

COLUMBIA



Photo Credit: Scot Fortna

UPDATE JULY 2024



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Join us for the 2024 Summer Concert Series!

Nightshift put on a tremendous show on Tuesday, July 2nd. You won't want to miss **Cover2Cover** on **July 30th**. To close out the Summer Concert Series, **Rock Solid Alibi** will play on **August 20th**.

For all three of our Nightshift, Cover2Cover, and Rock Solid Alibi concerts, there will be a food truck, beer and seltzers, and the snack shack will also be open for other yummy treats as well! All three of these concerts will begin at 6:30pm.



Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors!!

- Titan Energy
- Olivia Evans, Realtor/Broker
- Discovery Zone Learning Center
- Lions Club
- Columbia Cross Fit





TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

4TH OF JULY PARADE: The Annual Town of Columbia and Columbia Lions Club Parade will kick off at 10:00 am on Thursday, July 4, 2024. This year's theme "Dare to Dream." This theme was inspired by the prize-winning artwork of Ethan Roach, who will also be a parade participant.



Photo Credit: Scot Fortna



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

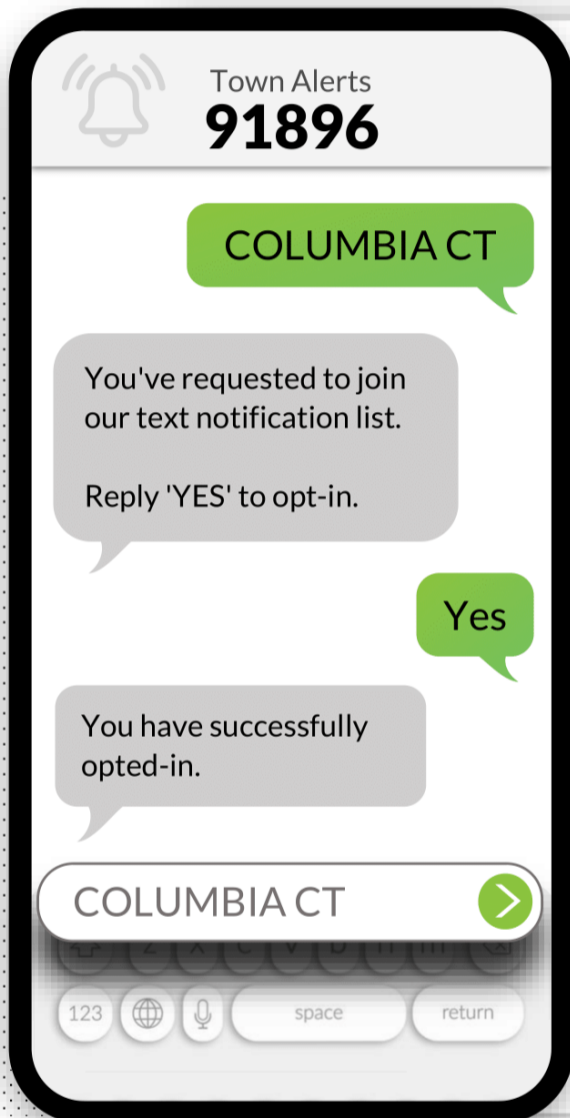
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Columbia

Text Notifications!

Get town updates sent directly to your phone via text message.

TextMyGov™



Sign up to receive town text message notifications!

Get Started,

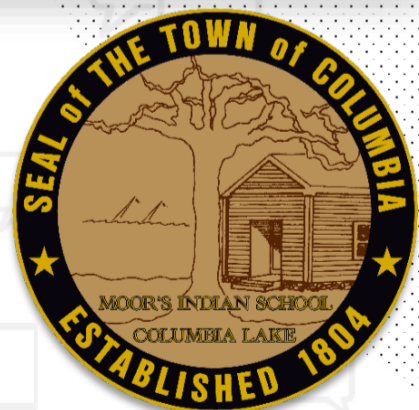
opt-in to any of the following notification lists:

- For Town-wide Notifications,
text **"COLUMBIA CT"** to **91896**
- For Parks & Recreation Notifications,
text **"COLUMBIA CT REC"** to **91896**
- For Beckish Senior Center Notifications,
text **"COLUMBIA CT BECKISH"** to **91896**

What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply **YES** to verify opt-in.
- You may receive multiple text messages a month with a notification for each alert category opted-in to.
- Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for more details.
- You can text **STOP** at any time to remove yourself from ALL notification lists.

View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions





TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TEXTMYGOV: Opt-In for TextMyGov, the new text alert system to receive important Town information. Signing up is easy!

We encourage all residents to opt-in for these important notifications to keep informed of all town announcements. Signing up is easy. Opt-in to any of the following lists:

- **Town-wide Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT" to the number 91896.**
- **Parks & Recreation Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT REC" to the number 91896.**
- **Beckish Senior Center Notifications, text "COLUMBIA CT BECKISH" to the number 91896.**

After sending the initial keyword, you will be asked to complete the opt-in process by responding with YES by text to 91896.

Users may opt-out anytime from future text alerts by simply texting STOP to 91896.

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.

Thank you and please be safe!

