

COLUMBIA



Photo credit Paul Ramsey

UPDATE OCTOBER 2020



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

It has been a difficult year so far, but we have a lot to be proud of and while it has been challenging dealing with COVID constraints, we have pulled together as a town. The response from the community in helping others has been tremendous. The town has received generous donations towards COVID relief that will assist those in need. Donations may be used for food supply, fuel assistance, protective equipment and other social services that will benefit those affected by COVID-19. Our town staff has not missed a beat in providing our residents with the services that they need while balancing the safety of the public and their fellow employees. I thank them for their dedication. I would also like to commend the school's ability to adapt under very difficult circumstances while still providing our students with a quality education.

For the most up-to-date information from the State of Connecticut on COVID-19, residents are encouraged to visit ct.gov/coronavirus. Residents can also subscribe to text message alerts from the state by texting the keyword **COVIDCT** to **888-777**.

Despite the COVID pandemic, we have moved forward with many projects. On page 7, Town Administrator, Mark Walter discusses the important and vital improvements made with the Rec Park expansion.

In addition, we have had some important changes in personnel in high level positions. With the retirement of the DPW Director, George Murphy and Facilities Manager, Bud Meyers those positions were very crucial positions that we needed to fill. We would like to welcome Beth Lunt as the new Director of Public Works. A bio for Beth is on page 5. The Facilities Manager position is in the works and should be filled soon.

The membership of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department has announced as of 9/9/20 the election of Steve Postemsky as the new Fire Chief. I would like to congratulate him on his election to this important office and its service responsibilities to the citizens of Columbia.

We have also created a new position for a Community Social Services Coordinator and We would like to welcome Katie Wilt. Katie's bio is located on page 6. This position will provide community based social services to identified groups, individuals, and families in order to protect and improve the social well-being and functioning of families and individuals.

At the time of this publication, fall will be upon us and planning for winter is right behind. Hurricane season lasts from June to November with the peak season from mid-August to late October. Our Emergency Management team and DPW crew are prepared to work closely with Eversource in case of power outages and downed trees. In early August we experienced Tropical Storm Isaias that caused major power outages in Columbia. Each storm provides us with lessons learned on how to improve our response.

- We have stepped up our efforts to reach all our residents who might need help during a power outage and encourage anyone with a medical condition or a disability that may require additional help to notify us. Please contact the Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring at 860-228-0759.
- We will continue to work closely with the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department in conjunction with our Emergency Management team and continuously update and review our emergency procedures.

I would like to take a moment to thank Morgan Bonaiuto for her efforts in organizing a food drive that was held in August and early September in partnership with Columbia Ford Kia. Morgan is working towards her Gold Award in Girl Scouts and this commendable project will help her on that journey.

Columbia Ford, in addition to hosting the event, agreed to donate a \$25.00 gift card to Stop & Shop for every card sold through the event. Morgan raised over \$800.00 for the food bank at the Senior Center. I would also like to thank State Representative Tim Ackert for his efforts in donating a truckload of fruits and vegetables to the food bank that was organized with the generous donations from local farmers. I would also like to thank the sponsors; Lee's Stir Fry, Spotless Car Wash, Columbia Ford Kia Service, Thunderbird Care, A Cupcake for Later, The Main Moose, Bowes Tire & Auto, Tequitos Mexican Grill, Kalamatos Family Pizza, Batters Box of Columbia, and Hosmer Mountain Beverages.

Lastly, it's been a very dry summer and although it is rare in Connecticut to have to worry about forest fires, it can happen. We are in Stage 2 drought in Columbia (classified as Severe Drought). Besides the potential for forest fires, the Stage 2 drought can potentially impact water supplies, agriculture, or natural ecosystems. The Connecticut State Department of Public Health advises, residents and businesses in Stage 2 counties to voluntarily take the following measures to aid in minimizing future drought impact:

- Reduce automatic outdoor irrigation
- Postpone the planting of any new lawns or vegetation
- Minimize overall water use by fixing leaky plumbing and fixtures
- Follow any additional conservation requests issued by water suppliers or municipalities

Please be careful until we get a big rainfall with open flames and heat sources outdoors. The prolonged dry weather across north central and northeast Connecticut has resulted in high fire risk. With low relative humidity and gusty winds today, please be very careful with outdoor fire pits, barbecue's etc. Do not burn brush (this requires a burning permit from the burn official). Please do not use fireworks or sparklers, and do not throw cigarette butts on the ground.

We encourage the public to visit the Town website at www.columbiact.org for up to date information and I will also be providing weekly updates on the Town of Columbia [YouTube](#) channel and on our [Facebook](#) page.

Thank you and please be safe.

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



Beth Lunt Department of Public Works Director

We are pleased to announce Beth Lunt has joined the Town of Columbia in the position of Department of Public Works Director.

Beth will oversee and manage the programs and activities of the Department of Public Works in the areas of: administration, engineering, fleet management, operating and capital budgeting, personnel, highways, roads and bridges, maintenance of parks and town facility grounds, snow removal, municipal solid waste disposal, and recycling.

Prior to her employment with the Town of Columbia, Ms. Lunt served as the Director of Public Works for the Town of East Haddam, CT. In addition, she managed the Town of East Haddam Transfer Station and acted as recycling coordinator. She has over ten years of experience in the engineering and consulting field.

Ms. Lunt is a member of several professional organizations including the CT Tree Warden Association and the New England Chapter of America Public Works Association.

Ms. Lunt graduated from Clarkson University with a master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and is a certified tree warden.

Beth Lunt
elunt@columbiact.org
860-228-4270



Katie Wilt

**Community Social
Services Coordinator**

We are pleased to announce Katie Wilt has joined the Town of Columbia in the position of Community Social Services Coordinator.

After growing up in Columbia, Katie Wilt returns to her roots to serve as the part-time Community Social Services Worker for the Town of Columbia.

Her 16-year career as a social worker has been driven by her ability to see potential and her passion to facilitate it. Katie brings a solid foundation of municipal social services experience as she served as a Community Outreach Social Worker for the Town of Glastonbury for over 9 years. There she provided case management, often serving as an intermediary between clients and agencies to determine needs and find suitable solutions. Alongside this, she ran social service programs, often assisting families in crisis.

Katie's experience includes working in the non-profit sector, as well. For 5 years, she worked for American Corporate Partners, a veteran mentoring program based in NYC. There she created and managed hundreds of meaningful relationships between veterans and business leaders while simultaneously leading an outreach team that worked closely with Student Veteran Associations at colleges and universities across the country.

Most recently, she worked for another non-profit in Brooklyn, NY. At NPower, she worked with young adults from underserved communities and helped them climb the ladder to the middle class through tech skills training, professional development workshops, and quality work placement.

Now that Katie is back in Connecticut, she is eager to apply her social work skills to help our townspeople and make our community stronger.

Katie Wilt | Community Social Services Coordinator
Town of Columbia
323 Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237
kwilt@columbiact.org
860.228.0110 x128
(Typical office hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

OCTOBER 2020

With only three months until the new year I cannot believe how different this year has been. I want to thank all our employees for continuing to provide the service that our town residents rely on. I am proud of the fact that every resident received the services they needed. We remain available to help you by phone or appointment.



We are especially proud of all the great work from our Department of Public Works and Recreation Department on the improvements at Rec Park. The photos included show off the new pickle ball and basketball courts, the new road around the outside of the park for improved safety and new guard rails and parking lots.

We always appreciate your thoughts and feedback as our parks continues to develop. Please forward any ideas to Steven Everett or myself (publicinput@columbiact.org, townadministrator@columbiact.org, or severett@columbiact.org). This is how our new improvements to the playground occurred. Our local Girl Scout troop did research and learned that static electricity from the plastic slide can affect cochlear ear implants. To solve this the Girl Scouts presented their ideas to Steven Everett and the Board of Selectman who supported the new slide and additions to the playground that will give access to children with ADA needs.



Pickle Ball and Basketball Courts

We are now starting to design and cost out various projects at Rec Park, which include, a maintenance garage, bathrooms with handicap access, concession stand, and pavilion. When we are all done, we hope to have a park that is an asset that sets our town apart and compliments our great beach, lake, and new Mono Pond State Park.

These outdoor assets are the perfect answer to hobbies and activities that help in our COVID environment. Please call anytime, I am willing to meeting to hear your ideas at (860) 228-0110).



