

THE HRHA NEWSLETTER

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



HRHA Fall Banquet Celebration

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This September marks HRHA’s very first Fall Banquet Celebration. This special banquet is dedicated in part to celebrating our community partners, who play a critical role in providing additional support for our residents in areas beyond housing. This event also recognizes and highlights the inspiring resident success stories through HRHA’s programs. Through this special celebration, HRHA recognized a mix of individuals and organizations in the areas of landlord or property manager, community advocate, public service, and sponsorship awards.

These individuals and organizations have demonstrated outstanding dedication and service through their work to contribute to our local community. We also paid special acknowledgments to HRHA’s first-ever scholarship winner, who has gone on to attend a local university. Our first-ever reading program winners in the categories of the most books read, best-written response in their reading log, and community garden reading winner! As well as our Master Gardeners, who have helped residents in the Kelley Street Garden grow their vegetables throughout the year.

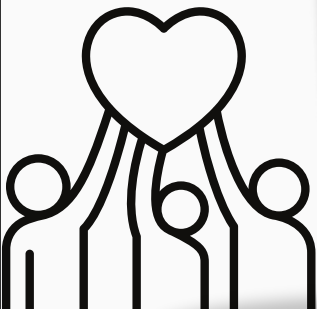
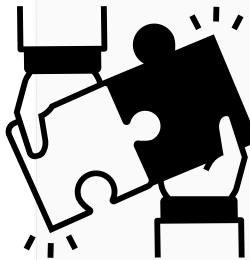
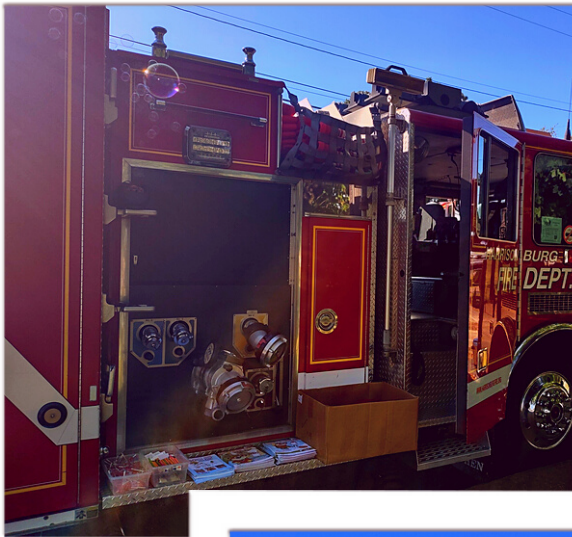
Interested in subscribing? Questions?
Contact
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Back to School Bash



On August 18th, HRHA held its Back to School Bash once again for the fall school season! This event is centered on providing backpacks filled with free school supplies for students in our Family Self-Sufficiency program. In addition to the backpacks, HRHA invited six local organizations to participate in this event. These organizations were provided the opportunity to connect with the residents to share information about the services and resources that are available to them.

Youth that attended this event were given a “passport” in which they were to visit every booth that hosted a local organization to receive a stamp. However, special exceptions were made for two booths. Instead of a booth, the Harrisonburg Fire Department brought one of its firetrucks. Many youth took advantage of the opportunity to explore and learn more about the firetruck and fun and important tips regarding fire safety! The second exception would be in addition to a traditional booth; the Gus Bus organization brought its mobile bus for the youth to explore!



Executive Director's Corner



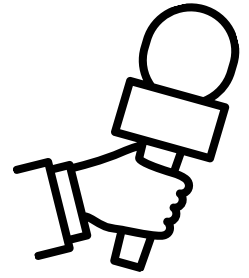
Staff have been active in community outreach activities, applying for grant funding and updating and revising its annual, MTW, and administrative plans for public comment. These activities are consistent with the Agency's goals of expanding its community outreach and maximizing resident's self-sufficiency. The revised plans outline the Authority's goals and objectives for 2024 and are consistent and aligned with initiatives identified through this past year's strategic planning processes. Information is available on our website, and we welcome any public comment.

In service,

Michael G. Wong, Executive Director

Staff Highlight: Annie Pangle

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?

HCV Inspector

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

I like working for an organization that does the important and necessary work of helping to house people from our community. I also like getting to know the clients themselves.

3. Do you have any goals or aspirations in your position?

To be knowledgeable of the housing standards that are put in place to help provide safe housing and to be able to communicate well with tenants and landlords alike.

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

I love to watch Professional Bull Riding. :)

5. What do you wish more people in our community knew about affordable housing, our families, or the voucher program?

I think people still have no idea how very little affordable housing there is, the very meager amount of income people on disability receive, and how hard it is to receive 900.00 a month in disability and then try to pay rent for a one-bedroom apartment that costs more than what their income is. The voucher program is the only way that some people are able to afford housing and not be on the streets.

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

The same lessons I learned in my previous work apply here as well.

Treating others with dignity, compassion, and patience, no matter what their story is, and never assuming that you know what someone has been through or is going through.



Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority

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

Website



www.harrisonburgrha.com

Facebook



[@harrisonburgrha](https://www.facebook.com/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

- + 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
- + Kenneth Kettler - Commissioner
Term Expires: February 1, 2024
- + Amanda Leech - Commissioner
Term Expires: October 13, 2024
- + Janet E. Rogers - Commissioner
Term Expires: April 25, 2027

Upcoming Events: Financial Workshop



HRHA is excited to work with United Bank to provide a financial literacy class! During the month of September, HRHA's FSS program collected survey responses regarding financial topics participants wanted to learn more about. The most requested class will be held in October!