

# A Report to the Residents of

## CHRISTIANSBURG VA

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 • July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020



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## ABOUT THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

The Town of Christiansburg is tucked between the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the winding path of the New River in southwest Virginia. Originally a concentration of taverns and rest stops along the Great Wilderness Road (U.S. Route 11), the 1.1 square mile town was established on November 10, 1792, by the Virginia General Assembly. The Town of Christiansburg was later incorporated on January 7, 1833.

The Town is named after Colonel William Christian, an early settler in the region who was a member of the Virginia Legislature, a brother-in-law of Patrick Henry and one of the first justices of Fincastle County.

The Town is now 14.65 square miles with an estimated population of more than 22,400 residents and is the fourth largest town in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Town serves as Montgomery County's seat and the commercial hub of the New River Valley.

The Town of Christiansburg operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Town Council is the legislative body of the Town, comprised of the Mayor and six council members who enact laws, determine policies and adopt the annual budget. Every year, the Town Council appoints the Town Manager, Chief of Police, Treasurer, Clerk of Council and the Town's attorney.

The Town's fiscal year 2019-2020 operating budget was \$60.5 million, and the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 is \$54 million. Of the \$6.5 million decrease from last year's budget, approximately \$2 million is due to the economic fallout that resulted from the pandemic. The other \$4.5 million of the reduced budget is a result of capital project completions, such as the N. Franklin Corridor Improvement Project funded by VDOT. The Town manages revenues and expenditures through General, Special Revenue, Capital Projects and Enterprise Funds. General Fund revenues come primarily from property taxes, restaurant food taxes, business licenses and solid waste collections. Special Revenue Fund revenues are derived primarily from Christiansburg Rescue's emergency medical service billings. Enterprise revenues are derived primarily from water and sewer services, stormwater fees and grants.

## MISSION, VISION & GOALS

The Town of Christiansburg is committed to providing quality services and amenities to residents and visitors; to operating in an honest and transparent manner; and to supporting an environment where residents, businesses and community thrive.

The Town's vision for the betterment of its residents is to achieve the following objectives outlined in its Destination 2022 strategic plan:

- Be a clean, healthy and safe place to live,
- Be everyone's hometown with well-informed and engaged residents,
- Practice good governance and be a sound financial entity,
- Be a green, well-planned community,
- Be an interconnected community, partnering with businesses and residents, and
- Be an active destination for recreation, culture, entertainment, retail, commerce and tourism.

## SELECT DEMOGRAPHICS

Source: Quick Facts, U.S. Census Bureau



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# KEY FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 RESULTS

The results below for the fiscal year 2020 were, in most cases, negatively affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic occurring in the last quarter. However, despite the negative effects of the pandemic, nearly the same number of businesses opened in 2020 as in 2019. Even though people spent more time at home during the last quarter of 2020, garbage and recycling collection tonnage did not change significantly compared to last year, and neither did daily water distributed and daily wastewater processed, a possible reflection of Christiansburg residents' commitment to being environmentally conscious. All three first responder agencies' calls were down from last year, as residents stayed home and stayed safe. Recreation activities were affected the most due to the pandemic; special Town events, large tournaments and swim meets were unable to be held in the last quarter of the year. These departments, as well as all of the Town's departments, still found creative ways to safely offer many of the same programs and services as before. The pandemic affected the Town's ability to meet many of the goals outlined in its Destination 2022 vision, but the Town strives each year to improve upon the previous year's results to reach its vision for the betterment of its community.



**127 new businesses**  
operating within Town limits  
(137 in FY 18-19)



**847 calls**  
responded to by the Fire Dept.  
(990 in FY 18-19)



**4,511 calls**  
responded to by Rescue  
(4,733 in FY 18-19)



**22,651 calls**  
responded to by the Police Dept.  
(24,987 in FY 18-19)



**6,780 tons**  
of solid waste collected  
(6,637 in FY 18-19)



**2.3 million gallons**  
of drinking water distributed daily  
(2.5 million in FY 18-19)



**1,135 tons**  
of recycling collected  
(1,136 in FY 18-19)



**3.5 million gallons**  
of wastewater processed daily  
(3.4 million in FY 18-19)



**195,616 miles**  
swam in the competition  
pool at the Aquatic Center  
(205,464 in FY 18-19)



**1,217 swim lesson**  
participants at the  
Aquatic Center  
(1,452 in FY 18-19)



**114 events\***  
supported by Parks and Recreation  
(105 in FY 18-19)  
\*Increase due to Council initiative  
to add events in fall 2019