The Town of Columbia's departments are open by appointment only; however, we continue to encourage residents to use on-line services and the drop-boxes at Yeoman's Hall and Town Hall. We have installed a lock box by Yeoman's Hall for payments, correspondence, permits, Transfer Station Applications, Dog License, etc. Tax Payments can be dropped off at the lock-box in front of Town Hall's front door.

For a staff directory to schedule an appointment please visit the Town of Columbia's website at www.columbiact.org.

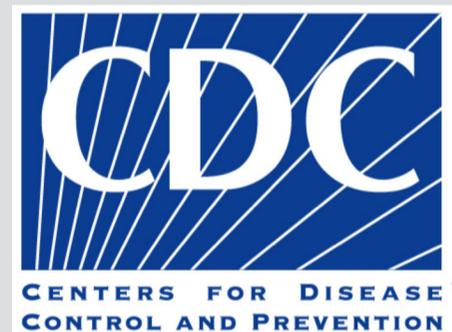
Please respect our safety guidelines by wearing a mask when entering the building, use hand sanitizer at the entrance, and observe social distancing guidelines.

Entrance to the building will be limited to Yeoman's Hall and exiting through Town Hall.

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

IMPORTANT LINKS AND INFORMATION RELATED TO

COVID-19: Eastern Highland Health District (EHHD) has real-time information on their website www.ehhd.org with an embedded link to COVID-19 information from the CDC. If you have specific questions please contact EHHD directly at (860) 429-3325.



For the most up-to-date information from the State of Connecticut on COVID-19, including an FAQ and other guidance and resources, residents are encouraged to visit ct.gov/coronavirus.

For several additional graphs and tables containing more data, including a list of cases in every municipality, visit ct.gov/coronavirus and click the link that is labeled, "COVID-19 Data Tracker."

FOODSHARE'S FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS LOCAL and AT RENTSCHLER FIELD: The Local MOBILE Foodshare location will be at the Beckish Senior Center EVERY OTHER THURSDAY from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM, starting September 10th to December 17th. For more information call 860-286-999 or visit the [FoodShare website](#). Please see the flyer on Page 10 for more information.

Anyone and Everyone can participate no questions asked. Simply drive up with your car and they will put the food in your trunk.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT RENTSCHLER FIELD, 615 SILVER LANE,
EAST HARTFORD, CT.**

Distribution dates:

Tue/Thu/Fridays - October 1st to October 30th from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06118

Important information:

- More Food Resources: www.foodshare.org/coronavirus
- One allocation of food per car to ensure that there is enough food for everyone.

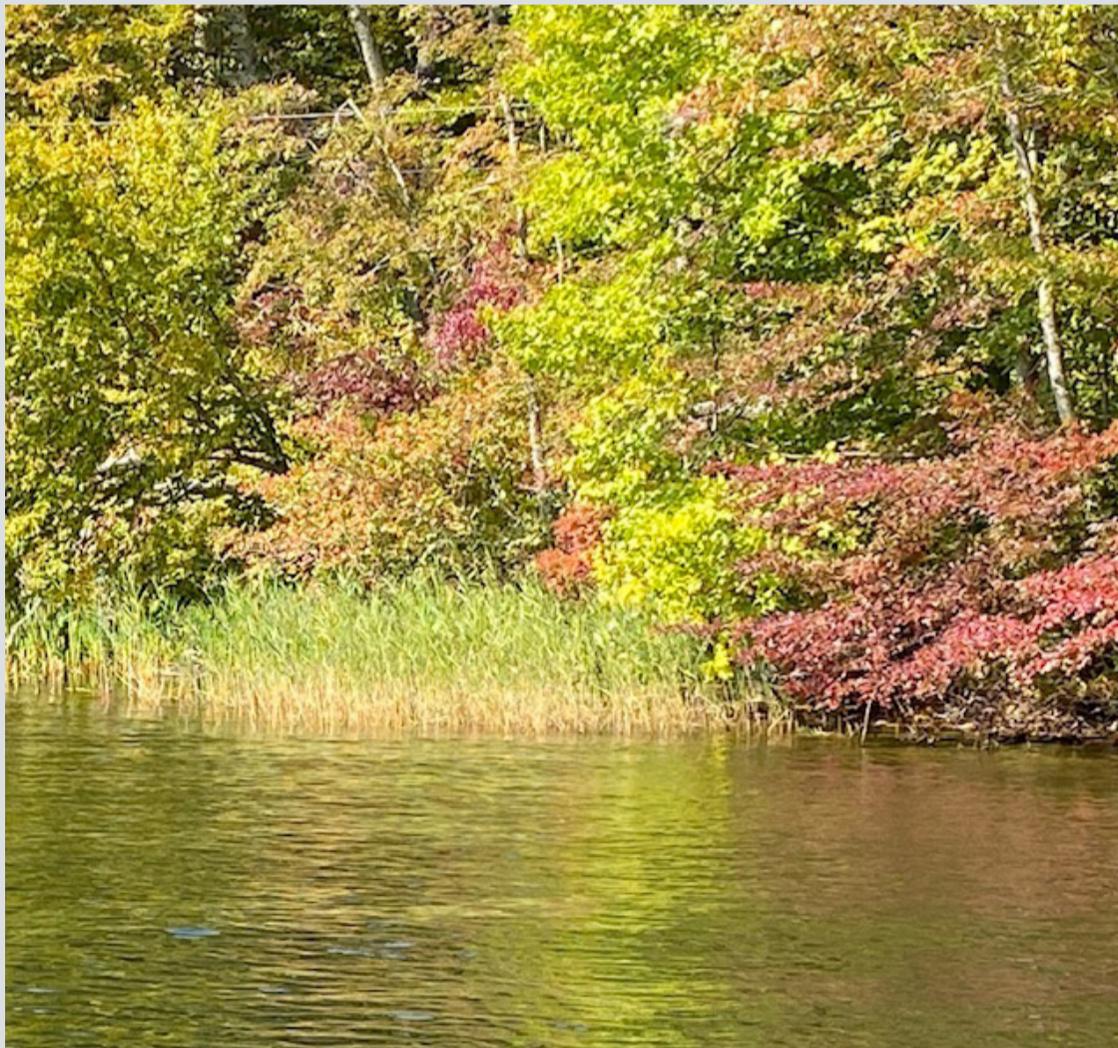


**NOTIFICATION OF AQUATIC TREATMENT AT COLUMBIA LAKE ON
OCTOBER 7, 2020, RAIN DATE 10/8/20**

In accordance with the Connecticut DEEP, Pesticide Division notification requirements, Columbia Lake in Columbia, CT will be chemically treated with USEPA/ CT DEEP registered herbicides to control nuisance aquatic vegetation on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 with a Rain date of Thursday, October 8, 2020.

Only the non-native Phragmites (common reed) around the shoreline will be treated with Clearcast (Imazamox). There are no labeled water use restrictions required for this treatment however entry into any Phragmites areas around the lake should be avoided on the day of treatment. Prior to treatment, the lake shoreline will be posted with signs near any treatment areas warning of these temporary use restrictions.

This work is being performed for the Town of Columbia. Treatments are conducted pursuant to the permit issued by the CT DEEP. Information on the specific date of application may be obtained from the person named below. The treatment is being performed by the state licensed firm SOLitude Lake Management of Shrewsbury, MA. Contact: Paul Conti (508) 917-7164.



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

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

If you need assistance please do not hesitate to call the Town Administrative Office or the First Selectman at 860-228-0110 or email us at townadministrator@columbiact.org.

