

Columbia

VIEWS

Volume 1 • Issue 1
Fall 2017



Your Hometown Connection • Columbia, CT

With Gratitude

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Cover Photos

Top (L-R): 1. Sunset at Columbia Lake Credit: Mark Walter 2. Winter reflection on Mono Pond Credit: Paul Ramsey 3. Rolled Hay at Szegda Farm Credit: Paul Ramsey
Bottom: 4. Columbia Rocks with Town Employees Credit: Matt Jorgensen

From the desk of Carmen L. Vance

Many “thank yous” to Mark Walter who arranged for the company to publish this quarterly magazine with info about Columbia. The demise of the Crossroads left a communication gap with residents so hopefully this will help close that gap. Since I have chosen not to run for First Selectman again, this publication affords me the opportunity to say “thank you” to all residents and staff for making the past eight years most enjoyable!!!

Being your First Selectman has been a wonderful experience. Residents have been supportive, kind, and helpful over these past years. Often times I’ve been asked “How do you put up with the complaints?” or “How do you deal with unpleasant people?” In reality, we get few complaints and I could probably count on one hand the number of people who have been truly unpleasant. We get few complaints because we have helpful, experienced staff who keep the town running no matter who the elected officials are. Most people think Columbia is a special place to live and want only what is best for the community. Differences over issues, ordinances, or projects have generally been resolved to mutual satisfaction.

As many of you have noticed when reading about other towns, there is often bitter discord and fighting among council/selectmen board members across party lines. This has not been my experience in all my years (14 to be exact) of being on the Board of Selectmen. One thing that I believe has helped prevent such discord in Columbia is that those who framed our charter provided for a stronger minority representation requirement than state law requires, thus providing for more balanced boards. Another reason for lack of discord has been the fact that those who have served are able to recognize both sides of an argument and ultimately want what is best for the community, more than what is best for a particular party. For this I am most thankful, thus making chairing the group a pleasure, not a grind. I want to thank publicly previous board members and the current board, Rob Hellstrom, Steven Everett, Bill O’Brien and Bob Bogue, for all that they do for Columbia and for their assistance and support over these past years. I honestly will miss our individual interactions and our board meetings. I also would like to thank Chick Shifrin and Don Cianci, two First Selectmen, that offered guidance and support.

Because working with the Board and our new Town Administrator has been such a good experience, deciding not to run was a difficult decision. I truly believe that many of the problems at the state and federal levels would be solved if there were term limits, thus I felt it necessary to practice what I preach. Two four year terms as First Selectman is enough. I have actually been involved with the town in various capacities for almost 20 years, about the same length of time that I was at UCONN as an administrator. It is hard to believe that it has been that long. As they say “Time flies when you are having fun!”

Again, many thanks to all and I wish you nothing but the best.

Sincerely,
Carmen L. Vance, EdD
First Selectman (2009-2017)



Carmen L. Vance, First Selectman 2009-2017

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COLUMBIA CROSSFIT

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Columbia Views

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Executive Assistant, Town of Columbia

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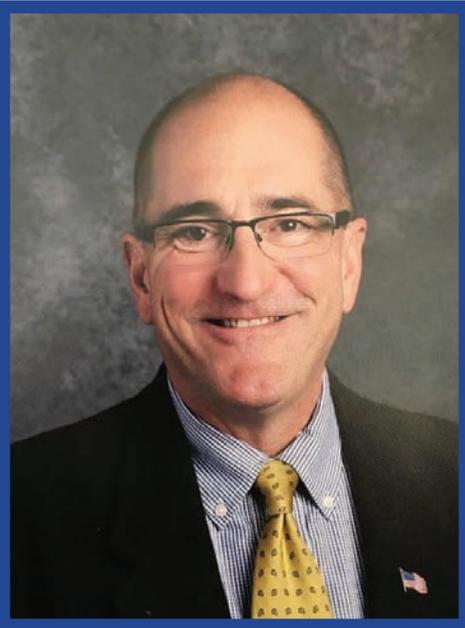
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www.epicmagazines.com



Eagle making its home in Columbia

From Your Town Administrator Mark B. Walter



Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator

Dear Residents of Columbia,

We are very excited to be able to finally bring to Columbia a new vehicle to build community spirit and offer timely news from our departments and civic organizations. This quarterly magazine is yours to reflect the character and happenings of Columbia. Call my office or stop in anytime to discuss your ideas. All articles will be coordinated through the Administration Office. We will send out the deadlines for the publication from this email: townadministrator@columbiact.org. Do not forget to include photos documenting your event.

It is hard to believe that I have already been here almost a year and a half. The good news is that we have a great town with dedicated and caring employees and very active boards, commissions and committees, and a very capable first responder team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carmen Vance for being a great mentor. She is truly an amazing leader. As you read further you will discover how our town's land and water resources are under constant vigilance for their protection and enjoyment. The most noticeable project will be the renovation of the Columbia Beach. We have just started the creation of a large retaining wall and handicap sidewalk that will create a more level beach and improve access to the water for everyone. This project is a joint effort between our Public Works Department, led by George Murphy and a local contractor, James Blair Landscape & Design.

The second project we just started, after saving for two budget cycles, is the re-siding of our Town Office and Yeoman's Hall. This project is led by our Facilities Manager, Bud Meyers, and will eliminate the future cost of painting and wood replacement.

I am focused on bringing ideas forward to our Board of Selectman and Staff that will make our town look better and showcase the pride we have in Columbia. Carmen Vance and I have started a great way to accomplish these goals with our gardens and grounds through volunteers. We have started to line up volunteers to adopt different gardens in town. Presently the list includes: Millie Ramsey – the Murphy House, Kathy Tolsdorf and Millie Ramsey- our rose bushes at the Beckish Senior Center and Town Hall, Jan Thibodeau – Memorial Garden at the Town Hall, Linda Hopper – Saxton B. Little Library gardens, Ingrid Wood – The History Place shrubs and plantings, Margaret Verizzi – planters at the Beckish Senior Center, Joan Hill – Historic Root property and Old Yard Cemetery, The Columbia Lions – Town Green Gazebo, Paula Shepard – H. W. Porter School front entry sign and grounds, and Betty Roly-Town Hall and Beckish Senior Center gardens. As you can see, this is a great start but these properties are large and more help is needed. We would love to hear from other groups and individuals that can lend a hand.

