

THE HRHA NEWSLETTER

News, announcements, and more from the
Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority



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Interested in subscribing? Questions?
Reach out to
vhill@harrisonburgrha.com

HRHA Accepting Scholarship Applications Now!

Scholarship awards will be given to selected **HRHA residents or voucher holders** who have maintained their **HRHA residence for six months before April 28, 2023**. The scholarship amount is **\$500 per semester, up to \$1,000 per year**, and is renewable as long as requirements are met. All applicants must graduate from high school no later than June 30, 2023. Funds are to be used beginning with the Fall Semester 2023 school year.

Complete and sign the HRHA application form or submit a copy of your VAHCDO scholarship application and letters of recommendation. Any attachment not requested will not be used in evaluating the application.

The following MUST be submitted with the application:

- A copy of high school transcripts listing Grade Point Average (GPA) and Class Ranking - minimum 2.5 GPA, or if your school does not track GPA, a 900 SAT score or 17 ACT score.
- Two **SIGNED** letters supporting the character, achievements, and potential for education and career advancement of the applicant. One of the letters **MUST** be from a school official (principal, counselor, teacher, etc.). The other letter must be from a minister, coach, employer, or any person with significant knowledge of the applicant.

Applications and supporting documents must be received by April 28, 2023. Applications and documents may be dropped off at HRHA offices or scanned and emailed to Jacques Mushagasha at the contact details listed below. The application period opens on March 1, 2023.

Click here or scan the QR code to view the application page

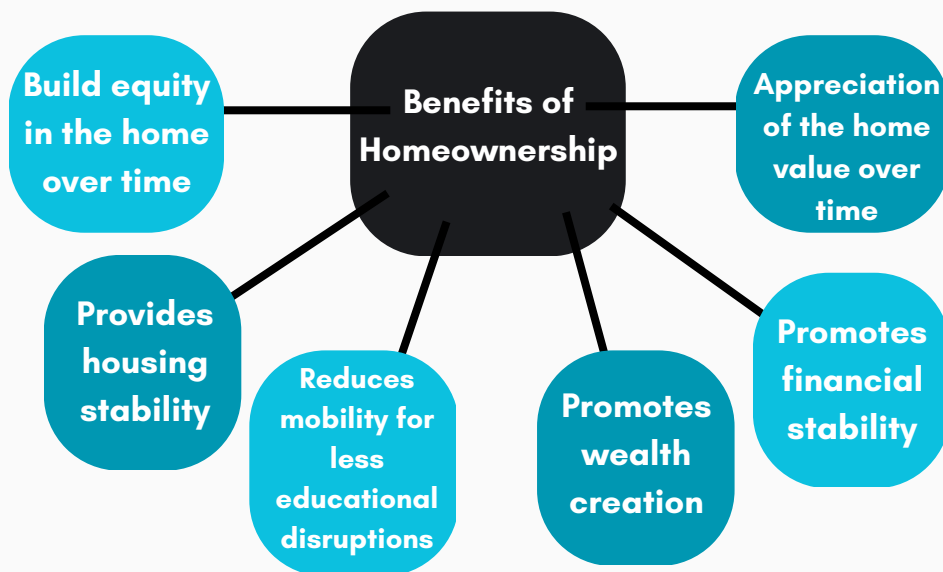


Jacques Mushagasha
JMushagasha@harrisonburgrha.com
(540) 434-7386 ext. 1103

First-time Homebuyer Workshop



This March 21st, HRHA collaborated with Branch Manager and Mortgage Loan Officer Michael Sabarre of Tidewater Mortgage Services to bring the community a First-time Homebuyer workshop. This workshop highlighted the fundamental steps in the home-buying process to educate residents not only to be prepared educationally simply but financially as well. Through this workshop, we aimed to help increase awareness of both expected and unexpected costs associated with homeownership. Being prepared with one side without the other may lead to unforeseen situations. This is why HRHA strives to give members of our community the opportunity and access to such events as these to give community members the financial and educational tools for empowerment for their futures.



