

COLUMBIA



Photo Credit Paul Ramsey

UPDATE FEBRUARY 2020

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2020

The month of February starts in earnest with budget preparations for the Fiscal Year 20/21. The Town Departments and Boards and Commissions have completed the submission of their Operating Budgets and Capital Budgets. The process can be unfamiliar or confusing to those who are not deeply involved on a day-to-day basis with the budget process. We have put together a handy informational brochure below to help inform and guide residents through the process. We encourage you to attend the Board of Selectman (BOS) and Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC) meetings to engage in the budget process and we welcome your input. The Superintendent presented the Board of Education (BOE) budget February 3rd and I will be presenting the BOS budget Tuesday, February 4th at 7:00 pm. My door is always open as well as the First Selectman to address any questions or concerns that you may have about the budget. It is important to attend the BOS, BOE and FIPAC budget workshops to track the success of your favorite projects. The final Public Hearing and Town Meeting are the last chance for your voices to be heard before a town vote at the Town Budget Meeting on 5/12/20. Please feel free to reach out to me for additional information or concerns you may have.

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator

860.228.0110

townadministrator@columbiact.org

HOP RIVER BRIDGE CLOSED FEBRUARY 10TH AND 11TH FROM 7:00am to 5:00pm FOR REPAIRS



ASK THE SELECTMAN: The “Ask the Selectman” event will be postponed for the month of February; however, we encourage you to stop in or call Steven Everett with any questions or concerns you may have at 860.228.0110.

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 

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

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

- Board of Selectmen (BOS) - Conference Room, Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Fiscal Policy Board - H.W. Porter Conference Room, Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 8:30 AM
- Lake Management Advisory Commission (LMAC), Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 7:30 PM
- Planning & Zoning Commission - Conference Room, Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Selectmen (BOS) Special Budget Workshop Meeting - Conference Room, Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Fiscal Policy Board - H.W. Porter Conference Room, Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 8:30 AM
- Economic Development Commission (EDC) - Conference Room, Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Environmental Advisory Committee - Conference Room, Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 5:30 PM
- Board of Selectmen (BOS) Budget Workshop Meeting (tentative) - Conference Room, Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Financial Planning & Allocation Commission (FiPAC) - Conference Room, Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Columbia Open Space - Conference Room, Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 8:00 AM
- Planning & Zoning Commission - Conference Room, Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Commission on Aging (CONA) - Beckish Senior Center, Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 9:00 AM
- Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) - Conference Room, Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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



2020-2021 BUDGET PROCESS

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

THE BUDGET PROCESS

The budget process, which includes board meetings, workshops and public hearings, is an effort to balance how much is needed to operate the town with how much the town can afford to spend.

The annual process, which is typically finalized in May, begins many months before and included a review of the town government and education expenditures and revenues.

The town's budget begins with the Town Administrator, working with the First Selectman and the Finance Director, receiving budget requests from the various departments, boards and commissions and external agencies. The requests are reviewed and compiled and submitted to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for budget workshops. At the same time, the Board of Education (BOE) works with the Superintendent, Finance Director and administrative staff to develop a proposed budget for the schools.

The finalized BOS and BOE budgets are presented to the Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC) at their budget workshops. FiPAC discusses and deliberates on the proposed budget and holds a public hearing to gather citizen input. After considering all input, FiPAC recommends its proposed budget to a Town Meeting for final vote and approval.

Upon adoption of the budget, FiPAC holds a meeting to set the mill rate.

Preparing the budget December - February

- ◆ School administrators submit budget requests to Superintendent.
- ◆ The BOE, FiPAC and BOS hold Tri-Board meeting to kick-off the budget process and solicit public input.
- ◆ Town Departments submit budget requests to Town Administrator.
- ◆ Superintendent reviews budget requests and submits a proposed budget to the BOE.
- ◆ The Town Administrator & First Selectman reviews all requests and submits a proposed budget to the BOS.
- ◆ BOE holds budget workshops, deliberates and approves a proposed budget.
- ◆ BOS holds budget workshops, deliberates and approves a proposed budget.

Reviewing the budget March - April

- ◆ BOS and BOE present budgets to FiPAC
- ◆ FiPAC holds budget workshops and public hearings to gather citizen input.
- ◆ FiPAC deliberates and recommends a proposed budget to Town Meeting.

