

The Christiansburg Connection

Newsletter for the Town of Christiansburg

March/April 2019

Community Corner

Coffee with the Mayor returns March 9 with focus on Town budget



Residents and Town staff discuss initiatives during the first Coffee with the Mayor in August 2018.

Coffee with the Mayor, a monthly series aimed at generating conversations between Town staff, Town Council and residents, will return on March 9 at Great Road on Main. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and last about an hour. Complimentary coffee will be served.

The Town's budget will be the main topic of discussion and Christiansburg's Treasurer and Finance Director, Valerie Tweedie, will be in attendance to answer questions. Copies of the Town's newly published 2017-2018 Citizen Centric Report and a summary of the Town's 2018-2019 budget will be available.

The Coffee with the Mayor event series began in August 2018 to help empower residents with knowledge about their local government.

"This is one way we're reaching out and engaging our citizens. Our goal is to strengthen relationships between the governing body and residents, bolster public perception and strengthen the heart of Christiansburg," Town Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins said of the event series.

Follow us!   

In The Know

Spring is here, and you know what that means...Spring Cleanup is just around the corner! Spring Cleanup will run from April 13-26, and you can read more about this free service for Christiansburg residents on the next page. Our Engineering Department is organizing another type of cleanup in the Diamond Hills Conservation Area on April 13. Join Town staff from 10 a.m. to noon to help pick up garbage along the Diamond Hills Stream.

We've got other events coming up for residents of all ages! Check out the annual NRV Home Expo at the Christiansburg Recreation Center from March 8-10. Admission is \$4. Catch the Easter Bunny at the Great Christiansburg Easter Egg Hunt at Kiwanis Park on April 20 at 10 a.m. Participants must RSVP by calling (540) 382-2349 before 5 p.m. on April 19. Photos with the Easter Bunny will be \$1.

The Aquatic Center is hosting Tackle the Tower—an opportunity for guests to try out the diving boards and 5-meter diving platform—on March 3 and 24, from 2-4 p.m. Scuba enthusiasts are encouraged to attend Open Scuba, which will be held from 4-6 p.m. on March 24. You must bring your own scuba gear.

We'll see you around town!

In the Works: Falling Branch Intersection Improvements Project will address traffic flow on Roanoke Street

The Falling Branch Intersection Improvements Project will consolidate shopping center entrances and add a traffic signal in order to improve safety and traffic flow at this intersection. Construction began in late February and will continue through fall 2019.

The project will replace the two existing entrances to the Gateway Plaza Shopping Center off of Roanoke Street with a new entrance that aligns with Falling Branch Road SE. It will also add a dedicated turn lane on Roanoke Street for vehicles entering the shopping center. Additionally, the project will add a traffic signal, storm drainage, sidewalks, curb and gutter, and street lighting improvements.

The new intersection will help support future private development of two parcels adjacent to the access drive. The new intersection will also support the Emergency Services Building planned for the vacant Town-owned property located between Dude's Drive-In and Danny's Pawn Shop.

The Falling Branch Intersection Improvements Project contract was awarded



to SC Rossi Construction in the amount of \$1,837,967. The project will be partially funded through VDOT's Revenue Sharing 50% matching-fund program, which amounts to a match of \$678,350.

The Gateway Plaza property owner is also contributing \$150,000 toward the project.

The Town has received separate VDOT funding for the future extension of a sidewalk along the north side of Roanoke Street from the new signalized Falling Branch intersection to Hubble Drive. The sidewalk extension project is currently in the early design phase.



Have a question? Let us know!

540-382-6128 ext. 1150
info@christiansburg.org
www.christiansburg.org

Events Calendar

NRV Home Expo

March 8-10, hours vary by day
Christiansburg Recreation Center

Coffee with the Mayor

March 9, 9-10 a.m.
Great Road On Main

Open Scuba

March 24, 4-6 p.m.
Christiansburg Aquatic Center

Virginia Tech's Annual Big Event

April 6
Visit <https://registration.vtbigevent.org>

Diamond Hills Stream Cleanup

April 13, 10 a.m. - noon
Diamond Hills Conservation Area

Great Easter Egg Hunt

April 20, 10-11 a.m.
Kiwanis Park (RSVP with Recreation Center)

GiveBigNRV's Annual Giving Day

April 24
Visit <https://bit.ly/2DFyVw2>

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

Upcoming Meetings & Closures

Upcoming Town Council Meetings

Held at Town Hall, 100 East Main St.

- Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 26, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m.

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

Aquatic Center News*

Fins Summer Camp

Applications available
March 1.

Tackle the Tower

2-4 p.m., March 3 & 24
Cost: CAC admission fee

Adult Learn-to-Swim

Classes begin March 4

Open Scuba

4-6 p.m., March 24
Cost: \$10

Lifeguard Training

March 15-17 and 22-23

Lifeguard Recertification

Class held March 25 &
27, and April 1 & 3.

* Call (540) 381-7665 to register, or for more information.

Don't forget to set items out for Spring Cleanup!

Spring Cleanup will be held from April 13-26. Please place Spring Cleanup items within 10 feet of the street or pavement and separate these items from your regular trash. The Town is not responsible for any items left at or near the street that residents did not intend to have collected.

Though special collection trucks follow regular garbage routes, cleanup may run a day or two behind trash collection schedules, depending on volume. There is no charge for items picked up during Spring Cleanup, but there will be a charge assessed for items placed out after Spring Cleanup.

During Spring Cleanup, the Town will pick up tree and brush trimmings, old furniture, a maximum of two appliances, and up to four tires per household. For a full list of accepted items, please visit www.christiansburg.org/cleanupFAQ.

Please separate brush from other materials. Loose materials must be placed in containers



not exceeding 32 gallons. Leaves must be bagged.

Residents may also choose to set out their brush for monthly brush collection. Please visit www.christiansburg.org/brush to learn about monthly brush collection service, including your collection day.

If it is nearing the end of Spring Cleanup and your items have not been collected yet, please call (540) 382-1151.

Community Snapshot



Town staff made 150 Valentine's Day cards for residents at Commonwealth Senior Living and English Meadows. On February 14, a few employees delivered the cards in person.

Farmers' Market Applications

Vendor applications for the 2019 Christiansburg Farmers' Market season are due April 1. Applications are available at www.christiansburg.org/farmersmarket. Please contact Casey Jenkins with questions at cjenkins@christiansburg.org.

Why I Love Christiansburg

What do you love about living in Christiansburg? Share your story with us by visiting www.christiansburg.org/myhometown, and it might be read aloud at the next Christiansburg Town Council meeting.



Have a question? Let us know!

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Soil conservation strategies for spring

Early spring is a great time to plan yard maintenance. If you see exposed soil, it will erode in the rain and wind. Consider spreading water permeable mulches to help hold water in the soil, prevent rain from eroding the soil, and suppress weed seeds from germinating. Likewise, planting ground covers or seeding bare spots helps the soil retain water and prevents soil erosion.

Soil becomes sediment when moved by wind or water. Christiansburg streams are impaired by sediment, meaning there is enough extra sediment to negatively affect the bottom dwelling animals (benthic macroinvertebrates).

Christiansburg's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requires that we show a reduction in sediment transported to our streams. Employing strategies to keep your soil in place helps achieve this goal. More soil conservation strategies can be found at: <https://ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden/turfandgarden/tips/tags/spring.html>.