

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

March/April 2021



COMMUNITY CORNER

COVID-19 Vaccine

If you qualify for the current phase of vaccination, please pre-register at NRVRoadtoWellness.com. If you are 75 or older, you can call the New River Health District's Vaccine Hotline 540-838-8222 to pre-register for an appointment. Please note that pre-registration is not an appointment to receive the vaccine. Pre-registration only places you in queue to then be scheduled for a vaccination appointment.

If you have pre-registered, the New River Health District will call you to schedule your appointment. Please save the Vaccine Hotline phone number (540-838-8222) in your contacts to avoid missing the call.

The Health District will provide you instructions on how to receive your second dose during your first dose appointment.

Regardless of whether you have received the vaccine, it is imperative that everyone still practice the three Ws—wear a mask, wash your hands and watch your distance. The light at the end of the tunnel that is COVID-19 is in sight, but the tunnel is long. We must continue to stay diligent in our efforts to protect ourselves, our neighbors and our community.

Not sure where to find the most up-to-date info about the COVID-19 vaccine? Visit NRVRoadtoWellness.com to learn more and to sign up for notifications and alerts as new info is received and current info is updated.

IN THE KNOW

Spring is almost here, which means Spring Cleanup is just around the corner! Don't forget to place out your items April 10-23 for complimentary collection. Tax season is almost here, too! Learn about tax support offered at the Rec Center on page 2. Also, the BT Explorer Route is back! More on the next page. Happy spring, Christiansburg!

HISTORY BEHIND THE SIGNATURE PARK

At the Nov. 10 Town Council meeting, a budget amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget was approved, which includes funding for a park off of Peppers Ferry Road—moving the project forward. At its Dec. 8 meeting, Town Council voted to enter into a comprehensive agreement with Faulconer Construction Company to build the park. Construction is expected to begin in March 2021 and be complete by November 2022.

The 63 acres of land the park is to be built upon was originally owned by Truman and Viola Wilson, who lived, farmed and operated a sawmill on the property. While preparing the land for construction, crews discovered a small graveyard, which was identified as the resting places for the Truman's four collies. Never having children, the couple treated these pets as family. The Trumans would cook pork chops as a treat for their beloved pets. Family friends of the Trumans have expressed how happy the couple would be that a large and small dog park will be an amenity of the signature park. A special plaque will be placed at the gravesite to commemorate the original owners and their adored pets.

Additionally, Town Council voted on Jan. 12, 2021, to name the proposed Connector Road, which will provide access to the park property, the Booker T. Washington Parkway. Washington served as superintendent of Christiansburg Industrial Institute (CII) from 1896 until his death in 1915 and was instrumental in expanding the curriculum to include both classical instruction and practical instruction in industry and the trades. The school was relocated to Lattimer Plantation in 1898 and was significantly expanded in the following years, growing to 14 buildings and 185 acres—some of which Booker T. Washington Parkway will reside on. George Washington Carver and other members of the Tuskegee University staff visited CII, and prominent industrial engineer John Wines Lester lived on the CII campus.



Above: Washington speaking to a crowd of 5,000 people at CII.
(Source: Christiansburg Institute, Inc.)

Today, Christiansburg Institute, Inc. (CI, Inc.) is a 501(c)3 grassroots, cultural heritage and historic preservation non-profit organization with a mission of education and empowerment. CI, Inc. operates a museum containing archival collections and artifacts from CII's 100-year legacy. The non-profit offers community education and cultural programming; partners with local community agencies, schools and local government; and manages the historic preservation and adaptive reuse of the Edgar A. Long Building and adjoining CII properties. Learn more about CII history at CI, Inc.'s exhibit here: tinyurl.com/CIExhibit. (Source: Christiansburg Institute, Inc.)

Stay up to date on all information regarding the park by visiting www.christiansburg.org/signaturepark.

Be committed.
Be well.