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

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator
townadministrator@columbiact.org
860-228-0110

UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

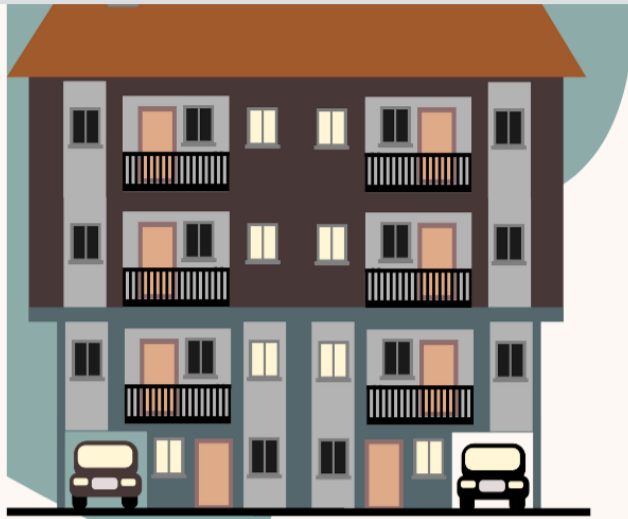
Many meetings will be held by utilizing remote access; however, some meetings are being held in-person or hybrid (both in-person and virtual). Please check the Town Calendar and the Agenda posted for directions on login information. Each board or committee will provide the information needed to join using an on-line conferencing platform. Please check the Town of Columbia's [website](#) for updates.

- 7/01/24 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM - Canceled
- 7/01/24 Mon: Board of Education, 7:30 PM - Canceled
- 7/01/24 Wed: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM - Canceled
- 7/02/24 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM - Canceled
- 7/03/24 Mon: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 7/04/24 Thur: Conservation & Agriculture Commission, 7:00 PM - Canceled
- 7/08/24 Mon: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM (Special Meeting)
- 7/08/24 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/09/24 Tue: Recreation Commission, 6:00 PM
- 7/10/24 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 7/10/24 Wed: Economic Development Committee, 7:00 PM
- 7/15/24 Mon: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM
- 7/16/24 Tue: Hop River Mills Committee, 5:30 PM
- 7/16/24 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 7/17/24 Wed: Safety Committee, 1:30 PM
- 7/17/24 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/18/24 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
- 7/22/24 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 7/25/24 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM

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

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: The Renter's Relief program will begin April 1 and will run through October 1st. You will need proof of rent payments and utilities paid in the 2023 calendar year.



Renter's Rebate

Renters Rebate applications are being accepted through Monday, September 30, 2024. Columbia residents age 65 or older by 12/31/2023 or those receiving Social Security Disability may be eligible if their 2023 income was \$43,800 or less for an individual or \$53,400 or less for a married couple. There is no asset limit for this program. Required documents include: Verification of income (Signed 2023 1040 Federal Tax form (if you file); 2023 Social Security Statement (SSA-1099); 2023 Pension Statement(1099); 2023 Bank Interest Statement(1099); Any other 2023 Income 1099), rent paid, and utilities paid in 2023. Eligible residents will receive a rebate check in the fall/winter of 2024.

For questions, feel free to contact Katie Wilt at Columbia Social Services 860-228-1008. Or, **visit the Columbia Assessor's office to apply.**



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:

MOTOR VEHICLE ADJUSTMENTS

In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof. Please be aware the tax is a car tax not a road tax.

- The first is a copy of your motor vehicle plate return receipt.
- The second is something proving you got rid of the vehicle. For a list of accepted proofs look on the assessor's website or call the office.
- If you traded a vehicle and kept the same plate do not bring us any documentation because DMV will automatically process the adjustments.

BUILDING PERMIT INSPECTIONS

Inspections for building permits taken out as of October 1, 2023, through May 2024 will begin shortly. Our office will email and mail requests for information or an inspection depending on the type of permit taken. Please respond as soon as possible so that we can finish next year's Grand List on time.

The Assessor's Office personnel are available Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. until noon, Thursdays 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. until Noon. Our telephone number is 228-9555. Email is mhawley@columbiact.org.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: Please remember to purchase your 2024 Transfer Station Stickers! Stickers can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office or online at [RecDesk](#). Town Clerk Office hours are M-W, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Thursday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Fri., 8:00 am to noon.



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

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June 14th — Jim Blair at the Town Beach (10:30 am)

June 19th — Bruce John @ the Town Green (6:30 pm)

July 2nd — Nightshift @ Rec Park (6:30 pm)

July 30th — Cover2Cover @ Rec Park (6:30 pm)

August 20th — Rock Solid Alibi @ Rec Park (6:30 pm)

CONCERT SERIES



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

Columbia Summer Concert Series

COVER COVER



Tuesday, July 30th
6:00 – 8:00 pm
@ Rec Park



An eclectic collection of tunes to suit all audiences!



Bring a chair and settle down for an evening of live music, food, beverage, and community fun.

THANK YOU, PLATINUM SPONSORS!



Discovery Learning Center * Columbia CrossFit * Titan Energy *
Olivia Evans- REALTOR®/ Broker

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

Columbia Summer Concert Series



TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH
6:30 – 8:30 PM
ROCK SOLID ALIBI
FLY

Bring a chair and join us for a fun evening of live music, food, beverage and community.



Rock Solid Alibi plays primo cuts from The Allman Brothers, The Cars, Eric Clapton, ZZ Top, Joe Jackson, The Ramones, and John Cougar Mellencamp to name just a few.