Adopting the budget May

- ◆ Annual Town Budget Meeting held on proposed budget.
- ◆ Taxpayers vote on budget at Town Meeting.
- ◆ FiPAC sets mill rate.



2020-2021 BUDGET PROCESS

TOWN OF COLUMBIA



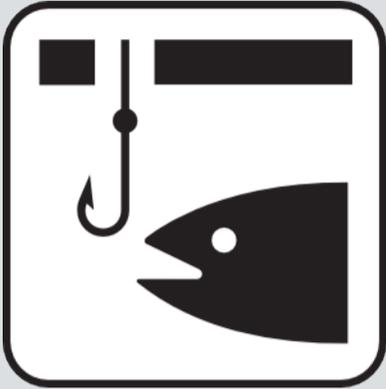
Below are scheduled budget events. All meetings are open to the public. Any changes to the calendar due to weather or unforeseen events will be on the Town's website www.columbiact.org.

To view the Board of Education Budget Process Schedule, please go to the Board of Education website at www.hwporter.org.

Date	Time	Process
12/09/19	N/A	Budget Forms available to Department Heads and Board Chairs
12/18/19	7 pm	Tri-Board Meeting between FiPAC, BOE & BOS
01/03/20	4 pm	Deadline for Budget submittals online by Department Heads and Board Chairs
01/03/20 - 01/24/20	N/A	Town Administrator meets with Dept. Heads and develops Budget
02/03/20	4 pm	Town Administrator delivers budget to BOS
02/04/20	7 pm	BOS Regular Meeting - with Budget Workshop
02/11/20	7 pm	BOS Special Meeting - with Budget Workshop
02/18/20	7 pm	BOS Regular Meeting - with Budget Workshop (tentative)
03/03/20	4 pm	Superintendent and TA deliver Budgets to FiPAC
03/15/20	4 pm	<i>Per Charter, last day for BOS & BOE to present budgets to FiPAC</i>
03/18/20	7 pm	FiPAC Special Meeting - Budget presentations by Super & TA
03/25/20	7 pm	FiPAC Special Meeting - with Budget Workshop
04/01/20	7 pm	FiPAC Special Meeting - with Budget Workshop
04/08/20	7 pm	FiPAC Special Meeting - with Budget Workshop (tentative)
04/10/20	4 pm	Legal Notice for 4/22/20 Public Hearing is posted & published. Budget document made available on Website, Town Clerk and Library
04/22/20	7 pm	Public Hearing on budget with FiPAC Special Meeting to follow
04/29/20	4 pm	Deadline to advertise legal notice and public notice for Budget
05/12/20	7 pm	Annual Town Budget Meeting (called by BOS). Per Charter must be

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



BAIT BUCKET DISPOSAL CATCH BASIN AVAILABLE FOR ICE

FISHERMAN: Please use the bait bucket disposal catch basin located in the parking lot in front of the State Troopers office at the Murphy House. Please do not throw any bait on the beach or in the lake.

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.

BUILDING AND LAND USE DEPARTMENT

Stand-by generator units require an electrical permit along with a zoning approval/permit for the location, and must meet the set back requirements as defined in the Columbia Zoning Regulations. The LP portion requires a fuel/gas permit (Zoning doesn't get charged again since it would be on the electrical permit). An electrical inspection, a gas pressure test, and a successful run test from the electrician are all required to obtain a Certificate of Approval/Compliance. Contractors must provide a copy of their State license and Certificate of Insurance (or the proper State of Connecticut 7A/7B form).

TAX OFFICE

You can look up your 2019 tax payments using the on-line system on the Town of Columbia's website (www.columbiact.org). On Columbia's home page, scroll towards the bottom click on the square that says view/pay tax bills. This brings you to the FAQ, on-line payments page. The directions will be listed.

You can call the tax office at 860-228-0230 during the office hours for assistance.

Office hours are Mon-Wed 8-2, Thursday 8-6 and closed on Friday.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Homeowners program will start accepting applications again as of February 1, 2020. If you are already in the program you will receive a letter from us reminding you to file.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

(Continued)

If you are not already in the program you will need to bring a copy of your 1040 income tax forms for 2019 calendar year to our office once they are completed or all your income information if you do not file income taxes.

This year's maximum income limit for married couples is \$45,100, and for unmarried filers it is \$37,000 which includes all income including your social security income. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 860-228-9555.

