

THE HRHA NEWSLETTER

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



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Empowering Financial Wellness in Our Communities

On October 17th, HRHA partnered with Truist to offer an online credit repair workshop to equip attendees with practical strategies to improve their credit scores. Participants learned the essentials of interpreting their credit reports, giving them critical insights into their financial health.

With expert guidance, they explored effective methods to boost their credit scores, making securing loans for significant purchases like a home or car easier. The workshop also offered resources and tools to take the first steps toward building higher credit scores.

Attendees engaged in interactive polls, true-and-false questions, and a Q&A session that debunked common misconceptions about credit, ensuring participants left with a clear understanding of critical topics. The HRHA is proud to have worked closely with Truist and its team members to bring this essential knowledge to the community, helping individuals pursue their goals and make informed financial decisions.

Educating Communities with Safety Awareness

On November 7th, HRHA collaborated with the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) to spread awareness for essential safety tips for residents to enhance security at home and in the community. The discussion, led by a local law enforcement officer, highlighted the importance of community collaboration in helping to build a safe community. Residents were encouraged to assist law enforcement by reporting suspicious activity through a new anonymous system.

The public can submit anonymous tips to the Harrisonburg PD by texting HPDVA and the tip information to 847411 or downloading the Harrisonburg PD app via the Apple App Store or Google Play App Store.

Key advice from the event included protecting personal information, how to avoid scams, and practicing caution with unknown calls or messages. The officer also shared practical home security tips, such as checking visitors' identities before opening the door, keeping balconies clear of potential break-in tools, and leaving a light on when away to deter intruders.

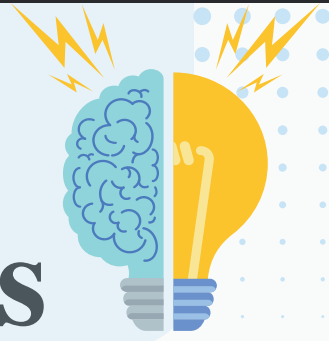
From Seed to Success: HRHA Garden Thrive in 2024



The Kelley Street Garden wrapped up a successful six-month gardening season in mid-October, during which HRHA-supported residents cultivated vegetables in one of the garden's 11 beds, benefiting from guidance by master gardeners. These experts offered support at bi-monthly meetings, assisting with crop selection, planting techniques, and other common challenges to help each gardener have a rewarding and educational experience.

To celebrate the season's achievements, HRHA and James Madison University (JMU) Dining Services hosted a pizza party for the gardeners. They also provided materials to winterize the beds for the winter months. The JMU gardening club, JMGrew, volunteered to help with winter preparations, underscoring the strong community partnerships that made the season memorable. HRHA looks forward to continued collaboration and growth, aiming to make the 2025 season just as impactful.

Housing Misconceptions



We hope to foster a more informed and supportive community by providing accurate information. It is important to challenge these myths to ensure that all individuals have equal access to the resources they need. Together, we can build a more inclusive and compassionate environment.

Misconception:

“All housing assistance properties are of poor quality.”

The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) standards for health and safety for all units used for voucher recipients must meet this standard before individuals or families move into the unit.

In July 2024, HRHA began using new inspection standards to continue preserving and maintaining safe and equitable living conditions for voucher recipients.



Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority

Contact Us

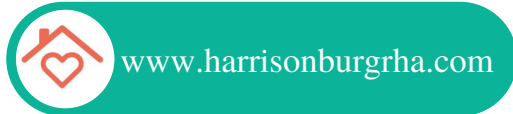
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 To reach all HRHA offices, call: (540) 434-7386

Website



Facebook



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, 2027
- + Luciano Benjamin - Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2028
- + Gil Colman - Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2025
- + Shonda Green - Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2025
- + Kenneth Kettler - Commissioner
Term Expires: February 1, 2028
- + Amanda Leech - Commissioner
Term Expires: October 13, 2028
- + Janet Awkard-Rogers - Commissioner
Term Expires: April 25, 2027