“Without a target, you'll miss it every time”, a saying that is appropriate, leads to our biggest challenge of working to plan and budget for our next ten years of capital projects. The BOS appointed a nine member Financial Needs Roundtable for the purpose of researching and analyzing the Town's short and long-term financial needs and infrastructure and to make recommendations on planning for projected expenses, revenues and the structuring of debt and savings. I will report on the groups finding in more detail in our next quarterly magazine. With these challenging economic times, our long range planning will become even more important.

Feel free to call me anytime at 860-228-0110 or email me at townadministrator@columbiact.org. I would love to hear from you.

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Farewell to Executive Assistant Kim Bona



The wonder of a butterfly metamorphosis captures one's amazement while inspiring a sense of awe and gratitude for the mysteries of nature.

A tiny egg, found on a milk weed plant in front of the Finance Office in September began a journey of wonder for Kim Bona and Mark Walter: from egg, to voracious caterpillar, eating only milkweed leaves, to chrysalis, and finally a monarch butterfly.

Esther (Kim named her) emerged on October 2nd, just days after Kim announced she would be leaving her 10-year position as Executive Assistant to Columbia's Town Administrator. Butterflies, a topic of legends for many cultures, have been used by the Chinese and Japanese cultures for centuries as symbols of joy and the essence of happiness.

The joy and happiness that Kim brought to Columbia's residents will be remembered and missed, and her departure brings wishes for her continued happiness, joy and success at her new position with CRCOG (Capitol Region Council of Governments).

Photo: Executive Assistant, Kim Bona (right) discovers the magic of rearing a monarch caterpillar with Millie Ramsey (left).

According to an American Indian Legend

If someone desires a wish to come true they must first capture a butterfly and whisper that wish to it.

Since a butterfly can make no sound, the butterfly cannot reveal the wish to anyone but the Great Spirit who hears and sees all.

In gratitude for giving the beautiful butterfly its freedom, the Great Spirit always grants the wish.

So, according to legend, by making a wish and giving the butterfly its freedom, the wish will be taken to the heavens and granted.



Welcome to Building Official Jason Nowosad



Jason served as
Columbia's Assistant
Building Official from
June 2015–March 2017.

On July 1, 2017 he was
hired back as
Building Official.

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From the Assessor's Office

ASSESSOR'S NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

All persons liable to pay taxes are hereby notified to declare all tangible personal property owned by them as of October 1st. CGS 12-41(d) provides that the assessor must apply a 25% PENALTY for failure to file by November 1st.

The Assessor's Office will mail declaration forms to all property owners previously on record. Failure to receive a form does not negate the requirements to declare. Forms are available online and in the Assessor's Office.

NOTE: A declaration for real property or registered motor vehicles are not necessary. Taxable personal property includes: unregistered motor vehicles, motor vehicles located in Connecticut but registered in another state, office, manufacturing and farming equipment, machinery, tools, leasehold improvements, and unregistered trailers. Please call the Assessor's Office for a full list or if you need clarification.

VETERANS: who served for more than ninety days during a time of war or have been disabled must have recorded their honorable discharge with the Town Clerk by October 1st in order to receive an exemption

against their 2018 tax bill.

ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS: must submit an application to the Assessor's Office in order to receive 2018 Motor Vehicle benefits no later than December 2019. A copy of ID is required.

ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S EXEMPTION: Increased exemptions are available for those who meet the necessary income requirements and file with the Assessor's Office by October 1st. Biennial filing is required and proof of income must be furnished at the time of application.

HOMEOWNERS: Connecticut law provides for Annual Tax Relief for persons who are 65 years or older or totally disabled who meet necessary qualifications. To be eligible for a benefit for the 2018 tax bill, an application with proof of income and, if applicable, proof of total disability must be filed during the following dates:

HOMEOWNERS: Feb. 1 through May 15

RENTERS: April 1 through Oct. 1

PERSONS PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED, regardless of age, may also apply for the benefit
...continued on next page



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58 Laurel Lane, Columbia

It's hard to find all this home has to offer under one roof. The new kitchen features new custom cherry cabinets, granite, farmer's sink, newer appliances including a Samsung refrigerator, double oven, microwave, Bosch dishwasher and wine refrigerator, new lighting, large pantry and oak hardwood floors. French doors lead to the bright dining room w/ new tile floors, Kitchler fan/lighting. The living room has cherry hardwood flooring and a bay window. The main bathroom

has been freshly remodeled. There are three oversized bedrooms, two with full bathrooms and walk in closets. The massive (27x25) master bedroom offers a private deck, large walk in closet, sitting area and bathroom with both hydro tub and shower. The lower level has a Vermont Castings wood stove, wet bar, half bath/laundry, office area or work out area or even an additional bedroom. The three car garage has plenty of room for additional storage or workshop. The exterior has a private deck, newer roof, a two tiered deck, new 24 ft pool, shed, underground utilities and 2.28 private acres on a cul-de-sac close to beautiful Columbia Lake and rec park.
\$289,000 Steve Piro 860-559-0559



266 Middle Turnpike East, Manchester
HUD Home FHA Case #061-357015 -3 bedroom Cape living room with hardwood floors and fireplace, large kitchen and separate dining room, large rear deck convenient location too many shops and highway access.
\$120,000 Richard Gill 860-335-5980



259 Pinch St, Scotland

Lovely Colonial home in the country on over 19 acres of land. Quaint colonial with historical charm and craftsmanship with beautiful dental and crown moldings! Nicely updated kitchen with granite counter tops and new stainless steel appliances, 4 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, master bedroom with full bath. There's a wonderful carriage barn with 3 car garage and lots of room above for studio or workshop. The grounds have perennial flower beds and terraced gardens overlooking the pond, a pool with trex decking complete with stone walls that enhance this New England farm.
\$324,900 Nancy Bard 860-455-5016

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

Personal Property

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

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Adjustments

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

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

Assessor's Notice *continued from previous page...*

fits under the elderly program.

AMBULANCE-TYPE VEHICLE, used exclusively for the purpose of transporting any medically incapacitated individual, except for payment, may be eligible for exemption.

TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED PERSONS: Any person under the age of 65 that has been awarded total disability must apply by October 1st in order to receive a \$1000 assessment exemption. Applicants must furnish proof of award.

FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT: farmers must file a notarized M-28 exemption form on or before November 1st annually to receive an exemption for farm machinery.

LAND CLASSIFICATION: Persons seeking to apply under farm, for the first time, must file an application between September 1st and October 31st with the Assessor's Office. Persons who have previously applied need not reapply. Persons seeking to apply for forest must have the land certified by a forester submitted by Oct. 1st

MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND EQUIP-

MENT: equipment used in the manufacturing process may be allowed an exemption if certain guidelines are met. A completed application must be filed by November 1st.