**PLEASE NOTE ALL TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
OCTOBER 12, 2020 FOR COLUMBUS DAY.**

Thank you,

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator
323 Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237
860-228-0110



Image by Pixabay

Find us on 

MOBILE FOODSHARE

COLUMBIA'S
MOBILE FOODSHARE
NEW SITE LOCATION

Beckish Senior Center
188 Route 66, Columbia

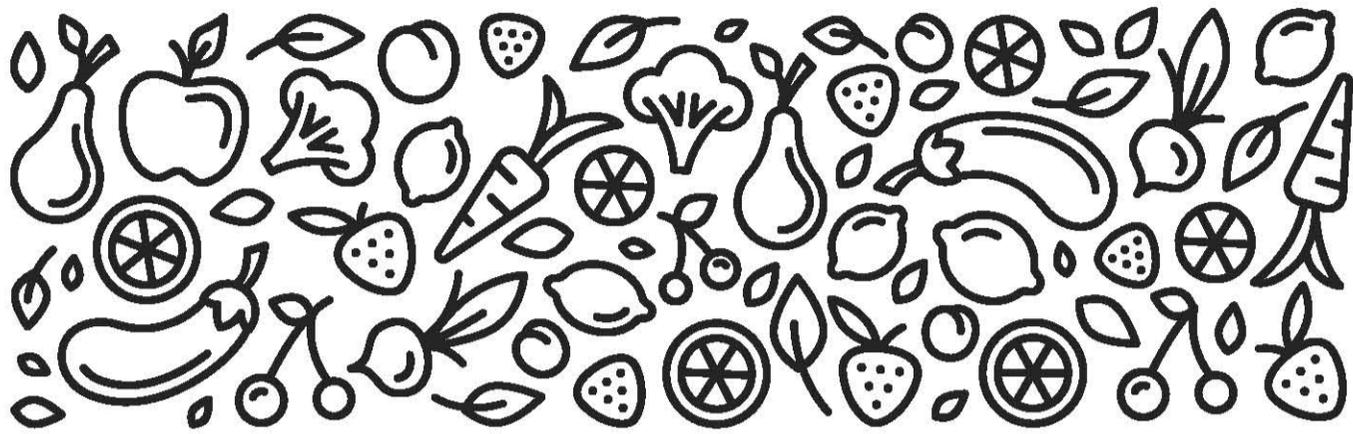
EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
Sept 10th, Sept 24th, Oct 8th, Oct 22nd, Nov 5th,
Nov 19th, Dec 3rd, & Dec 17th

1:00PM TO 1:30 PM

**DRIVE THROUGH ONLY—NO CONTACT
OPEN TRUNK OR CAR DOOR AND WE WILL
PLACE ITEMS IN YOUR CAR AND YOU CAN
DRIVE AWAY SAFTELY.**

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





FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Rentschler Field

615 SILVER LANE, EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118

TUE / THU / FRI* • OCT 1 THROUGH OCT 30 • 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Drive-Thru Process



For the Greater Hartford community

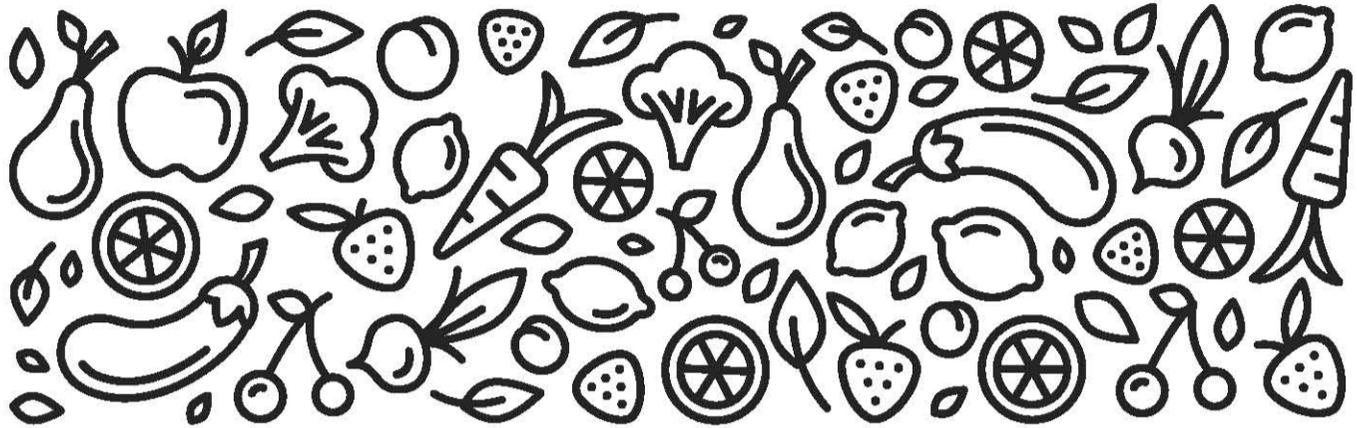
More Food Resources → WWW.FOODSHARE.ORG/CORONAVIRUS

**Closed Mondays & Wednesdays | One allocation of food per car to ensure that we have enough food for everyone*

FOODSHARE

860-286-9999
www.foodshare.org





DISTRIBUCIÓN DE ALIMENTOS GRATIS

Rentschler Field

615 SILVER LANE, EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118

MAR / JUE / VIE • 1 DE OCTUBRE A 30 DE OCTUBRE • 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Proceso de conducción
(DRIVE-THRU)



Para la comunidad de Greater Hartford

Más Recursos Alimenticios → WWW.FOODSHARE.ORG/CORONAVIRUS-ES

**Cerrado: lunes y miércoles*

Una asignación de alimentos por automóvil para garantizar que tengamos suficientes alimentos para todos

FOODSHARE

860-286-9999
www.foodshare.org



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

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

In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7B and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC to slow community spread of COVID-19, meetings are physically closed to the public. We encourage residents to join via Zoom and to provide your comments and input during the meetings utilizing the "Chat" feature in Zoom, or providing comment during the Audience of Citizens/Public Comment portion of the meeting. Public Comment will be accepted by our dedicated email at PublicInput@columbiact.org or by USPS mail to 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237 and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:

**Election
November 3, 2020
6am-8pm
Horace W. Porter School**

IN-PERSON VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE

- The deadline to register to vote is October 27th. Register on-line at voterregistration.ct.gov or contact the Registrars of Voters.
- If you miss the registration deadline, Election Day Registration will be available at Horace W. Porter School on November 3rd, 6am-8pm. ID & proof of residency will be required.
- To obtain an Absentee Ballot, carefully fill out an Absentee Ballot application and submit it to the Town Clerk via mail, Ballot Drop Box, or to the Town Clerk's office. [Click here for an Absentee Ballot Application.](#)
- Starting on October 2nd, Absentee Ballots will be mailed out within 48 hours after the Absentee Ballot Application is received by the Town Clerk.
- Absentee Ballots must be received by 8pm on November 3rd. They can be returned via mail, Ballot Drop Box or to the Town Clerk's office. Absentee Ballots cannot be accepted at the polling place.
- Please contact the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk with any questions.

Registrars of Voters

Karen Butzgy – Democratic

Kate Morrison – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113

registrar@columbiact.org



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSOR: The Assessor's Office is currently performing inspections on building permits and developing an updated personal property list. Below are a couple of 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 2, 2020. 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) this includes registered out of state that are not currently on our list, please let us know and we will mail you a declaration.

Supplemental 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 or registration cancellation receipt that you get from DMV when you return your plates or from on-line. 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. 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. Our telephone number is 228-9555.

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER: The Beckish Senior Center is closed to the public until further notice due to the Corona Virus. We ask that you please stay home and stay safe.

WE ARE AVAILABLE BY PHONE AND EMAIL:

Monday—Friday 8am-3pm

Bernadette Derring—Director of Senior Services

Beckish@columbiact.org

860-228-0759 ext. 1

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

A message from Bernadette Derring, Director of Senior Services:

As I am writing this note, I think about the times when I was able to say hello to all of you in person and ask how you are. I hope you all are doing well, keeping busy, as busy as you like to, staying safe, and practicing social distancing. It was five months in August since we have been together socializing, playing games, or having lunch. I miss each of you and your daily life stories. The Beckish Senior Center is very busy with transportation services and food distributions.

In July, a new addition to the transportation services arrived at the Beckish Senior Center. Along with the bus, a new 2020 Ford Escape will provide transportation to seniors and disabled adults to and from medical appointments, shopping, or wellness visits. Please do not hesitate to ask for a ride for any reason. Please call Lisa or Margaret at 860-228-0759 ext. 2., who will be happy to assist you.



Since the start of the pandemic, the Senior Center's tables are full of non-perishable food items, toiletries, and goodies. We are busy shopping, sorting, packing, and distributing goods to our residents in need. Thank you to all the volunteers who participate in the program.

Meal on Wheels Program: If you are homebound and would like to have meal on wheels delivered please call Bernadette at 860-228-0759, ext. 1.

Donations: Donations are welcome. Please call ahead before dropping items off. Monetary donations can be made Payable to "Town of Columbia" and mailed to 188 Route 66, Columbia CT 06237.

