

Columbia VIEWS

Volume 2 • Issue 3
Summer 2018



Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT



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When the current issue of Columbia View's is published we will be in the full swing of summer. With summer comes a time to celebrate and an opportunity to unwind and soak in the sun. We celebrated Independence Day, July 4th with our annual parade sponsored by the Lion's Club and this year's parade proved again how wonderful our community is; from the participation of our Fire Department, Columbia lake patrol, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and countless other groups, the parade was a true celebration of our pride and love for our community.



is dedicated to former First Selectman, Carmen Vance. We hope that everyone will enjoy the new beach and pavilion.

I'd like to remind everyone of some hot weather tips to ensure your safety and enjoyment on these hot summer days. Please check out the CDC's website for full information at <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heattips.html>

- **Wear Appropriate Clothing:** Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- **Stay Cool Indoors:** Stay in an air-conditioned place as much as possible.
- **Schedule Outdoor Activities Carefully:** Try to limit your outdoor activity to when it's coolest.
- **Pace Yourself:** Cut down on exercise during the heat.
- **Wear Sunscreen**
- **Do Not Leave Children or Pets in Cars**
- **Avoid Hot and Heavy Meals:** They add heat to your body!
- **Drink Plenty of Fluids**
- **Know the Signs:** Learn the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses and how to treat them.
- **Use a Buddy System:** When working in the heat, monitor the condition of your co-workers and have someone do the same for you.
- **Monitor Those at High Risk**

No matter what you are doing, be safe!

Just a reminder, if you want to receive town news via email or emergency alerts via cell phone, email and home phone, please sign up on our website at www.columbiact.org. You can also find out what is happening in our Recreation Department by visiting their website at <https://columbia.recdesk.com>.

Steven M. Everett
First Selectman



I'd like to congratulate Motta's Pastry and Bake Shop for winning Columbia's Business of the Year. The Windham Chamber of Commerce hosted an awards dinner that celebrated the accomplishments of over 20 local businesses and people who have contributed to their community. Santo and Marinella Motta have been providing our community for over 25 years with authentic, Italian pastries, cakes, cookies, breads, pizza and so much more! Motta's is as good as any bakery in the Italian section of any large city.

Also, a significant celebration was the opening of our newly renovated beach that includes a handicapped-accessible area. The new pavilion



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COVER PHOTO: PAUL RAMSEY

2018-19 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

4th Q/18

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

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

MANSFIELD: Ad Deadline 11/23/2018
Mailed Week of 12/10/2018

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

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an Epic Magazines LLC Publication

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Special thanks to

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Millie Ramsey
Volunteer Human Interest Collaborator
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59 RT 87, Columbia \$314,500

Newer Colonial across from Columbia lake! Hard wood floors, first floor laundry. Fireplace in living room with deck over looking the back yard. Master bedroom with bath, nice wooded lot. Enjoy private Columbia Lake, great town beach right around the corner!



53 Nollet Rd, Chaplin \$180,000

HUD HOME! FHA Case#061-415415. Large Ranch with 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms kitchen with plenty of cabinets and counter top space with open dining/living room area. Back deck off master bedroom overlooking 2.92 acres.

We keep hearing from friends and neighbors that Connecticut is done, too expensive, totally unaffordable. We definitely have some major challenges, but the news lately has been better than we have heard in over a decade.

Thanks to our best-in-the-nation workforce, high-quality education system, and forward-looking vision, Connecticut has the potential to be a hub for investment in financial-tech and other high-tech industries. A leading global financial-technical firm, Seven Stars Cloud Group, announced plans to establish a \$283 million global headquarters for technology and innovation on the former University of Connecticut branch campus in West Hartford. Stanley Black & Decker announced the planned construction of a \$1 billion, fuel-cell-powered, data center on the company's New Britain site. General Dynamics Electric Boat (EB) will grow its workforce in Connecticut by nearly 1,900 employees, bringing the total to more than 13,000 by 2034. Also announced in March, was that Infosys, an India-based information technology company, is undergoing a major expansion in the US., and has selected Hartford as one of its new technology-and-innovation hubs. Industry is returning to Connecticut and bringing with it the promise of many new jobs in Technical Manufacturing.

So, what does this news mean for Columbia? We need to continue our focus on making Columbia the best town to live, work and play in Connecticut! If the jobs keep increasing our student population will starts growing, and we may finally start to see a local housing market that is improving.

To get ready we have some great capital projects sched-



uled for this summer and fall. First, we have just purchased a small box paver. This paver will fix small sections of our roads before a total reclamation is needed, extending the road's life and stretching our roadway management plan. The design is underway for our new softball field with road and walkway improvements in Rec Park. The box paver is going to be a big help in completing this project.

Moreover, we will be completing our new salt shed, making us compliant with DEEP regulations. We are starting the exterior restoration of our old fire house into a new maintenance facility. Columbia is paving our town office parking lot, refurbishing our Moors Indian Charity School, installing solar panels on Horace Porter School roof and upgrading its interior lighting to LED. This final project will save us hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs.

We will keep you informed of these exciting projects by posting updates on our "Town of Columbia" facebook page (@columbiact). You can also get updated important town meeting notifications and emergency alerts through our Everbridge emergency alert system and our town e-mail blast. Both can be found on the home page of www.ColumbiaCT.org

A big thanks goes out to our Columbia Lion's for once again running one of the best Fourth of July parades. The floats were awesome, the bands impressive and the kids and adults had a great time.

Please stop in any time, my door is always open!

Mark Walter
Town Administrator

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FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Motor Vehicle Adjustments

In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof. The first is a copy of the vehicle plate return receipt that you get from DMV when you return your plates. The second is something that shows how you disposed of the vehicle. 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.

Renters Program

The Renters Program runs until October 1st so please call us or come in if you are interested in this program. You must be 65 or older or totally disabled. Please call us to find out what is necessary to file an application.

If you have any questions regarding the above programs you can reach us at 228-9555 or visit our website at www.columbiact.org.

FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

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

The new address to send tax payments during the months of **July** and **January ONLY**:

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

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

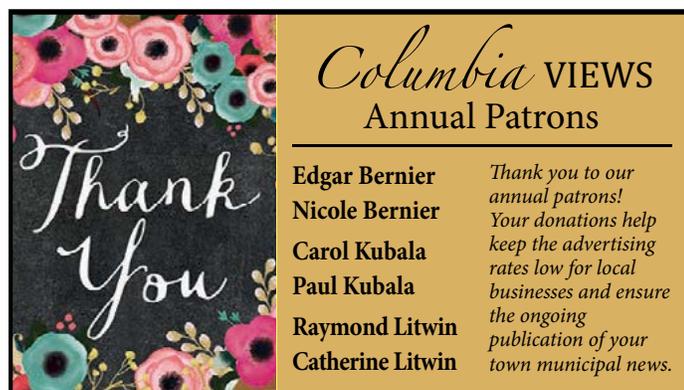
Town of Columbia
Tax Collector
323 Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237-1156

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 collection 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.

If you are making a payment after August 1st please call the office for the correct interest and fees or you can check your balance due online at www.columbiact.org.

Thank you for your cooperation during this transition! Please feel free to call the tax office with any questions at 860-228-0230 or email to taxcollector@columbiact.org.



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Registrars of Voters

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

August Primary

The Primary this year will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 in Yeomans Hall. Primaries in CT are “Closed Primaries,” meaning that only voters registered for 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 has passed. If you are currently registered as Unaffiliated or not currently registered to vote, you can enroll in a party up until noon on Monday, August 13th.

Did you know?

- There is a difference between Independent and Unaffiliated. The Independent Party is a recognized minor party in the state of Connecticut. Whereas,

Unaffiliated means you are not registered in any Party.

- In Columbia, as of June 20, 2018, there are 3870 registered voters, of which 1248 are registered Democrats and 950 are registered Republicans. 145 are registered in various minor parties and the remaining 1527 are Unaffiliated.

Please check our Registrar of Voters page on the town website or contact our office for more information.



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TOWN DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT		OFFICE HOURS	PHONE
Administrative Office			
First Selectman	Steven Everett	Mon-Thur 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-0110
Town Administrator	Mark Walter	Fri 8 am-Noon	
Executive Assistant	Jennifer LaVoie		
Assessor's Office			
Assessor	Mary Lavallee	Mon-Wed 8 am -4 pm	860-228-9555
Assistant Assessor	Marcy Littlefield	Thur 8 am -6 pm	
		Fri 8 am -Noon	
Beckish Senior Center			
Director	Bernadette Derring	Mon-Fri 8-3	860-228-0759
Social Services	Yolanda Irizarry		860-450-7400 x7418
Van Dispatcher/Program Asst.	Margaret Verrizzi		
Building Department			
Building Official	Jason Nowasad	Mon-Wed 8-4	860-228-0440
Zoning Enforcement	Connie Kisluk	Thur 8-6	
Town Planner	Paula Stahl	Fri 8-Noon	
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			
Finance Director	Beverly Ciurylo	Mon-Thur 8 am - 4:30 pm	860-228-8423
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			
Director	George Murphy	Mon-Fri 6:30-3	860-228-4270
Facilities Manager	Bud Meyers		860-234-2195
Recreation Department			
Director	Marc Volza	Mon-Wed 8-4 Th 8-7	860-228-8513
Recreation Assistant	Aleza Potter	Fri CLOSED	
Registrar of Voters			
Republican	Kate Morrison	Varies	860-228-0110
Democrat	Karen Butzgy		
Resident State Trooper			
	Gregory DeCarli	Mon-Fri 6:30-3	860-228-9846
	Dispatch		860-465-5400
Tax Collector's Office			
Tax Collector	Carol W. Price	Mon-Wed 8-2	860-228-0230
Assistant Tax Collector	Lisa McDonald	Thur 8-6 Fri CLOSED	
		<i>extended hours in January and July</i>	
Town Clerk's Office			
Town Clerk	Robin M. Kenefick	Mon-Wed 8-4	860-228-3284
Assistant Town Clerk	Gail McGrath	Thur 8-6 Fri 8-12	
Transfer Station			
Attendant	Michael Stewart	Wed 8-4	860-428-1482
		Sat 8-4	

Primary for state, district and municipal offices

Democratic and Republican Primaries will take place on August 14, 2018. If you have been a registered Democrat or Republican for at least 3 months prior to the primary (since May 14, 2018), you are eligible to vote. If you have been an Unaffiliated voter for at least 3 months prior to the primary (since May 14, 2018) and wish to vote at the primary, you are able to change your party affiliation to Democrat or Republican, by mail up to August 9th or in person up to noon on August 13th. Absentee ballots become available on July 24, 2018 through close of business on August 13, 2018.

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.

Absentee ballots

Voting by Absentee Ballot is a two-step process. The first step is to fill out an ED-3, Application for Absentee Ballot. The application can be picked up in the Clerk's office or downloaded from the Town's website www.columbiact.org (Departments – Registrar of Voters – scroll to bottom of page and click on Can I vote by absentee ballot). When they become available, an absentee ballot will be issued. The absentee ballot application with an original signature must be on file with the Clerk in order for your vote to be counted. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding voting by absentee ballot.

Happy fall!

Robin M. Kenefick
Town Clerk

Gail C. McGrath
Asst. Town Clerk

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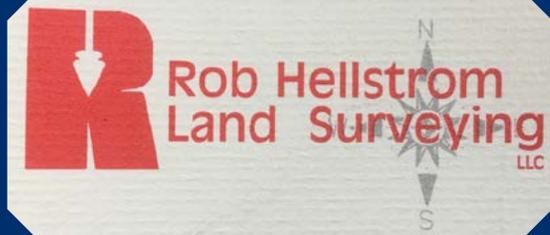
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Town officials recently received a letter from Willimantic Waste Paper Company indicating that excessive volumes of unacceptable items have been showing up in Columbia's Transfer Station recyclables.

The biggest culprits have been plastic bags, trash, and food waste in containers that are not properly rinsed clean. In addition, they have also found such items as clothing, garden hoses, Styrofoam, small toys, pens and small needles.

When these items are found in your recyclables the load is considered contaminated and the town loses out on money generated from recyclables, which is used to offset the cost of trash disposal.

We ask that you be mindful of carefully sorting and cleaning your recyclables before disposing of them at the Transfer Station.

A list of acceptable and prohibited items are listed below and are also available on our Town Website (www.columbia-ct.org) and on the door of the compactor at the Transfer Station.

Thank you for your continued efforts in recycling,

George Murphy
Columbia Public Works Director
Recycling Coordinator

Single Stream Recycling

You can place all **acceptable** recyclables in one bin!