NEW COMMERCIAL TRUCKS with a gross rating in excess of 26,000 lbs. should check with the Assessor's Office for tax exemption eligibility. Applications must be completed and filed with the Assessor by November 1st.

LOCAL OPTIONS:

FIREFIGHTERS: Columbia volunteer firefighters who meet certain requirements are eligible for tax abatement up to \$1000.

ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS PROGRAM: Senior Citizens or disabled individuals can defer the amount of their taxes that exceed 8% of their income. The application deadline is May 1ST annually.

Most applications can be found on our town website.

FOR QUESTIONS ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS PLEASE CALL 228-9555.

News from the Public Works Department



- It's that time of year again when the leaves begin to fall and snow begins to fly! With that in mind your Public Works Department would like to remind you that we do not have a town wide leaf collection in town. Therefore please do not rake your leaves into the roadway expecting the town to remove them as they will clog roadside catch basins and potentially cause flooding of the roadway. Please use a private contractor for any leaf removal from your property if you are not able to perform that work on your own.

- Another important item to check is your mailbox. The town's policy is that if the snowplow itself hits the mailbox it would be repaired, replaced or offer the resident a check for \$25.00 toward its replacement.

However, if the snow that is discharged from the snowplow knocks down your mailbox, the Public Works Department will not repair or replace it as determined by the Director of Public Works.

- Residents who may need sand during the winter may obtain it in two ways. One is through our "senior citizen" sand delivery which is provide by your Department of Public Works once and once only during the month of November. This can be accomplished by calling the Town Administrator's Office in late October to have your name placed on the list for the one time delivery of a sand and salt mixture. We will deliver a maximum of two five gallon pails into containers supplied by you to a location by your garage or house. This delivery usually takes place before or after Veterans Day.

As in the past residents are also permitted to obtain sand at the Transfer Station behind the "Swap Shop"

...continued on next page

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Cathyann Schulte and Michael Thompson, "The Mother and Son Team" and owners of Countryside Realty in Hebron, have been awarded Five Star Real Estate Agents* yearly since 2009. The honor is given to agents that score high in client and industry peer research.

Cathyann and Michael are ranked as Top Selling Agents for Columbia, Hebron and Lebanon with almost \$10 Million in sales in 2016.

They credit their success to relentless focus on customer service, strong work ethic and emphasis on preparation. Cathyann and Michael would like to send a Sincere "Thank You" to their past and present clients for their Loyalty, Trust, Referrals and Repeat Business throughout the years!

*Based upon research conducted by Crescendo Business Services.

Public Works *continued from previous page...*

taking a maximum of two five gallon pails on any day the Transfer Station is open.

• Snow plowing regulations are governed by state statute Sec. CGS 52-558 which cover liability for placing obstructions in roadways. Residents should be aware of the following regulations.

A. No person shall lay, throw, blow, place or plow or cause to be laid, thrown blown, placed on or into any public street or way any snow or ice from any private property, or public right-of-way. If, in the removal of snow or ice from any such property, sidewalk or way, it is necessary to temporarily place snow or ice on any public street or way, such snow or ice shall immediately be removed from the public street or way by and at the expense of the person causing such deposit.

B. No person in the process of clearing any property, or way as defined above shall:

- 1.) Leave the surface of adjoining public ways any less clear of snow and ice than such person found the public way just previous to commencement of clearance.
- 2.) Plow or deposit snow or ice on the side of embankments to public ways so as to narrow or decrease the width of the traveled portion of the public way as it existed just previous to such person's clearance.
- 3.) Plow or deposit snow and ice on that portion of the public way right-of-way that adjoins another persons' property without the consent of the Town.
- 4.) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the official snow removal operations of the Town of Columbia and the State of Connecticut.
- 5.) The penalty for each violation or offense shall be \$75, and each and every twenty-four hour period of failed or neglect to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed a separate offense or violation.

Feel free to call me anytime at 860-228-4270 to discuss any concerns or ideas you may have.

George Murphy, Public Works Director

ON NOVEMBER 7TH VOTE FOR COLUMBIA'S REPUBLICAN TEAM

1ST SELECTMAN
Steven
Everett



SELECTMAN
Lisa
Napolitano

PLANNING & ZONING
EJ Starkel
Robert Powell

FIPAC
Kelley Peck
Todd Shepard

PLANNING & ZONING (Alt)
John (Larry) Preston

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Christopher Lent

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BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**
Keith Peck

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Columbia Staff Directory

DEPARTMENT		OFFICE HOURS	PHONE
Administrative Office		Mon-Thur 8 am - 4 pm	860-228-0110
First Selectman	Carmen Vance	Fri 8 am-Noon	
Town Administrator	Mark Walter		
Executive Assistant	Kimberly Bona		
Assessor's Office		Mon-Wed 8 am -4 pm	860-228-9555
Assessor	Mary Lavallee	Thur 8 am -6 pm	
		Fri 8 am -Noon	
Beckish Senior Center		Mon-Fri 8-3	860-228-0759
Director	Bernadette Derring		
Social Services	Yolanda Irizarry		860-450-7400 x7418
Building Department		Mon-Wed 8-4	860-228-0440
Building Official	Jason Nowasad	Thur 8-6	
Zoning Enforcement	Connie Kisluk	Fri 8-Noon	
Town Planner	Paula Stahl		
Sanitarian	Glenn Bagdoian		
Inland Wetlands Agent	John Valente		
Administrative Assistant	Cindee Hodge		
Board Secretary	Terri Lasota		
Fire Marshal/Burning Official	Michael Lester		
Animal Control			
	Nancy Yale		860-337-1222
Finance Department		Mon-Thur 8 am - 4:30 pm	860-228-8423
Finance Director	Beverly Ciurylo		
Fire Department			
To report a fire			911
Non-emergency calls			860-228-9602
Fire Chief	Peter Starkel		
Public Works Department		Mon-Fri 6:30-3	860-228-4270
Director	George Murphy		860-234-2195
Facilities Manager	Bud Meyers		
Recreation Department		Mon-Wedn 8-4 Th 8-7	860-228-8513
Director	Marc Volza	Fri CLOSED	
Registrar of Voters		Varies	860-228-0110
Republican	Karen Butzgy		
Democrat	Kate Morrison		
Resident State Trooper			
	Gregory DeCarli	Mon-Fri 6:30-3	860-228-9846
	Dispatch		860-465-5400
Tax Collector's Office		Mon-Wed 8-2	860-228-0230
Tax Collector	Carol W. Price	Thur 8-6 Fri CLOSED	
		<i>extended hours in January and July</i>	
Town Clerk's Office		Mon-Wed 8-4	860-228-3284
Town Clerk	Robin M. Kenefick	Thur 8-6 Fri 8-12	
Transfer Station		Wedn 8-4 Sat	860-428-1482
Attendant	Michael Stewart	Sat 8-4	

Tax Office Notice

The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2018. The last day to pay without a penalty is February 1, 2018. This office uses the postmark as the date of payment.