While the Corona Virus has affected our daily lives, our spirit keeps going. I am looking to find a way to stay connected to all of you. There are several possibilities I can think of for us to meet in town. Of course, at any gathering, we must practice proper social distancing and wear a mask.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

Additionally, iPad's will be available soon to rent. With an iPad, you may Face-time or Zoom with your family and friends. These platforms allow you to see and speak with your family and friends. I will keep you posted when they become available.

I am visiting the possibility of re-opening of the senior center with limited capacity. Most Connecticut senior centers will not open until January 1, 2021. Many centers are curious to see how the school re-openings following protocols and guidelines. Only time will tell us and give us that answer.



We are all hoping that the virus passes quickly, and we can resume our lives.

Please stay in touch with us. The staff will continue to reach out to all of you weekly. If you are not receiving wellness calls and would like to be on the call list, please call me at 860-228-0759 ext. 1.

I am sending this virtual hug and always thinking of you. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Derring, Director Senior Services
& Transportation and Municipal Agent for the Elderly

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

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

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

Building Department

Terri Lasota, Building Department Administrative Assistant

(860) 228-0440

email LandUse@columbiact.org.

PUBLIC WORKS: Below are some reminders about disposing of leaves and disposing of household chemical waste.

DISPOSAL OF LEAVES: Please do not dispose of leaves by blowing/raking them into the street. By blowing leaves into the street this clogs up the catch basins and drainage ditches. The Town does not pick up leaves; however, the Transfer Station accepts leaves at no cost.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE DROP-OFF FACILITY

57 Hancock Road - Willington, CT 06279 - Phone: (860) 684-3163

Open Saturdays 9 AM—2 PM

Remaining dates for 2020: 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7

Prepare the materials by:

- ✓ Packing carefully in original containers only, seal and label
- ✓ Do not mix materials
- ✓ Drive carefully to prevent tipping
- ✓ No smoking while handling and transporting materials
- ✓ Residential limits of 10 gallons liquid and 100 pounds dry materials

As a Columbia resident you may bring residential quantities of hazardous waste to the facility at no cost but bring proof of residency.

If you have any questions please contact DPW Director, Beth Lunt at 860-228-4270, or elunt@columbiact.org. The Public Works Garage is located at 89 Route 6, Columbia, CT. 06237

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

FIRE MARSHAL:

WHAT IF I HAD A FIRE?

If you happened to be unfortunate to have a fire in your home, here are a few safety tips to help you in preparation of this tragic time.

1. Get out of the home.
2. Notify all other occupants and account for everyone once outside.
3. Call 9-1-1 and give the dispatcher good information.
4. Never re-enter the dwelling for anything.
5. When the Fire Department arrives, communicate if everyone is accounted for and any special hazards, i.e. guns, ammunition, propane gas or lost pets.
6. Remain calm.

PREPARING FOR A HOUSE FIRE

1. Have working smoke alarms that are less than ten (10) years old.
2. Exit plan and outside meeting place.
3. Practice fire safety.

THINGS YOU MAY WANT TO HAVE STORED AT A REMOTE LOCATION

1. Copy of current Insurance information.
2. Extra set of car keys.
3. Change of clothes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE FIRE?

1. There will be a Cause & Origin Fire Investigation.
2. You will need to contact your Insurance Agent/Company.
3. Be mindful of signing any contracts for cleanup services.

Mike Lester, Fire Marshal

860-228-0440

firemarshal@columbiact.org

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES: Listed below is information on Heating Assistance and the CT Energy Assistance Program. Please contact Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator:

- Learn about what programs you may qualify for
- Get referrals to appropriate programs/services
- Talk with a social worker
- If you are having any issues with eligibility/benefits

Available by phone: 860-228-0110 x128, email: kwilt@columbiact.org, virtually by Zoom (Typical office hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm)

HEATING ASSISTANCE: There are two main Energy Assistance programs that can help households in need. The **CT Energy Assistance Program** and **Operation Fuel**. You can apply to both programs from the comfort of your own home, with a local social service agency, or I can be contacted to help assist with the process!

Please see the eligibility guide for both programs and options for applying outlined below.

CT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Eligibility (gross income and assets):

Household Size (includes homeowners and renters that pay separately for heat, and renters whose heat is included in the rent, as long as more than 30% of gross income is paid towards rent.)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Up To \$37,645	Up To \$49,228	Up To \$60,811	Up To \$72,394	Up To \$83,977	Up To \$95,560	Up To \$97,732	Up To \$99,904

***There is a liquid assets test as an additional basic eligibility requirement. For homeowners, the first \$15,000 in liquid assets, and for other households, the first \$12,000 in liquid assets, is disregarded. Any amount over that limit, when added to the annual gross income must be below the income guidelines** (liquid assets include checking, savings, CD's, stocks/shares, bonds, annuities, certificates of deposit and individual retirement accounts. *Individual Retirement Accounts are considered to be liquid assets if the accounts are in the name of a household member who is 59-and-one-half years old or more.*)

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

How to Apply:

Option 1: Visit www.ct.gov and type in Energy Assistance in the search bar

1. Click on the first result, Energy Assistance – Winter Heating
2. Click on APPLY (left hand side)
3. Answer heating question and type in your zip code
4. Click on Download Application
5. To submit your completed application, you can e-mail shirley.riemann@accessagency.org or mail it to the following address.

The ACCESS Agency, Inc.
Attention: ACCESS Energy Department
1315 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Option 2: Schedule a tele- appointment by contacting ACCESS Energy Department
 Phone: 860-450-7487 (Willimantic) or by Email: shirley.riemann@accessagency.org.

Option 3: Contact me! (kwilt@columbict.org, or 860-228-0110 x128) I will download the application and assist in filling it out and sending it to ACCESS.

Important Deadlines:

3/21/21 - Deadline for fuel authorizations

5/3/21 - Last day that a household can apply to establish eligibility for benefits unless the household is utility heated and has a shutoff notice for its primary source of heat.

5/14/21 - Last day that utility heated household with a shut-off notice for its primary heat can apply to establish its eligibility for benefits.

OPERATION FUEL: An Operation Fuel energy grant is not an entitlement to all Connecticut residents, however if your income is under 75% of the State Median and you have applied to Energy Assistance but are over income or exhausted benefits you may qualify for oil or utility help.

Eligibility							
Household Size							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
\$45,213.48	\$59,125.32	\$73,037.16	\$86,949.00	\$100,860.84	\$114,772.68	\$117,381.15	\$119,989.62

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

How to Apply:

Option 1: Online at <https://operationfuel.org/gethelp/>

Option 2: Contact Operation Fuel directly at opfuelapplications@operationfuel.org or call (860) 243-2345.

Option 3: With Windham Area Interfaith Ministry by calling 860-456-7270, ext 12

Option 4: Contact me! I am happy to virtually assist with the online application. (kwilt@columbict.org, or 860-228-0110 x128).

If the above-mentioned programs are not meeting immediate needs, please contact me. Or, if you are experiencing difficulty in receiving approval for the above-mentioned programs, please contact me to be of assistance.

Katie Wilt | Community Social Services Coordinator

Town of Columbia

323 Route 87

Columbia, CT 06237

860.228.0110 x128

(Typical office hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm)

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE: The first installment of the Town of Columbia Real Estate taxes, Personal Property taxes and Motor Vehicle taxes is due on or before **October 1, 2020**.

Please note that any payment received and/or postmarked on October 2, 2020 will be considered a late payment. Interest will be charged on the amount due at 6% which is 1.5% per month retroactively to July 1, 2020 per the Governor's Executive Orders 7S and 7W.

The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2021. The last day to pay the second installment without a penalty is February 1, 2021. Bills are not sent for the second installment, please put a reminder on your calendar!

Please feel free to leave payments or correspondence in the drop box at the right side of the entrance of the Town Hall or in the drop box in front of Yeoman's Hall. The drop boxes are emptied at 8:00AM each weekday, weekend tax payments are processed on Monday. 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 (see hours below).

Regular office hours for the TAX OFFICE: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 8:00-6:00 and closed on Friday. Town Hall is currently open by appointment only. Please call 860-228-0230 to schedule an appointment.

The Tax Office has extended hours during the tax collection month of January and February 1, 2021: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 8:00-6:00 and 8:00-12:00 Friday. Please visit the Town website at www.columbiact.org for up to date information.