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Paperboard boxes
- Opened mail & greeting cards
- Loose metal jar lids & steel bottle caps
- Paper egg cartons
- Rinsed #1-7 plastic tubs & screw-top jars
- Rinsed plastic bottles & jugs
- Paperback books
- File folders
- Phone books
- White & color office paper
- Rinsed clean, ballied aluminum foil & pie pans
- Rinsed glass bottles & jars
- Empty aerosol cans
- Magazines, brochures & catalogs
- Newspapers & inserts
- Corrugated cardboard & paper bags
- Rinsed cans
- Rinsed paper milk/juice cartons

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Plastic Bags
- Trash / Food Waste / Garbage
- Unacceptable Paper – Wax paper, soiled paper, soiled napkins & paper, pet food bags & dryer sheets, shredded paper
- Unacceptable Plastics – Non Bottles Plastics (Examples: Garden hose, trash & zip lock bags, cereal box bags, bubble wrap, clear plastic wrap, potato chip bags, single cheese wrappers, soiled plastic bottles & bags, Styrofoam, coolers, straws, silverware)
- Unacceptable Aluminum – Soiled aluminum foil, soiled tin cans
- Unacceptable Cardboard – Soiled pizza boxes & soiled cardboard (Examples: Grease, mold, paint)
- Unacceptable Glass – Windowpane glass, plated glass, windshield glass, ceramics, candle glass
- Unacceptable Items Miscellaneous – Pillows, clothing items, furniture, sheet rock, wood, yard waste
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- Styrofoam & Coolers
- Electronics
- Food Waste & Trash

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Countryside Realty of Hebron Ranks #1 in 2018!

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

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

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FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

As fall approaches, it's time to have your furnaces and alternate heating devices checked and cleaned for proper operation and efficiency. It's best to perform maintenance early, before winter temperatures arrive. Keep all combustible materials a minimum of 36 inches from all heating devices.

Fire Prevention Week starts on Sunday, October 7th. This is a great time to replace your older alarms. Fire alarms become less sensitive/reactive after 7 years. It's highly recommended to change the batteries in all

devices (both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors) twice per year.

Please contact the Town of Columbia Land Use Department at 860-228-0440 to obtain a permit to burn brush. Remember that burning leaves is not an acceptable practice in the State of Connecticut per D.E.E.P. regulations.

Michael Lester
Fire Marshal
Town of Columbia

COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Columbia Lake Through the Years

The new home of the Columbia Historical Society at the History Place has been very busy this spring. Many town residents have already learned about the history of Columbia Lake by visiting the History Place at 314 Route 87, but if you have not, it will be a valuable experience. We all enjoy the beauty of Columbia Lake and the exhibit provides information about the history of the watershed dating back to its early use by Native Americans including information about the stewardship of this body of water. The Lake exhibit is on display to the public on 8/12, 8/26, 9/16, and 10/20 from 1-4. The Historical Society will also host a "Lake Brook Ravine Walk" on 10/20 from 11 am to 12. Please also enjoy a free historic boat trip on Columbia Lake on 8/19 at 3:00 or 4:30. Prior registration



is required for this event at milleramz@gmail.com or 860 729-5472. Please join us as we celebrate Columbia's rich history.

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COLUMBIA CROSSFIT

Lebanon Crank

Have you ever wondered about Columbia's original name Lebanon Crank? While researching land records in the Town of Lebanon I encountered deeds that described property "in the place called the Cranck" (1710) later simplified to "Crank". An entry in Lebanon's Book of Highways describes roads four rods in width (66 feet), by the property owners on both sides. This document was a discovery! It revealed the exact location from which Lebanon Crank derives its place name.

Lebanon's Book of Highways entry states: "from the northwestwardly corner of northern portion of home lott [in Lebanon's First Society] the High Way runs northwestwardly, and bounds northeasterly upon land of Nathaniel Good, Joseph Marsh, Jonathan Clark, Ebenezer Bill, Samuel Bill, Joseph Bailey, Nehemiah Palmer, William Dewey, Jonathan Clark, William Vallanio, Benjamin Fuller, Peter Brewster, Josiah Swift, James Briggs, Samuel Topliff, Ebenezer Richardson Tilden, Amos Woodworth, Joshua Voass, Benjamin Woodworth, Richard English, Mr. Wheelock, Mr. Gager, Benony Clark, Joseph Clark, Gershom Clark, to the Crank or turn of the High Way and is bounded southwestwardly upon the land of Jonathan Clark, Isaac Bailey, Ichabod Woodworth, Ezekiel Woodworth, Isaac Tilden, Samuel Topliff, Thomas Porter, Ebenezer Richardson, Benjamin Collins, Honory Glover, Noah Webster, Nathaniel Dewey, Mr. Gager, Caleb Pond, Benony Clark, Joseph Clark, Samuel Guild..."

This colonial highway called the Hartford Road is today's Route 87 through Columbia. This road would have traversed Columbia Lake until the mid-1800s. The early colonial landowners listed above, on each side of this



The crank, heading north on Route 87, Columbia. (Courtesy I. Wood).

road, were named in sequence, first towards Hartford on the northeast side of the highway, then on the southwest side of the highway. The exact location of the crank, an extended curved road between two swamps is now known! This extended curve, originally angular like a mechanical crank, gave our community its name by 1710. The place name Lebanon Crank continued to be used until 1804.

In recent years the Connecticut DOT has done much to straighten out the crank on Route 87; but you can still see it, and yellow DOT signage gives drivers caution. From Columbia center, one enters the crank in front of the Saxton B. Little Free Library and exits the crank near the Clarke House at 291 Route 87.

In Lebanon Crank, formerly a society of Lebanon, the place name "crank" derives from a noun meaning a mechanical shaft bent at right angles. But a glossary of regional old English expressions compiled by Rev. Samuel Pegge in 1735 also describes "crank" as an adjective used in Kentish, meaning cheery or merry. An example: "our sailors call a boat that is apt to upset, a crank boat (from Lewis)". The implication is that the boat is "tipsy", listing at an angle. One 21st century use of the place name, a village named Crank in Lancashire England, is located near the Irish Sea. But here in Columbia and Lebanon, the physical geography of this extended curve or nearly angular highway road gave us our original place name "Lebanon Crank".