**508 programs**  
coordinated by  
Parks and Recreation  
(592 in FY 18-19)

## 2019-2020 AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

The **Police Department** continued its accreditation by the [Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission](#). An officer was also recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his efforts in DWI enforcement and education. **Christiansburg Rescue** was recognized by the American Heart Association with the [Gold Plus EMS Award](#) for the fourth year in a row. Rescue was also recognized by the Western Virginia EMS Council with the [Innovation Excellence Award](#). The **Public Works Department** became the first public entity in the state to receive the [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program Worksite status](#) from Virginia Occupational Safety and Health. The **Engineering Department** received the [Locality of the Year Award](#) from the Virginia Department of Transportation for staff's hard work, efforts and commitment to delivering transportation projects for Christiansburg residents. The **Parks and Recreation Department** received the [Best New Program Award](#) for the second year in a row from the Virginia Recreation and Park Society for its Helping Hands volunteer group of crafters who make items for those in need in the community. The **Finance Department** was awarded the [Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting](#).

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& Demographics

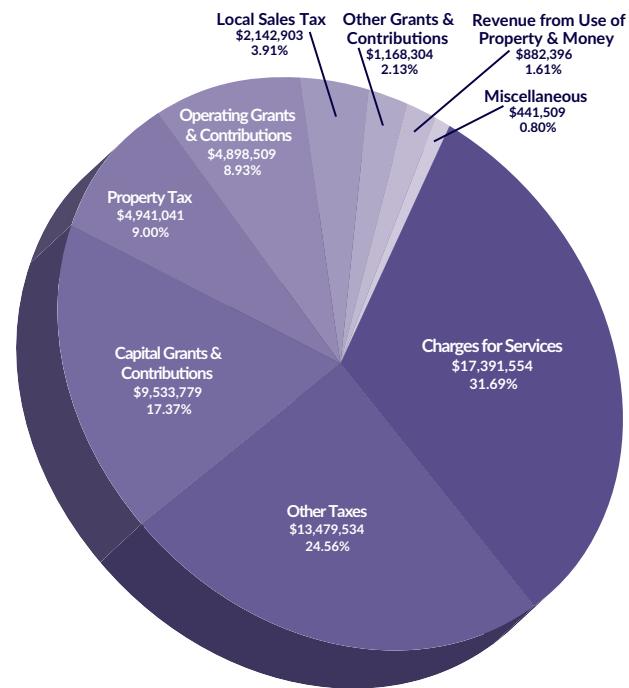
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# FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FINANCIAL DATA

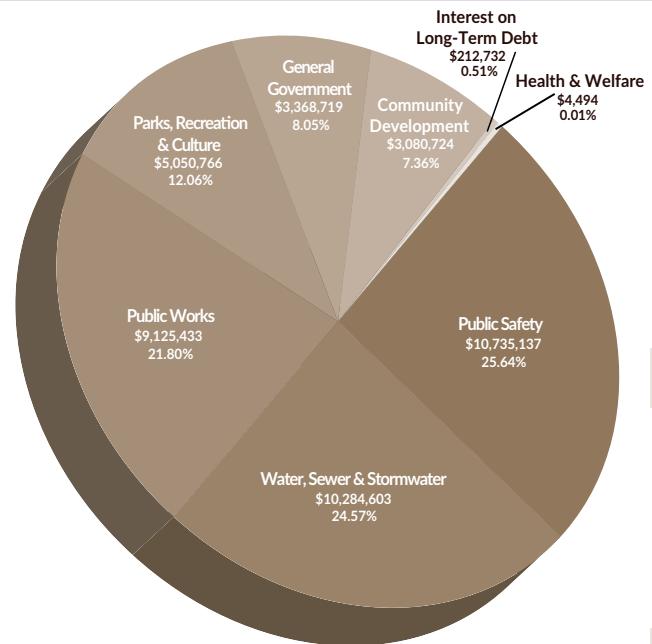


**Total Revenue: \$54,879,529**

## Revenues by Source

	FY 2019-2020	FY 2018-2019
Charges for Services	\$17,391,554	\$16,611,884
Other Taxes	13,479,534	14,225,661
Capital Grants & Contributions	9,553,779*	8,289,108
Property Tax	4,941,041	4,589,313
Operating Grants & Contributions	4,898,509*	4,216,735
Local Sales Tax	2,142,903	2,076,594
Other Grants & Contributions	1,168,304	1,206,874
Revenue from Use of Money & Property	882,396*	1,099,083
Miscellaneous	441,509*	1,049,206
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54,879,529</b>	<b>\$53,364,458</b>

For more, read the Town of Christiansburg's 2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at [www.christiansburg.org/annualreport](http://www.christiansburg.org/annualreport).