Bluestone Town Center Approval

On February 28th, the Harrisonburg City Council voted favorably in the approval of the Bluestone Town Center. We would like to thank every supporter that has signed, shared, and helped to support the development. We would also like to thank the many local organizations for speaking up and attending public meetings to support the development and sending letters of support.

In the coming months, you can expect that the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority and EquityPlus will work tirelessly with City Council to bring together the Bluestone Town Center over 8-10 years, thus adding much-needed housing to our tight housing market in the forms of single-family homes, townhomes, family apartments, and senior housing. Approval for this development was only possible with the continued support of community members like you.

Executive Director's Corner



HRHA received HUD's approval of its Moving to Work (MTW) supplement and is excited about announcing the implementation of the various activities beginning May 1, 2023. HRHA's MTW focus is improving housing choice, expanding self-sufficiency, and increasing program efficiencies.

These include a new landlord and FSS incentive program and changes to the certification and income calculation process. Additional program information will be distributed to all residents and program participants in early April, along with scheduled listening and communication sessions for residents and community stakeholders to learn more about the different activities and opportunities.

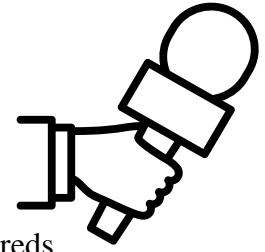
HRHA is also establishing an MTW advisory committee comprising community stakeholders, residents, Family Self Sufficiency, and Housing Choice Voucher participants to increase input on the various activities.

If interested in participating, please contact your property manager, FSS coordinator, or your HCV specialist. Also, check out our website for updated information. Thanks again for your patience as we worked through the HUD approval and implementation process.

In service,
Michael Wong



Staff Highlight: Nehemias Velez



HRHA manages a variety of programs, grants, and initiatives. We serve hundreds of families through housing vouchers, programs like Family Self-Sufficiency, and city-wide campaigns. Through 2023, we plan to highlight members of the HRHA team who make this work possible.

1. What is your role in HRHA?

I am the property manager for all of Franklin Heights overseeing a total of 129 units in the project.

2. What is one of your favorite aspects of working with HRHA?

When I am able to help people overcome their hurdles, specifically when our clients become self-sufficient and are able to own their homes.

3. What is one unique fun fact others may not know about you?

I have a heart for dogs, and my Staffy Luna has helped me realize how special dogs are.

4. Name someone dead or alive you would like to have a meal with and why! If I could have a meal with anyone dead or alive, it would be Thomas Aquinas. His philosophy and theology impacted the West in so many ways; hence, I would love to have had conversations with the man about so many things.

5. What is the best career lesson you've learned so far?

Don't be afraid to ask questions or to ask for help (after you've tried to find the answer yourself, of course).

6. What do you wish more people in our community knew about affordable housing, our families, or the voucher program? Housing is part of the puzzle in solving poverty. Education, family cohesion, good role models, and love could be answers to solving poverty in a more meaningful way. As such, the community plays a role in our success.



Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority

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+ *JR Polly Lineweaver &*
Lineweaver Annex Apartments



To reach all HRHA offices, call: (540) 434-7386

Website



www.harrisonburgrha.com

Facebook



@harrisonburgrha

HRHA Board of Commissioners

HRHA is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners appointed by the Harrisonburg City Council. The Board establishes the Authority's policies and procedures and appoints the Executive Director.

Board of Commissioner meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 4:00PM. Meeting location/access will be posted prior to meetings and in line with local health guidelines.

+ Michael Wong, (Not a commissioner)
Executive Director/Secretary-Treasurer

- + Christine Fasching Maphis - Vice Chair
Term Expires: November 29, 2022
- + Kevin Coffman - Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2023
- + Luciano Benjamin - Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2024
- + Gil Colman - Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2025
- + Shonda Green - Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2025



Job Opening: Procurement/Inventory Specialist



The Procurement/Inventory Specialist prepares, organizes, and coordinates all contract and procurement functions for the Authority by tracking, invoicing, and receiving goods and services. Maintains accurate inventory through software programs and physical count. To learn more details regarding this position, scan the QR code!