Columbia residents are now able to view and pay taxes online. Service fees are applied to online payments not for viewing. To find your bills online, go to www.columbiact.org. On the Columbia home page (you may need to scroll down) click on the view/pay square and on the next page click on view/ pay square again. The search criteria will need to be written 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 system please contact the Tax office at 860-228-0230 and we will gladly assist you.

Happy Holidays!!

Economic Development Committee (EDC)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for Business Group!!!

Get involved supporting businesses in town by becoming a member of the EDC.

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room in the Town Hall, and begin at 6:30 pm. All are welcome, no charge to join!!! For more information please contact Kim at 860-228-0110.

Support the Democratic Party

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First Selectman



Rob Hellstrom
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How many times have you said, “I’m not old enough to go to the Senior Center”? What types of things do you think about when you think of your basic needs and wants? Needs are the same at any age, whether you are a small child or a senior citizen. The basic needs of any age are to love, laugh, have fun, explore, learn, eat and to live life to its fullest. If you were to picture in your mind what some of the activities are found in a senior center you might think of bingo, quilting, or a balloon volleyball match. Years ago this might have been a reasonable assessment of senior activities, while there is nothing wrong with these activities, the Beckish Senior Center offers so much more. Seniors are becoming more and more active and living longer healthier lives. I have found that each community has different taste in activities; Columbia is very much into staying fit and being active. At the Beckish Senior Center we offer something for everyone. You can no longer say, “I’m not old enough to go to the senior center”! The center offers activities for all adults and even some for your grandchildren. Not only can you find an activity you might enjoy, you may meet a friend or learn a new talent. Socialization is key to aging successfully. Let’s take a look at how the Beckish Senior Center caters to the needs and wants of our senior community.

Learning is something we never stop doing, so why stop as you age? We offer computer/phone classes so our seniors can stay in touch with distant relatives, or grandchildren who text. Quilting classes, art class from water color to pastels to our Bookworms club for the literary. Learning how to play Mahjong is an activity that is becoming more and more popular these days.

If you’re more interested in fitness and being active and healthy the center offers Zumba Gold classes’ sponsored by the Silver sneakers Program, where you may qualify through your insurance for free exercise classes by Tivity Health. Increasing your cognitive health as well as stability and strength is what these classes are all about. Do you want to be able to keep up with your grandchildren? If so, we have Silversneakers exercise programs twice a week morning and afternoon, ping pong, Yoga classes, Chair Yoga/Pilates, strength and balance classes, a brand new workout room equipped with an elliptical, rowing machine, treadmill, yoga block and mats, exercise balls and a wall mounted television for your viewing pleasure while you exercise. Line dancing is available in the evenings for

those who love to dance and be social. Making fitness fun is what the Beckish Senior Center strives for! For those who struggle with weight loss we have a program here called TOPS that meets once a week and offers the needed support and guidance to have a successful weight loss. Surrounding yourself with friends and community members is a great way to continue your healthy lifestyle.

Now if you’re not into fitness and playing cards and being part of a fun group is more your style, we have what you’re looking for. We have a bridge group, duplicate bridge, setback, poker, pinochle and ponytail and any other card games you may like.

I’ve always said, if you feed them they will come! Oh so how true this is! We offer a lunch program that is served three times per week with a suggested donation of \$3.00. We also have a special meal program that is every 2 weeks

on a Tuesday, offering a buffet style meal to fit all appetites. Many times our meals are in conjunction with an event. Events you may find here at Beckish involve dancing, socializing, ice-cream, movies, ethnic food

celebrations, music/bands and other instrumental artists. We have craft fairs, tag sales, pig roasts, Halloween parties, New Years Eve events and so much more.

Now if you’re looking to get away and take a trip, the Beckish Senior Center is on the move! We have day trips a few times a month and a few overnight trips as well. We go annually to the BIG E, NYC and Block Island on your own, Mohegan and Foxwoods Casino, and Newport Playhouse. Many of our trips include a meal and a show, a train ride, boat ride and endless entertainment. Some of the many places we have been include, Ireland, Cruising the Caribbean, Berkshires, Boston, 9/11 Museum, Gloucester, Rockport, Elizabeth Park, Quilting trips, Penn Dutch County, Atlantic City, The Goodspeed, and so many others places. Traveling is a great way to relax and let someone else take over! Come and join in the fun!

The Beckish Senior Center is patiently waiting for our new 12 passenger van to transport seniors and disabled to medical appointments, shopping, banking, lunch and various events. This van will also allow us to take wellness trips to local venues for entertainment. Once the van has arrived we will celebrate with a ribbon cutting ceremony for all to enjoy! Stay tuned for more information!

...continued on next page

“I’m not old enough to go to the Senior Center!”

continued from previous page...

We offer many amenities here at Beckish. We have a podiatrist that comes every other month and also visits those who are homebound. Haircuts for only \$10.00 every 5 weeks, Reflexology and Massage every month, Flu Clinic every year, Smart Drivers classes sponsored by AARP and many Medicare classes to keep you up to date and aware. We have Medicare counselors here monthly to help with open enrollment and any questions you may have. We also have family advocates who are here from the Access Agency every Tuesday to help with budgeting, energy/fuel assistance, rental assistance, food pantry, mobile food share and housing. The amenities offered are endless, just have to ask and there is always someone at the front desk to answer your questions.

The Beckish Senior Center is the hub for all senior activities. Come in and see what it is all about and I can assure you that you will find something that sparks an interest. No one is too young or too old; we welcome everyone from in or out of town. There are no fees to join our senior center, as we ask is that you come in and enjoy all we have to offer. If you would like to get out of the heat or cold and have a cup of coffee or tea... the coffee is always on!

My question to all of you is...What are your ideas for the perfect senior center? What would get you to come to the Beckish Senior Center? Let us know, stop in and say hello! Our monthly newsletter "The Gem" is available online at www.columbiact.org as well as at the Beckish Senior Center, Town Hall, and various local businesses. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas.

Bernadette Derring
Director Senior Services, Town of Columbia



Seniors on the Go

The Columbia Seniors Organization (Inc.) is very busy with upcoming events and activities – and we are a great place to have fun and socialize with other young and “young at heart” seniors.