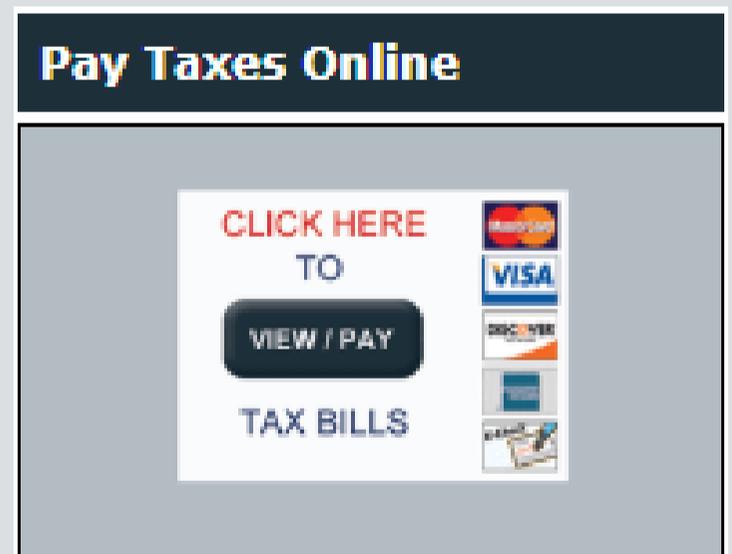
Mailing address for tax payments:

Town of Columbia

Dept # 347

PO Box 150512

Hartford, CT 06115-0512



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

Columbia residents can view and pay taxes on-line, service fees for tax payments apply, .95 cents to use a Bank account and 2.95% for credit and debit cards. To find your bills on-line, 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 on-line system, please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org and we will gladly assist you.

For those seeking an immediate clearance for DMV due to delinquent taxes please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org for information on the process.

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE: It continues to be business as usual in the Town Clerk's office for those services that you might need – Recording and Searching of Land Records, Fishing and Hunting licenses, Certified copies of Vital Records, Marriage licenses, Dog licenses, Transfer Station stickers, etc.

Admittance to the Town Clerk's office is by appointment only. Please call our office at 860-228-3284 to set up an appointment.

For your convenience, a large white drop box has been installed outside the doors to Yeoman's Hall. This box can be used to drop off items for the Town Clerk and is shared with other offices in Town Hall.

Fishing and Hunting: We would like to remind you that Sports licenses (fishing and hunting) for the 2021 season become available for purchase in December 2020. A perfect Holiday gift for the sports person in your family!

Robin M. Kenefick, Columbia Town Clerk (rkenefick@columbiact.org)

Gail C. McGrath, Columbia Asst. Town Clerk (gmcgrath@columbiact.org)

(860) 228-3284

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS [ONLINE AT RECDESK.](#)

DOG SHOW: OCTOBER 3RD REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30AM AT REC PARK
Prizes for each category winner and overall best in show!



**COLUMBIA
DOG SHOW**

Saturday, October 3rd
10:00 AM

Registration begins at 9:30 AM
\$2 per category, \$8 for 5, \$13 for 10
RAIN DATE: Sunday, October 4th

Recreation Park Pavilion, Hennequin Road
Friendly dogs & owners invited or enjoy as a spectator!

Prizes for each category winner:

- Smallest
- Largest
- Best Tail
- Cutest
- Best Looking
- Best Trick
- Best Nose
- Best Ears
- Most Peculiar
- Best Coat

Winner of each category competes in Best of Show!

Precautions will be in place for Covid-19.
Masks will be required in the "dog arena". Contact Columbia Recreation Department
860-228-8513
recreation@columbiaact.org



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

YOUTH PAINT NIGHTS

OCTOBER 9TH AT 6:30 PM, YEOMANS HALL AGES 10-16

OCTOBER 10TH AT 1:00 PM, YEOMANS HALL AGES 5-9

UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS [ONLINE AT RECDESK.](#)



Youth Paint Night
Friday, October 9th, 2020
Ages: 10-16
6:30 PM – 8:00PM



Youth Paint Night
Saturday, October 10th, 2020
Ages: 5-9
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Cost: \$25
Yeomans Hall

All materials are provided. You will leave with a masterpiece!

To register online go to:
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>
Phone: 860-228-8513
Email: recreation@columbiact.org

COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Meet Our Artist: Ann Marie

Ann Marie Drury studied at the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University and Central Connecticut State University, earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Illustration. Her work explores the relationships between nature, the shapes and colors found in it, and the emotions it draws from within. Born and raised in Connecticut, Ann Marie loves the changing of the seasons. The paintings and drawings she creates are direct responses to the environment around her.

Cost: \$25
Yeomans Hall

All materials are provided. You will leave with a masterpiece!

To register online go to:
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TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

PUMPKIN CARVING NIGHT: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD BRING YOUR FAMILY TO CARVE PUMPKINS AT YEOMANS HALL. Supplies for carving and painting is provided. \$10 for first pumpkin and \$5 for additional pumpkins! Enjoy a fun night out while practicing safe social distancing.

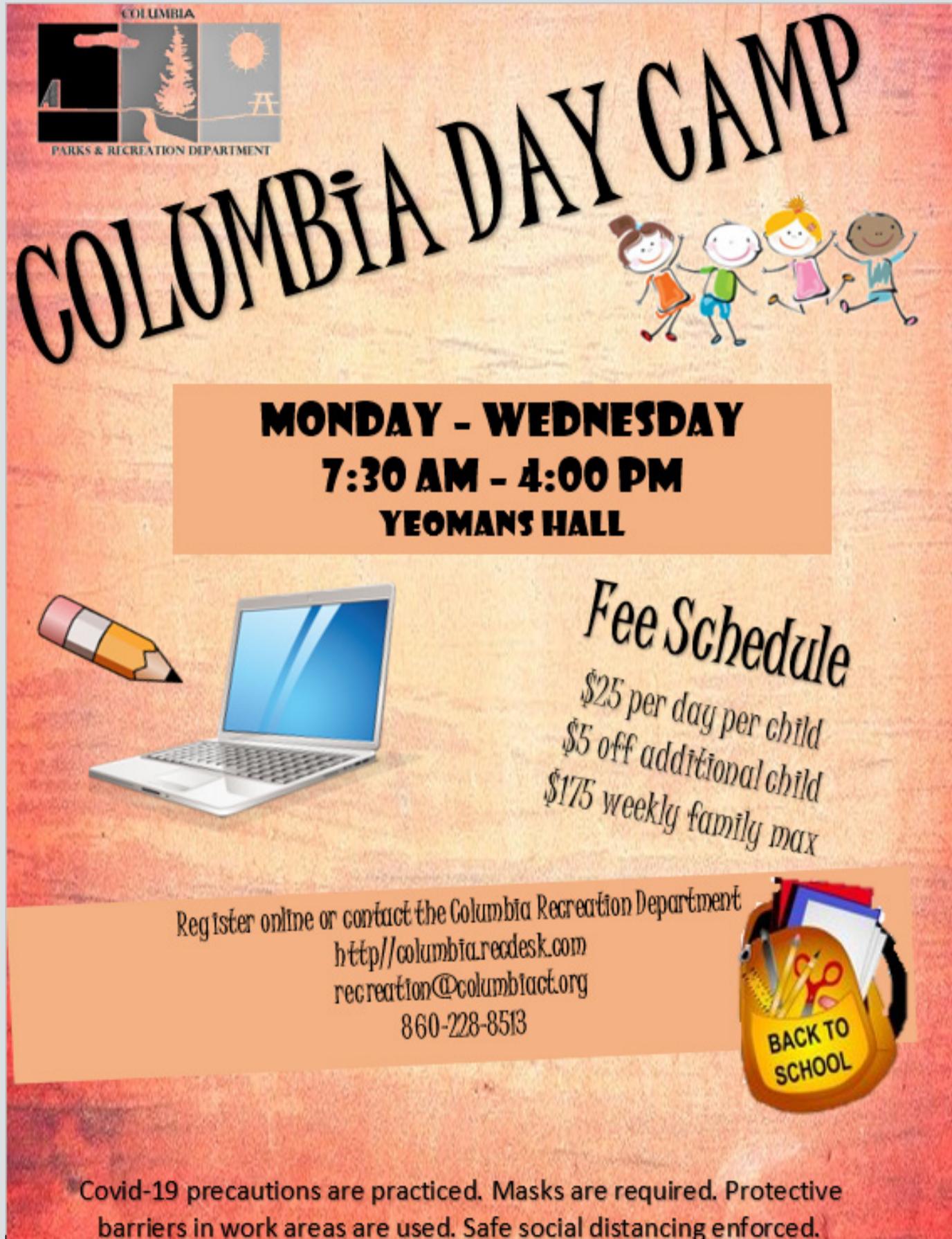
UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS [ONLINE AT RECDESK.](#)

