

COLUMBIA



Photo Credit: Sunset at the Lake, by Fischer S. Bessi



Photo Credit: Mono Winter, by Paul Ramsey

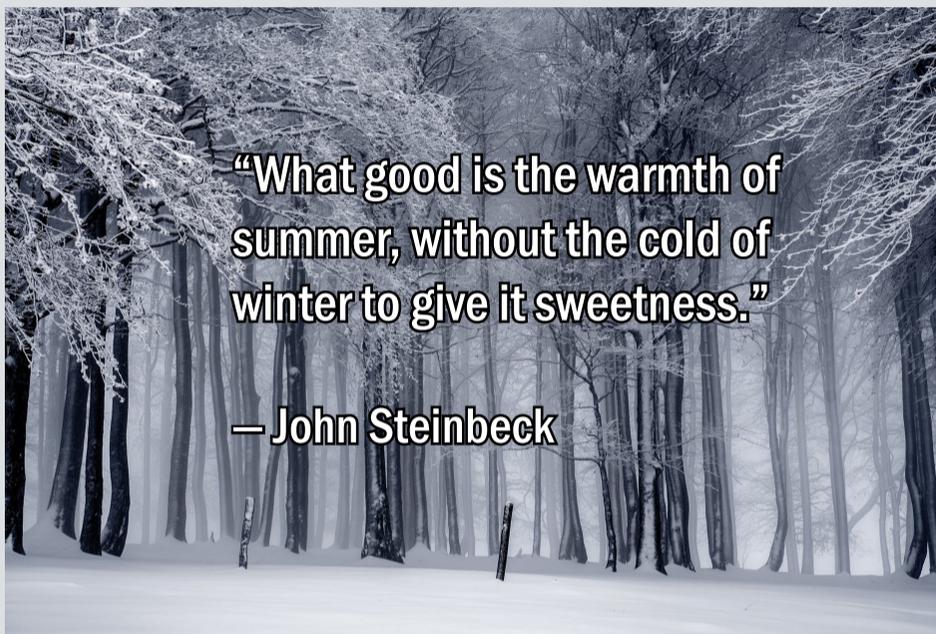
UPDATE DECEMBER 2019

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2019

Winter is here and we would like to share some *Winter Hints, Tips and Policies* to help ensure your safety while enjoying all that winter has to offer! The [Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security](#) has some great advice to follow during the cold winter months. Please click on the link above for tips on preparing yourself and your home. To view the Town of Columbia's policies on snow removal, mailbox replacement, and free sand for residents, please go to The Town of Columbia's [website](#) for more information, or scroll down to Page 5.

The November Municipal Elections ushered in some changes to several boards and committees. Notably, the Board of Selectman welcomes Judith Ortiz as a new member and congratulates William O'Brien for his re-appointment.



The Town still has open vacancies in several Boards and Commissions. To learn more or fill out a volunteer application please click [here](#). You can also contact Jennifer LaVoie, Executive Administrative Assistant at 860.228.0110 for assistance. Please consider volunteering your time!

We have recently implemented an informational series on Recyclable Materials, Bulk Materials, Household Trash and Household Hazardous Waste. We begin the series on WHAT CANNOT GO IN THE TRASH. In Connecticut, recycling is state law. Everyone must recycle. Understanding what can be recycled and what can't will determine what you can include in your Household Waste. Please click [here](#), or scroll down to Pages 6 & 7 for detailed information.

ASK THE SELECTMAN: The “Ask the Selectman” event in December will be postponed until **January 11, 2019**. The event will be held at the Saxton B. Little Library in the Conference Room from **9:00 am to 10:00 am**.

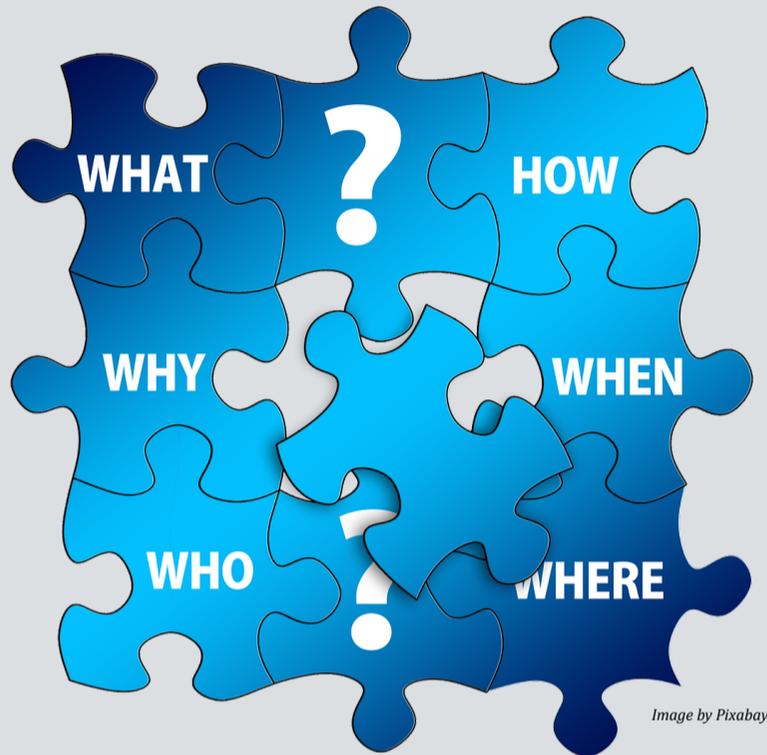
On behalf of myself and the Town staff we wish you a happy holiday.