In the month of October, we will be hosting a Halloween Party on October 26th at 12:00 noon. We will have a “brown bag” exchange lunch for those who wish to participate. If you have food concerns you can just keep and eat your own. There will also be games and “goodies” including a chocolate fountain.

On November 11th, we will be hosting the Veterans Luncheon put on by the combined efforts of the town and the Columbia Seniors Organization. It is a wonderful time to honor our hometown veterans. There is a ceremony prior to the luncheon beginning at Town Hall at 11 a.m., as well as displays of memorabilia. Come and enjoy some Columbia hometown cooking and say Thank You.

Also on November 18th the CSO will have their annual Harvest to Holly Fair. We will have vendors with merchandise that will be great for gifts during the coming holiday season. We will also have a Christmas room with gently used items and a table of yummy baked goods. We will also be serving a lunch of baked potatoes with toppings. If you would like to be a vendor please call the Beckish Senior Center at 860-228-0759 for the application.

We will end the year with our White Elephant Grab Bag/Potluck Luncheon on December 30th at 12:00 noon. Bring a dish and a grab bag, and then have a wonderful time with others in the holiday season.

We hope to see you for some of these events. These are just some of the activities go on every month. We sponsor trips, movies, a quilting group, and many others. The Beckish Senior Center also has many exercise groups and additional activities. You can check on dates, times and the occasional cost by calling the Senior Center at 860-228-0759 or checking in the Beckish newsletter, The Gem.

Agriculture in Columbia



Agriculture was the economic base for the residents of Columbia from its first settlement in 1700 until WW II. Since then, agricultural land use has declined while residential land use has soared. Today, agriculture plays only a small economic role in Columbia, but it still plays a large role in the Town's historic and rural character and is highly prized by Columbia's residents.

A goal of the 2016 Columbia Plan of Conservation and Development is to support existing agricultural businesses and encourage their expansion and welcome new agriculture businesses. To implement this goal, Columbia's Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) has adopted new regulations that focus on the needs of agriculture businesses while being mindful of any potential impact to abutting residential properties.

The new regulation lists agricultural uses, including the keeping of livestock, and various accessory activities, the level of approval required, and separation distances, were based on the potential impact to abutting properties.

Now a farm can add a low impact activity such as selling products from a farm stand, offering wagon rides and pick-your-own simply with staff approval. Previously, some of these activities were not allowed, or required a public hearing before they could be approved.



The new regulations also permit farm wineries, a farm store or a farmers' market. Similar to other towns in Connecticut,

farm wineries with sufficient land could also have private events such as weddings and wine tastings. Because these uses could impact neighboring properties, the regulations specify separation distances and hours of operation and would require PZC approval after a public hearing.

Since the regulations were approved earlier this year, one winery has been approved and is open for business, and other farms are considering expanding their businesses.

Submitted by Paula Stahl, LLA, AICP
Columbia Town Planner

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Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission

As the weather cools down, Columbia's interest in swimming and boating wanes, but we still love the outdoors! Did you know that Columbia has nearly 20 miles of hiking trails? Some of these trails are also suitable for bicycling and equestrian use. Two National Recreational Trails pass through our town, as well as a linear State Park and a State Forest.

Recreation Park: Hennequin Road

The Stone Dust Trail around the perimeter of the park is an easy pleasant walk through forest and field, in sight of the playing fields and play scape. There are several park benches along this trail for rest and meditation, as well as outdoor exercise equipment. It is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length, and is suitable for baby stroller and wheelchair. Horses are allowed on this trail.

The more difficult wooded trails behind Rec Park can be accessed from the Stone Dust Trail. Almost all of these trails are on the Joshua's Trust Utley Hill Preserve, and are maintained by Joshua's Trust. This area includes nearly 5 miles of moderate-difficulty hiking in mixed deciduous forest with an extensive wetland and brook.

The ruins of two 19th century water-powered mills grace the stream. A high-tension power line runs through the north end of the property, providing open brushy habitat for bird watching. Owl, hawk, eagle, deer, fisher, fox, squirrel, chipmunk, mouse, beaver, coyote, goose, duck, and heron have been observed on this property. The main entrance for the Utley Hill Property is on Lake Road. These trails are not suitable for horses and motorized vehicles. Trail maps are available at www.joshuastrust.org.

Another Joshua's Trust trail in Columbia is Potter Meadow. This trail can be accessed from the end of Commerce Drive. The trail is in the flood plain of the Willimantic and Ten Mile Rivers. On the one-mile trail there are many

wildlife viewing opportunities. Trail maps are available at www.joshuastrust.org.

National Recreation Trails

Willimantic River Water Trail — Designated in 2012, the corridor provides 21 miles of paddling trail between Stafford Springs and Windham on the Willimantic River.

East Coast Greenway is a Rails-to-Trails pathway that runs from Florida to Maine. The section of this trail that passes through Columbia is known as the Hop River Trail. It runs from Columbia to Vernon, and will soon be connected to the Airline Trail, a linear State Park, that runs from East Hampton to Pomfret, passing through Columbia. Rail Trails are flat wide trails, suitable for walking, biking, cross-country skiing, horses, baby strollers, and wheel chairs.

To obtain a key to open the gate on a Rail Trail for wheel chair access, call DEEP Headquarters in Marlborough 860-295-9523. Motorized vehicles other than wheelchairs are not permitted.

Let's go
Outdoors!

...continued on page 15



Parks and Rec Department News



Columbia Autumn Classic Road Race

October 29th, Noon @ Rec. Park

Join us for this wonderful 5k, t-shirts to the first 100 registrants, medals, pumpkins and pumpkin pies will be given out. Kids fun run starts at 11:30am.

Fitness Classes

Fit Fusion: Mons/Weds
4:30pm-5:30pm

Cost: \$6 walk-in, \$50/10
Classes

Zumba: Mons/Weds 7pm-
8pm

\$6 walk-in, \$50/10 classes.
\$90/20 classes

Yoga: Thurs 7pm-8pm
\$10 walk-in, \$90/10 classes

All in Yeoman's Hall

Youth Basketball

- ◆ K-2 Grade will start December 2nd and end February 17th (no practice December 23rd or 30th)
- ◆ 3rd-8th Grade will start practicing November 6th
- ◆ High School will begin in early December



Parks and Recreation News

- Adult Volleyball will begin Dec. 5th and 6th this year we will have 2 nights Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9:15—10:30pm. More information to come.
- We will be having our Holiday House Decorating Contest again this year, look for deadlines as the fall/winter weather get closer.