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Class at Moor's Indian Charity School

Horace Porter second grade students, accompanied by their teacher Mrs. Kristin Cavallo, her assistant, Columbia Historical Society members Bev Ciurylo and Millie Ramsey, and Town Historian Ingrid Wood conducted a history lesson earlier this spring in Columbia's one-room schoolhouse that was once Columbia's Center School in District #1. Before that, it was Moor's Indian Charity School used by Eleazar Wheelock (1755 - 1769). Ms. Millie Ramsey informed students that their grandparents or great-grandparents parents, if they lived in Columbia, may have attended one of Columbia's eight one-room schoolhouses until 1947. Horace Porter School opened its doors in 1948. After 1948 Columbia's one-room schoolhouses were sold or repurposed. Some have been consolidated into nearby homes and can be discerned, even today. An example of a former schoolhouse is the Carpenter Gothic Revival-styled schoolhouse Hop River Village Schoolhouse (c.1885) which was part of the Hop River Warp Company complex owned by William Jillson. It had two doors, one for boys and one for girls, who



History Class with Horace Porter Second Grade Classes at Moor's Indian Charity School. (Courtesy I. Wood)

would have entered and sat separately. This building is now a private residence on Hop River Road.

Horace Porter second grade students asked insightful questions about Eleazar Wheelock's use of this one-room schoolhouse building in 1755 - 1769 when it was known as Moor's Indian Charity School, named after donor Joshua Moor of Mansfield, Connecticut. After 1769, when Eleazar Wheelock left Lebanon Crank for Hanover, New Hampshire, the building was sold to the town and served as Lebanon Crank's and Columbia's Center School from 1773 - 1948. This building was used for Columbia Night School citizenship and language training classes from 1927 - 1933, and as a book repository and overflow classroom for Horace Porter School in 1955.

The original location of this schoolhouse was near today's Collins Garage, and was part of Eleazar Wheelock's vision of establishing a campus. This was the beginning of what would later become Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Earlier this spring, the Town of Columbia applied for a matching grant from the State of Connecticut Historic Restoration Fund to help restore and remediate the exterior of this historic schoolhouse building. We are now pleased to report our application was accepted, and the grant will be awarded. Later this summer you will see exterior remediation work in progress. I am extremely grateful to everyone, and especially to Executive Assistant Jennifer LaVoie who worked diligently to put this grant together. We are all pleased that this work will preserve this unique building so that future history students and visitors may continue to learn about our one-room schoolhouse treasure.

Ingrid Wood
Town Historian

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NOTE: Our office has relocated to 45 Laurel Lane
Columbia, CT from the Landmark Building

Columbia making fitness fun!

During the week of June 4th through the 8th the Beckish Senior Center hosted the 7th Annual Rose Marrotte Art Show in memory of the late Rose Marrotte. Rose was one of the founding members of the Beckish Senior Center where she enjoyed taking art classes and being part of a wonderful community. This very successful art show was open to all local artists, 55 years and older. There were 5 categories; painting in all mediums, woodcarving, photography, crafts and quilting. Monetary prizes were awarded in each category for first, second and third place as well as popular vote. During the week of the art show everyone was welcome to come in and vote for their favorite art piece in each category. It was very impressive to see the extraordinary talent that we have in our community. Please continue creating new masterpieces, and we will see you all in 2019.



7th Annual Rose Marrotte Art Show Winners

Painting

Popular Vote Winner: Cathy Tolsdorf – “Judd Brook”
 First Place: Barbara Cordell – “Blue Bird Cup With Flowers”
 Second Place: Katherine Mann – “A Bit Of Thaw”
 Third Place: Carman Vance – “Summer Bloom”

Photography

Popular Vote Winner: Paul Ramsey – “Plume Grass”
 First Place: Paul Ramsey – “Plume Grass”
 Second Place: Yolande Rubb – “Grand Tetons”
 Third Place: Margaret Schatz – “Blue Herron On Snow”

Woodcarving

Popular Vote Winner: Ed Ertel – “Funny Folks”
 First Place: Ed Ertel – “Funny Folks”
 Second Place: Richard Lacosse – “Turtle”
 Third Place: Gordon Pfeifer – “Cigar Store Indian With Message”

Quilting

Popular Vote Winner: Pat Muckenstrom – “Stars For Each State”
 First Place: Pat Muckenstrom – “Stars For Each State”
 Second Place: Jeanne Dumphy – “Spools Of Thread”
 Third Place: Alice Desautels – “Christmas Cactus”

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Seniors on the go

Oh, the lazy days of summer? There are no lazy days for the Columbia Seniors. We keep a busy profile with all our activities at the Beckish Senior Center. We hope that we will see you at some of these events, both for the summer and fall.

On **August 9, 2018 at 11:00**, the CSO and Beckish will host an event about Medicare presented by a Choices counselor. Choices is a state health insurance assistance program that is a cooperative program of the State of CT Department on Aging, the Area Agencies on Aging, and the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. After the talk, a special lunch will be provided, and we will be treated to a recent-release movie. There is no charge for this event, but a suggested donation of \$4.50 would be appreciated to cover the expenses of the meal.

The first event of the fall season on **September 27th at 12:00 noon** is a Birthday Party to honor the residents of Columbia that are 90 years or older. It will include a lunch (including cake) for our honorees and their friends

and families. We would love to hear about some of your memories growing up.

On **Wednesday October 10th from 6:00 to 8:30** is game night. We understand that everyone cannot always get out during the day. We will have board games and card games as well as light snacks. We would love to see you there.

On **Thursday October 25th at 12:00 noon** we will host an Autumn Potluck Dinner. Since you are bringing the food there is no other cost.

Look for information about our Veterans Day celebration, and our Harvest to Holly Fair in the next edition of this publication.

These are just some of the activities that go on every month. We sponsor trips, movies, a quilting group, and many others. The Beckish Senior Center also has many exercise groups and additional activities. For any further information please call the Senior Center at 860-228-0759 or check the Beckish newsletter, The Gem.



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School's out for summer!

June 22, 2018 is the last day of school for the 2017-2018 school year. It's been a wonderful year full of great things happening everywhere, here are just a few things to share with you!

Autism Awareness fundraiser, mini-mud run, Spring Sports Award, Caught Doing Good lunch, Cabe Leadership recipients, DARE and Unified Sports at Yard Goats game, Field Day, 8th grade Waterslide, 8th grade Class trip to NYC, Kindergarten Egg Drop... and there is so much more!

See everyone back on August 29th, visit www.hwporter.org if you need any information including online registration. Friend us on FACEBOOK and Twitter. Enjoy!