A promotional poster for a pumpkin carving night. The background is a dense field of orange pumpkins. At the top, the text 'PUMPKIN CARVING NIGHT' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below this, the date 'Friday, October 23rd' and time '5:30 PM at Yeomans Hall' are listed. Pricing information states '\$10 for first pumpkin' and '\$5 additional pumpkin'. On the left, there is a square inset showing a glowing jack-o'-lantern. At the bottom left, the text 'Carving Supplies & Paint provided' is written in a stylized font. At the bottom right, there is a cartoon illustration of a black cat with green eyes sitting on a carved pumpkin. In the bottom right corner, registration information is provided: 'Register Online: http://columbia-recdesk.com', 'Columbia Recreation Department', '860-228-8513', and 'recreation@columbiact.org'. A small logo for 'COLUMBIA' is also visible at the bottom center.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA DAY CAMP: MON-WEDS 7:30AM-4PM. CAMP FEES AR \$25 PER A CHILD PER DAY, \$5 OFF EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD, \$175 FAMILY MAX PER WEEK.

UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS [ONLINE AT RECDESK.](#)



The poster features a logo for Columbia Parks & Recreation Department in the top left corner, depicting a landscape with a tree, a sun, and a bridge. The main title 'COLUMBIA DAY CAMP' is written in a large, black, serif font, slanted upwards. To the right of the title is a cartoon illustration of four diverse children holding hands. Below the title, an orange box contains the text: 'MONDAY - WEDNESDAY', '7:30 AM - 4:00 PM', and 'YEOMANS HALL'. To the left of this box is an illustration of a laptop and a pencil. To the right is the 'Fee Schedule' section, which lists: '\$25 per day per child', '\$5 off additional child', and '\$175 weekly family max'. At the bottom, a white banner provides registration information: 'Register online or contact the Columbia Recreation Department', 'http://columbia.recdesk.com', 'recreation@columbiact.org', and '860-228-8513'. To the right of the banner is an illustration of a yellow backpack with 'BACK TO SCHOOL' written on it, containing various school supplies. At the very bottom, a black box contains the text: 'Covid-19 precautions are practiced. Masks are required. Protective barriers in work areas are used. Safe social distancing enforced.'

COLUMBIA
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

COLUMBIA DAY CAMP

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
YEOMANS HALL

Fee Schedule

- \$25 per day per child
- \$5 off additional child
- \$175 weekly family max

Register online or contact the Columbia Recreation Department
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>
recreation@columbiact.org
860-228-8513

BACK TO SCHOOL

Covid-19 precautions are practiced. Masks are required. Protective barriers in work areas are used. Safe social distancing enforced.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SATURDAY SOCCER CLINICS: SATURDAY MORNING STARTING IN OCTOBER

(3RD, 17TH, 24TH AND 31ST). We will have two groups grades K-2 and grades 3-5. Only \$35.00 to register. Everyone receives a t-shirt, and registration is available online. Don't miss out on our October Soccer clinics!! Deadline to register is next **Monday, October 28th.**

UPCOMING EVENTS: REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS [ONLINE AT RECDESK.](#)

COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION

Youth Saturday Soccer Clinics

Held at Recreation Park, Hennequin Road
Saturday, October 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st

Grades K – 2
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Grades 3-5
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

\$35 Registration Fee
(Includes T-Shirt)

- Practice skills – dribbling and passing
- Conditioning drills
- Learn knowledge of the game

Register online or contact the Columbia Recreation Department
<http://columbia.rec-desk.com>
recreation@columbiact.org
860-228-8513

Covid-19 recommendations will be enforced. Masks will be worn by instructors.

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Library staff are available 51 hours a week. Materials are provided 6 days a week. You can do things now that you've never done before, like wander the stacks in your pjs with a cup of joe, virtually from your device. Need something? Talk to us, we specialize in creative solutions.

We're here for you!

Come browse new titles Tuesday 1 pm - 3 pm & 5 pm - 7 pm, Wednesday 11 am - 2 pm, and Saturday 2 pm - 4 pm.

Give us a call, email or reserve on-line and pick up your materials curbside Monday 2 pm - 4 pm, Thursday 12 am - 4 pm & 6 pm - 7 pm and Saturday 11 am - 1 pm. (Shhhh, a secret - materials are often out early and stay out late - if you need something let us know!)

Visit our website <https://www.columbiactlibrary.org/catalog-tutorials/> to learn how to browse stacks from home, send us requests, make lists of materials you have or want to get, and more.

Feeling overwhelmed? Don't have much time? Tell us what you like (Musical movies? Quirky fiction? Want to learn about something? Stories magical baked good?) We can help! We'll develop a grab bag, a suggestion list or arrange a time to talk with you live to offer suggestions! (Don't like our suggestions? No problem. We just try again!)

Visit our website at: www.columbiactlibrary.org

Call us: (860) 228-0350

Or email: SBL@columbiactlibrary.org

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

Algae Patch Observed on Columbia Lake -Town of Columbia Communication September 29, 2020

This past Sunday, September 27th a patch of blue-green algae was observed on the Sunny Slopes and upper Erdoni Road shoreline spanning about 600'. A lake water sample was collected and tested by our lake consultant, Dr. Kortmann and the algae patch does contains cyanobacteria.

As we await further analysis of the total density, as a precaution we are advising people to be observant for blue green algae patches and if seen people and pets should avoid swimming in an algae patch and pets not drink lake water. These patches disappear over time.

If you see algae floating at or under the surface, email columbialakeassociation@gmail.com or text Mary Roickle at 617-462-1899. Share when and where you saw it attaching a picture if possible.



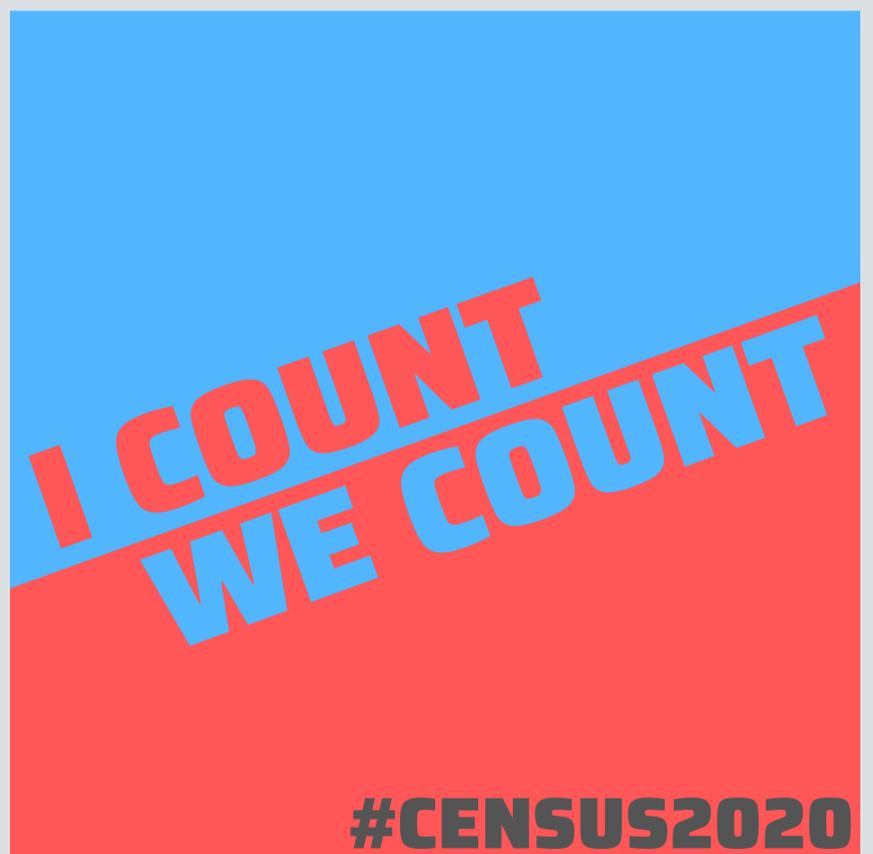
NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION



