

The Christiansburg Connection

Wings and Wheels by Nikki Pynn



MAYOR'S CORNER

Hopefully by now we have endured the last of winter's wrath and can begin looking forward to warmer weather. As they do every year, town crews did a fantastic job of keeping our main roads open and clearing streets in residential neighborhoods.

Though the work of these men and women is most visible during inclement weather events, the entire scope of responsibilities of the Public Works department impacts all of us year round. The department maintains and services the town's fourteen square miles, 250 lane miles and 150 miles of water and sewer lines. They collect garbage, maintain our recycling sites and offer leaf pickup and the ever popular fall and spring cleanups.

This is done in addition to undertaking capital projects, running the wastewater treatment plant, and ensuring our streets look neat and welcoming. In short, Public Works maintains the entire infrastructure of the town. They do it so well, most of us don't even notice.

Out of the approximately 19,400 municipalities in the United States, I consider Christiansburg, and our Public Works department, one of the best.

- D. Michael Barber

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Town Council Meetings

- Town Hall, 100 East Main Street
Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 22 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 26 at 7 p.m.

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

Home Expo: March 11-13
Christiansburg Recreation Center

Easter Egg Hunt: March 26 at 10 a.m.
Downtown Park (next to the Armory)

Spring Cleanup: April 16-30
(see opposite side for more information)

Shred A Thon: April 19 from 3-6 p.m.
Christiansburg Recreation Center

In The Know

Christiansburg has been named a 2016 Local Foods, Local Places community. The Local Foods, Local Places program helps communities increase access to healthy, local food and boost economic development. For more info, please visit www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places.

Speaking of local foods, the Christiansburg Farmers' Market is holding a t-shirt design contest for kids K-12! The winning design will be featured on 2016 Market t-shirts and the winner will receive \$50 cash and \$50 in market money! The competition ends March 31. For more info about this contest, email market@christiansburg.org.

Don't forget that the Christiansburg Recreation Center will be closed for the Home Expo from March 11-13. Be sure to stop by for the locally grown cooking competition on Saturday! For specific closing times, visit www.christiansburg.org/recreation.

Town Names New Planning Director

In February, the Town welcomed new Planning Director Andrew Warren. Warren has 14 years of planning experience and was previously the Senior Planner and Zoning Administrator with the Town of Blacksburg.

Warren takes over for Nichole Hair, who left the Town in December 2015 for a position as Deputy Town Manager in Pulaski, VA.



Monthly Billing Changes

Earlier in the year, utility customers were asked to share their preferred method for the conversion to monthly billing. Survey results indicated that customers preferred to receive two consecutive bills for two months' usage on each bill. To make the switch to monthly billing, customers can expect the following:

March: Customers will be billed for December and January usage.

April: Customers will receive a utility bill for February and March usage.

May: Monthly billing begins. Customers will receive a bill reflecting charges for April's usage.

Please note that late payment penalties and cutoff dates will also move to a monthly schedule. For example, penalty charges will be applied after June 1 for the May utility bill. Services are subject to cutoff if the bill remains unpaid after June 10.

For more information about monthly billing, call the Finance Department at (540) 382-9519.

What is a Stormwater Enterprise Fund?

The Town of Christiansburg is considering implementing a Stormwater Enterprise Fund. A formal recommendation to Town Council is planned for March. This recommendation will include a stormwater utility fee structure and rate.

Christiansburg is bound by state and federal requirements to proactively keep stormwater pollution from entering creeks and streams. These requirements make it necessary for the Town to invest in stormwater management programs, activities, and capital projects. A stormwater enterprise fund provides a balanced approach to meet these needs and would be modeled after similar programs that are already operating throughout communities in Virginia.

see Stormwater (on back)

Frequently Asked... When is Spring Cleanup?

Spring Cleanup will be held from April 16-30.

In general, Spring and Fall Cleanups are held in April and October (approximate).

Residents should place cleanup items alongside their garbage on their regular pick-up day. Special trucks will pick up items not appropriate for normal weekly pick-up. While there is no charge for items picked up during spring clean up, there will be a charge assessed for items placed out after this period.



During clean up, the Town will pick up tree and brush trimmings, old furniture, a maximum of two appliances, and up to four tires per household.

Please separate brush from other materials. Loose materials, except for leaves, must be placed in containers not exceeding 32 gallons.

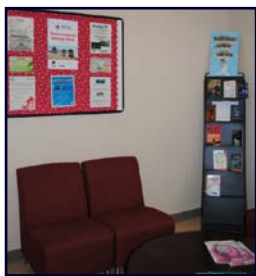
Items must be placed within 10 feet of the street pavement and must be placed in piles separate from normal trash. Please call Town Hall at 382-6120 for clarification before placing out questionable items.

The Town will not be responsible any items left at or near the street that residents did not intend to have hauled away.

*For more info, please visit
www.christiansburg.org/cleanup*

Little Free Libraries

Find your next great read at Depot Park or the Christiansburg Aquatic Center (pictured below)!



Little Free Libraries are for booklovers of all ages. Anyone is free to take or leave a book for someone else to enjoy. The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library (www.mfrrl.org) also has little free library locations on Cambria Street, at the Pilot Mountain School, Community Health Center of the New River Valley, and at the Department of Social Services.

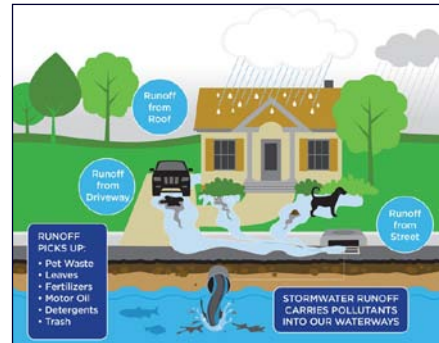
Happy reading!

Stormwater continued...

If approved, a stormwater utility fee would be implemented as part of the stormwater enterprise fund and be included in all utility bills.

To determine a stormwater utility fee, the current proposal takes into account the cost of meeting stormwater requirements and determines the average square footage of impervious surface (hard surfaces that shed rain water, such as driveways, roofs, walkways, and patios) of a residential unit, which would set a baseline for the stormwater utility fee.

The average amount of residential impervious surface will determine the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), which represents the median value of impervious surface for all single-family residences in town. This means that each single family residential property would count as one ERU. If approved, the Town would charge \$6/monthly per ERU.



If you live in a single family residence with your own water meter, your total stormwater utility fee would cost \$6/monthly. All single-family residences would pay the same rate.

For all other properties that are not single family residences, the stormwater utility fee would be assessed by dividing the total square footage of the property by the standard ERU rate. A tiered system is then used to determine the property's monthly stormwater utility fee.

A dedicated source of funding for stormwater improvement and maintenance will allow the Town to undertake projects that will help:

- reduce flooding of roadways and private properties
- improve water quality in our creeks and streams
- improve maintenance and inspection frequency of existing stormdrain systems to help ensure proper working order.

The stormwater utility fee is proposed be implemented in the July 2016 utility bill.

A public hearing for the proposed Stormwater Enterprise Fund will be scheduled in the coming months. Please be sure to check your utility bills or www.christiansburg.org for upcoming information.

For more detailed information about stormwater and the proposed stormwater utility fund, please visit www.christiansburg.org/stormwater.

Snapshot! Town photos & events



Christiansburg Rescue presented 35 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to the Christiansburg Police Department in February. These AEDs are now deployed in patrol cars to assist with emergency response throughout the community.

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