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator

860.228.0110

townadministrator@columbiact.org

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



Find us on 



**TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
TUESDAY 12/24/19 AND WEDNESDAY 12/25/19
FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
and
TUESDAY 12/31/19 AND WEDNESDAY, 1/1/20
FOR THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY**

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

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

- IWWC Meeting - Conference Room, Monday, December 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Education - H. W. Porter Cafetorium, Monday, December 2, 2019 at 7:30 PM
- Board of Selectmen (BOS) - Conference Room, Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Lake Management Advisory Commission (LMAC), Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 7:30 PM
- Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) - Building and Land Use Department, Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Fiscal Policy Board - H.W. Porter Conference Room, Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 8:30 AM
- Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) - Building and Land Use Department, Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Selectmen (BOS) - Conference Room, Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Tri-Board Meeting between FiPAC, BOE & BOS - Conference Room, Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 7:00 PM
- Commission on Aging (CONA) - Beckish Senior Center, Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 9:00 AM
- Financial Planning & Allocation Commission (FiPAC) - Conference Room, Wednesday, December 18, 2019 Immediately following the Tri-Board Meeting.
- Open Space - Conference Room, Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 8:00 AM
- Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) - Conference Room, Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM

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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SNOW REMOVAL RULES:

- Make sure that your roadside trash bins stay on private property and do not venture out into the road. The Town is not liable for any damage as a result of bins that get damaged by passing traffic.
- Refrain from plowing and blowing snow into or across roadways or onto town right-of-ways. Doing so creates unsafe conditions for drivers and vehicles.
- Refrain from parking in town roadways or in Municipal and School parking lots during snow events.
- Refrain from using snowmobiles, using all terrain vehicles and engaging in snow skiing on town roadways.

MAILBOXES: As a courtesy to our taxpayers the Town will replace mailboxes on town roads that have been determined by the Public Works Department to have been rendered unusable by damage from snowplow contact from a town truck.

Such box and post must have been in sound condition prior to incident.

Replacement will be in accordance with USPS Standard 7B01 and a 4x4 post. Replacement will occur after winter season and subject to DPW work schedule.

If resident has an expensive box the town will either replace as stated above or issue a check for \$25.00.

Please check your mailbox and post to make sure both are secure. You may also want to install a secured protective shield to deflect the snow from the mailbox and post.

REC PARK PARKING LOTS: The main parking lot will not be open when there is snow on the ground. Please use the winter parking lot.

SAND: Free sand (up to 2 five-gallon containers) is available to residents during the winter months located behind the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station. Residents must provide their own container for the sand. The Transfer Station is open on Wednesday's and Saturday's from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA INFORMATIONAL SERIES ON: RECYCLABLE MATERIALS, BULK MATERIALS, HOUSEHOLD TRASH AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

As a result of some of the concerns and confusion at the Town of Columbia Transfer Station we are planning an informational series on Recyclable Materials, Bulk Materials, Household Trash and Household Hazardous Waste to help make it clearer where to place trash and recyclables.

We'd like to begin our 1st Informational Series on **WHAT CANNOT GO IN THE TRASH.**

In Connecticut, recycling is state law. Everyone must recycle. Understanding what can be recycled and what can't will determine what you can include in your **Household Waste.**

State law requires that the Town of Columbia's waste hauler:

- Provide a warning notice to customers suspected of violating separation requirements.
- Assist the Town of Columbia in identifying customers responsible for creating solid waste loads containing significant amounts of recyclables detected by the receiving resource recovery or solid waste facility.
- Haulers may have their garbage loads rejected at a solid waste facility if the load contains a significant amount of recyclables. This costs your hauler time and money. These costs may be passed on to the Town of Columbia.

Below is a list of what items are **MANDATED** to be recycled. In the next installment, we will discuss in greater detail Recyclable Materials and What's In and What's Out.