**THANK YOU,
PLATINUM SPONSORS!**



Discovery Learning Center * Columbia CrossFit * Titan Energy *
Olivia Evans- REALTOR®/ Broker

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:



Free Paddle Board Lessons

w/ Mike Armstrong

Columbia Town Beach

18 Lake Rd

June 12th

4:00PM

Bring your own or use one of the
Town's Paddle Boards!

SCAN ME



Register on RecDesk for a guaranteed spot!

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

COLUMBIA PARKS & RECREATION
Boat Safe Connecticut, LLC

BOATING LICENSE CLASS

\$98 PER PERSON

SUPPLIES INCLUDED!



There will be breaks
1-day Class
Saturday, July 13th
8:30am- 4:30pm
@ Town Hall Conference Room

2- day Classes 6:00-10:00pm:
***June 25th & June 27th**
@ Beckish Center
***July 16th & July 18th**
@ Beckish Center

Students successfully completing the class can purchase their license from the DEEP for \$50 and leave the class with their boating license in hand. The classroom-based presentation is PowerPoint and video format including student interaction with hands on demonstrations of common boating equipment and supplies.

<https://columbia.recdesk.com>
860-228-8513

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:



Summer Schedule

6/24/24-7/31/24

**Classes are
Mon., Tues. & Wed.**

4:30-5:30 pm

\$6 Drop-In

\$50 Ten Class
Punch Cards

FIT FUSION!

GET IN SHAPE WHILE HAVING FUN!

For years, *Fit Fusion* has been a staple of Columbia's fitness programs! Led by its talented instructor, **Carolyn Ritchie**, *Fit Fusion* brings together **Group Fitness** with the latest formats of **Interval Training** for a fun way to work-out! Sign up on [Columbia Parks and Recreation Department > Home \(recdesk.com\)](https://www.recdesk.com)

You can also contact the Columbia Parks and Recreation office at: **(860).228.8513!** Or simply drop in and try a class!

YEOMAN'S HALL
323 CT-87
Columbia, CT
06237



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:



ZUMBA

LET IT MOVE YOU™

THERE ARE A LOT OF WAYS TO LOSE WEIGHT. SOME ARE JUST MORE FUN. JOIN THE ULTIMATE DANCE-FITNESS PARTY THAT BEATS A BORING OLD WORKOUT ANY DAY.

Starting May 14th
Columbia Rec Presents

Zumba with Janine
Instructor Contact Information:
860-218-0487 grumpyelmbear@gmail.com
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 6:30 PM

Join us at Yoemans Hall for a fun filled hour of Zumba. Bring clean sneakers, towel & water. Secondary location if space is unavailable Beckish Senior Center.

Check out Janine's group page to be informed.
Group Facebook page: Mansfield Academy of Dance Zumba Crew

For class details Contact your licensed Zumba® Instructor.
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ZUMBA.COM

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

Swim Lessons

Session I

June 24th – June 27th

July 1st - July 4th

(Fridays reserved for make-up)

Level 1: 10:30am

Level 2: 11:00am

Level 3: 11:30am

Level 4: 12:00pm

Fees: Residents \$45 per week \$85 for 2 weeks/ Non-Residents \$50 per week.

Class Session: Classes are Monday – Thursday each week with Friday reserved for make-up if a lesson is cancelled due to inclement weather. The whole session is 2 weeks long.

Please note: Swim lessons are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

In the event of a schedule conflict or your child being unable to participate, we cannot be held responsible for missed days.

Requirements to enter class: A completion card or mastery of skills of previous level

**Register online at
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>**

Phone: 860-228-8513

Email: recdirector@columbiact.org



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

MARINE PATROL NUMBER

860-256-9720

or

860-207-5081

Please call the Marine Patrol number if assistance is needed for boating violations or to assist operators with disabled watercrafts.

If there is an emergency, please call 911.

The Marine Patrol is on duty from 10:00 am to Sunset

If you need assistance with the Gate or have questions regarding the town beach, please contact the Recreation Department at 860-228-8513.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

GATE MONITORING & INSPECTION HOURS: As of April 15th, the Recreation staff is available at the following hours to inspect and certify motorboats:

- **Monday - Wednesday: 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM; Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM; Friday: 9:00 Am - 11:30 AM; Call the Rec Dept at 860-228-8513 to ensure they are available for inspections and launch during the outlined hours.**
- **As of Saturday, May 18th & Sunday, May 19th: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**
- **May 25th – September 8th : 10:00 AM – Sunset***
- **Weekends Only: September 14th to October 13th: 10:00 AM – Sunset***

* Gate closing will adjust with the sunset throughout the season.

The **MARINE PATROL NUMBER IS 860-207-5081 OR 860-256-9720**. They start patrol duties as of May 18th. Call them for inspections, on the lake assistance, and/or boating regulation questions.

2024 MOTORBOAT LAUNCH INSPECTION PROTOCOLS AND SCHEDULES ~ FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAKE!

Recently a town resident referred to the lake as “Columbia’s jewel”. Any precious commodity such as our lake needs a protection plan to maintain its brilliance. As we begin the 2024 recreational season the Board of Selectmen (BOS) shared that all town residents have a part to play in protecting the lake. The BOS emphasized the need for all town residents, especially those living in the 1,900-acre watershed area that feeds the lake, as well as users of the lake, to understand the importance of needed protections for the lake and those who use it.

