, fall doesn't mean we get ready to hibernate. The past few months have brought nocturnal animals, cupcakes, theological education, and ghost hunters! Our book groups and movie series are in full swing, and new members are always welcome. In the next few months, please join us for our adult Holiday Harvest program (November 7th) to learn new tips and tricks for your holiday tables and children's cooking program (November 8th).

Coming soon in your mailbox will be the Library's annual giving campaign. We want to thank all who have contributed in the past. This has been our main fundraising event, and your generous support helps us immensely. This winter



Above: Saxton Mouse sat in a giant chair at the Adirondack Experience, in Blue Mountain Lake, NY. Right: Saxton Mouse visited Niagara Falls, but had no desire to go over it in a barrel.

we plan to engage in another fundraising opportunity; the first Saxton Mouse Calendar will be going on sale soon, with all proceeds to support the Library. During the past



few months between his travels, Saxton Mouse, the Library's unofficial mascot, has been posing in various photo shoots. Much thanks go to his production staff: Adi Banton, Molly Wilkinson and Cindy Wilkinson.

To allow our staff to celebrate with family, the library will employ holiday hours. Please check the Library or website www.columbiactlibrary.org for details.

From all of us at SBL, we wish you happy holidays.

Sue Epstein

BUILDING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT

Reminders from the Land Use Department

Winter and cooler weather are arriving quickly and many of you will be thinking about your fall and winter projects. Please remember to call the Building & Land Use office 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 please call Cindee Hodge at 860-228-0440 or chodge@columbiact.org.

Please note that permits are required for the installation of all chimney liners, heating stoves, whether it be wood burning, gas fire place insert, or pellet. Permits are required for all generator installs, whole house auto or portable.

Fall yard cleanup is approaching. Please remember to call for a burn permit. It is NOT ok to just burn your brush/leaves.

Wishing you all a happy and safe fall/winter season!



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November 2018 marks the 43rd 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 February quarterly newsletter Columbia Views.

The purpose of the Cardless Holiday Fund is to help Columbia families in need of assistance when faced with difficulties. 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 a car repair, emergency oil delivery, winter coats for children, holiday food baskets for 17 families (Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas), back to school supplies, youth camp registration and an emergency home repair.

Thank you for your continued caring and God Bless You!

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10AM Sunday Worship Service with Church School and Nursery.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 3rd

BAZAAR AND CRAFT FAIR

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM/Parish Hall
Baked Goods, Deacon's Diner, Crafts,
Silent Auction, Vendors

Saturday, November 10th

Community Breakfast/Parish Hall
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sunday, November 18th

10:00 AM - 300th Anniversary Kick-off
Celebration Service!
Followed by refreshments

Tuesday, November 20th

7:00 PM - Combined Thanksgiving
Service
(being held at Andover Congregational
Church)

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 2nd

11:15 AM – Advent Workshop
with Soup and Bread Luncheon!

Saturday, December 8th

Community Breakfast/Parish Hall
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sunday, December 16th

10:00 AM – Worship Service Followed
by COOKIE EXCHANGE!
2:00 PM – Handbell Choir Christmas
Concert!
Followed by refreshments

Sunday, December 23rd

10:00 AM – Christmas Pageant!

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM – Candlelight Service
10:30 PM – Candlelight Service

JANUARY

Saturday, January 12th

Community Breakfast/Parish Hall
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Mail to:

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Please accept my donation of \$_____ to the
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Peace at Home Parenting Solutions

Peace at Home Parenting Solutions is being offered in partnership with AHM Youth and Family Services which provides parents with access to free, high-quality online parenting education. Parents can get answers to family challenges through their computer, tablet and phones. Peace at Home Parenting Solutions offers simple tips and practical strategies that improve child cooperation and family life. Once a parent registers and completes an online class, they will receive an email with resources, handouts and access to Peace at Home's private Facebook page.

Register for free subscription at Peace at Home Parenting Solutions at <https://www.peaceathomeparenting.com/webinar-registration-form/> Topics: Be Your Child's Emotional Coach; Help Kids Recognize and Manage Emotions; School Success: Inspire Motivation. Columbia parents use code PeaceJune2019.

AHM Services to Columbia Residents

Individual Counseling – providing access to trained family therapists to children and families. Services are offered in the convenience of a confidential setting at 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron.



Peer Mentoring – Trained peer mentors are matched with students in kindergarten through third grade. Either on the playground or in the classroom, peer mentors are there for support.

Juvenile Review Board – A formally designated committee to review juvenile court cases for youths' who may have made poor decisions in school or in the community. JRB works with students who are truant or had contact with law enforcement from problems such as fighting, substance abuse, shop lifting, or vaping.

Horace Porter Student Leadership Program – Students at Horace Porter will participate in the Power of Words program to develop skills

that can be shared with other students about kindness.

Garden Club – On the grounds of the Horace Porter School, students plant veggies and flowers. The purpose of the youth gardening programs is to introduce gardening and conservation.

TASKS – This program provides an opportunity for Columbia youth 15-years old and over who get paid to help meet household needs of Columbia seniors such as light housekeeping and yard work.

Questions regarding these programs contact Cheri Rivard-Lentz at 860-228-9493 X 6179 or email CheriR@ahmyouth.org.

