

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

July/August 2020



COMMUNITY CORNER

2020 Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market is open for its 2020 season! Vendors will be on Hickok Street every Thursday from 3-7 p.m. until October 22.

This year, the Town has introduced online ordering options for some of the vendors. Customers can prepay for items and pick them up on market day. You can explore links to these virtual shops at www.christiansburg.org/marketshop. Some vendors have their own site, and some have joined our Lulu Local Foods site, which allows you to order from multiple vendors in one place. Some vendors do not have online ordering available but will be set up on Hickok Street for day-of shopping.

Each week, online ordering will open at 7 a.m. on the Friday prior to the market and close at 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the market.

Not every vendor will be at every market. Check out our Facebook page to see who is coming week to week: www.facebook.com/ChristiansburgFarmersMarket.

While we encourage customers to utilize online ordering whenever possible, our vendors will still be set up on Hickok Street each Thursday during market hours. Market staff will monitor customer density and restrict entry to the market as needed to ensure there is ample room for social distancing. Vendors will be spaced according to social distancing guidelines. We encourage our patrons to wear masks while they are shopping at the market. However, we discourage the attendance of children and pets to the market unless it's absolutely necessary.

Hope to see you all on Hickok this summer!

IN THE KNOW

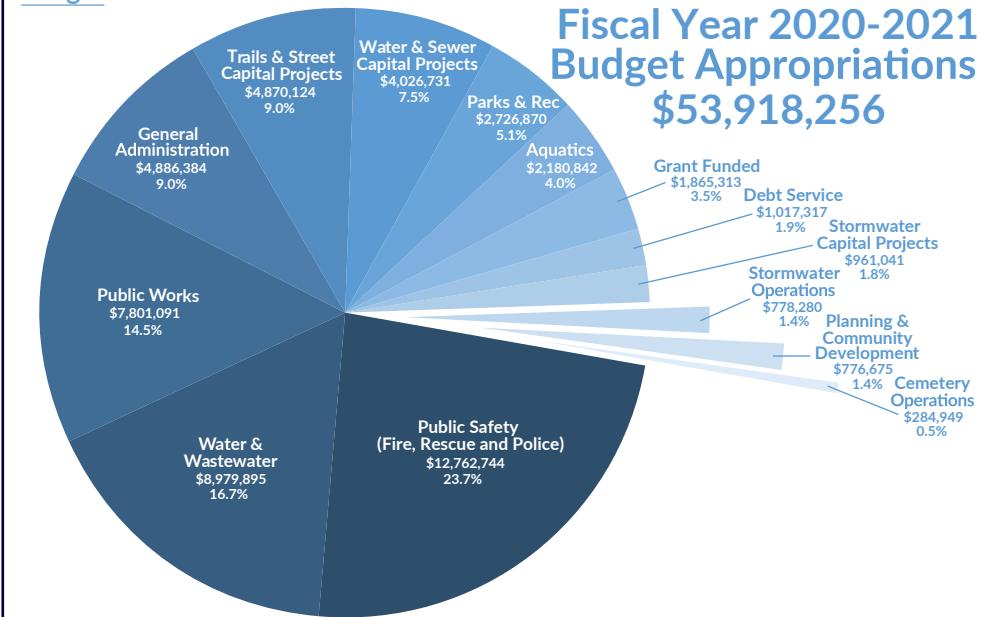
Hello, summer! Town Hall reopened to the public on June 15. To read about the adjusted operations for the Rec and Aquatic Centers, visit page 2. For more and info on other Town facilities, please visit www.christiansburg.org/covidoperations. As the weather warms up, we encourage our residents to get outside and enjoy the outdoors while practicing social distancing. See a list of parks you can visit at www.christiansburg.org/parks. For those sporadic rainy days, you can explore some fun online sources at our Virtual Recreation Center (www.christiansburg.org/virtualreccenter). Stay healthy and safe, Christiansburg!

TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES FY 2020-21 BUDGET

On June 9, Town Council approved the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. With respect to the economic impact of COVID-19, the Town has reduced expected revenue for 2020 and forecasted revenue for 2021. Of these reduced predictions, meals, lodging, sales tax and business and occupational taxes were most affected.

Due to these reduced revenue predictions, there are no new employee positions proposed, and the proposed park has been removed from the budget. The scheduled increase in water rates has been postponed. Sewer rates and real estate and personal property tax rates remain unchanged.