One important protocol is inspections of all motorboats at the town launch. Why? As an example, an invasive species, Hydrilla, has been identified in neighboring lakes, e.g., Coventry Lake. One boat launched on our lake carrying Hydrilla could have devastating environmental and financial consequences that would impact the entire town. It is incumbent on all of us to avoid that outcome. In addition, town ordinances and CT boating regulations require documentation, proof of engine horsepower, and safety checks prior to launching on the lake. It is also as checking for invasive species. When approved, two town certification stickers will be placed next to the boat’s hull numbers. Once certified, at subsequent launches, invasive species inspections will be conducted at every launch.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

2024 MOTORBOAT LAUNCH INSPECTION PROTOCOLS AND SCHEDULES ~ FOR THE SAKE OF THE LAKE!

To begin a motorboat, which is defined as a vessel propelled by machinery, can only be launched, and removed at the town's designated launch located at 2 Beach Drive. The initial launch of the season requires motorboats to be inspected prior to launch. The initial inspection process includes providing proof of Columbia residency, a valid, current registration with hull registration stickers, proof of the engine's horsepower, a CT boating certificate, safety checks as well as checking for invasive species. When approved, two town certification stickers will be placed next to the boat's hull numbers. Once certified, at subsequent launches, invasive species inspections will be conducted at every launch.

The Recreation and/or Marine Patrol staff conduct inspections. For motorboats launched by marinas, the town has worked out a plan with the marinas for the required inspections prior to the initial launch. The same proof of residency, valid registration and boating license, horsepower, safety, and invasive species checks as listed above are required.



Photo Credit Paul Ramsey

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (Continued):

FIT FUSION ~ Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 4:30 - 5:30 PM; Join instructor Carolyn Ritchie for a total body workout for all fitness levels.

Zumba ~ Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

For more dates and offerings, please visit our Website, follow us on [Instagram](#) and/or [Facebook](#).

RECREATION BUSINESS: SPONSORS: Looking to partner with Columbia Parks & Recreation? Being a sponsor is a great way to not only promote your business but provide financial support to enhance programming and positively impact the community. Call the department for partnership opportunities: 860.228.8513

Thank you, Jake Plitt, Parks & Recreation Director & Anyka Fagen, Assistant Recreation Director ~ 860.228.8513; Recreation@columbiact.org

Office Location: 18 Lake Rd. (Murphy House at the Town Beach), Columbia, CT 06237

Hours: Monday - Wednesday: 8 am - 4 pm

Thursday: 8 am - 6 pm

Friday: 8 am - 12 pm

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES: In collaboration with the Columbia Park and Rec Department and Columbia Social Services, there are free golf discs to borrow and Columbia Rec park!

Take a breath of fresh air and enjoy a round of disc golf at Columbia's vape and smoke-free park! Grab a disc to borrow, try out the course, and see how you do. And when you're done, return the disc and come back another day!



This is funded by Columbia Local Prevention Council in partnership with SERAC and CT DMHAS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: We're looking for folks with experience in parking and traffic management to help us make a difference in our community by supporting our Mobile Foodshare at our new location at Rec Park every other Thursday from 12-1:45. Your parking and traffic experience will help us best support the logistics of setting up and breaking down the event and ensure that our guests can best access the food. If you're interested in volunteering for this rewarding opportunity and would like to learn more, please call 860-228-0110.



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES (Continued):

MEDICATION SAFE DISPOSAL: Free Medication Disposal Pouches are available outside of the Social Services office in the Senior Center.

Medication disposal pouches provide a medication deactivator that makes them unusable and therefore prevents the misuse of unneeded prescriptions.

Please help yourself to pouches and help keep the community safe!

THANK YOU AND TAKE CARE! After nearly four years, I will be leaving the Town of Columbia on July 10th. Serving this community has been an honor and a privilege, and something that I have taken immense pride in.

Looking back at where things started with navigating the pandemic to now having an established full-time Social Service Department in place, it has been a journey! Thank you for your trust, support, and partnership over that time.

My mission has always been to enhance the well-being of our town and its members, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together.

I want to leave you with a final reminder: asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. It takes courage to acknowledge when we need support and accept help, and I want to encourage each and every one of you to prioritize your well-being and reach out when you need it.

Please know that Infoline is always available for resources and support 24/7. Visit the [Infoline](#) website or simply call 211.

Remember, you are never alone. We are all in this together, and I've had the privilege of witnessing the incredible resilience of community members and kindness of this community firsthand. I want to leave you with a sense of hope and confidence that you will continue to



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES (Continued):

Remember, you are never alone. We are all in this together, and I've had the privilege of witnessing the incredible resilience of community members and kindness of this community firsthand. I want to leave you with a sense of hope and confidence that you will continue to support one another, just as we have done throughout my time here.

May Columbia continue to thrive and grow, and may we always remember the importance of connection, support, and community. Thank you for being a special community to serve – it has been a privilege!

Sincerely,

Katie Wilt

[she/her/hers] | Community Social Services Coordinator

Town of Columbia

323 Route 87

Columbia, CT 06237

860.228.0110 x128

kwilt@columbiact.org

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

- August 13, 2024 at HORACE W. PORTER SCHOOL, 6am – 8pm.
- Only voters registered in the party which is holding the Primary may vote. So, only registered Republicans can vote in the August 13th Primary.
- If you are not currently registered to vote, mail in registrations **must be postmarked** by July 26th, 2024 or you can register in person until noon on August 12, 2024.
- If you are NOT currently affiliated with a political party (registered as Unaffiliated, you must register by Noon on August 2, 2024 to vote during the early voting period, or you can register in person until noon on August 12, 2024 to vote on Primary day.
- New Voters who seek to vote early for the Primary may do so if they file their voter registration application (for a party holding a primary) with the registrars by noon on the business day before the day they want to vote during the early voting period.
- To register, go to voterregistration.ct.gov or contact our office.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (Continued):

EARLY VOTING FOR REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

- All early voting will be held at Yeomans Hall.
- Early Voting dates are August 5, 7, 9 -11 (10am – 6:00pm) and August 6 & 8 (8am – 8pm).