BECKISH SENIOR CENTER

Free Tax Prep: Filing of IRS taxes on Thursdays, February 6th and 20th, March 5th and 19th. Appointment times are: 9:00am - 10:00 am and 11:00am - 12:00 pm.

Please sign-up and leave your telephone number. When you sign-up, please take a form and have it filled out prior to your appointment to make sure the day runs smoothly and on time.

Do you need help with chores around your home? A new program in Columbia is pairing senior citizens with teens from the community. The teens can help with yard work, light housework, reading, or computer assistance. The program is funded through State Department of Education YSB grant, which means that the teens will work for seniors at NO COST to the senior citizens. Income eligible seniors only.

Contact Bernadette at the senior center for an application or contact Katheryn Graham at AHM Youth & Family Services at 860-228-9488 for an application or more information.

COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE & INFORMATION:

Suggested Donations for Round Trips: (Trips to the Beckish Senior Center are Free.)

- \$2.00 within the town of Andover, Bolton, Coventry, Hebron, Lebanon, Mansfield, Marlborough, Willimantic, Colchester, and Windham.
- \$5.00 within the towns of Glastonbury, Manchester, Norwich and Vernon, Lisbon, North East Area.
- \$10.00 for UConn Medical Center, Farmington, Hartford Hospitals and VA Hospital Newington, Bloomfield, Avon and East Hartford.
- \$3.00 pp group outings sponsored by the Beckish Senior Center and CSO, Columbia Senior Organization.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION (Continued)

Trip information is updated monthly in the GEM Newsletter available at the Beckish Senior Center, Town Hall, Saxton B. Little Library, and many local businesses. The Newsletter can also be found on the Town Website along with other general information at www.columbiact.org. Suggestions are always welcome; they should be addressed to the Senior Center Director, Bernadette Derring at 860-228-0759 or 188 Route 66 Columbia CT 06237.

Columbia's Transportation Program Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday <small>*4th Thursday of every month designated for Beckish Senior Center Sponsored Wellness Trips</small>	Friday
Medical Rides 8am – 11:30am	<u>Social/Wellness All Day</u> Grocery Shopping & Banking 8am- 3pm- Walmart, Aldi's, Stop & Shop, various banks	Medical Rides 8am – 11:30am	<u>Social/Wellness All Day</u> Shopping & Banking 8am- 3pm- Various banks & stores	Medical Rides 8am – 11:30am
Lunch Rides 11:30am –1pm		Lunch Rides 11:30am –1pm		Lunch Rides 11:30am –1pm
Medical Return Rides 1-3pm		Medical Return Rides 1-3pm		Medical Return Rides 1-3pm

COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION

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February



BECKISH SENIOR CENTER 860-228-0759
 Center Hours: Monday - Friday ~ 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 9:30 ZUMBA 10:30 Ping Pong 12:00 TVCCCA Lunch 12:30 Healthy Brain Talk 12:30 CSO Exec Mtg 1:30 Yoga	4 9:30 Women's Club 9:30-12 Woodcarving 9:30 TOPS Weight loss 1:00 Ways n Means 1:15 Silver Sneakers 1:30 Open Pool	5 8:00 Walking Group 9:30 Men's Group 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 12:45 Bridge	6 9:00 Chair Yoga 10:30 Century 21 10:00 Ping Pong 1:00 Mahjong 1:00 Movie Day— 	7 8:45 Zumba 11:45 Silver Sneakers @ Yeomans Hall 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 12:15—CSO mem mtg 12:45 Duplicate Bridge 1:00 Quilting 1:00 Open Pool 6:30 Setback Night	8
9 End of week is DEADLINE FOR March GEM	10 9:30 ZUMBA 10:30 Ping Pong 10:30 Flu Shots 12:00 TVCCCA Lunch 12:30 Healthy Brain Talk 1:30 Yoga	11 9:30 Women's Club 9:30-12 Woodcarving 9:30 TOPS Weight loss 1:15 Silver Sneakers 1:30 Open Pool	12 8:00 Walking Group 9:30 Men's Group 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 12:45 Bridge	13 9:00 Chair Yoga 10:00 Ping Pong 10-1 Memory Clinic 1:00 Mahjong 1-2:30 Podiatrist 1:00 Movie Day— 	14 Valentines Day! 8:45 Zumba 11:45 Silver Sneakers @ Yeomans Hall 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 12:45 Duplicate Bridge 1:00 Quilting 1:00 Open Pool 6:30 Setback Night	15
16	17 CLOSED 	18 9:30 Women's Club 9:30-12 Woodcarving 9:30 TOPS Weight loss 1:15 Silver Sneakers 1:30 Open Pool	19 8:00 Walking Group 9:30 Men's Group 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 12:45 Bridge	20 Reflexology all day 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:15 Depart CT Flower Show 10:00 Ping Pong 1:00 Mahjong 1:00 Movie D 	21 8:45 Zumba 11:45 Silver Sneakers @ Yeomans Hall 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 1:00 Quilting 1:00 Open Pool 6:30 Setback Night	22
23	24 9:30 ZUMBA 10:30 Ping Pong 12:00 TVCCCA Lunch 12:30 Healthy Brain Talk 12:30 CSO Exec Mtg 1:30 Yoga	25 9:30 Women's Club 9:30-12 Woodcarving 9:30 TOPS Weight loss 1:15 Silver Sneakers 1:30 Open Pool	26 8:00 Walking Group 9:30 Men's Group 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 12:45 Bridge	27 9:00 Chair Yoga 10:00 Ping Pong 1:00 Mahjongg 1:00 Movie Day— 	28 8:45 Zumba 11:45 Silver Sneakers @ Yeomans Hall 12:00 TVCCA Lunch 12:45 Duplicate Bridge 1:00 Quilting 1:00 Open Pool 6:30 Setback Night	29
1 March	2 March Haircuts all day 9:30 ZUMBA 10:30 Ping Pong 12:00 TVCCCA Lunch 12:30— Healthy Brain Talk 12:30 CSO Exec Mtg 1:30 Yoga	<p style="text-align: center;">Senior Center Hours Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Everyone is welcome to come and participate in all we have here at Beckish!</p>				

COMING EVENTS

2/13/20 & 2/27/20: MOBILE FOODSHARE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND AND 16TH FROM 1:00 PM TO 1:30 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](#).

2/8/20: COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (323 CT-87) COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020 - 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Parish Hall: Contact the Church office with special requests. We aim to please. 860-228-9306.

Breakfast includes omelets and Belgian waffles made to order and served with grits, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, frittata of the month, fruit, homemade baked goods, coffee, tea and juice. Something new each month. Lactose and gluten free items available.

ALL YOU CAN EAT: \$10.00 Adults \$9.00 Seniors \$4.00 for children under 12.

See you on the 2nd Saturday: March 7, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug 8, Sept 12, October 10, November 14, December 12.

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

CONNECTICUT FOLK LORE – Learn about the interesting and sometimes strange things in the neighborhood! **Tues, 2/18 6:30.** R.S.V.P. at the Library!

CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK, then bundle up to come out to discuss it! Adult fiction book group is discussing an eerie classic, ***Kindred by Octavia Butler, on 2/11***. Adult non-fiction is discussing, *The Girl with Seven Names*, the true tale of a woman's journey to leave North Korea, on **2/25. Both start at 6:30 p.m.** A novel based on the extensive letters of Thomas Jefferson, *America's First Daughter* by S. Dray & L. Kamoie will be discussed at the ***Beckish, at 1:00 p.m. on 2/27.*** All are welcome!

KIDS BINGO FOR BOOKS– February 13, 6 p.m. Join us for a fun game and chance to win! Space is limited, so contact the Library at 860-228-0350 or Megan at mquigley@columbiactlibrary.org to register.

MAKE A WOVEN OWL WALL HANGING! Join us on **February 20th at 6:00 p.m.** Stop by or contact Megan at 860-228-0350 or mquigley@columbiactlibrary.org to register.

And don't forget to mark your calendar – Our sister organization, **THE FRIENDS OF THE SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY WILL BE HOLDING A BOOK SALE, FEBRUARY 7, 8, AND 9TH!**

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, Friday movies, knitting group, writing group and more!

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

FRIENDS OF THE SAXTON B. LITTLE FREE LIBRARY: Please join the Friends of the Saxton B. Little Free Library at the next book sale on **February 7th, 8th and 9th** at the Chapel on the Green.

