

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

May/June 2020



COMMUNITY CORNER

A Message from the Mayor

The health and safety of our community is paramount. I have the utmost confidence in our Health Department as they work around the clock in coordination with our local, state and federal health officials to fight COVID-19.



Please follow the stay-at-home order issued by Governor Northam. I know it is difficult, but if we stick together as a community, we can make it through this difficult time.

Remember to wear a mask or cloth covering when visiting a grocery store or pharmacy to limit the spread of the virus. As from the beginning, it is essential to continue washing your hands regularly. It is also important to stay active. Take a walk with your family or a jog with your pets. Get outside and enjoy some fresh air, and try to maintain as much of a normal schedule as you can.

We will prevail. We are Christiansburg strong. Stay safe, and a sincerest thank you to all who are on the front lines of this fight.

Sincerely,


D. Michael Barber, Mayor

Order Takeout and



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Visit www.christiansburg.org/restaurantoperations for a list of establishments offering takeout and delivery during COVID-19.



Have a question? Let us know!
540-382-6128, ext. 1150
info@christiansburg.org
www.christiansburg.org

IN THE KNOW

There's a lot of information to share in this issue! Don't forget to get counted for the 2020 Census, and if you are looking to support local, visit www.christiansburg.org/restaurantoperations for a list of establishments offering takeout and delivery. The Farmers Market will be each Thursday from 3-7 p.m. on Hickok Street from May 21 to Oct. 22 but will have adjusted operations (see below). Some people try to take advantage of others during difficult times; learn about scams on the next page. Stay healthy and safe, Christiansburg, and remember to get outside and enjoy the nice weather!

TOWN RECYCLING DROP-OFF SITES TO CLOSE

Closure Schedule

Feb. 1	Cambria Site (Cambria St./Palmer St. Intersection)
Mar. 1	Betty Drive Site (Betty Dr./Depot St. Intersection)
April 1	Food Lion Parking Lot Site (1530 Roanoke St.)
May 1	Home Depot Site (200 Conston Ave.)
June 1	Christiansburg High School Site (100 Independence Blvd.)

The Town's recycling drop-off sites are closing (schedule to the left). The Town has been offering curbside recycling service to residents since mid-2018, and introduced curbside recycling service to businesses in early 2020. Because of these services, there is less need for recycling drop-off sites. There has also been an increase in contamination and trash-dumping at the Town's recycling drop-off sites, causing much of the recycling to be rejected. For those interested in still utilizing drop-off sites, Montgomery County offers locations to Christiansburg residents that are staffed to reduce contamination and trash-dumping; you can view those sites' addresses at www.montava.com/departments/general-services/consolidated-sites.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET COUNTED!

Census Day was April 1, but it's not too late to complete the Census! You can still respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond, tell the Census Bureau where you lived as of April 1, 2020.

The data collected by the Census is used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities and determine how many seats in Congress each state gets. It's important everyone in Christiansburg is counted because the data will directly affect how much money is allocated for infrastructure, such as neighborhood improvements, emergency preparedness and disaster recovery, public health, education, transportation, and much more.

Make sure to get counted!

We know this year didn't go as planned, but we are so proud of your accomplishments!



2020 FARMERS MARKET

The Christiansburg Farmers Market will be each Thursday from 3-7 p.m. on Hickok Street from May 21 to Oct. 22. We will be offering online ordering this season; visit www.christiansburg.org/marketshop for more info. We strongly encourage patrons to order online and pickup their items on Hickok each Thursday. However, a maximum of ten customers at six-feet apart will be allowed to shop the vendors on Hickok at any given time during market hours. See the next page for a list of 2020 vendors.