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a difference between **Independent** and **Unaffiliated**. The Independent Party is a recognized minor party in the state of Connecticut. Whereas, Unaffiliated means you are not registered in any party.

Please check our [Registrar of Voters](#) page on the town website or contact our office for more information.

Registrars of Voters

Nelisa Reagan – Democratic

Gayle Mulligan – Republican

(860) 228-6843 x113

registrar@columbiact.org

TAX OFFICE: July 1, 2024 tax bills will be mailed on June 28, 2024. The due date is July 1, 2024; payable by August 1, 2024 without penalty. The mill rate for the 2023 Grand List is 28.12.

Regular office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, Thursday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and closed Friday. **Office hours in July and January are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Thursday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Friday 8:00 to 12:00.**

You can view and pay taxes online. Service fees for tax payments are .95 cents to use a bank account and 2.99% for credit and debit cards.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE (Continued):

To find your tax bills online:

- go to www.columbiact.org and click on the pay taxes online tab.
- on the next page click on the square that says view/pay tax bills.
- The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. last name, space, and your first initial.

You can also utilize this site to look up your payment history. Locate your bill using the instructions above, then hover over the icons in the option column and select tax payment history. If you have any problems using the online 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. **Paying the tax bill online does not clear you immediately at DMV. You will need to contact the tax office during tax office hours for assistance.**

Michele Manas, Tax Collector

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

TRANSFER STATION PERMIT STICKERS: Transfer station permit stickers for 2024 (Effective June 1, 2024), are available for purchase in the Town Clerk's Office. Applications can be found on the Town of Columbia [Department of Public Works page](#).

Applications for Transfer Station stickers can also be sent to us by MAIL or can be dropped off in the large white DROP BOX located outside the doors to Yeoman's Hall. Make your check payable to: Town of Columbia and INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE for mailing back your stickers.

Another option is to purchase your stickers ONLINE at [RecDesk](#).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE (Continued):

Part-time Work Opportunity: The Town Clerk's office is seeking a motivated, detail-orientated person to fill in occasionally as a **Floater**. Tasks may include filing, clerical work, and general office assistance. Please reach out to our office with any questions about the position. To apply, please contact the Town Administrator's office at (860) 228-0110.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us (860-228-3284) or reach out to us by email – Robin (townclerk@columbiact.org) or Karen (atownclerk@columbiact.org).



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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



DISABILITY PRIDE FLAG

The Columbia Congregational Church A2A (Accessible to All) team was formed in June of 2021 to look at making the church accessible to everyone. As a result of their efforts, the church was presented with a Disability Pride Flag by Candace Lowe representing the United Church of Christ Southern New England Conference (SNEUCC). The flag is proudly displayed on the front of the church.

The Disability Pride Flag has a black background representing the mourning and rage for victims of ableist violence and abuse. There are 5 diagonal stripes cutting across the black representing cutting across walls and barriers. Each color represents a different disability. Red - physical disabilities, gold - neurodivergence, white - invisible and undiagnosed disabilities, blue - psychiatric illnesses, and green - sensory disabilities.

Any body, and every body is welcome to join us. To help out or for more information, contact the church office at 860 228 9306 or ccchurch@snet.net.



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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

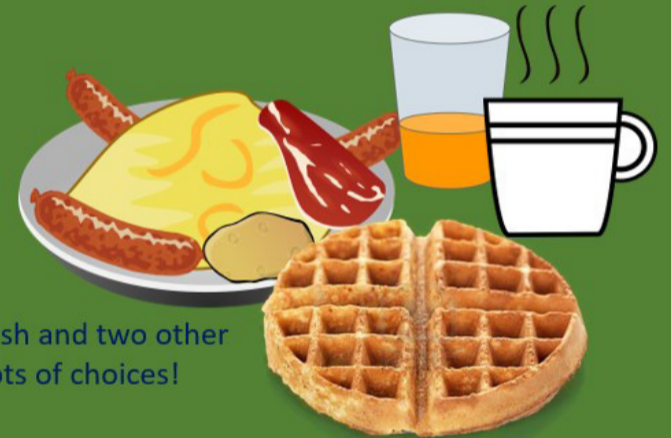


2nd Saturday Community **Breakfast** Saturday July 13th

Share Food and Joy with
Family and Friends
7:30 – 10 AM

All you can eat \$12; Special Rates for
Families with Children

Buffet includes design-your-own omelets, Belgian waffles, corned beef hash and two other meats, hash browns, scrambled eggs, fruit and home baked goods. Lots of choices!



