

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

September/October 2021



COMMUNITY CORNER

Customer Updates

NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM

The Town is utilizing a new e-government software that will allow customers to pay real estate taxes, personal property taxes, business license fees and meals and lodging taxes online through self-service. Stay tuned to the Town's website to learn more about when the system will launch and how to utilize it.

PHONE TRANSACTION FEE REINSTATEMENT

The Town has reinstated its existing policy to charge a \$10 fee for phone transactions. All departments, including Finance, Building Inspections and Planning, will collect a \$10 fee from customers who choose to pay their balances over the phone.

WATER CUT-OFF POLICIES REINSTATEMENT

Payment is due on the first of each month. Any past due charges will appear on your most current utility bill. A penalty of 10% of the unpaid balance will be added to your account after the due date listed on your bill. To avoid disconnection, past due payments are due by the tenth of each month. Your most current utility bill will inform you of the date that services will be disconnected. If your payment is not received by 7:30 a.m. on the set date, service will be discontinued, and you will be charged a \$25 reconnection fee. Please note that failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from any penalties or additional charges. Please inform the Town of any mailing address, phone number or email address changes.

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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



THE PLACE TO BE.

CHRISTIANSBURG VA

Have a question? Let us know!

540-382-6128, ext. 1151

info@christiansburg.org

www.christiansburg.org

IN THE KNOW

Fall is here, which means it's time for our annual Photo of the Year and Ornament Contests. Submit your favorite photo from the year at www.christiansburg.org/photooftheyear, and check out the contest rules for the handmade ornament contest at www.christiansburg.org/ornament. The Town is implementing a new e-government software that will allow customers to pay bills and taxes online through self-service. More details about the service coming soon, so stay tuned to the Town's website. On Oct. 18, there is a free VIN etching event at the Christiansburg Fire Department (110 Depot St.) from 3-6 p.m. Lastly, Fall Cleanup is from October 2 to October 15. Learn about what items the Town will collect and how to place them properly for pickup at www.christiansburg.org/cleanup. Happy Fall, Christiansburg!

VISIT CHRISTIANSBURG STREAM RESTORATIONS

TOWNE BRANCH

If you haven't visited Depot Park (250 Depot St. NE) recently, it is a great place to explore the Towne Branch stream restoration project. It is beautiful this time of year with native flowers blooming amongst the colorful fall foliage of native trees. Learn more about the restoration project and the local ecosystem from placards along the trail. Maybe even dip your toes in the stream to cool off from the fleeting days of summer.



"A Depot Park Stream Exploration" Photo by Tim Borkert, 2018 Christiansburg Photo of the Year Submission

DIAMOND HILLS

For a more immersive experience, visit the Diamond Hills stream restoration area (at the end of Scattergood Drive NW) where you can walk among the plants. The trees and unmowed buffer areas in both restorations are integral to the health of the stream. Many of our native fish, amphibians and benthic macroinvertebrates require cool water year-round; you won't find them in a sun-bathed stream. Additionally, the tall plants help slow down floodwaters, which causes the water to drop sediment on the floodplain. This puts the sediment back on the land and helps build healthy soils.

Reducing sediment in these streams is a requirement of the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Stream restorations are one way to accomplish this goal while providing natural areas for residents to enjoy.

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FALL CLEANUP: OCTOBER 2-15



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 October as it is part of Fall Cleanup.

LABOR DAY

Town Hall and the Aquatic and Rec Centers will be closed Sept. 6.

Solid waste normally collected on Mondays will be collected on Friday, Sept. 3, with Friday's regular collection.

AQUATIC CENTER UPDATES

SWIM MEETS

Sept. 2
Middle School Meet #1
Sept. 18
Middle School Meet #2
Sept. 23
Middle School Meet #3
Sept. 25
VT Hokie Belt Challenge #1
Oct. 2
Middle School Meet #4
Oct. 22
VT v. Duke

LIFEGUARD UNIVERSITY

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center is hoping to minimize an individual's barriers to lifeguard certification through a new program. Lifeguard University is for teens and adults alike, who will be at least 16 years old by the end of February 2022. The program will run from September 8, 2021, through March 2, 2022, on Monday and Wednesday evenings beginning at 6 p.m. The first three months of the program will focus on learning to swim and building swimming endurance, and the last three months will continue with swimming endurance and the lifeguard certification class.

There are no fees for the program; however, a full commitment for the entirety of the program is required, and all participants are expected to apply for a lifeguard position and agree to work at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. For more detailed information and class schedule, or to register for the program, please contact Lifeguard Crew Leader Eric Johnson at 540-381-7665.

TRICK OR TREAT

Halloween is on Sunday, October 31. Though the Town does not regulate trick-or-treating, many participate in their neighborhoods until dark on Halloween. Many homes may not be participating in trick-or-treating activities this year, so be cautious of the residences you approach. If you choose to trick-or-treat this year, please adhere to CDC guidelines.

The Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department is hosting its annual Getting Scary on the Huckleberry event on Saturday, October 30, with a Trunk or Treat from 8-11 a.m. and a 5k at 9 a.m., so be sure to wear your best disguises. Scan the QR code to register for the 5k. Happy Halloween!



PHOTO OF THE YEAR CONTEST

When you think of Christiansburg, what do you see? Is there a specific place or activity that comes to mind? Share your response with us by entering our fourth annual Photo of the Year Contest. The Public Arts Advisory Board will select a photo of the year to hang in Town Hall. To view contest rules, visit www.christiansburg.org/photooftheyear. All photos must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 4 to info@christiansburg.org.

ORNAMENT CONTEST

The governor has invited Virginia counties, cities and towns to submit a handcrafted ornament to hang on this year's tree in the Executive Mansion. The Town of Christiansburg is holding a contest to help select the 2021 Christiansburg Heritage Ornament, which will be sent to Richmond. Remaining entries will hang in Town Hall during the holiday season. Please apply at www.christiansburg.org/ornament by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 29.

UPCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS*

Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 at 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 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/notifime. All meetings are recorded and posted to the Town's YouTube page at www.christiansburg.org/YouTube.

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