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR RECYCLING

1. All items should be EMPTY, RINSED, CLEAN and OPEN.
2. DO NOT shred, box, bag or bundle.
3. When in doubt, you can use the **RECYCLECT WIZARD** at the RecycleCT website (www.recyclect.com) and type in the name of the waste item and the recyclect wizard will tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.



ITEMS DESIGNATED (I.E. MANDATED) FOR RECYCLING

- Glass & metal food and beverage containers
- PETE or PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate). Look for the 1 inside the triangle that indicates the plastic is PET or PETE.
- HDPE (High-Density Polyethyleneplastic) containers. Look for the 2 inside the triangle that indicates the plastic is HDPE
- Magazines
- Corrugated cardboard
- Newspaper
- White office paper
- Color ledger paper
- Boxboard
- Scrap Metal
- Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries (from electronics): Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at participating retail collection points including most Wal-Mart and Best Buy stores. Or find a location near you: <https://www.call2recycle.org/>
- Waste oil
- Lead acid batteries (from vehicles)
- Leaves



Please Note:

Grass is banned from disposal at landfills and resource recovery facilities (incinerators). Grass clippings should be left on the lawn or, if necessary, composted.

In addition to the mandated items, the Town of Columbia accepts additional types of recycled items. To find out about those additional items please refer to the [Town of Columbia website](#).

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER

The Beckish Senior Center of Columbia invites all artists from the area to display their artwork in the main hall. Come in and enjoy work from our local artists. The Beckish Senior Center is open Monday-Friday – 8am -3pm

Our first artist was Kim Kordonwony who displayed her works depicting 1950's Japanese inspired artwork. Her work was based on her father's slides.

Our second artist whose work is currently on display, is Robert Oxenhorn, a 30+ year resident of Columbia. He captures the lush New England countryside using shapes created from tonal values and color in some of his work. In the spring, he plans on displaying works of new worlds color and movement in his brilliant abstract pieces.

TAX DEPARTMENT

REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will become due **January 1, 2020** and **the last day to pay without a penalty will be Monday February 3, 2020**. Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes (motor vehicles registered after 10-1-18) will become due **January 1, 2020** and will be mailed at the end of December. **The last day to pay the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes without a penalty is Monday February 3, 2020.**

The Tax Office hours will be extended during January and February 3, 2020 and will be Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 8:00-6:00 and Friday 8:00-12:00. The Town Hall has a drop box on the right side of the front door and has on-line tax lookup and tax payment options (fees apply to payments only) at www.columbiact.org. Please call the Tax Office 860-228-0230 for more information on this service.

The Tax Office will be closed December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday and closed December 31st and January 1st for the New Year's holiday. Please keep in mind the tax office hours in **December are Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 8:00-6:00 and closed on Friday**. If you plan to make a payment in 2019 please plan your payment accordingly. The Tax Office uses the postmark as date of payment. If you want to use the postal service and are waiting for the last days of the month please be sure to have your payment hand stamped at a Post Office, dropping your envelope in a blue postal box will not guarantee a 2019 postmark.

Please call the tax office at 860-228-0230 with questions.

Happy Holidays!

COMING EVENTS

12/5/19 & 12/12/19: COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION: Have the best decorated house in Columbia!! No cost to enter, no extra work, just decorate your house like you normally would for the Holidays and have a chance to win an Edible Arrangement basket! [Register](#) by Dec. 5th at 4PM, have your house decorated by Dec. 12th and winner will be announced on Dec. 16th.

12/5/19 & 12/19/19: MOBILE FOODSHARE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AND 19TH FROM 1:15 PM TO 1:45 PM COLUMBIA-BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, 195 US-6: An outdoor food distribution service for persons of low income. Please bring your own grocery bag. Text FOODSHARE to 85511 to receive the mobile schedule and cancellations directly on your phone. More [info](#).

12/8/19: COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND OPEN HOUSE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM.

COMING UP AT THE SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY THIS MONTH:

Wrap and Yap – Get your gift wrapping done at the Library this holiday season! You bring your gifts, we'll supply the paper, tape, and ribbon! Three sessions this year: **Tuesday, 12/3 from 6-8pm, Wednesday, 12/11 from 10:30am-12:30pm, and Friday, 12/20 from 1-3pm.** Please R.S.V.P. at the Library to make sure we have enough supplies!

Gingerbread House Craft for Kids – December 18th at 10:30 am. Join us to decorate your own CARDBOARD (not edible) gingerbread house with tons of fun craft supplies! Limited to 20. Contact Megan at 860-228-0350 or mquigley@columbiactlibrary.org to register.

Frozen fans! Join us on **December 27th at 3:00 pm** for a snowtastic afternoon of stories, songs, and games with the Snow Sisters! Meet & greet with Anna & Elsa following the performance! At Yeomans Hall. All ages. Stop by or contact Megan at 860-228-0350 or mquigley@columbiactlibrary.org to register.