COLUMBIA LIONS CLUB - LEO'S: The Leo's are putting on a food drive October 24th from 12:00 - 2:00 PM at the Town of Columbia Maintenance Garage (formally the old Firehouse) located on Rte 6 (by the Horace Porter School entrance)

2020 CENSUS:

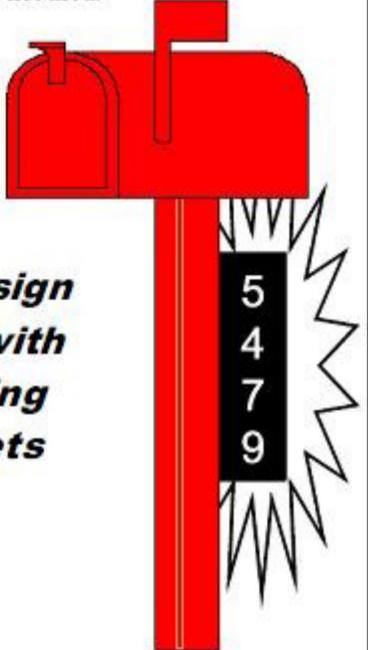
The time to respond is running out! Complete the 2020 Census now! Go to [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) or call (844)-330-2020.



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

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS: If there is an emergency, help our Fire Department find you! 911 reflective address signs ensure a quick response. To order the Reflective Address Markers please go to the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department's web-page at www.columbiafire5.org and download the printable form or you can fill out the electronic form online. The price is \$10.00 per sign or \$12.00 with mounting brackets.

Columbia Volunteer Fire Department					
REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKER ORDER FORM					
Please complete the following information:					
<table border="1"><tr><td>Name _____</td></tr><tr><td>Address _____</td></tr><tr><td>City, ST Zip _____</td></tr><tr><td>Phone Number _____</td></tr></table>		Name _____	Address _____	City, ST Zip _____	Phone Number _____
Name _____					
Address _____					
City, ST Zip _____					
Phone Number _____					
Address Number Requested					
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
Note: If your address has fewer than 5 digits, please X those boxes not used.					
Mounting Preference					
HORIZONTAL _____	V E R T I C A L				
VERTICAL _____					
<table border="1"><tr><td style="text-align: center;">HORIZONTAL</td></tr></table>	HORIZONTAL	 <p>\$10 per sign or \$12 with Mounting Brackets</p>			
HORIZONTAL					
Mail to: Columbia Volunteer Fire Department PO Box 26 Columbia, CT 06237 (860) 228-9602					

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

Help Us Help Kids With Cancer



Spoon Roast Dinner



We Serve

Baked Potato, Carrots, Cole Slaw. Dessert

Saturday, Oct 03, 2020

4:30-6:30PM

Beckish Senior Center

Route 66, Columbia, CT

Adults \$15.00 Children under 12 \$8.00

(Please have the exact amount ready to give
to your servers whether CASH or CHECK.)

Drive thru service only~ just roll down the rear

window or open up the car trunk.

Camp Rising Sun Foundation

Camp Rising Sun is open to all Connecticut children who
have had cancer or who are currently being treated for it.

Sponsored By **The Columbia Lions Club**

Connecticut Lions Clubs have been proud supporters of Camp Rising Sun for

40 years and have donated over \$ 500,000 to the Camp. Please help us to
continue to support this important program for children with Cancer.

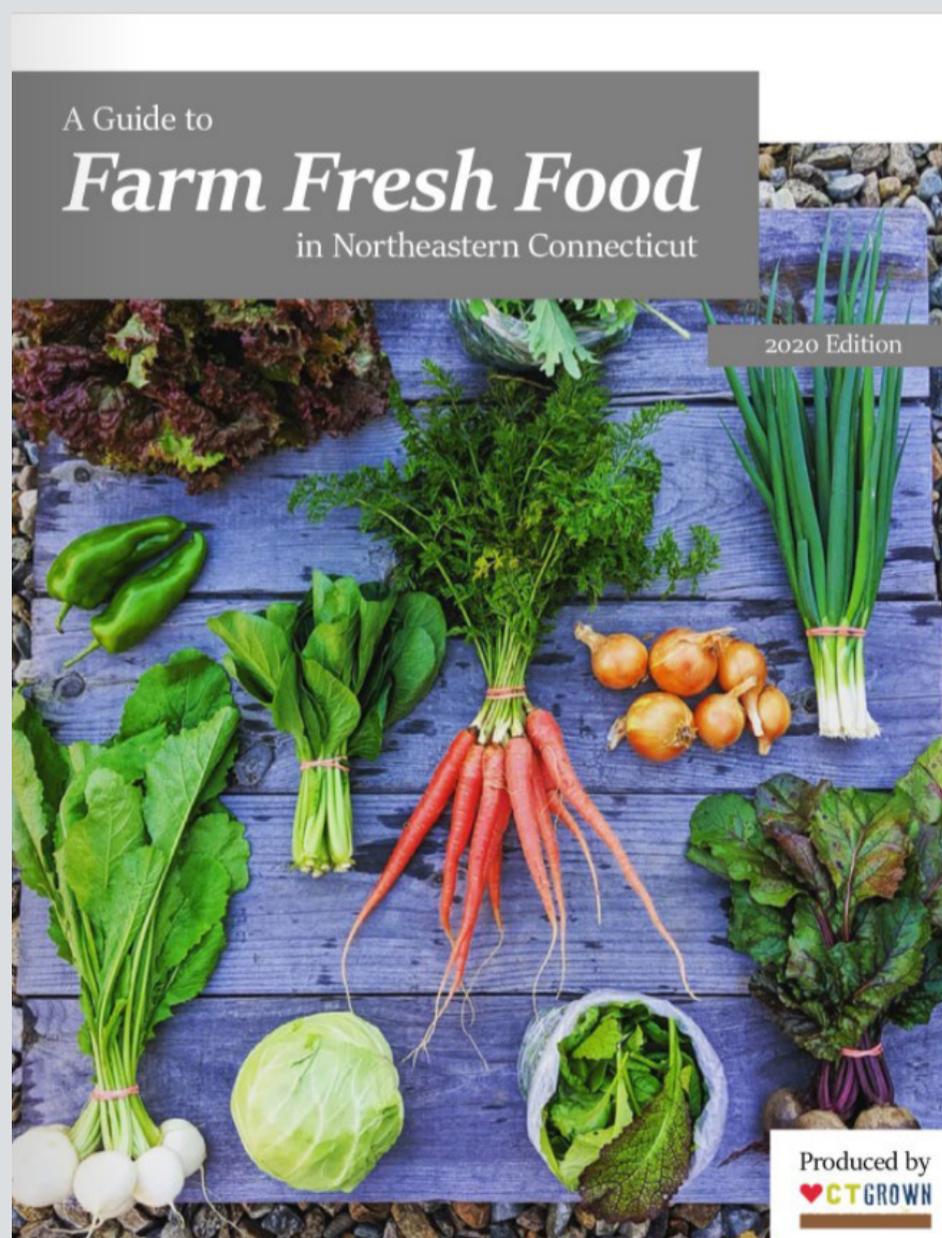
INFORMATION ON COLUMBIA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

[Updated CT FARM GUIDE:](#) This update includes some farms that had been missed, and updates for hours and offerings from farms due to the shift in seasons. The farm guide can also be found on the [HeartCTGrown website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

What is #heartCTgrown?

Coming out of the [UConn CAHNR Extension](#), #heartCTgrown is an initiative to promote farms, Farmer's Markets, CSA's, and pick-your-own operations throughout the state of Connecticut. We believe that local food is an important venue for making meaningful connections to each other and to building strong, resilient, healthy communities that are ready to tackle challenges together. We hope to share the stories of these connections, and that it will encourage you to tell your stories too.

Want #heartctgrown in your inbox? Sign up for our [seasonal newsletter](#) that explores some of the great agricultural traditions, and new practices, that make CT grown products and people worth getting to know and sharing with your community.