Look for our sign on the Green and our [Facebook](#) Page - Friends of the Saxton B. Little Free Library.

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION (continued)

CONCERT AND DANCE!

To benefit The Trust for Public Land/Mono Pond State Park

THE MAPLETONES



and!



Our own Max Rainwater, fiddler-at-large, and his delightful partner-in-crime, Nicole Ball, will be playing, singing and dancing for us. Guaranteed to steal your blues and move your shoes!

Yates Webb and Cesar Moreno, from Brooklyn, NY, will be joining Max and Nicole to make some joyous noise! Word on the street: "These boys sure can pick!" (Truth.)



9 FEBRUARY 2020

YEOMANS' HALL

COLUMBIA, CT

3:00 Flat Footing Workshop

(No experience necessary! Leather/hard-soled shoes recommended but NOT required!)

4:00 CONCERT!

5:00 Refuel/Hydrate

(Variety of high-energy carbs available)

5:30 Square/Contra Dance

(Again – no experience necessary! Step-by-step directions included!!)



Suggested donation: \$15 for the Concert

\$5 for the Flat Footing Workshop

\$5 for the Square/Contra Dance

\$20 for the Triple Headah!

Kids FREE!!!

For more info: lindarain.h2o@gmail.com



NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION (continued)

Porter PTO's Annual Tailgate/Truckload/ Town Wide/Tag Sale



Where: Horace W. Porter School Parking Area—3 Schoolhouse Rd, Columbia, CT

When: Saturday June 6, 2020

Time: 7:00am Set-up

8am-1pm Sell Sell Sell

1-2:30pm: Clean Up

So How Does this Work?

- For \$20 single/\$30 double, the PTO will “rent” you a designated selling area (2 parking spots = single) in the front lot of Porter School.
- You can sell out of your car/truck, bring tables or shelves or simply lay a tarp on the blacktop; your spot is yours to design and use.
- You bring your wares, we will take care of advertising, signage and auxiliary parking.
- Once you’ve rented your spot everything you earn is yours to keep!
- All are welcome and all proceeds go to support the Porter PTO and Porter School.
- The PTO will be hosting their own table; if you have anything to donate for sale please contact one of our event chairs at the contact info below.

Great Opportunity for: Small businesses, artisans and local sports teams, relay teams, church groups and clubs!

Turn your used goods into \$\$, use this as a fundraiser for your organization or introduce your crafts/goods or business to a whole new market! Sell stuff-a-bag/everything for a \$1.00...the possibilities are endless!!

Want to donate some gently used items to the PTO table? Contact the committee chairs or look for the donation box coming soon to the Porter Reception Area.

Questions? Contact our Chair: Nelisa Reagan at porterptopres@gmail.com

TOWN WIDE TAG SALE REGISTRATION FORM

Name/Company Name: _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

___ **Single space rental (\$20)** ___ **Double space rental (\$30)**

What Best Describes Your Items To Be Sold? ___ Gently Used Goods

___ New/Commercial Vendor ___ Service (ex. Face Painting) ___ Other: _____

**Enclose with check made payable to HW Porter PTO and return to the
PTO mailbox at Porter School or
Mail to: Nelisa Reagan c/o PTO 3 Schoolhouse Rd.
Columbia, CT 06237**



NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION (continued)

27TH ANNUAL

CRPA HOTSHOTS CONTEST

A statewide shooting contest sponsored by Willington Parks
& Recreation Department



- Challenge your skills!
- Shoot from 5 hotspots around the arc!
- Score points for shots made!
- Score bonus points for speed & attempts!
- Three 1-minute rounds per player!

[CRPA Tournament Website](#)

The top scorer of each division will advance to
compete in the state contest on March 28, 2020
at Old Saybrook Recreation Center: 11 AM-1 PM

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 2020

WHERE: HALL MEMORIAL SCHOOL

PRE-REGISTER: \$5

DAY-OF REGISTRATION: \$10

LINK TO REGISTER

TIMES/AGE BRACKETS:

6 PM: BOYS & GIRLS 9-10

7 PM: BOYS & GIRLS 11-12

8 PM: BOYS & GIRLS 13-15

Contact: Obaloveras@willingtonct.org
or Call WPRD: 860-487-3108

*Pre-register
for a guaranteed
spot!*