Town Council has tabled the following budget items for a later vote in the fall: compensation plan, raises, VRS multiplier, water rates, the proposed park and other capital projects. You can find a copy of the full budget at www.christiansburg.org/budget.



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

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

July/August 2020

DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

In 2019, the Town of Christiansburg detected ten regulated and three unregulated contaminants in the drinking water. However, these contaminants were at allowable levels and no health-based violations were reported. Please go to www.christiansburg.org/drinkingwater to view the 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report and learn more about the source and quality of your drinking water. If you would like a paper copy of the report mailed to you, or to speak with someone about the report, please contact the Engineering Department at 540-382-6120 or visit Christiansburg Town Hall. For more information about how the Town of Christiansburg maintains the safety of your drinking water and to view previous years' reports, go to www.christiansburg.org/waterquality.

AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTERS REOPEN

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center reopened to the public on Monday, June 15, with adjusted hours and operations. With guidelines constantly changing, our operations are adjusting accordingly, so please visit www.christiansburg.org/covidoperations for the most up to date information about the Aquatic Center. Please come dressed in your swimsuit and bring your own towel.

The Christiansburg Recreation Center reopened to the public on Monday, June 15, with adjusted hours and operations. With guidelines constantly changing, our operations are adjusting accordingly, so please visit www.christiansburg.org/covidoperations for the most up to date information about the Recreation Center. Clean all equipment before and after use. Please bring your own reading materials, weight belts, yoga mats, exercise balls, etc.

At parks, all playgrounds, outside basketball courts and shelters are open. Please be advised that all Town parks will be closed at intermittent times throughout the week for sanitization. However, we still recommend that if you use playground equipment, you bring hand sanitizer or wipes. Trails remain open. Please continue to practice appropriate social distancing.

These adjusted operations may change as Virginia enters Phase III and beyond, so please continue to visit www.christiansburg.org/covidoperations for the most up to date information.

LET'S NOT F.O.G.G. UP CHRISTIANSBURG

Do you practice responsible disposal of F.O.G.G. (fats, oils, grease and grit)? If not disposed of properly, F.O.G.G. will build up in the Town's wastewater systems, obstructing pipes, damaging infrastructure, causing overflows and harming the environment.

When mixed in small amounts with hot water, F.O.G.G. flows easily. But once it cools, it hardens inside pipes. When the solids build up over time, lines get blocked, which can cause sewer overflows. These spills can happen without warning anywhere there is a sewer line. Sewage may overflow into your yard or even back up into your house or business.

Blockages and overflows are expensive to fix, so the easiest way to approach the problem is by preventing it in the first place!



- Do not dispose of your cooking oil, grease or fat by pouring it down the drain. Instead, pour your used cooking oil, grease and fat into a covered container. These covered containers can be placed in the trash can with your regular garbage. Avoid using your garbage disposal whenever possible.
- Do not put food scraps down the drain. Instead, scrape food scraps from your dishes into the garbage. Use a paper towel to "dry wipe" grease and oil from dishes and cookware before you wash them. The wipe can be thrown away with your regular garbage.
- Do not use cloth towels or rags to wipe plates or to clean greasy, oily dishes. When you wash the cloth, the fats, oils and grease will end up in the sewer.
- Do not rinse F.O.G.G. from cooking ware with hot water. Hot water will melt the fats, oils and grease off the dishes and into the sewer pipes, where it will later cool and begin to accumulate.

FARMERS MARKET ART CONTEST WINNER



Gracie Lafon of Blacksburg won the 2020 Christiansburg Farmers Market Art Contest. The 12-year-old's work depicts a beautiful farm scene with sunflowers growing beside a red barn. Her prize is \$20 of market bucks to use at the Christiansburg Farmers Market this season. Congratulations, Gracie!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Town Council Meetings*

July 14 at 7 p.m.

July 28 at 7 p.m.

August 11 at 7 p.m.

August 25 at 7 p.m.

*Meetings are normally held in Council Chambers at Town Hall. To adhere to social distancing guidelines, residents may be asked to wait in the hall or watch the meeting from another room. Opportunity to provide public comment in person will be provided; however, contactless comment methods are also available to ensure resident access and safety. Please visit the website for information on 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 facilities will be closed for Independence Day on July 3. Solid waste normally scheduled for Fridays will be collected Thursday, July 2, along with Thursday's regular collection.



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