

The Christiansburg Connection



AT YOUR SERVICE: *Sara Morgan*

Sara Morgan joined the Town's Planning Department as an intern in 2014.

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Sara now works full-time as a Senior Planner and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is interacting with the citizens. I love solving the issues they bring up and helping them accomplish what they want to achieve.

Do you have a favorite Town moment?

So far, my favorite moment was applying to receive an obesity prevention grant. We were crunched for time to submit the application; the turnaround time was just a matter of days. We ended up receiving the grant, which was very exciting. The grant was a partnership with the New River Valley Health District and allowed us to complete a number of infrastructure projects.

Read the complete interview at www.christiansburg.org/connection

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Town Council Meetings

- Town Hall, 100 East Main Street
- Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 24 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 8 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 22 at 7 p.m.

Never miss a meeting! Sign up for meeting notifications at www.christiansburg.org/notifyme

Looking for something new in 2016?

Learn a new skill or hobby! Check out our Aquatic and Recreation offerings at www.christiansburg.org/aquatics or [/recreation](http://www.christiansburg.org/recreation).

In The Know

As the new year begins, so does a new budget process. January and February marks the beginning of budget discussions as departments begin creating individual budgets and submitting requests. Follow along this year at www.christiansburg.org/budget.

Winter is officially here, so make sure that you are prepared for any winter weather emergency. Find safety tips and resources at www.readyvirginia.gov. Learn more about the Town's snow removal process on the reverse page or online at www.christiansburg.org/winterweather.

Barry Helms Announces Retirement

As a new year begins, the Town prepares to say goodbye Town Manager Barry Helms, who has announced his intention to retire in June 2016.

Barry began working for the Town 22 years ago as an intern, working his way up to administrative assistant and assistant town manager before becoming town manager in 2011. We will miss you, Barry!



Water Meter Upgrades Bring Changes

The Town will switch over to automated water meter reading in 2016

Earlier in the year, the Town began replacing water meters to transition to an automated meter reading system. All water meters will be replaced in early winter. This new system will bring exciting changes to customers in the coming year.

Once fully implemented, the new water meter reading system will eventually allow customers to see their usage in near real time online. Customers will also be able to set budget or usage limits and receive an alert when they near these set limits.

The new meters will also be able to report water reads remotely, which should alleviate delays in meter reading due to inclement weather. However, the biggest advantage of this new system may be the leak detection capabilities. Leaks will be caught sooner, benefiting both the customer and the Town.

As part of the new system, the Town will switch from bi-monthly billing to monthly billing in the spring. To make the switch from our current billing process, it will be necessary to "catch up" from a two month delay to no delay.



New water meters will be able to report water usage levels remotely.

Two options are available to make this change. Customers are asked to share which option is most appealing to them. Please be sure to read, fill out and return the questionnaire enclosed in the January utility bill to note your preference and learn more about billing options available to you.

Please note that the two options listed on this form do not reflect an additional charge to your account or an increase in fees.

Should you have any questions regarding your utility bill, please contact the Finance Department at (540) 382-9519.



Leon Martin records water usage.

Frequently Asked...

Why does the Aquatic Center close during swim meets?

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center (CAC) hosts a number of swim meets throughout the year, bringing swimmers and spectators to town from all over the east coast. While some swim meets are small enough that the leisure and therapy pools can remain open to the public while the competition pool is in use, other meets are so large (800-1100 swimmers and up to 1600 spectators) that the entire facility needs to close to the public for the duration of the meet.



In addition to not being able to accommodate parking for regular patrons during these large meets, the leisure and therapy pools are also needed for competitors to warm up and cool down in between their events. The leisure pool area also provides space needed for the swimmers who are waiting for their next event to begin.

The CAC is proud to have such a great facility that meets the needs of so many people. To view the CAC Calendar, please visit www.christiansburg.org/aquatics.

Holiday Closures & Garbage Collection Schedule

Lee Jackson Day - Friday, January 15

(Friday garbage will be picked up Tuesday)

- Aquatic Center open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. / administrative office closed
- Recreation Center open 5:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. / administrative office closed
- Town Hall closed

Martin Luther King Jr Day- Monday, January 18

(Monday garbage will be picked up Wednesday)

- Aquatic Center open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. / administrative office closed
- Recreation Center open 5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. / administrative office closed
- Town Hall closed

Presidents Day, Monday, February 15

(Monday garbage will be picked up Tuesday)

- Aquatic Center open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. / administrative office closed
- Recreation Center open 5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. / administrative office closed
- Town Hall closed

Please remember to place your garbage out for collection no later than 8 a.m. Have questions about garbage collection?

Please call (540) 382-1151.

Did You Know? Snow Removal Edition

• The Town of Christiansburg is responsible for plowing 249 lane miles, or 53 primary roads and 392 secondary roads.

• Salt brine solution can be applied up to 72 hours before a winter weather event (in dry weather only). Salt brine begins working as soon as the first snowflakes fall.

• Trucks plow, widen and apply de-icing materials to the roads, which takes extra time compared to simply plowing the roads.

• The Town of Christiansburg plows all roads within town. Though primary roads are always cleared first, secondary routes are rotated so that the same streets are not always addressed last.



For more snow information, please visit www.christiansburg.org/winterweather

Meet the Christiansburg Police Department Citizens Support Group

The Christiansburg Police Citizen Support Group is a nonprofit organization made up of citizens from Montgomery County. Formed more than 10 years ago, the group works daily to support local law enforcement in the New River Valley, particularly the Christiansburg Police Department and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Currently, the group has approximately 15 members, including four original charter members. The Citizens Support Group's primary focus is to provide logistical support to agencies during critical incidents. In the past, this support has meant providing food and water during these events. In addition to this, the group also plans and hosts an annual Christmas party for the department.

Chief Mark Sisson expressed his appreciation, "You would be hard pressed to find citizens within any community that are as dedicated as this group. They give their time, effort and resources to support local law enforcement with no monetary gain. There are very few people in today's society that would do this and we are blessed to have a partnership with them."

To learn more about the Christiansburg Police Department Citizens Support Group, please visit www.facebook.com/CPDCSG or contact the Christiansburg Police Department at (540) 382-3131.

Snapshot! Town photos & events



The Christiansburg Farmers' Market "Christmas at the Market" gets underway. Over 40 crafters and food vendors participated in the inaugural event.

The Town of Christiansburg held their annual Christmas celebration on December 11. Over 40 vendors participated in the first annual Christmas at the Market. Many of you came out for the festivities, including the parade and tree lighting ceremony. We hope to see you again next year!

Have questions? Let us know!
(540) 382-6128 ext. 1148 / ext. 1151
info@christiansburg.org
www.christiansburg.org