Preschool screenings

Horace W. Porter preschool screenings will be held three (3) times this school year: October 22, 2018, January 28, 2019 and March 25, 2019

The purpose of a screening is to collect information about each preschooler's early development in the areas of cognition, communication, motor functioning, and social interaction. This will help us to determine whether your child needs any special services in order to prepare for school success. Your child must live in Columbia, CT and be 3 years old by the date of the screening. Your child does not need to be screened to be considered for the Preschool Lottery that will be held in the Spring of 2019. If you would like your child to be screened, please call the Student Services office at (860) 228-0585.



HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL PTO

The PTO has some great activities and events coming up:

DATE	EVENT
Sunday: September 23, 2018	2nd Annual Kids Color Run
September 2018	Coming in September – Touch-a-Truck at the Columbia Fire Dept.
Friday: October 26, 2018	Trunk or Treat

October 14-26, 2018

Please come check out the Scarecrows on display at H.W. Porter School

Thursday: October 25, 2018

Book Fair Family Night and Ice Cream Social

Friday: November 9, 2018

Harry Potter Bingo

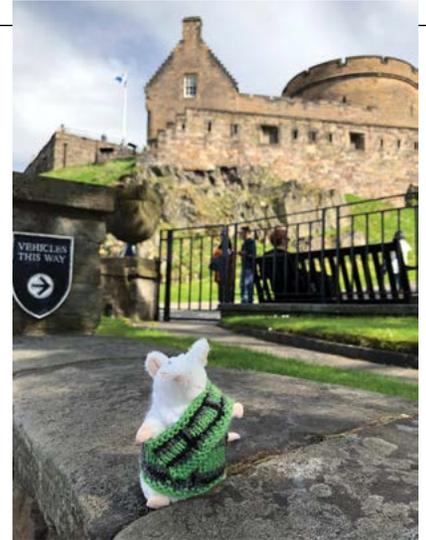
Discount cards will be on sale in September offering discounts at many of your local favorite businesses. Contact porterptopres@gmail.com for more info on any of our events.

SAXTON B. LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

This year, the Library's summer reading program is Libraries Rock – and we have been! We created painted rock picture frames and sang-a-long to “Summer Nights” from Grease. In fact, we've had at least one event per day this summer. We hope that you've visited us, but if not, know that you still have time! (Our end of summer magic show will take place on August 17 – come get some cake and help us celebrate!)

But if you're already thinking of Fall, know that we have some very exciting programs coming up. For adults, we've scheduled an informative religion series and a visit from local ghost hunters. Our regular adult events will continue, too! Stop in for our afternoon movie series (every Friday at 1:00pm); our monthly fiction, non-fiction and senior book clubs; our last Wednesday of the month evening writer's group; and our Wednesday afternoon Columbia Stitchers knitting group.

Megan is lining up children's programs for Thursday evenings, running two Book Groups, and hosting weekly Baby Bees Lapsit and Story Time programs (watch for special yoga themed Story Times beginning soon.) The youngest library users are encouraged to sign up for our '1000 Books before Kindergarten Program,' and



Left: Saxton Mouse has returned from his visit to South Korea, having had a wonderful time. Right: Saxton Mouse continued his worldwide adventure, visiting Scotland.

are invited to join us for a special event promoting the program this fall!

If you're in the neighborhood, do come in to say hello. Check out a book, magazine, audiobook, music CD, DVD, or e-book! Use a computer or check out a Roku or hotspot! It's always a great day to visit the Library, and we are always glad to see you.

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August 10, 11, & 12 2018**

Friday 5-8 pm
Preview-Free to members
\$5 non members

Saturday 9am-3pm
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Sunday 11am-3pm
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Our upcoming meeting dates are as follows:
AUGUST 1, 2018
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018
Both are at 9 am in the Library.
We hope you can join us!

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Columbia Lions Club Annual Chicken Barbeque



Sunday August 19, 2018
12:00 noon to 3:00 PM
Recreation Park
Hennequin Rd., Columbia

Seniors (62+) \$11.00 Adults \$12.00
 Seniors & Adults \$1.00 extra at door
 Children under 12 \$8.00

For tickets contact any Columbia Lion
 or Gary Pillion 860-228-9638

LIONS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Three high school seniors from Columbia were awarded the Columbia Lions College Scholarship in May.

The scholars selected were: Samantha Schatz, a senior at E. O. Smith who plans to attend Boston College; Irene Swenson, a senior at Bolton High School who plans to attend the Eastern Connecticut State University; and Sarah Lawton, a senior at E. O. Smith who plans to attend the University of Connecticut.

Each scholarship is worth \$800.

The scholarship criteria include the student's academic record and demonstrated participation in community service. Scholarship applicants are also asked to explain in an essay how their college studies will enhance their plans to continue their commitment to volunteerism and social awareness.

The scholarship winners were selected by a review committee formed by the Office of the Columbia School Superintendent. Members of the Columbia Lions do not serve on the committee that reviews applications.

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Columbia Resident Toby Keldsen wins Award for Innovation in Technology

Columbia resident, Toby Keldsen, a 7th grader at C.H.Barrows STEM Academy, recently traveled to Dearborn, MI to represent Connecticut in the National Invention Convention. He was awarded the Henry J. Link award for Innovation in Technology at the State Convention on April 28th, for his invention – the Forget Me Not (FMN). The FMN is a device that reminds parents if they have left their baby in the car through an App. that connects to their smart phone. This was Toby’s 3rd year going to the State Finals and his first time as a National Finalist.

This year Toby was initially going to invent a “jacket tracker” because he, like many children, has the problem of leaving his jackets at school. But he was inspired by a family friend, Rebekah Avery, who gave him the idea of putting a



slap bracelet on the steering wheel of a car to remind parents to take their baby. Toby said: “I’m going to take this a step further – most people have a smart phone – and they rarely forget that. So, I’m going to attach the tracker to the slap bracelet and the slap bracelet to the baby seat. Then the app that’s connected to the tracker will alert parents if they forget their baby.”

Toby was chosen to go to Nationals on April 30th and then flew to Detroit on May 30th and the out-pouring of support from the community was amazing! Scott Haddad and The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department set up a fundraiser at Blaze Pizza, and many residents gave to Toby’s GoFundMe page. Toby and his parents are extremely grateful to everyone that helped get him to

Nationals – this was truly a community effort. Toby is currently in the process of applying for a patent for the FMN.