Visit our website at columbiactlibrary.org or like us on Facebook to keep up to date with everything going on at your local library, including story times, book groups, Friday movies, knitting group, and more!

12/14/19: COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (323 CT-87) COMMUNITY

BREAKFAST: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019 AT 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Parish Hall: Bring a friend! Breakfast Buffet Menu: Belgian waffles, omelets, eggs, toast, bacon, sausage, ham, potatoes, juice, milk, coffee, tea, fruits, homemade muffins & coffee cakes. Cost for breakfast is: \$10.00 per person, Senior Discount \$1.00, \$28.00 – 2 adults and 2 children.

12/20/19: COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION: HALF DAY HANG OUT: Don't have after school child care on half days? Send them to the Columbia Parks and Rec. Half Day Hangout Camp! Our staff will keep your kids engaged in a variety of activities crafts, games, and sports until you get out of work. Begins as soon as school gets out pickup is at 4:30. On staff development days with no school it will run from 8am-4:30pm similar to vacation camp. Grades K-5. Register online [here](#).

12/22/19: COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (323 CT-87), SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019 AT 10:00 AM – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.

12/22/19 COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (323 CT-87), SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019 AT 2:00 PM: The holiday handbell concert will be held at the church. refreshments will be served.

COLUMBIA PTO EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Dec 1	2	3	4	5 6pm PTO Meeting	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20 HWP Early Dismiss	21	
22	HWP No School					27	28
29	HWP No School					31	Jan 1
				2 6pm PTO Meeting	3	4	

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

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

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

Young Adults SMART Recovery Program: SMART Recovery Young Adult Group meets **every Monday at the AHM Community Center, 25 Pendleton Drive, in Hebron from 5:30-7 pm.** The new program is for young adults ages 18-24.

SMART Recovery Friends & Family Group: This group meets every **Thursday at the AHM Community Center, 25 Pendleton Drive, in Hebron from 5:30-7 pm.**

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

PARISH COMMUNITIES OF CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY AND ST. COLUMBA CHURCH: Local second graders send 188 pair of warm socks to local shelters. Second grade students at The Church of the Holy Family ran the church's annual "Socktober" drive that collected 188 warm pairs of socks. Socks were donated to the No-Freeze Shelter and Holy Family Home and Shelter for Battered Women & Children, both in Willimantic.

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ - Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund: This year marks the 44th year of the annual **Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**. Many families have benefited from your donations in the past, and your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued caring and God Bless You!

Sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church

Mail to:

Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund

c/o Dixie Silvestri

70 Johnson Rd

Columbia, CT 06237

Please accept my donation of \$_____ to the "**Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**"

____ Do not list my name in the Columbia Views **OR**

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

(Please print clearly)

Please make checks payable to the "**Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**"

Donations are tax-deductible.

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND

Deadline for printed listing Dec. 20, 2019

**COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

BY JUDY ORTIZ

I would like to thank the members of the Board of Education (BOE) for their dedicated service to the Town of Columbia as well as to the families who live here. We have a 7 man/woman board who meet on the first Monday of each month. The superintendent is a non-voting member of the board. There are also additional important subcommittees that are formed. The main focus of the BOE is to hire and supervise the superintendent, implement policy initiatives and create the school district budget each year.

Chris Lent is the chairman of the board, has been a member since 2013 and has served as the chair since December 2015. Kathy Tolsdorf has been on the board for 3 terms and brings her knowledge as an educator to each meeting. James Chakulski has been a member since 2015, is starting his second four-year term on the board and proudly served on several subcommittees that benefited from his financial and communications experience. We have 2 new members to the board. One is Joseph Napolitano who started in September 2019, was a graduate of H.W. Porter and presents his own personal perspective during discussions. Michael Maziarz started in July 2019 and possesses unique skills from his profession as a school administrator in the Hartford school system. Lynette Dooley has served since 2014 and has utilized her financial skills while creating a reasonable budget. David Crim has been an active member since 2013 and has applied his business acumen to effectuate the mission of the BOE.

During this year, the BOE has negotiated contracts with both Bolton High School and Region 19 (E.O. Smith High School) where the current agreements will be extended for 10 years. They have worked hard to assess the needs of the Math Department in the Columbia School District and skillfully chose a new math curriculum that is being implemented at Porter. They have also purchased the i-Ready diagnostic tool which is an adaptive assessment designed to provide teachers with actionable insight into student needs.

All town residents are invited and encouraged to attend the BOE meetings, which are typically held at on the first Monday of each month in the Porter cafetorium; actual meeting dates may be found on the District [website](#). They normally begin at 7:30 pm. Please get involved, you will be pleased that your concerns will be addressed.