Office Hours: Mon-Wed 8am-4pm, Thurs 8am-7pm

Email: recreation@columbiact.org

www.columbia.recdesk.com

Chili– Cook Off

Think your Chili has what it takes?? Enter the Chili-Cook Off October 29th at Noon at Rec. Park. No entry fee; prizes for winners, judges favorite and fan favorite. Enjoy tasting chili?? Come taste all the chili for \$5.



Mono Pond State Forest
Mono Pond is located on Hunt Road. This area offers a boat launch for fishing and paddle-craft. The two miles of hiking trails are in the up-land deciduous forest to the east of the pond, and offer views of the water.

Szegda Farm Open Space
Located on Szegda Road, Szegda Farm Open Space offers 2 miles of hiking trails, suitable for hikers and cross-country skiers, through farm fields and deciduous forest. This variety of habitat provides excellent wildlife opportunities: deer, coyote, birds, small mammals, wild flowers, and insects make their home here. Gardeners may wish to sign up for a plot in the Community Garden.

Ann Dunnack,
CCAG Chairman



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COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Calendar



**10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
with Church School and Nursery**

All are welcome!

Church History: Originally Columbia was part of Lebanon, CT. The citizens of Columbia worshiped in Lebanon when they could easily get there. In 1715, twenty four men petitioned Lebanon for permission to organize their own Ecclesiastical society. Lebanon approved the petition, and in 1716 the General Assembly in Hartford, CT granted the request. It took Columbia four years to find a settled pastor, therefore the year 1720 is the year recorded as the year Columbia Congregational was established.

Our third pastor, the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock, is our most famous pastor as he later founded Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. Our longest pastorate is that of the Reverend Frederick Avery who was here from 1850 to 1895 for a total of forty-five years. We now worship in our third building which was built in 1832.

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
CHURCH FAIR
10AM-3PM/Parish Hall

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
8AM-11AM/Parish Hall

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST
THANKSGIVING SERVICE
7PM

DECEMBER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
11:15AM - ADVENT WORKSHOP
With Soup and Bread Luncheon/Parish Hall

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
8AM-11AM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
10AM - Worship Service
With Christmas Pageant, followed
By COOKIE EXCHANGE!

2PM - HANDBELL CHOIR
CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
10AM - Worship Service
10:30PM - Candlelight Service

JANUARY 2018

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
8AM-11AM/Parish Hall

325 Route 87 ~ Columbia, CT 06237

860-228-9306 ~ www.columbiacongregationalchurch.org

Columbia Lake Association Revises Mission and Membership Regulations

All Town Residents Can Join to Support Protecting Columbia Lake



Our 2016 Town of Columbia Plan for Conservation and Development lists Columbia Lake as a strength in our community and a highly valued resource. Columbia Lake is a beautiful, pristine 280-acre water body offering numerous recreational opportunities to all town residents. Today the lake is considered one of the cleanest in Connecticut. Yet our lake faces increasing threats due to the transport of invasive species and phosphorus overuse causing blue algae blooms. With threats come opportunities. In 2015, the Columbia Lake Association (CLA) chose to adapt its bylaws to play a more proactive role in protecting our lake's present and future for all to enjoy. The two key bylaw changes were related to our mission and membership.

CLA Mission ~ Our mission now emphasizes promoting and protecting Columbia Lake as a natural and recreational resource as well as promoting neighborly relations among members and with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Our interests to serve this mission include preserving the ecological and environmental well-being of Columbia Lake and its watershed, maintain-

ing the water quality of Columbia Lake and providing educational resources related to ecological, chemical, land use and other environmental factors affecting Columbia Lake. Examples of recent CLA activities include the development of a town-sponsored Aquatic Invasive Species educational course.

CLA Membership ~ Our membership regulations now allow for any town resident to join the CLA. Membership levels include lake front members for residents owning property on the lake and watershed members for residents owning property located in the Columbia Lake Watershed Protection Zone in the Residential Agricultural District as described in Columbia's zoning regulations. In addition, remaining town residents outside of lake front or the watershed areas may become ex-officio participants in order to foster communications for all residents who wish to support protecting the lake.

We invite any and all town residents to join the CLA working together to promote, protect and continue to enjoy our beautiful lake. To learn more about the CLA and/or to join the CLA, email us at columbialakeassociation@gmail.com.

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It's All About Connections



The Columbia Historical Society is striving to forge connections among Columbia's residents to keep us all connected to its people, places, memorabilia and events from our past, present and future. But the success of our efforts rest with you our friends, neighbors and acquaintances who are the story tellers of life in Columbia.

Everyone has a story.

April, 2016, marked the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Historical Society and was celebrated in grand style at the Society's Annual Pot Luck Supper attended by 100 plus supporters. As we discover, MAKE and record Columbia's history for the NEXT 50 years the Society is beginning a new adventure with the establishment of a permanent home, shared with the Town Historian, at The History Place. (Formerly the Meeting Place and the 1st Saxton B. Little Library).

An extensive review of the Society's collection is currently underway with plans to update the online Past Perfect catalog which will eventually become available to all. The History Place will provide appropriate storage for our current collection items and allow us, in collaboration with the Town Historian and other civic groups, to develop a long-range plan for permanent and rotating exhibits at the History Place.

Our 1st exhibit, planned for Spring 2018, will highlight Columbia's very own gem, Columbia Lake; from its beginning as a reservoir for the American Linen Company; now the American Thread, to its current focus as a summer oasis for all of Columbia's residents. We would love to have you share your stories of Columbia Lake in anticipation of our upcoming exhibit. Visit our new user friendly web site *Columbia-history.org* where you may contact us to share your stories. If you have photos to share you may want to participate in our Columbia Photo Heritage Project. Photos will be scanned and returned. For more information about this project you may contact Andrea Stannard or Joan Hill on our web site.

Do you have ideas and other stories you would like to share with the Historical Society? We would love to hear them. Go to the Contact Us tab on our website and leave a message or call Millie Ramsey at 860 734-1046.

Looking forward to connecting.



kw

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3rd Connecticut Regiment Belt Plate

A gift from Jeff Dente, Venice, Florida

A gentleman from Venice, Florida, stopped by “The History Place” to say hello and reminisce about growing up in Columbia during the 1950 - 1970s. Mr. Jeff Dente, now a retired businessman, was formerly a resident of 443 Route 87 in Chestnut Hill (current picture, below). His parents Eugene and Stella Dente owned this home from 1947 – 1984. Jeff was here for the 2017 Horace Porter School reunion. He stopped by to see his former neighbors, old friends, and visit with the Town Historian. Most of all, Mr. Jeff Dente had an interesting story to tell.