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CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Third Annual Columbia Classic Car Show

Hosted by the Town of Columbia Recreation Department and the Columbia Historical Society on Sunday, September 9, 2018, at the Horace W. Porter School Parking Lot, this year's "Third Annual Columbia Classic Car Show: Cruise-In" included 65 classic cars and motorcycles. This free event was held for the benefit of Columbia Recreation Field Fund, Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, and Columbia Historic Preservation.



COLUMBIA COMMUNITY GARDEN

An Open Space purchase of the Szegda Farm property located on Szegda Road was made by the town in 2006, utilizing a state grant for open space and watershed purchases. A portion of this site was designated as a Community Garden. In 2009, the Columbia Community Garden began its inaugural season with a volunteer coordinator-Bob Ulkus, eight plots and four active gardeners: Bob Ulkus, Mark and Debbie Smith, Nancy Swartz and Victor Lavado. Fast forward and there have been 53 gardeners over 10 years utilizing the current 24 plots while enjoying the many benefits of community gardening.

Ours is a small rural town. Some may wonder why, with two-acre zoning regulations, do we need a community garden. Everyone should have adequate space for their own backyard gardening. Unfortunately, that is not true for some. For me, the only flat, all-day sunny spot on our property is over the septic field. Our three-year-old granddaughter once asked why we live in a forest! One reason is of course to enjoy the deer, racoons, squirrels and woodchucks that harvest just about anything planted in my backyard. Do I water the garden or do the laundry? The daily realities of a well water system.

The Columbia Community Garden has solved most of my problems with backyard gardening. The fenced 10,000 square foot garden is surrounded by a vast amount of open space. Full sun from sunrise to sunset makes its

location highly desirable for gardening. A steady supply of water is available to each plot through a network of hoses. Kudos to Ron Szegda for donating a 1,500-gallon tank for holding water that was quickly installed by our Department of Public Works in 2015 and kept filled with water until 2016, when a solar pump system was installed. A raised bed plot, an Eagle Scout project of Adrian Salustri, provides accommodations to seniors and individuals with disabilities wishing to enjoy a gardening experience.

Meeting like-minded organic gardeners and getting to know people from all over town has been a wonderful bonus. New techniques are shared, seeds and vegetables are swapped and helping hands are available to help new gardeners get started.

Gardening Packets are available through the Recreation Office beginning February 1, 2019. Gardening season is April 1st to November 1st.. A "Get Growing" garden seminar will be offered in late January by the Rec Department to encourage interested beginners. If you are interested in preparing a new plot this fall contact the Rec Dept and you will be put in touch with existing gardeners available to help. All are welcome. Don't miss out on this great opportunity for exercise in a peaceful setting that serves as a great stress reliever and provides the chance to discover the enjoyment of working the soil with your hands.

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'WOODIES' ON COLUMBIA LAKE



Photo by Paul Ramsey.

Having spent summers on Columbia Lake since my childhood, I have fond memories of seeing wooden boats over the years that stood out (of course, for many years there were only wooden boats until fiberglass took over the market). I recall in particular Ray Judd's Century Resorter that we incorrectly called the "white-topped Chris Craft" and the time he pulled up to 8 skiers! I also fondly recall Leo Riquier's 1955 Chris Craft Continental, either cruising slowly around the lake with his Great Dane sitting on the engine box or going full-bore with a load of nuns in full habits, their veils flying in the wind. Herb Englert had a few "woodies" over the years, as well.

Currently there are 3 woodies on the lake, all made by Chris Craft and two are the same year and model. We have an 18' 1950 Chris Craft Riviera purchased from Jerry and Hope Krause in 2002, "Jazzie" and Glenn Keegan recently purchased the same make and model, "Lucky Dog" from Jim Murdock of Vintage Boat Restorations in Bristol, CT. Jim restored Jazzie and Jerry and Hope Krause's

1942 19' Chris Craft Custom barrel back, "Excalibur." Excalibur took top prize, Antique Boat of the Year, at one of the most prestigious antique boat shows in the country in Clayton, NY in 2004. Next summer there will be a fourth, as Jerry & Hope have had a 1940 17' Chris Craft Deluxe barrel back restored by Jim named "Betty's Boy."

Since the early 1900's, countless families have experienced the innovation and quality that are Chris Craft hallmarks. The founder of Chris-Craft, Chris Smith, is the story of the American dream. His legacy continues through these wooden boats that are a wonderful reminder of days past. We are indeed fortunate to be blessed with these "woodies" on our lake.

Pictured on the cover of the last issue of Columbia Views is Jazzie and Excalibur. The picture below is Jazzie, Excalibur and Lucky Dog on a beautiful summer day in July 2018.

Martha J. (Muffy) Carter

Serving Columbia

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Since you elected me to serve Columbia, I have felt welcomed as part of the community. I have enjoyed sharing time with you at annual celebrations, community service events and working side by side on lake preservation efforts. I am honored to be included in local government, frequently meeting with residents, town leaders and school administrators to work on important issues.

I ask for your vote on November 6th, so I can continue to support Columbia.



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celebration in Columbia



Tim at the Beckish
Senior Center



Columbia Lions Club
4th of July Celebration

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Paid for by Ackert for the 8th, Wesley D. Shorts, Treasurer. Approved by Tim Ackert



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