

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

July/August 2017

Community Corner

Jimmy Williams celebrates 50 years as town firefighter

As a boy, Jimmy Williams got his first taste of firefighting by stowing away in the back of a friend's father's fire truck. If he and his friend ever missed the free ride, they would walk to meet Christiansburg firefighters at the scene.



It's been a long time since Jimmy had to sneak a ride, though. On February 27, Jimmy celebrated 50 years as a firefighter with the Christiansburg Fire Department.

Jimmy says his favorite memory of being a firefighter was when he saved two men from a fire at Bugg's Boarding House. He received the Heroism Award from the Virginia State Firefighters Association for his courage.

Jimmy served as a lieutenant, a captain and became the longest consecutive serving assistant fire chief in the department's history when he stepped down from the position after 31 years in 2012. His son, Jeremy Williams is also currently a firefighter with the department.

For aspiring firefighters, Jimmy recommends visiting the fire station and asking questions to the on-duty firefighters—not stowing away in a fire truck!

Thank you for your service, Jimmy!

In The Know

School may be out for the summer, but the Town of Christiansburg is staying busy. The budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 was adopted June 27 (see below), capital projects like the Independence Intersection Improvement are underway (see reverse) and we've got plenty of cool events to help you enjoy the summer heat!

Celebrate Independence Day with fellow residents downtown on July 4 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., then head over to Christiansburg High School for the fireworks show at 9:15 p.m.

The Farmers' Market is on Hickok Street every Thursday from 3-7 p.m. Stop by the Market's new "Thank Goodness It's Thursday" event on the last Thursday of every month for some live music, local wine, fresh ice cream and food trucks, along with our regular vendors!

And, that's not all: Rally Appalachia will be downtown on July 11; Downtown Christiansburg Inc. is hosting a Movies in the Park night on July 28 and August 25; 811 Call Before You Dig is putting on a run/walk on August 12; and Heritage Day and Touch-A-Truck are both on August 26. See reverse for more event details. We'll see you out there!

Town Council approves FY 2017-2018 budget

Appropriations 2017-2018: Where are funds being spent?

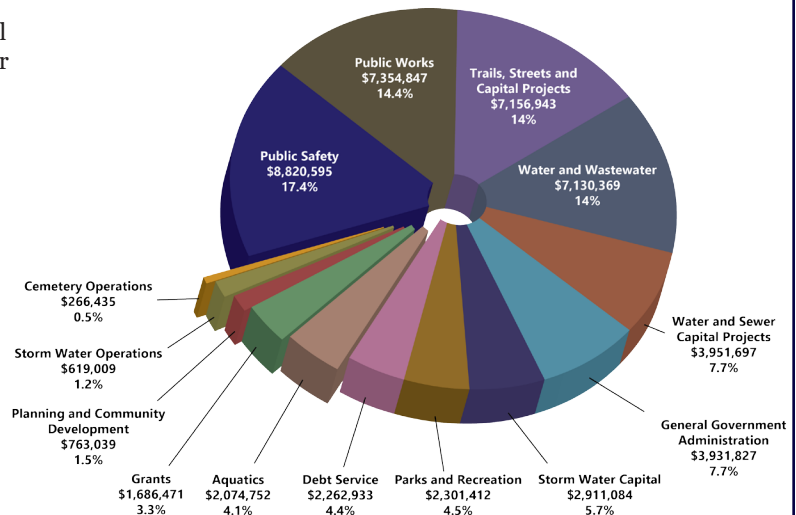
Town Council approved the annual budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 on June 27.

Water and sewer rates increased (effective July 1) to help fund upgrades to the water and wastewater treatment facilities. More information can be found on the next page, or at www.christiansburg.org/waterinfographic.

Real estate and personal property tax rates remain unchanged. Parking fines increased from \$10 to \$25. Department of Motor Vehicles stop fees also increased from \$30 to \$35.

Three positions were added: one new police officer, one new maintenance employee in the Public Works Department and one part-time maintenance employee in the Parks and Recreation Department became full-time.