About 50 years ago he and his Dad were clearing out the attic of their antique salt-box home (c. 1757 according to the former sign on the house)...and so he wondered if our “Old House Survey” included any details about his former home? This survey had been initiated by De Ramm, our Town Historian Emerita. Much of the architectural information on the house was provided by the State of Connecticut Historic Buildings survey in 1971. This survey stated the house was constructed in 1735 and had interior elements similar to the Wheelock House on Columbia’s Green. This saltbox structure was moved from its original site to its present location by the Collins family in 1798, according to anecdotal history.



During the ‘60s and ‘70s his parents, Eugene and Stella Dente periodically hosted “open house” viewings of an elaborate diorama; a diorama, of all things, that came with the house! Located in the barn, it was a miniature replica of the city of Charlestown, Massachusetts; Boston Harbor as it might have looked in 1776. It included a 15 minute recorded account of the Battle of Bunker Hill involving General Putnam; the Connecticut contingent of rebels; Colonel Stark with his Vermont regiment; and the defeated retreating British General Howe. Jeff Dente did not know what happened to this diorama after his parents sold the property.

But there was one very special memento that Jeff had kept with him in Florida all these years he explained. It had fallen from the attic rafters that one day some fifty years ago. He said it might be a brass buckle. He told me he wanted to present it to the Town of Columbia, “where it belonged” and for safekeeping. He wasn’t sure when it was made or when it was placed in the rafters, but thought it might be from the Civil War. Once he returned home to Venice, Florida, he would look for it and send it to us.



In mid-August I received an envelope with a very kind note from Jeff Dente. It included the “buckle” in question. This photograph of the belt plate face (left) does not entirely capture the delicate engraving, and the abbreviated script “3d. Regt.” is hard to see. This is a brass gilt belt plate for a leather shoulder strap. The back of the belt plate (next page) has four “mordants” or inward facing prongs that attach to adjustable leather straps. Such a strap might have held a haversack or similar item, as pictured below. This delicate belt plate

...continued on next page

Belt Plate *continued from previous page...*



engraving is very similar to other 18th century brass gilt belt plates.

Later period belt plates and buckles manufactured in the mid-19th century are usually stamped. The metal castings and engravings are stylistically very different. They often identify state or geographical location, such as “US” for the United States, “CS” Confederate States, Ohio, or Mississippi. Yes, there was, indeed a 3rd Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment that organized out of New Haven on May 14, 1861, and mustered for a three month service. Yet, Jeff’s belt plate (above) did not look anything like Civil War (c. 1861-1865) type buckles or belt plates.

During the Civil War, Columbia men usually mustered out of Hartford or nearby cities. I examined the list of all Columbia men who served during the Civil War from Connecticut State Archives sources, and none of the names seemed to fit with the residents of this house. So I began to wonder if this belt plate was from an earlier time.

According to historical sources the 3rd Connecticut Regiment was first authorized in 1776 and was organized January 1, 1777 – April 1, 1777. It enlisted 728 patriot volunteers from Windham and Hartford counties. At the time Lebanon Crank was part Lebanon in Windham County. The 3rd Connecticut Regiment was assigned to the 1st Connecticut Brigade in the Highland’s Department on April 3, 1777, and then to the main Continental Army on June 15, 1777. (Please note the placement of the belt plate at the “X” of the two white front leather straps on the replica Continental Army uniform in this picture). The commanders included Colonel(s) Samuel Wyllys, Durkee, Grosvenor, Butler, and Swift in various campaigns under General Washington to



protect New York (where they were defeated by the British) and New Jersey (where they defeated the British). This regiment was organized several times and ultimately reassigned as the 1st Connecticut Regiment after 1781.

To whom did this belt plate belong? Clearly it had very special significance, being so carefully placed in the attic rafters of this house on the route to the Trumbull War Office. Later commemorated as the Jonathan Trumbull highway, Route 87 was a major thoroughfare during the American Revolution, and saw Continental Army, Connecticut Militia, and French Army troop movements. Part of this route is now the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. Did the residents of this house witness the birth of a new nation in 1776? Certainly. Did they have a connection to someone in the 3rd Connecticut Regiment? Possibly.

Lebanon records show the Crocker family owned the house during the American Revolution. James Crocker Jr. of Colchester purchased this house in 1771, and it was sold to Gershom Dorrance in 1798 by Daniel Crocker. Columbia records show Gershom Dorrance sold the house to Oliver Armstrong of Franklin, New London County in 1813. In

...continued on next page



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Belt Plate *continued from previous page...*

1828 it was sold to Rufus Collins of Columbia and remained in the Collins family until 1910. So when could this belt plate have been placed in the rafters? Perhaps when it was no longer needed, but placed by whom?

Historians agree that the American Revolution was, by all accounts, a civil war between England and her North American colonies. So Jeff Dente was, in fact correct to suggest that this very special belt plate was used in a civil conflict. Although we will never know the specifics, we can only surmise one of the early owners felt the placement of such an historic item in the attic rafters was of special importance to him and the house in the context of what was going on here at the time.

On behalf of the Town of Columbia, I am very grateful to Jeff Dente for his generosity and thoughtfulness in gifting to us this important symbol of what may very well be Lebanon Crank's early Revolutionary War history. Thank-you Jeff!

Ingrid Wood, Town Historian
Columbia, Connecticut

References:

"3rd Connecticut Regiment" from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia", Wikipedia Foundation, Inc., (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Connecticut_Regiment) Retrieved 2017-09-05.

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Horace W. Porter School



Fall 2017



Please visit www.hwporter.org for more and updated information!

