

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

July/August 2018

Community Corner

Coming soon: roam NRV Bike Share



A new public transportation option is coming to town! The roam New River Valley Bike Share program will soon have two bike racks in Christiansburg: one at the Christiansburg Recreation Center and the other at the NRV Mall near New River Community College.

roam NRV is a collaborative effort between the town, Montgomery County, the Town of Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. There will be two stations in Blacksburg and eight on Virginia Tech's campus. Users of the system will need to create an account once the system is live and can use a mobile app to see if there are available bicycles and to reserve one before getting to the bike rack.

There will be a range of pricing options depending on how long and often an individual plans to use a bike. Single trips will cost \$1 for every 15 minutes, but there are also options to check out a bicycle for a full day, or purchase a monthly or annual membership.

Stay tuned for more information on the roam NRV Bike Share program, which will be arriving in town in the coming months. To learn more in the meantime, visit www.gotchabike.com/roamnrv.

In The Know

Between our new curbside recycling service, the upcoming launch of a regional bike share program and classic summer events like our Fourth of July Celebration, there's a lot to keep up with these days!

Our curbside recycling service begins the first week of July. If your garbage and recycling would normally be collected on Wednesday, July 4, don't forget to set both bins out on Tuesday, July 3, because we will be operating on a modified collection schedule for the holiday.

Read about roam NRV, a new bike share program coming to Christiansburg, in the article to the left. The fiscal year 2018-2019 officially begins on July 1. Learn more about this year's budget below or by visiting www.christiansburg.org/budget.

As always, check our events list on the back to see what's happening around Town during the next couple months!

Town Council approves FY 2018-19 budget

Town Council passed the budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 on June 12.

Water and sewer rates increased (effective July 1) to help fund upgrades to the water and wastewater treatment facilities. The monthly water rate for 1,000 gallons will increase from \$6 to \$7. For every additional 1,000 gallons up to 50,000 gallons, the rate will increase from \$8 to \$9. The rate will increase from \$6 to \$6.75 for every additional 1,000 gallons over 50,000 within corporate limits.

The monthly sewer rate for 1,000 gallons will increase from \$9 to \$10. The rate for every additional 1,000 gallons will remain unchanged within corporate limits at \$10.25 per 1,000 gallons.

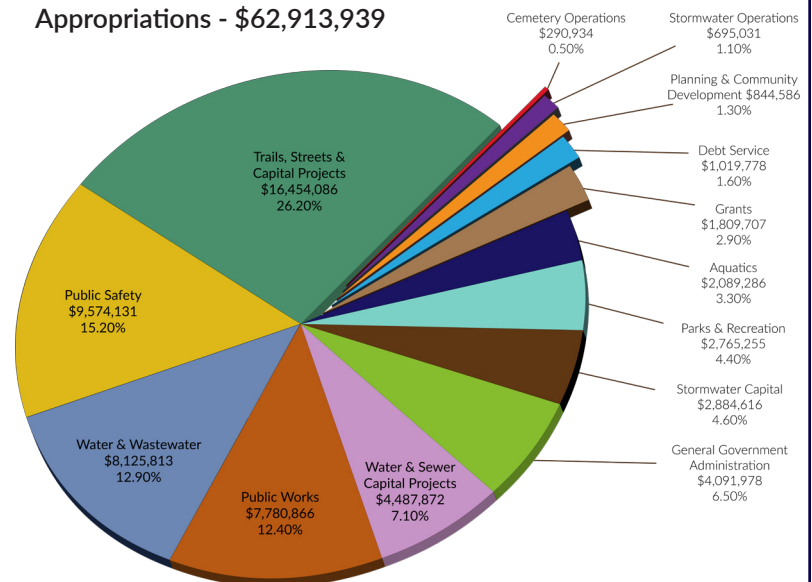
Real estate and personal property tax rates

will remain unchanged.

Three new positions were added: one Rescue supervisor position was created, and two 32-hour Rescue employees were moved to full-time.

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

Appropriations - \$62,913,939



Follow us!



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

Events Calendar

Christiansburg Farmers' Market

Every Thursday through Oct., 3-7 p.m.
Hickok Street NW

Fourth of July Celebration

July 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; downtown Main Street
Fireworks show begins at 9:15 p.m., view from the NRV Mall or Walmart parking lot

Movies in the Park: "The Sandlot"

July 27, movie begins at sundown
Downtown Park

SW VA 811 8-Mile Race & 5k Run/Walk

Aug. 11, race begins at 6:30 a.m.
Christiansburg Recreation Center

Movies in the Park: "The Greatest Showman"

Aug. 24, movie begins at sundown
Downtown Park

Stillborn Speak 5k Run/Walk

Aug. 25, race begins at 8:30 a.m.
Christiansburg Recreation Center

Heritage Day

Aug. 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Montgomery Museum

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

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council Meetings

Held at Town Hall, 100 East Main St.

- Tuesday, July 10, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 24, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 14, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 28, 7 p.m.

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

Closures

Independence Day, July 4

- The Aquatic Center will be closed.
- Town Hall will be closed.
- The Recreation Center will be closed.
- Garbage and recycling normally collected on Wednesdays will be collected on Tuesday, July 3, with Tuesday's regular collection.

Aquatic Center Information

July 13-15, Summer Awards Meet
July 20-21, RVAA City County Meet
July 26-29, Age Group Champs Meet
Aug. 13-24, CAC closed for annual maintenance

Stream restoration improving habitat for native wildlife

If you've been to Depot Park recently, you've probably noticed some changes. These changes are part of the Towne Branch stream restoration project, which will prevent approximately 160 tons of sediment from moving downstream every year. This puts Christiansburg closer to achieving a required reduction in the amount of sediment entering our waterways.

One of the benefits of reducing sediment is a better habitat for native aquatic animals and plants. As part of the project, 700 native trees were planted both behind the split rail fence and downstream of the Skate Park. Additionally, 4,700 native shrubs were planted along the stream's bank to control erosion. These areas were also seeded with native plants.

Planting young trees, shrubs and seeds requires a change in mowing practices. The tall grass you can find along the stream today is a "nurse crop." It sprouts and grows very quickly and helps protect the native plant seeds. Some



of the native plant seeds will germinate this summer as the nurse crop dies. Others will take up to a year to sprout. Mowing the nurse crop would damage the young native plants, trees and shrubs. The goal is to create a well-shaded stream with stable banks and a diverse aquatic animal community. With time and proper care, this area will transform into a native meadow and then a streamside forest.

Community Snapshot



Girl Scouts from Troop 51 plant huckleberries along the Huckleberry Trail in June as part of a service project.

Frequently Asked...

Q: How can I pay my utility bills?

A: You may pay online at <https://utilitybilling.christiansburg.org> or in person at Town Hall, 100 E. Main St. in Christiansburg. You can also set up payments to be automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account through the Direct Payment Plan. Visit Town Hall to set up direct payment. Visa, Mastercard and Discover debit/credit cards are accepted for payment, along with cash, checks and money orders.

Q: How can I monitor my water usage?

A: 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.

Stormwater Survey

As part of the Town's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit, we are gauging the public's perception of stormwater issues and our storm sewer system. If you would like to participate, please visit <https://bit.ly/2lhr1A1> by July 31 to take the survey. You may also complete the survey in person at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, the Christiansburg Recreation Center or Town Hall before the end of July.

The survey does not require any identifying information and is only 11 questions long.



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