INFORMATION ON COLUMBIA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

MOLLY'S MARKET is a traditional style farmer's market that is taking place at Heartstone Farm and Winery in Columbia CT. From 3-6pm every Thursday August 6th-October 29th you will find fresh home grown products from local farmers. Vendors include Field Engineer Farm, Wilkinson Farm, Cambera Farm, Granny's Pie Factory and more. Molly's Market is still looking for more vendors to join the market. If you are interested send an email to mollysmarketct@gmail.com for more information. Be sure to check out the [Molly's Market's Facebook](#) page and Instagram @mollysmarketct for everything from getting to know the market's vendors, to recipes and farming tips.



GRACE BROOK FARM: There is a new horse farm in town! Grace Brook Farm is a dressage horse training and riding facility in downtown Columbia, owned by Paul and Sandy Pradetto.

Some people just love horses. My daughter has ridden in the dressage discipline since she was a child, and we have had horses at our home in Columbia for many years. When a horse

farm became available in my home town, it was the perfect opportunity to pursue a family passion. Our trainer, Rochelle McPherson, has been teaching dressage in Columbia for 20 years.



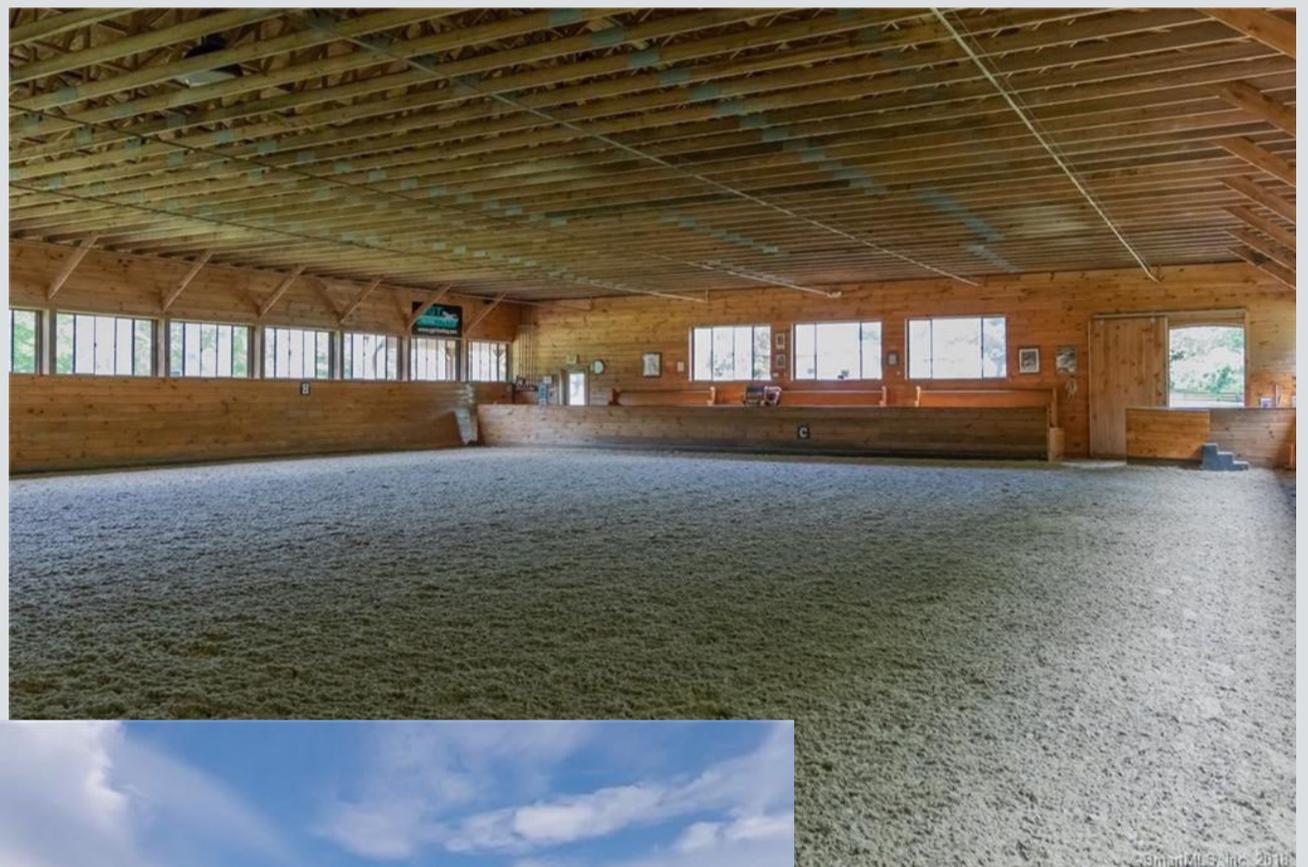
INFORMATION ON COLUMBIA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Grace Brook Farm has an indoor arena with GGT footing. We have an outdoor ring, lungeing pen, stables for 15 horses, and hacking trails on 43 acres at 266 Route 87. We welcome all levels of dressage riders and try to foster a family atmosphere, whether owner, trainer, boarder, or truck-in. We are sponsoring a dressage clinic on October 23 and 24. Come check us out!

Paul Pradetto, farm manager

860-202-9834

[@GraceBrookFarmLLC](https://www.instagram.com/GraceBrookFarmLLC)



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

MEET THE HORACE W. PORTER PTO

2020-2021



Heather Fowler, President

My husband and I joined the PTO because our daughter Hailey wanted a royal ball, last year we were able to make that dream come true. As president my goal is to help ALL our kids dreams come true! Please join the PTO! We welcome you and your family.



Anna Mathews, Vice President

I joined the PTO not just because I want to be involved in my son's life, but because I wanted to show support to the educators and parents of my community. The world is a weird place right now, and I just want to make sure I can do what I can to make a difference. I look forward to building new relationships and adapting with everyone in this new world. We do this is a family. We are one.



Jesse Tremblay, Treasurer

I am a Mom to 6 year old Charlotte and 8 year old Callie. I fill in occasionally as the school nurse at Horace Porter and I have just fallen in love with this small town and community. I joined the PTO to do my part in maintaining that close knit community by supporting our school and connecting families through fun events.



Barbara Stoner, Secretary

When my daughter was in kindergarten I helped volunteer for a couple of events. When she was in 1st grade, I volunteered for even more events. Eventually it became our normal to go to the events early to help set up or stay later to help clean up. I joined the PTO because even the littlest efforts make for the best experiences. I am looking forward to many more years of those experiences as a PTO member!



Toni Gail Barrea Espinosa, Volunteer Coordinator

I love the community and the school which my grandchildren attend. I would like to try to get more grandparents involved in the PTO.



Jennifer Vazquez, Volunteer Coordinator

When my daughter started going to preschool at Porter I found out about all these fun activities for the kids and their families. We went to a bunch of events and I started noticing that a lot of the same people seemed to be running them. I thought about how much effort must go into organizing and running these kinds of activities and I decided I wanted to help. I felt like if we could take advantage of all these programs and events then helping out a bit here and there was the least I could do. I love seeing the kids enjoy themselves as much as my daughter does and I hope others will want to be a part of making those experiences happen for their kids too.



Amy LaChappelle, Fundraising Coordinator

I became a member of the PTO so I can be directly involved with my daughters school activities. I'm also hoping to connect with other parents and teachers, and encourage them to volunteer their time to help support our small community.

Contact us at horaceporterpto@gmail.com and join us on facebook Horace W. Porter PTO and Parent Community

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

COLUMBIA PTO: The PTO has worked hard for the past 7 years to save for this sign. We are so excited to finally see it completed. Many fundraisers, event and volunteer hours have gone into this.

This sign is the culmination of incredible board members and volunteers giving so much of their time to the PTO and this goal. I need to thank this amazing board Michele Barton, Karen Piro, Karen O'Hearn, Karen Butzgy, Kate Morison, Gina Jarvis, Heather Fowler. I must also give credit and thank to the previous board members who started us down this path. Amy Crim, Katie Whalen, Marcy Littlefield, Linette Dooley, Gretchen Godin, Angela Marsh, Melinda Tarbell, Jen Tew, Carrie Bowles Lysie White and Christa McManus. We want to thank the Town of Columbia for contributing financially as well. The PTO had raised 18,000 to put toward the sign but needed some help to bring it home. Another big thank you to the Columbia Little League for their \$500 donation. It was always our plan for this sign to benefit the PTO, the school, and the entire community. Thank you to those who came today to help us celebrate!