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

May/June 2020

BE AWARE: COVID-19 RELATED SCAMS

- Scammers will claim to be from the IRS and ask for your banking information or attempt to have you sign over your economic impact payment check. The IRS will never ask for this type of information.
- Scammers are creating fake shops, websites, social media accounts and email addresses claiming to sell medical and cleaning supplies currently in high demand. When consumers attempt to purchase these supplies, fraudsters pocket the money and never provide the promised items.
- Scammers are contacting people, claiming to be doctors and hospitals that have treated a friend or relative for COVID-19, and demanding payment.
- Scammers are soliciting donations for individuals, groups, and areas affected by COVID-19.
- Scammers posing as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are sending emails designed to trick recipients into downloading malware or providing personal-identifying and financial information.
- Scammers are creating and manipulating mobile apps designed to track the spread of COVID-19 to insert malware that will compromise users' devices and personal information.
- Scammers are offering online promotions on various platforms, claiming that the products or services of publicly traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure COVID-19, and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result. These promotions are often styled as "research reports," make predictions of a specific "target price," and relate to microcap stocks, or low-priced stocks issued by the smallest of companies with limited publicly available information.
- Individuals and businesses may sell essential goods for significantly higher prices than in a non-emergency setting. It is legally considered price gouging when the price of one of these products increases more than 20 percent in one week prior to an emergency declaration from the state of Virginia.

If you think you may be a victim of a scam, report it to local law enforcement immediately.

2020 FARMERS MARKET VENDORS

The Christiansburg Farmers Market will be each Thursday from 3-7 p.m. on Hickok Street from May 21 to Oct. 22. Vendors for the 2020 season are below.

- Mountain View Hops
- Cavalier Farms
- Birdsong Farms
- Peace and Harmony Farms
- Bird and Hopper
- Gracie's Gardens
- Not Your Mama's Pasta
- Granny Bean's Confections
- Afternoon Delight
- Slider Kings Food Truck
- Hot Diggity Dog
- Kona Ice
- Grumpy Pig Barbeque

BAG & TRASH IT: PICKING UP AFTER YOUR PET

As the weather warms up, it's a great time to get outside to walk and play with your pets. It's also an activity that allows you to practice social distancing. While having fun, please remember to always pick up after your pet.

Dog and cat waste can carry disease. Even healthy pets shed bacteria like E. coli, and dog waste can contain roundworms and giardia—all of which can make you sick. Roundworms and giardia may stay active in the soil long after the visible evidence is gone. Fresh dog waste can be less infectious than aged, so scoop daily!

Dog and cat excrement left on your yard can wash into your neighbor's yard, into the neighborhood park, or anywhere downhill. The health of our streams is important. All that waste washes into the streets, into the storm drains and ditches, and then directly into our creeks. Think about how many dogs live on your block—and now visualize all that poop in the creek. Ewww!

Christiansburg's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requires that we show a reduction in bacteria transported to our streams. Bagging pet waste both on and off your property is a significant step toward ensuring that our streams are clean and safe for swimming and fishing.



FLUSHABLE WIPES AREN'T FLUSHABLE

This image was taken at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility. The bar screen is cleaned out twice a day, so this is how many wipes were flushed through the Town's system in just twelve hours. But that's not all, these are just the wipes that got stuck! Many more wipes were processed before the system was overloaded. Wipes can clog the Town's sewer system but can also cause harm to your own pipes, costing you as a taxpayer and as a homeowner.



While wipes may be labeled as "flushable" on packaging, they actually stay durable through plumbing and sewer systems. When you flush a wipe, it is like flushing a piece of cloth. Wipes can get snagged on grease and form clogs in the systems, which can lead to pipe bursts, overflows and damage to Town equipment.

Please only flush toilet paper. Toss other items like wipes in the trash.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Town Council Meetings*

May 12 at 7 p.m.

May 26 at 7 p.m.

June 9 at 7 p.m.

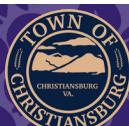
June 23 at 7 p.m.

*While these meetings are normally held at Town Hall, there is a possibility they will be held virtually. Please visit the website for information regarding the location of each meeting closer to the dates above.

Never miss a meeting! Sign up for notifications at www.christiansburg.org/ notifyme. All meetings are recorded and posted to the Town's YouTube page the following day.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY

Town Hall will be closed Memorial Day, May 25. Solid waste collection normally scheduled for Mondays will be collected Friday, May 22, along with Friday's regular collection.



Have a question? Let us know!
540-382-6128, ext. 1150
info@christiansburg.org
www.christiansburg.org