

THE HRHA NEWSLETTER

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



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The Importance of Financial Literacy

On October 19th, HRHA collaborated with United Bank to present its "What to Know about Credit Cards and Credit Repair" financial workshop. Attendees from this workshop learned the basics of using and selecting the best credit card for one's best use in terms of being aware of credit card terms and policies. As well as how to leverage one's credit card usage to impact their credit score positively.

The workshop instructors gave an in-depth explanation regarding not only credit scores but credit reports as well. They explained how to request your free credit report and reviewed each section of the credit report, including providing information regarding what to do if there are errors on your credit report. This workshop was a platform for learning vital financial tips and allowing attendees to ask questions about specific circumstances they faced individually to learn how to effectively move forward. HRHA thanks United Bank for its dedication to giving back to the community through increasing financial literacy within the local area of Harrisonburg.

Interested in subscribing? Questions?
Contact
vhill@harrisonburgrha.com

United Bank & HRHA Book



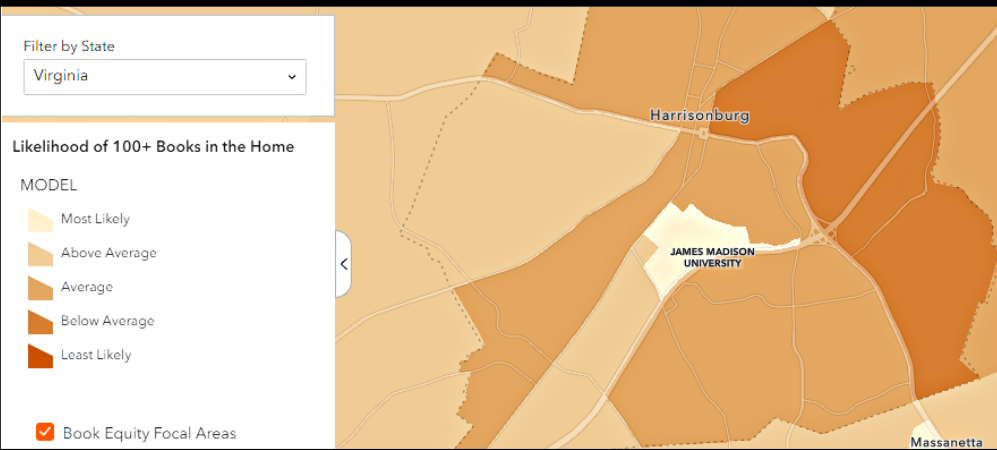
Drive



Do you know what a book desert is?

A book desert represents an area where print books and other materials are relatively hard to access without transportation. In the image below, you will see a book desert map from Unitebooks.com that demonstrates the likelihood of a number of households with at least 100 books relative to other households in the area. The darker the color, the less likelihood of having at least 100 books within the home.

HRHA has several little free libraries within its properties. Some of which were used in our Garden Grove of Books reading program. In the first year of this reading program, over 200 books have been read, and \$100, \$75, and \$50 prizes were awarded to local youth for their hard work and accomplishments in the program! Through this collaboration with United Bank and the community's overwhelming support, we received hundreds, if not nearly a thousand or more books! HRHA would like to thank United Bank and the community for recognizing the need and importance of literacy!



United Bank & HRHA Staff during the final book pick-up for the Book Drive!



Executive Director's Corner



As we approach the holiday season, we are thankful for HRHA's staff, Board of Commissioners, and our community partners for their service and dedication to increasing housing opportunities and expanding resident success. This has been an exciting year with many challenges and successes with the approval of Bluestone Town Center, Commerce Village II, and the implementation of Move to Work.

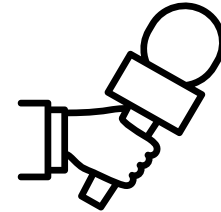
We recently held our first community advisory board meeting and look forward to incorporating our residents' voices into our goals and activities. Much of this work will build a foundation supporting our strategic plan of expanding housing and increasing our community support.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season,

Michael G. Wong, Executive Director

Staff Highlight: Mary Walala

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?

Housing Choice Voucher Manager

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

I enjoy being part of an agency that is able to provide much-needed assistance to better our community.

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

I would like to see increased housing opportunities for those who are marginalized and most vulnerable in our community e.g. the homeless and the elderly.

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

I wish people would give those seeking affordable housing a chance and not judge them too quickly. People who need housing assistance come from a variety of circumstance but are stereotyped and most of the time this stigma prevents them from becoming productive members of society. Housing is foundational for healthy communities. We can all work together to build this foundation that ultimately makes our community a safer and healthier place to live.



Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority

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Lineweaver and Lineweaver
Annex



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: The Community Give Back

HRHA will be holding its Community Give Back again this December! This event is focused on providing items such as books, toys, and other items to families in our Family Self-Sufficiency program. Last year, over 50 bags of items were reserved, and this year, we have 60 bags available to help our participants during the holiday season!

