

THE HRHA NEWSLETTER

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



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Guiding Future Homebuyers Forward

On February 27th, HRHA partnered with SERCAP Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project to host an informative and engaging Homeownership Workshop to help participants take meaningful steps toward homeownership. This session welcomed residents and FSS participants who were eager to learn more about the home-buying process in a supportive and approachable environment.

Throughout the workshop, attendees were guided through each stage of the home-buying journey—from understanding credit and budgeting to exploring loan options and available assistance programs. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, gain clarity on common challenges, and receive expert advice from trusted housing professionals. Attendees also learned about local resources and next steps they can take to continue progressing toward homeownership after the session. The workshop created a space for participants to feel more confident and informed as they begin planning for their future.

Events like this reflect HRHA’s commitment to expanding opportunities for long-term stability and empowering families to achieve their homeownership goals.

Cultivating Skills, Connection, and Fresh Beginnings



On February 17th, HRHA partnered with the Central Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners to host a lively and hands-on Garden Festival at Lucy F. Simms. This family-friendly event brought residents together for an evening filled with interactive learning, creativity, and community connection.

Participants explored a variety of educational stations, learning the basics of gardening, discovering tips for growing their own food, and engaging in fun, hands-on activities suitable for all ages. After visiting each station, attendees were rewarded with a basil-growing kit—complete with a terra-cotta pot, soil pod, seeds, and instructions—so they could begin their own mini garden at home.

The event also provided information on how to get involved with the Kelley St. Garden Club or request a personal garden bed. Events like the Garden Festival highlight HRHA's commitment to building community, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and creating opportunities for residents to learn new skills in an engaging and meaningful way.



Building Healthy Habits in Action



On March 19th, HRHA hosted a virtual wellness workshop titled Design Your Nutrition & Health: A Step-by-Step Blueprint, led by Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Holly A. Van Poots. This interactive session invited participants to take a closer look at their personal health goals and begin building a nutrition plan that fits their unique lifestyle.

During the webinar, attendees worked step-by-step through practical strategies to improve their eating habits, better understand nutrition information, and cut through the confusion of conflicting advice. With guided instruction and accompanying materials, participants were able to actively create their own personalized wellness “blueprint” in real time. This workshop provided a valuable opportunity for individuals and families to invest in their health while gaining tools they can use every day.



Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority

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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

- + Gil Colman - Chair- Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2029
- + Luciano Benjamin - Vice Chair- Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2028
- + Amanda Morris - Commissioner
Term Expires: November 29, 2027
- + Anthony Hayes - Commissioner
Term Expires: February 11, 2028
- + Amanda Leech - Commissioner
Term Expires: October 13, 2028
- + Janet Awkard-Rogers - Commissioner
Term Expires: April 25, 2027