**Total Expenditures: \$60,708,125**

## Expenditures by Function

	FY 2019-2020	FY 2018-2019
Public Safety	\$10,735,137	\$9,917,232
Water, Sewer and Stormwater	10,284,603	10,113,804
Public Works	9,125,433	9,839,037
Parks, Recreation and Culture	5,050,766	4,600,565
General Government	3,368,719	3,112,647
Community Development	3,080,724*	1,180,279
Interest on Long-Term Debt	212,732	226,717
Health and Welfare	4,494	4,280
<b>Subtotal<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$41,862,608</b>	<b>\$38,994,561</b>
Capital Expenditures	\$18,845,517	\$13,332,897
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$60,708,125</b>	<b>\$52,327,458</b>

<sup>1</sup>Subtotal includes government operations and business-type activities like water, sewer and stormwater.

<sup>2</sup>Total includes expenditures for long-term projects and assets, and any remaining surplus that has been set aside for future capital projects.

## FINANCIAL GOALS

The Town of Christiansburg strives to maintain sound financial management policies. The Town Manager works to ensure that the program and service priorities of the Town's elected officials are carried out within the various fiscal and legal constraints imposed upon the Town. The Town also strives to improve the overall planning, implementation and performance of program objectives. Through these objectives, the Town safeguards assets, promotes operational efficiency, manages fiscal policies and provides accurate reporting and analysis.

Town Council has made it a priority to ensure that Christiansburg residents enjoy a quality of life that promotes a sense of community and an environment that attracts and expands its businesses. Council also strives to encourage public-private partnerships that further stimulate economic activity and increase efficiency in Town operations.

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# CHALLENGES & FUTURE OUTLOOK

The COVID-19 pandemic limited access to hotels, restaurants, entertainment venues and recreational opportunities, which negatively impacted the last quarter of 2020. As business opportunities are limited by the restrictions of the pandemic, this impact is expected to continue to affect revenues in 2021, with sales tax projected to be down by five percent, meals tax by 10-15 percent, lodging by 60 percent, and recreational revenues by 50 percent. The Town is hopeful that gathering restrictions will be loosened and some level of normalcy will return by spring 2021 and positively impact revenues. Financial recovery to regain prior revenue levels from the impacts of the pandemic are anticipated to take more than a year. Due to prudent fund balance policies and the funding assistance from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Town has been able to maintain services, staffing and construction activities throughout the pandemic. These standards are expected to continue into 2021 with some reductions in operating expenditures and limitations on capital expenditures.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2021

A large project was approved in 2020 to construct a **new 63-acre signature park** off of Peppers Ferry Road. To learn more about the park project, such as funding, timeline and amenities, please visit [www.christiansburg.org/signaturepark](http://www.christiansburg.org/signaturepark).

**Arbor Drive/Peppers Ferry Road Intersection Improvements** will construct a left-turn lane from Arbor Drive, curb and gutter, sidewalks, accessible ramps, crosswalks, median modifications and a signal head addition.

**Tower Road/Hampton Boulevard/Roanoke Street Intersection Improvements** will construct traffic, pedestrian and I-81 preemption signal improvements, including curb and gutter, crosswalks, sidewalks and drainage improvements.

**Hickok Street Drainage Improvements** will relocate a stormdrain under downtown businesses and alleviate flooding in the area.

**College Street Drainage Alternatives Analysis** will perform a drainage basin analysis and provide alternatives to reduce flooding and improve drainage in the College Street watershed, primarily between Radford Street and Moose Drive, with the watershed analysis extending upstream beyond the project limits. This includes, but is not limited to, the closed storm drain system along College Street and open channels in the backyards of properties on the south side of College Street.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020

The **N. Franklin Street Corridor Improvement Project** improved traffic flow and safety along N. Franklin Street and its intersection with Cambria Street, while also increasing accessibility for pedestrians. The project reached completion in fall 2020.

The **realignment of the Falling Branch intersection** consolidated shopping center entrances and added a traffic signal in order to improve safety and traffic flow. This project was completed in early 2020.

The **Depot Park trail extension** connected the Aquatic Center on Mill Lane to the loop trail at Depot Park. The project was completed in fall 2020.

**Phase III of the Huckleberry Trail extension** was completed in spring 2020. It extends the trail from the Food Lion Shopping Center on N. Franklin Street to Christiansburg High School on Independence Boulevard.

Several other projects improving water distribution, sewer collection and stormwater drainage, as well as sidewalk improvements, were completed in 2020, and others are planned in 2021. Learn more about completed and upcoming capital projects at [www.christiansburg.org/capitalprojects](http://www.christiansburg.org/capitalprojects).

## CONTACT US



If you have any questions or concerns about this report, we want to hear from you! Please contact Finance Director/Treasurer Valerie Tweedie by emailing [vtweedie@christiansburg.org](mailto:vtweedie@christiansburg.org). You may also call the Finance Department to ask questions or discuss concerns at 540-382-9519. More information about the Treasury and Finance Department, including prior budgets and audits, is available online at [www.christiansburg.org/finance](http://www.christiansburg.org/finance).

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