Follow us!
@CburgVAGov



Want to stay in the know?
Sign up for our Notify Me and Citizen Alert systems to receive Town info via phone, text or email.
Notify Me: www.christiansburg.org/notifyme
Citizens Alert: www.christiansburg.org/alerts



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CHRISTIANSBURG VA

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

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SPRING CLEANUP: APRIL 10-23

In April and October each year, the Town offers free special collection periods for residents to place out larger items for pickup. To make it easier on collection crews, please place cleanup items within 10 feet of the street pavement and separate them from your regular trash. Please do not block ditches, gutters, sidewalks, water meters or sewer cleanouts. The Town is not responsible for any items left at or near the street that residents did not intend to have collected. Piles that do not comply with cleanup rules will not be collected. Please also separate materials by type (i.e. pile bagged leaves, tree limbs and trimmings separately). Loose materials must be placed in bags/containers not exceeding 32 gallons. Leaves must be bagged. For a full list of accepted items, please visit www.christiansburg.org/cleanupFAQ. Though special collection trucks follow regular garbage routes, cleanup may run a day or two behind trash collection schedules, depending on volume. If it is nearing the end of the cleanup cycle and your items have not been collected, please call 540-382-1151. Throughout the year, residents may also set out their brush for complimentary monthly collection. Please visit www.christiansburg.org/brush to learn more. Brush collection will not run in April as it is part of Spring Cleanup.

LAWN CARE TIPS

The key to a low-maintenance yard is retaining soil, and the simplest way to retain soil is to grow site-appropriate plants.

- Patchy grass from high foot traffic? Cover it with organic mulch, great for under child play equipment or in pet play areas.
- Grass won't grow? Don't fight it. Grasses are picky about light, soil and moisture. Try moss for damp shady places, native trees for steep slopes and native groundcover plants just about anywhere.
- Really need grass? Test your soil before adding fertilizer. Unneeded fertilizer can spur fast growth that stresses the plant. Virginia Cooperative Extension provides inexpensive, professional soil tests. Find more info at ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden.

Retaining soil in your yard keeps it out of storm drains and streams and helps Christiansburg meet the goals set in its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

SNOW CONTEST WINNER



At the end of January, the Town held a snow creation contest through Facebook. Emmarsyn was crowned winner with the most likes and reactions. Congratulations, Emmarsyn!

SWIM MEETS

The Aquatic Center will be closed on the following dates for swim meets:

- March 24-28, USA Swimming Sectionals
- March 29-April 2, Colonial Athletic Association Championship

Note that due to evolving COVID-19 restrictions, these details may change. Please visit cacpool.com for the most up-to-date information.

BT EXPLORER ROUTE

The Explorer bus has resumed service with a passenger limit of five. Gold and Blue routes will run on the same schedule and routes as before with hourly frequency. Riders worried about pass-bys should consider the Go-Anywhere trip instead. Masks are required for all passengers on the Explorer. Call BT at 540-443-1500 for more info.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES



With Spring Cleanup just around the corner (April 10-23), it's a good time to refresh yourself with some Town Codes. A list of common beautification and safety codes can be found online along with other information to help you with your spring cleaning this season. Learn more about this topic at www.christiansburg.org/neighborhoodservices. Be sure to check out the "What is Neighborhood Services?" page to learn all about the benefits of code compliance for our community. Remember, don't hesitate to contact our Neighborhood Services Division if you have questions at 540-382-6120, ext. 1181 or psaunders@christiansburg.org.

PARKS & REC PROGRAMS

It's almost tax season! Have you thought about how you are going to file your taxes this year? Did you know that Parks



and Recreation offers a free tax aide to help you with filing your taxes? Just call 540-382-2349 to schedule an appointment. Tax appointments will be made every 15 minutes on Monday (1-4 p.m.), Tuesday (1-4 p.m.), Thursday (1-4 p.m.) and Saturday (9-12 p.m.) from Feb. 16 through April 15. Learn more about this year's process at tinyurl.com/CburgTaxes2020.

Save the date! This season's Shred-A-Thon is on April 27 from 3-6 p.m. in the Rec Center's parking lot. Learn more at tinyurl.com/ShredSpring21.

Remember, you can sign up to use the Rec Center's amenities online at www.christiansburg.org/parksandrec and check out some more programs at www.christiansburg.org/register.

HEAD START

Head Start is a no-cost preschool for eligible families. Participants will receive research based curriculum, developmental screenings, individualized high quality adult-child interactions, and services that promote family support, healthy nutrition, and dental health. Currently taking applications for 2021-2022 school year for 3- and 4-year-olds. Call 540-381-7559 for more info.

UPCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS*

March 9 at 7 p.m.

March 23 at 7 p.m.

April 13 at 7 p.m.

April 27 at 7 p.m.

*Meetings are 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 at www.christiansburg.org/publiccomment 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 at www.christiansburg.org/YouTube.

Want to stay in the know?
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Citizens Alert: www.christiansburg.org/alerts



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