You can find a copy of the full budget and more information at: www.christiansburg.org/budget.



Follow us!



Have a question? Let us know!

540-382-6128 ext. 1150

info@christiansburg.org

www.christiansburg.org

Events Calendar

July 4th Celebration

Downtown Celebration, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fireworks at CHS football field, 9:15 p.m.

Christiansburg Farmers' Market

Every Thursday, 3 - 7 p.m.
Hickok Street

Rally Appalachia

July 11, 7:30 - 9 a.m.
Start on Main Street

Movies in the Park

July 28, Aug. 25 after sunset
Downtown Park

811 5K Run/Walk & 8-Mile Run

Aug. 12, 7:30 a.m.
Christiansburg Recreation Center

Heritage Day

Aug. 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Montgomery Museum, 300 Pepper St. E.

Touch-A-Truck

Aug. 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
New River Valley Mall parking lot

To find out more information on events and programs, visit www.christiansburg.org/events or our Facebook page.

Community Snapshot



The 611 spotted near Chrisman Mill over Memorial Day weekend. Onlookers gathered in downtown Cambria during Depot Days to catch a glimpse.

~ Photo by Leslie Hetherington

Frequently Asked...

Why are my water and sewer rates changing?

New water rates were adopted July 1 because the New River Valley Regional Water Authority—which sells water wholesale to the Town of Christiansburg—is raising its prices. This means Christiansburg and other Authority customers (Blacksburg, Virginia Tech and Montgomery County) must increase their water rates to cover the higher cost.

The Authority's rate change will fund essential upgrades to the water treatment plant and system, which have not received major improvements in the last 40 years.

Sewer rates are changing because Christiansburg's wastewater treatment facility is also in need of upgrades.

Both increases ensure customers will continue receiving quality water. Despite the changes, Christiansburg will continue to have affordable water and sewer rates when compared to other jurisdictions in the state.

How can I monitor my water usage?

Sign up for an account at www.christiansburg.org/monitorwater. The online tool will allow you to monitor your usage and receive alerts if a leak is detected.

Aquatic Center Information

Closures

- **Summer Awards swim meet:** closed July 14-16, reopens Monday, July 17.
- **Age Group Champs swim meet:** closed noon July 20-23, reopens Monday, July 24.
- **Roanoke Valley Aquatic Association swim meet:** closed July 28-29, reopens Sunday, July 30.

The Aquatic Center will also be closed August 14-25 for yearly maintenance. This closure allows staff to perform necessary maintenance that cannot be completed while open to the public. Thank you for your understanding!

Upcoming Meetings & Closures

Town Council Meetings

- Held at Town Hall, 100 East Main St.
- Tuesday, July 11, 7 p.m.
 - Tuesday, July 25, 7 p.m.
 - Tuesday, August 8, 7 p.m.
 - Tuesday, August 22, 7 p.m.

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

Closures

Independence Day, July 4

- Town Hall will be closed July 3-4
- The Recreation Center and Aquatic Center will be open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. July 3, but administrative offices will be closed. Both centers will be closed July 4.
- Monday, July 3 trash will be picked up Wednesday, July 5. Tuesday, July 4 trash will be collected Thursday, July 6.

Capital Project Update

The Independence Intersection Improvement project is in progress!

This project will improve safety at the intersection of Independence Boulevard and North Franklin Street by adjusting turn lane lengths and island locations. We'll also be installing storm drains and adding pedestrian accommodations at the intersection. Construction is expected to be complete in late summer.

The project is part of a larger effort to improve use of the Franklin Street corridor. This includes eventually extending the Huckleberry Trail to the Independence Boulevard and North Franklin Street intersection. The Town is also currently in the planning stages of reworking the intersection at Cambria Street and North Franklin Street to improve traffic flow and add pedestrian accommodations.

To stay updated on construction around town, sign up for the News & Announcements notifications at www.christiansburg.org/notifyme.



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