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OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Open Space Opening

The Columbia Open Space Committee has an opening for an Alternate Member. The alternate fills in with full voting rights when at least one full-time member is absent from a meeting of the committee.

It should be noted that the committee is hard at work

on a major project in combination with the Trust for Public Land.

Interested parties should have a commitment to, and enthusiasm for, open space.

Please contact either Ann Dunnack at adunnack@charter.net, or Paul Ramsey at ramzbldr@yahoo.com.

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The Third Annual Columbia Classic Car Show

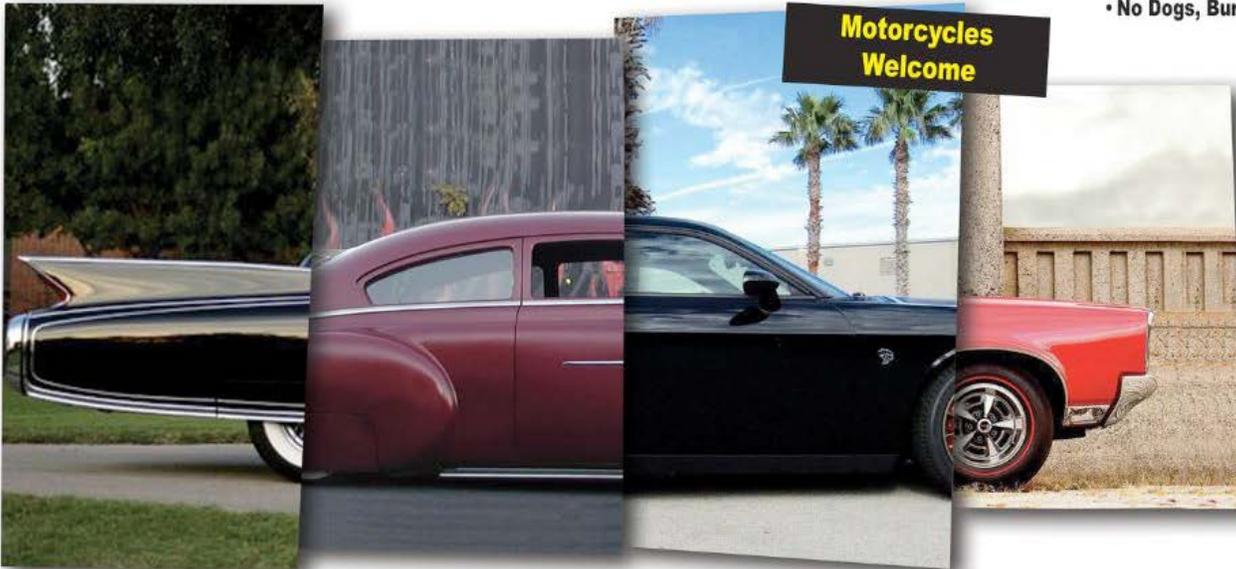
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OCT. 28

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Columbia's bald eagles

In 1782, the bald eagle was chosen by Congress as our national emblem. A few years ago, two of these majestic raptors arrived in Columbia, built a nest and now reside near the lake. For the sake of their safety and to avoid disturbing them we do not share their address.

Our bald eagles Bertha (Bert) and Harry named after long-time lake residents were sighted often near the lake in late 2015, including building a nest.

Bert was a six-year old eagle born in Fall River, MA. In the spring of 2016 they returned and produced two eaglets as witnessed by a few town residents. Unfortunately, the two did not survive a cold spell just after birth. In 2017, Bert and Harry welcomed their first surviving eaglet, Charli Mac, a female. Charli Mac flew the coop in late August 2017, as is the norm for eagles. She was sighted as far away as Royalton, VT. Bert and Harry remained in Columbia and were seen throughout last winter upgrading the nest. Breeding success came again as a new eaglet arrived in mid-April 2018.

How is it we know so much about our eagles? Over 30



years ago conservationists initiated an eaglet banding process to spot and report sightings of eagles. The bands provide valuable data - tracking eagle movements and monitoring survival rates. The first banding started with the letter K and was applied to our eaglet on May 25th. Thus, the name Special K. The eaglets are banded at about 6 weeks, as the chicks are easiest to handle at that age. A wildlife specialist climbs to the nest, gently bags the chick and lowers it to the ground. A 2nd

specialist bands the eaglet, weighs it, takes a blood sample and a series of measurements related to age and sex. Bert and Harry flew nearby within view of the nest while the banding occurred. Worried as the parents were, when all was done they returned to the nest and continued to nourish their youngster. In due time Special K will take off from Columbia and enjoy traveling the country in search of his new home.

It bodes well for the quality and health of our lake's ecosystem to have eagles thrive and continue to make Columbia their home.

Submitted by Mary Roickle

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CHURCHES

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August

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

September

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

Sunday, September 9th
RALLY DAY/Register and meet Church School Teachers
11:15AM – 12:00PM

Saturday, September 15th
SHRED-A-THON
9:00AM – 1:00PM at the Old Fire House

- Staples and clips DO NOT need to be removed.
- Please call ahead if you have large amounts of paper to

dispose.

- Suggested donation: \$5.00/per bag

Sunday, September 16th
Church School Begins

Sunday, September 23rd
10AM – Dedication of Teachers and Church Leaders

Sunday, September 30th
CROP WALK

Please register to walk at Andover Congregational Church starting at 2:00PM, or you can go on line to register www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiact

- The walk begins at Hop River State Park Trail in Andover. Walkers may choose to walk a mile and a half or more.
- A Potluck will follow the walk! Thank you for your support in our fight to stop hunger.

October

Saturday, October 13th
Community Breakfast/Parish Hall
8AM-11AM

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MINI MUD RUN

This year's 5th annual Mini Mud Run and Bike Rodeo Safety day was a huge success. The Mini Mud Run had nearly 190 participants complete an obstacle course that criss crossed roughly 1.5 miles of terrain. Kids were challenged with tube crawls, mud pits, climbing walls, the muddy woods (AKA "sneaker cemetery") section, and even climbing under a Police Department Swat truck with monster tires. Girl Scouts Troop 65023 created an obstacle that resembled a giant Samoa Cookie that had kids diving through its center. Members of our Columbia Volunteer Fire Department helped prepare the mud pools, soak up the slippery slide, be on first aid standby, and hose down the kids after the Run. Parents, teachers, and members of Boy Scout Troop 162 manned the course, and principal, Alyssa Gwinnell DJ'd the event.