Start now to sort and collect your papers for the
Paper Shred-A-Thon that will be held

Saturday, September 21th
9 AM - Noon

Location:
Old Fire House
166 Route 66
Columbia, CT

Suggested Donation
\$5 / bag

The Shred-a-thon is
a fundraiser for
Columbia Congregational
Church

For Large Amounts or other
questions please call
the church office at
860 228 9306



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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



325 Route 87
PO Box 177
Columbia, CT
06237

860 228 9306
ccchurch@snet.net

Columbiacongregational
church.org

Find us on Facebook and
on You Tube

WELCOME! JULY & AUGUST HAPPENINGS



10 AM Sundays Worship Service

2nd Saturday Community Breakfast
7:30 – 10 AM Saturday
July 13 August 10

Save the Bees Fair Town Green Sat. July 6 12:30 – 3:30

Shred-a-thon Saturday Sept. 21
Simple Sustenance will be back in September!

For details check out our webpage: Columbiacongregationalchurch.org

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

11TH ANNUAL ROSE MARROTTE & JOHN ALLEN ART SHOW

The 11th Annual Rose Marrotte Art show in memory of Rose Marrotte was held on Monday, June 24th through Thursday, June 27th at the Beckish Senior Center. The Art Committee voted to change the name of the art show to "The Rose Marrotte & John Allen Art Show. Over ten years ago Teddie and Tony Brown wished to honor Teddie's mother, Rose Marrotte, with a grant to establish an art



program here at the Beckish Senior Center. Rose loved her art lessons at the center which grew into a real love for painting in her senior years. Painting became the joy of her senior years. John Allen was elected to take the reins and a committee was created. The Columbia Art Committee decided on an art show for all local senior artists. Under John's direction the first art show was a great success. The Browns continued the grants and John and his committee continued to produce successful art shows, which are a great asset to the senior center and the community. John never let up on his effort and dedication. He has done everything from calling meetings, keeping in communication with the Browns, procuring the judges, even hanging the artwork, and so much more. It is because of this effort the Brown's wish to change the name of the art show to The Rose Marrotte & John Allen Art Show. Congratulations, John you deserve the honor!

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

11TH ANNUAL ROSE MARROTTE & JOHN ALLEN ART SHOW

The Rose Marrotte & John Allen Art Show is open to all seniors 55 years or older from anywhere in Connecticut. All artists, photographers and crafts people (wood carving and quilting) were invited to participate. Monetary prizes were awarded for first, second and third prize in each category:

PAINTING— (OILS, ACRYLICS, WATERCOLOR AND PASTELS)

1st Prize – “Blue Heron” by Mary Killilea #5

2nd Prize – “Bog + Rock” by Janice Leitch #9

3rd Prize – “Tiger Eyes” by Alice Mellor #11

Popular Vote – “Blue Heron” by Mary Killilea #5



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

11TH ANNUAL ROSE MARROTTE & JOHN ALLEN ART SHOW

WOODCARVING

1st Prize – “Cotton Wood Bark Face” by Ed Ertel #19

2nd Prize – “Mama Bear” by Alice Meller #22

3rd Prize – “Owl” by Carol Roffey #20

Popular Vote – “Owl” by Carol Roffey #20



PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Prize – “The Grist Mill” by Susan Audette #13

2nd Prize – “Guarding the Homestead” by Diane Schatz #31

3rd Prize – “Sunrise Over Mono Pond” by Paul W. Ramsey #27

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

11TH ANNUAL ROSE MARROTTE & JOHN ALLEN ART SHOW

QUILTING

1st Prize – “Samples” by Pat Muckenstrom #39

2nd Prize – “Friendship Quilt” by Alice Desautels #36

3rd Prize – “Quiet Butterfly” by Cheryl LaCosse #44

Popular Vote – Sunprints, Leaves, and Geese by Rosemary Dziubinski



The Popular Vote is where community members vote for their favorite art piece per category. This is a fun way to engage the public with voting for their favorite art piece.

It is so wonderful to see the many talented senior artists in our community and surrounding areas. The arts have really grown over the years in Columbia and this art show is a great way to show off all the hard work and talents.

The Columbia Art Committee will be offering crafts art lessons, art trips, and art lectures through the end of the year. Please stay tuned for more information regarding these events. We are looking forward to seeing all the wonderful talent in our community!

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

Save the Bees



COME JOIN US

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH 12:30-3:30 PM

On the Columbia Town Green

With Bee Info, a Beekeeper, Pollinator Books, Native plants for pollinators, honey products (including skin care products), local vendors, crafts for kids, giveaways, & much more

For more info, to volunteer, or if you'd like to have a booth, please call Carol Coley at carol.coley61@gmail.com or 860-208-8309



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

FRIENDS OF MONO POND STATE PARK: The Friends of Mono Pond State Park (FOMPSP) have had a busy and successful Spring. We're excited to share our recent accomplishments and our goals for the remainder of the year.

- The Trust for Public Land contracted with the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) to create a mixed-use trail plan for the park. Our goal is to have an executable plan by 2025. Please contact us with your ideas about what should be included in the plan.



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

FRIENDS OF MONO POND STATE PARK:

- FOMPSP applied for a DEEP grant for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species. While our application was not selected to receive funds, we received very positive feedback and information that will help with future grant applications.
- In May, board members participated at STEM Night at Horace Porter School. Families were eager to learn about the park expansion and our plans for new hiking and biking trails.



- Board members have conducted several trail improvement days to make the existing trails more accessible. We plan to have additional sessions in the near future. This is a great opportunity for volunteers to participate and learn more about the park and our plans.