Upcoming events

- Boys and Girls Soccer has begun
- Cross Country has begun
- Unified Sports has begun
- October 4 at 4pm: Flu Shot Clinic
 - Fall Conferences October 11 & 12 for Grades 4-8
 - October 14: PTO Fall Craft Fair
 - October 16– October 27 Scarecrow Contest
 - October 27: Trunk or Treat
 - October 30– November 2: Book Fair. Family Night on 11/2 at 6pm
 - November 3: End of Quarter Porter Pride
 - November 6: Wreath Fundraiser
 - November 9: Turkey Bingo at 6pm
 - Fall Conferences November 20 & 21 for PK-3

New Staff Members:

Ms. Jennifer Hill, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Nerida Del Castillo, Elementary Spanish
Ms. Megan Potamianos, First Grade
Mrs. Amanda White, Paraprofessional
Mrs. Alyson Cranick, Paraprofessional
Ms. Christine Connell, Food Service Aide
Mr. Matthew Tew, Facilities Technician
Mrs. Diane Nolette, Building Substitute
Ms. Whitney Edwards, Intern
Ms. Alicia Spakowski, Intern

2017 Back to School Pictures: Students and Teachers are ready to go!



We are excited to announce and celebrate our 2017-2018 Teacher and Paraprofessional of they Year:

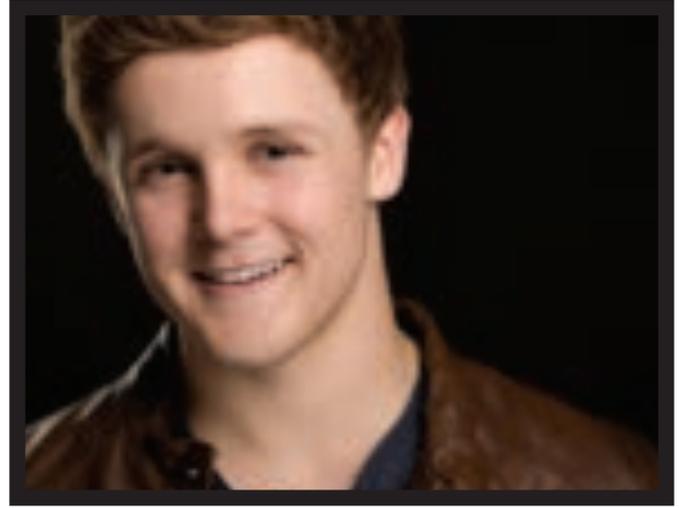
Nicole Henry, Kindergarten

Carolyn Ritchie, Kindergarten Paraprofessional

Congratulations and thank you for your dedication to our students!

Rising Stars

by Carmen Vance



As many of you may not know, Columbia has two “rising-stars” in the theater world, Maya Keleher and Jared Starkey.

I can remember both of them as elementary students in theater productions at Porter School directed by Janet Stice. Thank you Jan for encouraging and teaching young talented students. Both Maya and Jared went on to perform in high school and Windham Theater Guild productions.

After graduating from EO Smith, Maya attended the Boston Conservatory where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater in 2016. While in college Maya performed in *Ghost*, *Godspell*, *The Pajama Game*, *Little Murders*, *Hair* and *Sunny*. She was also active with the Conservatory Cabaret.

Her most recent performance in the professional world was as the daughter, Natalie, in *Next to Normal* at Theater Works in Hartford. It was a terrific show and Maya was outstanding. For that performance she was awarded the Connecticut Critic Circle Award for Outstanding Debut Performance. Maya currently lives in New York City where she is pursuing her dream.

Jared had two passions as a young student, soccer and theater. After performing as Dickon in *The Secret Garden* at the community theater, he decided that theater was his love and began to pursue that over soccer. Thank you Jared for making that

decision!

After high school Jared decided to pursue a BA in Musical Theater at Western Connecticut State University where he received his degree in 2017. While at Western he was in *Parade*, *Little Women* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He was awarded the “Distinguished Actor” in a musical (*The Drowsy Chaperone*) at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (2016). In addition to his college work, Jared has appeared in several Regional Theater performances at the Woodstock Playhouse, with Peterborough Players and at the Playhouse on Park.

Currently Jared is also living in New York City, not far from Maya. They are both highly talented and energetic young people pursuing their dreams. I look forward to being in the audience when each of them makes his/her Broadway debut.

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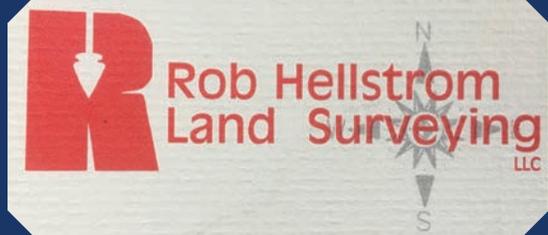
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Best Kept Secret: Columbia Lions Club



The Columbia Lions Club is one of the best kept secrets in town. Some in town know that we put on the: July 4th parade, Annual Chicken BBQ, Annual Pancake Breakfast, annual Golf Tournament, the Gazebo Lighting and Carol Sing, fund raising Dinners for special projects like “Camp Rising Sun” – the camp for children with cancer. Our Lions Club also sponsors the Columbia Leos Club and the Boy Scouts.

I want to highlight a new program we started in March - it's called Kidsight. Kidsight is a vision screening for kids using a Welchallyn screening device to detect sight abnormalities that may have been overlooked. Since March, we have screened 1,289 children and found that 111 needed referrals to eye doctors. These screenings were done in Columbia, Andover, and Chaplin and at EASTCONN, Channel 3 Kids Camp, and the Discovery Zone Learning Center.

Upcoming Events:

1. At the transfer station – selling tickets for the scholarships that we offer to Columbia high school seniors.
2. Roast Beef Dinner at the Senior Center is on October 14. Proceeds to Camp Rising Sun for camperships for kids with cancer. Contact Lion Bob Fowler at 860-228-3076 for tickets.

Our Club is very active throughout the year working on dozens of projects. We could use more help from community minded people (especially women).

If you would like to get more information about us contact Lion Bob ManWarren at 860-670-9482 or Lion Tim Anderson at 860-228-0082.

Thank you all for your generous support through the years!

Bob ManWarren
Lion President



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From The Saxton B. Little Library

Sue Epstein, Library Director

The holiday season is a time of thanks. It is one year since we moved back into our renovated space, and we continue to be thankful, in particular for the programming room. None of us realized what a toll it had been moving furniture around until we could stop doing it! Our programming room has also allowed us to increase our programming and offer better service. For this we are also thankful.



Remember that during the holiday season, we are here to offer you free access to books, movies, audio books and music. Everything you need to relax for an evening or when your house is invaded by company! Need a gift? Visit the Friends of the Library book sale the weekend of November 10, get a Book Sale Gift Certificate any time, or purchase a must-have Saxton B. Little Library mug at the Library. Need to escape? Come to the Library for our First Friday afternoon movie or one of our four adult book groups. On November 21, come hear a talk about the CT coyote population. In December 5th and 15th come to Wrap and Yap and make your holiday gift wrapping more fun.

For holiday hours and other information please feel free to call the Library at 860.228.0350 (if we are not here, the voice mail will answer, press 5 for hours or to leave a message.) Weather closings are announced on local media stations and our website: www.columbiactlibrary.org, where you can also find information about ALL our upcoming events!

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