As a new addition this year, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's Injury Prevention Program and Columbia's Resident State Trooper DeCarli partnered with the Horace Porter PTO and members of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) to host a Bike Rodeo. The Bike Rodeo brought road safety awareness through hands-on educational activities, proper helmet fitting, and a road safety course led by the Local Police Department.

Thank you to all of the community volunteers who helped on the course as well as local businesses who contributed supplies and funds needed to make this event a success!



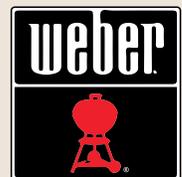
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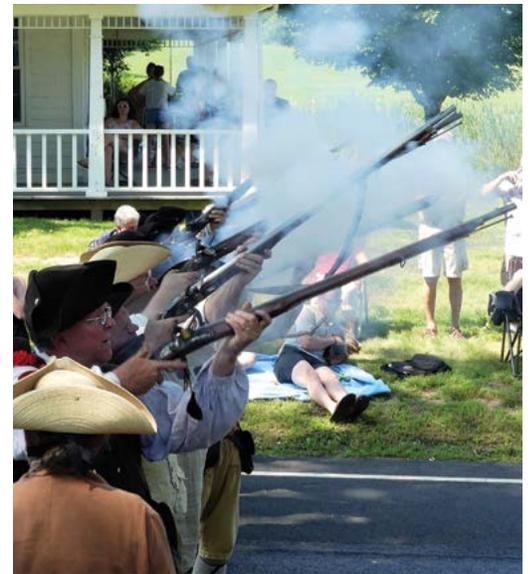
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FAIRY TALES CAN COME TRUE

Written by Nicole Henry
2018 Teacher of the Year – H.W.Porter School

This is the story of a beautiful princess, a community of people who love her, and one magical night that all of us will remember forever. It is amazing what can happen when people come together to surround someone with love.

I was recently part of a story that is too good not to share. It is long, but worth reading. It involved a princess, her Prince Charming, and one magical night. I am not a big believer in fairy tales, but it was hard to deny that a night so perfect could be anything other than something from a story book.

The main character and protagonist of our story is Daena. She stands at roughly three feet tall, and is 16 years old, a freshman in high school, and is full of sass. She is a big lover of the show *Beat Bobby Flay*, a guacamole making expert, and also happens to have been born with Kabuki Syndrome. Kabuki Syndrome is a rare disease that impacts many parts of a person's body and development. When Daena was born it was unclear what her life expectancy might be, but as all good leading characters do, she has defied the odds and rallied back to health more than once.

Recently Daena had been struggling a bit with feeling well.



Family Photo: Front: Daena. Back: Darien, Dave and Denise Parmenter

Her stomach is quite large from water retention, it is hard for her to stand for any length of time, and because some of her organs are not cooperating she tends to be in at least some pain all of the time. Through all of this she perseveres. Now, although it is very important to know all of this about our protagonist, it is also worth noting that our story involves many supporting characters as well.

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I think it is fair to say that the staff members at my school, Horace W. Porter, the school which Daena attended until she left us to be a big high schooler, can be considered the fairy godmothers in the story. We found out that Daena hadn't been feeling well so we set up times to visit with her in an attempt to perhaps brighten her spirits. It was after one of these visits that something special fell into place. It was honestly almost like it was written in the stars.



Left to right: Jordan Pelletier, Daena, her date Jake Gross.

After visiting with Daena I was chatting with my foster son (we will call him J) while he and I were driving home from renting his tux for the prom. They attend the same high school so I like to give him updates on how she is doing. I was telling him about how she hadn't been feeling well, and mentioned that I did not know whether she would be able to attend her prom in the future or if she would be well enough, seeing as it was two years away. He looked at me and said, "Why doesn't she come to prom this year?" I would consider J the sidekick of our fairy tale, almost like the mice in Cinderella. They fiercely believe in making the protagonist happy and would do what they thought necessary to make that person feel important.

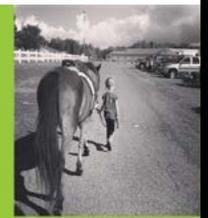
Without a second thought, J arranged for his friend to ask Daena to prom. His friend, who we will refer to as Prince Charming, became one of my very favorite people over the next couple of weeks. He "promposed" to our princess (which apparently is now a right of passage for prom goers). Daena is a lover of the Wizard of Oz, so as an homage to the movie Prince Charming made a sign that said, "I would be over the rainbow if you would go to prom with me," which he presented to our beautiful heroine during 6th period. She cried and it could not have been more beautiful.

The next two weeks that followed were busy, but perfect. An e-mail was sent to our school community, and a post was put on Facebook, explaining what had been happening and asking people to donate towards Daena's big adventure. The response was overwhelming to say the least. Close to \$1,000 was donated.

With more than enough money in hand, Daena's family set out to find the perfect dress and accessories for the

big night. Daena's family members were, aside from Prince Charming, the most important supporting characters in this story. They love her so unconditionally, and would stop at nothing to ensure that they dotted every prom-related I

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FAIRY TALES CAN COME TRUE

and crossed every prom-related T. There were no evil step parents or siblings anywhere to be found in this story. Although the search for the perfect dress was not easy, they were able to find it over an hour from home at a shop called Atiana's Boutique. Daena picked the biggest dress in the store. To say that it looked like a dress straight out of Cinderella would be an understatement. With a dress that fancy the only sensible choice for shoes was heels, of course, so our princess was given permission by her mom to buy her first pair ever.

As previously mentioned, Daena's body shape is unique, and because of this, alterations were required on her fairy tale gown. Through the use of social networking an amazing seamstress, Mary from Brides to Be in Glastonbury, was found. She took the dress from something that would not close around Daena's stomach, and was easily two feet too long, to something breathtaking. Everything was starting to come together, and finally the day we had all been waiting for arrived.

The community had stepped up in so many ways for Daena throughout this whole experience, and prom day was no different. The corsage was purchased by some of the fairy godmothers at H.W.Porter and the flower shop, It's So Ranunculus, threw in the boutonniere for free. The beautiful secretary from the school did Daena's nails, and my friend did her make-up. We had a last minute snafu with the hairdresser getting sick, but as things have a way of doing, everything worked out. One of the parents from the school made sure Daena's hair was prom ready.

I can honestly say that on that day Daena was happier than I remember her being in a very long time. She chatted with me as we awaited the arrival of all the women who spoiled her while getting her ready, and she smiled in a way that



you would never expect of a person who lives with chronic pain. She was truly joyful.