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

FRIENDS OF MONO POND STATE PARK:

- FOMPSP members rode in the East Coast Greenways' Ride the East event on June 8th, meeting cyclists at the boat launch at Mono Pond. Mono Pond State Park was featured at the stop. Riders got drinks and snacks and learned about our developing plans. The East Coast Greenway connects 15 states and 450 cities and towns, running 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida. A 1.5 mile segment along the Airline Trail borders Mono Pond State Park.



- Our President, Tom McGrath, and board member Ann Dunnack have attended meetings with Mono Pond State Park-abutting towns, and state agencies and groups. FOMPSP is becoming a recognized organization, which will be important as we apply for future grants.

We will be hosting our first Annual Meeting and inviting members, Columbia residents and interested neighbors to join us. Please email us at friendsofmonopond@gmail.com to register or for more information.

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Welcome to July at your local library!

Summer Reading season is here, and Saxton B. Little is hopping! If you've stopped in to SBL lately or follow us on Facebook, you'll see that we have a full calendar of events planned for the rest of the summer for people of all ages.

Here are the upcoming events in July – please call SBL at 860-228-0350 to register yourself and/or your children for these programs! Note that many of our summer programs are already full with waiting lists, so don't hesitate if you'd like to sign up for any of these events!

We have just a few spaces left in our event with Jester Jim on Friday, July 5th at 3:00pm in Yeomans Hall. This event for all ages is not your average juggling show!

Learn all about the Ovation Guitar on Wednesday, July 10th at 6:30pm for a musical event with Jim Lenn. Through pictures, stories, and recorded music from artists such as Glen Campbell, Cat Stevens, Simon & Garfunkel, Bread, and John Denver, along with live music from Jim, you will see how these artists used the Ovation guitar to push their songs and careers to the top of the charts.

Our Cookbook Club is meeting this month on Wednesday, July 17th at 6:30pm to discuss Eat Better, Feel Better by Giada De Laurentiis – drop in to talk about your experiences cooking with this title.

Limited space left in our kids program on Investigating Redwoods on Thursday, July 18th at 6:00pm. Our friends at the Kellogg Environmental Center will teach us about the importance of trees and what they provide for our environment. This program is for children ages 5+.

Meet Mirabel and Rapunzel on Friday, July 19th at 3:00pm at Yeomans Hall! You don't need a prince to save you – you have all the magic you need inside of you already! Enjoy singing, stories, games, and crafts. Photos and a meet-and-greet will follow the show. Costumes encouraged!

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED): We'll be holding our second-ever Plant Swap on Monday, July 29th starting at 11:00am – swap your extra garden or house plants, cuttings, seedlings, or seeds at this fun event! No registration required for this event.

Did you know SBL SBL will be open on Saturdays throughout the summer months? From Independence Day through Labor Day, we'll be open on Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm. We hope you'll stop in to visit!

We hope to see you at SBL soon!

Saxton B. Little Library

860-228-0350 / columbiactlibrary.org



Saxton B. Little Library Summer Reading Event:

Jester Jim!

Friday, July 5th @ 3:00

This is not your ordinary juggling show! Kids and adults alike will be talking about Jester Jim's wild antics for weeks. Juggling, beatboxing, comedy and more @ YEOMANS HALL

Registration opens June 1st.
Call 860-228-0350 or stop by the Library to register. All ages.

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:



Saxton B. Little Library Summer Reading Event:
Investigate Redwoods
with the Kellogg Environmental Center
Thurs. July 18th @ 6:00
Learn about the importance of trees and what they provide for our environment. Write a thank you note to the trees using acorn ink!
Registration opens June 1st.
Call 860-228-0350 or stop by the Library to register. Ages 5+

Saxton B. Little Library Summer Reading Event:

MEET MIRABEL & RAPUNZEL!



FRIDAY, JULY 19TH @ 3:00

You don't need a prince to save you, you have all the magic you need inside you already! Enjoy singing, stories, games, and crafts. Photos and a meet & greet will follow the show, costumes encouraged @ YEOMANS HALL.

Registration opens June 1st.
Call 860-228-0350 or stop by the Library to register.

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:

A vertical poster for a 'Forest Bathing' event. The background is a photograph of a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says 'Saxton B. Little Library | 860-228-0350'. Below that, 'FOREST BATHING' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath, 'FRIDAY, 8/2 @ 2:00PM' is written in white, bold letters. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of white text describing the event, followed by two lines of white text providing details about the location and registration.

Saxton B. Little Library | 860-228-0350

FOREST BATHING

FRIDAY, 8/2 @ 2:00PM

Spending as little as 120 minutes a week in nature has been shown to improve your health and sense of well-being. Join us for a session of *shinrin yoku* led by Sue Hudd, Certified Forest Therapy Guide, to learn more about the Japanese art of forest bathing. We won't be swimming, but you will experience the restorative power of nature for yourself.

Held off-site in Columbia. See SBL Staff for location.
No transportation provided.
Pre-registration required. Sign-up today!

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:

Saxton B. Little Library | Columbia | 860-228-0350 | columbiactlibrary.org

EDIBLE WILD MUSHROOMS OF CT

Wild mushroom hunting for food purposes is a satisfying and delicious hobby, and Connecticut has an abundance of tasty fungi to find. The diversity of species can be amazing as well as overwhelming -- join **The 3 Foragers** to talk about the best edible mushrooms of each season. Photos of each mushroom are accompanied by appetizing images of dishes that feature the wild mushroom cooked in original recipes.

