

Website Goals:

The primary goals of the Town of Columbus website are:

- To provide information about Columbus programs, services, activities, amenities and events
- To promote Town of Columbus economic, social and cultural quality of life
- To further the interests of local agencies, associations and businesses that support the town's goals, policies and purposes.

Website Purpose:

The Town of Columbus, New York maintains one website only at www.columbusny.us. For the purpose of this disclosure policy, this website shall be referred to as the "Town's website" unless the context suggests otherwise.

The Town's website replicates, in an electronic manner, many of the services offered by town staff and officials, and its primary purpose is to convey information to users.

Communications made through e-mail and messaging systems shall, in no way, be deemed to constitute legal notice to the Town of Columbus or any of its agencies, officers, employees, agents or representatives, with any respect to existing or potential claims or cause of action against the Town of Columbus or any of its agencies, officers, employees, agents or representative, where notice is required by any federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations.

Website Guidelines:

All directory listings and calendar events are available on the Town of Columbus Website at no charge. The Town of Columbus website is a free service. All events and directory listings are subject to approval before being posted on the website by the Information Services Committee. Please contact [Susan LaFever](#), Town Council, member of Information Services Committee to have an event, business, or organization listed or updated on the website. The Town of Columbus website is currently updated and maintained by a volunteer technical support team consisting of Jack Harper, Lori Horner, Wells Horton, and Liz Vermeulen.

Hyperlink Policy:

The purpose of the Town's website is to provide information about the Town's government, services and attractions. The Town's website may provide hyperlinks to websites outside the Town's website that also serve this purpose. The Town of Columbus is not responsible for, and does not endorse, the information on any hyperlinked website unless the Town's website specifically states otherwise. The following criteria will be used by the Town to decide whether to grant requests for hyperlinks from the Town's website.

The Town may, *at its discretion*, provide hyperlinks to websites related to:

- Governmental and educational institutions

- Organizations with some economic or subject matter relating to the Town of Columbus, including but not limited to those sponsoring Town activities or programs, and those participating in Town activities or programs.
- Generally recognized community or civic organizations
- Organizations providing information about art, cultural, recreational and/or sporting activities in and around the Town
- Columbus-based service providers.

The Town's website will **not** provide hyperlinks to websites for:

- Candidates for elected office
- Political organizations or other organizations including but not limited to Political Action Committees
- Corporate or other for-profit organizations unless they fit the criteria stated above
- Individual or personal home pages

Hyperlinks will not be considered or approved by the Town if the exhibition of the content within the browser would also exhibit one or more of the following categories:

- Content which a reasonable Columbus resident would find graphically depicts or describes violence, or nudity and/or sexual activities in a way designed to evoke prurient interest
- Content which facilitates or incites crime
- A hyperlink that directly links to other content that when perceived within a browser is in violation of any of the prohibited content stated above
- Discussion groups, chat rooms, bulletin boards, and other largely unedited content created by individuals who are not owners, operators or agents of a Town of Columbus website
- Websites containing information that violates any of the Town's equal opportunity policies.

Websites that have been approved and linked to from the Town's website but subsequently demonstrate any of the above categories of content will be unlinked from the Town's website without notice.

Privacy Statement:

The protection of individual privacy is a concern in the Town of Columbus, and is governed by local, state and federal laws. The Town has created this statement in order to demonstrate its commitment to privacy. The following discloses the Town's information gather and dissemination practices for this website.

No personally identifiable information is automatically collected about visitors who simply browse the Town's website or who download information from it.

The Town's web servers maintain logs of user activity in order to help manage the website. Information stored in these logs does not identify the user personally. The logs store such things as the domain name and IP address from which you accessed the Town's website; the type of

browser and operating system you used; the date and time you accessed the Town's website; the pages you visited; and the country or region of the world from which you accessed the Town's website.

The Town uses this information to learn how many visitors the website has, where they are coming from, which parts of the Town's website are of most interest to visitors, and other facts that will help improved the website and the services offered.

The Town of Columbus values your feedback. If you participate in a survey or send an e-mail address and the other information you volunteered will be collected. Visitors who request services through this website may be required to furnish additional information in order to provide the assistance requested. The addition information collected will be no more specific than if the visitor were requesting the service by any other means, including by telephone or an in-person visit to a Town facility. The Town may share this information with another government agency or organization, if deemed necessary to facilitate the aide you are requesting.

No website can protect itself against all eventualities, however, the Town makes every effort to protect any sensitive personal information you provide. With the exception of those instances allowed or required under State and/or Federal laws, the Town will not rent, sell or give away any information identifying you individually (Name, address, phone number, etc.) to third parties for marketing or mailing list purposes.

It is important to understand that most of the business you conduct with the Town of Columbus, as well as with state and county governments, becomes a matter of public record. Public records, as defined by State Law and not made confidential elsewhere in the New York law, may be posted for electronic access through this website. This includes, but is not limited to, most town permits you have applied for and any real estate property you own and are assessed a property tax for. These same records have long been open for public inspection by anyone requesting them in person, by mail or by telephone at the appropriate government office. All information on this website is public information.

Disclaimer of Liability:

The Town of Columbus shall not be held liable for any improper or incorrect use of the materials or information on this website and assumes no responsibility for any use thereof. Under no circumstances shall the Town of Columbus be liable for any damages, whether direct, indirect, incidental, special, exemplary or consequential (including, but not limited to, business interruption or loss of use, data or profits) regardless of cause, and on any theory of liability, whether in contract, statute, strict liability or tort (including negligence or otherwise) arising in any way out of the use of this website or the material and information contained on this website, even if advised of the possibility of such damage. This disclaimer of liability applies to any damages or injury, including but not limited to those caused by any failure of performance, error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay, computer virus, communication line failure, theft or destruction of data, whether for breach of contract, tortuous behavior, statutory liability negligence or under any other cause of action.

Users are encouraged to consult with appropriate and accredited professional advisors for advice concerning specific matters before making any decision, and the Town of Columbus disclaims any responsibility for positions taken by individual or corporations in their individual cases or for any misunderstanding and losses, directly or indirectly, on the part of any user.

[Disclaimer of Warranties/Accuracy and Use of Information:](#)

The materials in this website are provided “as is” and without warranties of any kind express or implied. To the fullest extent permissible under applicable law, the Town of Columbus disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, including but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose and title to any of the materials provided on this website. The Town of Columbus does not represent or warrant that the functions contained in the materials will be uninterrupted or error-free, that defects will be corrected, or that this website or the service that makes it are free of viruses or other harmful components. The Town of Columbus does not warrant or make any representations regarding the use or the results of the use of materials in this website, or through links to other websites, in terms of their correctness, accuracy, reliability or otherwise. The user (and not the Town of Columbus) assumes the entire cost of all necessary servicing, repair or correction.

Changes are made periodically to many Town documents, including municipal codes, charter sections, regulations, guidelines and schedules, and these changes may or may not be reflected in the materials or information present on the Town of Columbus’s website at any given time. Additionally, because the website is frequently under development, materials and information may be deleted, modified or moved to a different part of the website by the Town without advance notice to users.