Around 5 p.m. we all arrived for pictures. Princess Daena in her white and light blue dress and long white gloves, and Prince Charming in his matching tux and light blue vest, looked sensational together. Daena drank sparkling cider, posed for pictures, and emitted such a sense of joy that it was impossible not to feel the happiness radiating from her. From what I hear, she went on to have a pretty flawless evening and managed to live it up for the majority of the prom. She even made it home before her carriage turned back into a pumpkin.

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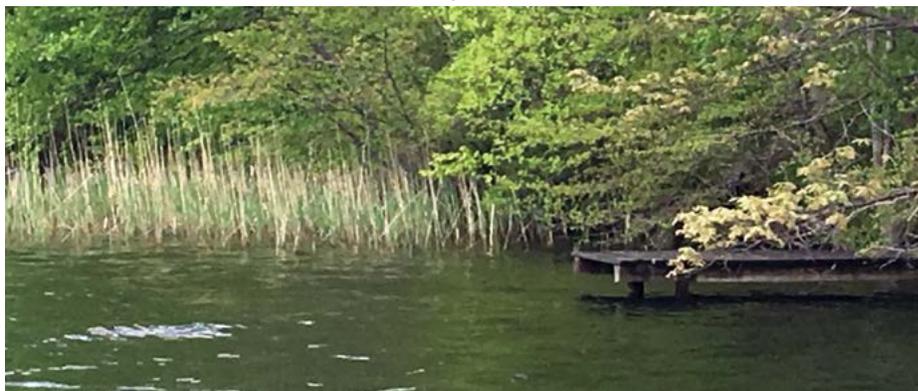
Phragmites Australis
 on Columbia Lakebed & Perimeter:
 An Invasive Species Must Go

Phragmites australis (PA) is an invasive wetlands grass reed found to be on and near Columbia Lake's lakebed. PA is an aggressive reed that has taken over thousands of acres of wetlands in Connecticut and across the United States. Once seeds anchor, PA aggressively spreads by underground roots (thick underground mats) called rhizomes. PA can expand at the rate of 30 feet per year. PA impacts a lake ecosystem by limiting feeding grounds for fish and water birds and crowding out native plants. Already there is a loss of cattails in Lily Pad Cove. In addition, PA has recreational and visual impacts as seen on Woodland Terrace and in Buell's Cove. Ultimately as it spreads PA has higher economic costs and diminishes value.

In 2016 based on guidance from a botanist and limnologist measures were taken to remove PA by cutting and removing and covering PA areas with plastic barriers. The measures failed; the PA grew back more densely and spread further. In 2017 Lake Management Advisory Board (LMAC) sought further advice from a Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station scientist. He shared that we have a small amount of PA now and it would be best to 'nip it in the bud' for the sake of the lake's ecosystem. Based on thorough re-

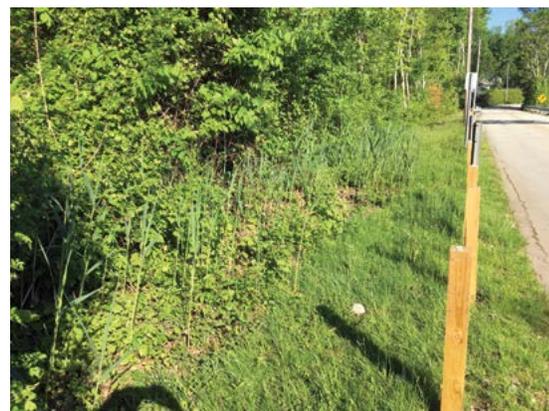
search the most successful solution is careful and targeted applications of approved herbicides to destroy the PA rhizomes by licensed applicators at certain windows of time.

LMAC recommended that our Board of Selectmen (BOS) secure request for proposals to eliminate PA. Upon review of the proposals LMAC, with the Wetlands and the Environmental Advisory Commissions recommended the town



hire the firm, SOLitude to eliminate PA. On June 7th the BOS held an informational meeting and after discussions voted unanimously to hire SOLitude and implement their plan of action this year. The treatment chosen was not only for its efficacy to eliminate PA, but more importantly for its safety to not harm our water, human or aquatic life. Also use of the lake recreationally will not be interrupted.

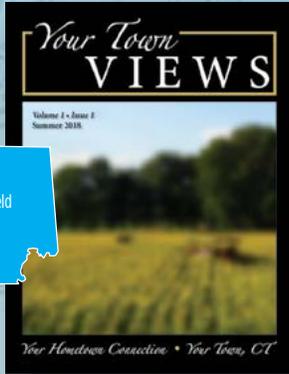
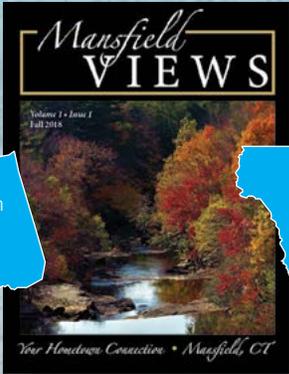
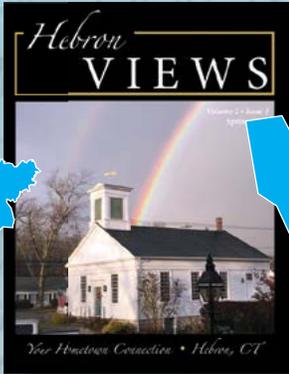
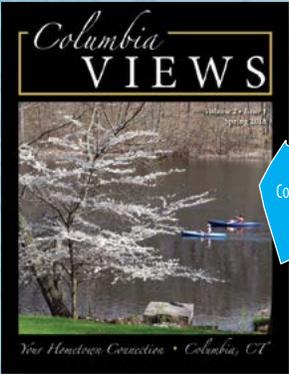
Moving forward the town will also take action to be vigilant in identifying and preventing PA from being on or near Columbia Lake.





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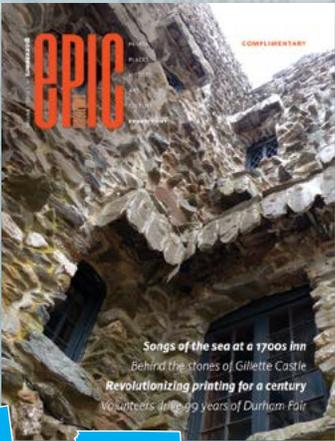
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