AUGUST 6TH @ 6:30PM

Registration required. Sign up today!

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:



Saxton B. Little Library | Columbia | 860-228-0350

THE OVATION GUITAR

**Wednesday,
July 10th
6:30pm**

The Ovation Guitar, built in New Hartford, CT, played a significant role in the singer/songwriter explosion of the late 60's and the 70's.

Through pictures, stories, and recorded music from artists such as Glen Campbell, Cat Stevens, Simon & Garfunkel, Bread, John Denver, along with live music from Jim, you will see how these artists used the Ovation guitar to push their songs and careers to the top of the charts.

Registration required.
Sign up today!

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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:



Saxton B. Little Library **Plant Swap**



Monday, 7/29
starting @ 11:00am



Swap your extra garden or house plants, cuttings, seedlings, or seeds in our second annual Plant Swap!



All plants and seeds must be healthy, pest-free, and labeled. Plants can be in soil or as rooted cuttings in water - please only bring pots that you are willing to part with! Bring your own bags and/or containers to carry your new green friends home.



All greenery and seeds can be dropped off and swapped starting at 11:00am on Monday, 7/29. We will save the "leftover" plants until 8:00pm Tuesday evening, in the event that you can't make it on Monday!





Consider joining us for our Repotting Clinic with Logee's Greenhouses on Tuesday, 7/30 @ 6:30pm

No registration required. For more information, contact the Library at 860-228-0350



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

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY:





Saxton B. Little Library | 860-228-0350


REPOTTING CLINIC

WITH LOGEE'S GREENHOUSE

Repotting your indoor plants can sound tricky, but proper potting is key to set your plant up for success. Join **Mike Jordan, Curator of Plants at Logee's Greenhouse**, who will demonstrate how to repot your plants using the proper soil composition for your plant type. We encourage you to bring your own plants and pots with drainage holes (1-2" bigger than the pot your plant is currently in) -- soil will be provided. Leave with a newly-repotted plant and the confidence to tackle the rest of your houseplant jungle!



TUESDAY, 7/30
@ 6:30PM



Limited space available. Pre-registration required.

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

RECRUITING REMS AND FIREFIGHTERS

RECRUITMENT EVENT
JULY 11, 2024
5PM-7PM
AT THE MAIN MOOSE
94 ROUTE 66 EAST, COLUMBIA

Come meet your local heroes and learn how you can become involved with your local Fire Department and serve your community.

JAWS OF LIFE
DEMO/DRILL
6:00 PM

CAR FIRE DEMO
6:30 PM

FIRE EXTINGUISHER
DEMO THROUGHOUT
EVENT

PARTICIPATING FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

- 🚒 COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 🚒 HEBRON FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 🚒 LEBANON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 🚒 ANDOVER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 🚒 COVENTRY FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT
- 🚒 WINDHAM'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

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

COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.



Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

167 Route 66 - P.O. Box 26
Columbia, Connecticut 06237
860-228-9602 | columbiafire5.org



April 5, 2024

Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Welcomes New Cadet: Jordan Guilbeault

The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department is proud to introduce its newest cadet, Jordan Guilbeault, a dedicated 16-year-old high school student currently attending EO Smith High School.

Jordan brings a passion for community service and a commitment to excellence that aligns perfectly with the values of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department. His enthusiasm for learning and contributing to public safety makes him a valuable addition to our team.

"We are excited to welcome Jordan Guilbeault as our newest cadet," said Scott Haddad, Chief of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department. "His dedication and willingness to serve their community at such a young age are truly admirable. We look forward to providing him with the training and support he needs to succeed in their role."

As a cadet, Jordan will undergo comprehensive training in fire safety, emergency response, and community outreach. This training will equip him with the skills and knowledge necessary to assist in protecting and serving the residents of Columbia and surrounding areas.

"I am honored to join the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department as a cadet," said Jordan Guilbeault. "I am eager to learn from experienced firefighters and contribute to keeping our community safe. This opportunity means a lot to me, and I am excited to begin this journey."

For more information about the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department and its cadet program, please visit columbiafire5.org or contact Chief Scott Haddad at shaddad@columbiafire5.org.

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

JOSHUA'S TRUST- JULY EVENTS:

Joshua Gurleyville Gristmill Tours

Every Sunday in July from 1:00-5:00 PM

Stone Mill Road, Mansfield, CT

The Gurleyville Gristmill offers a unique opportunity to observe rural 19th century technology. Visitors can see the equipment as it was operated for over 100 years, until the middle of the 20th century. Be sure to visit <https://joshustrust.org/events/> for details, updates and cancellations.

Gentle Yoga on the Lawn with Carole Tyler, Yoga Instructor

07/20/2024, 9:00-10:00 AM

Atwood Farm, 624 Wormwood Hill Road, Mansfield Center, CT

Join us for a morning yoga session at Atwood Farm. Bring a mat or blanket. All ages are welcome to this free event. Following the class, light refreshments will be served.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED at <https://joshustrust.org/events/>. Check there for updates and cancellations.

Mansfield Library Story Time and Walk

07/27/24, 10:30 to noon

Mansfield Library and Joshua's Trust Bradley Buchanan Woods

54 Warrenville Rd, Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Bring your young naturalist to the Mansfield Library for a 30-minute nature themed story time, followed by a walk in the woods at the adjacent Bradley Buchanan Preserve.

Be sure to visit <https://joshustrust.org/events/> for details, updates and cancellations.