

# THE HRHA NEWSLETTER

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



Lineweaver- 2022  
Photo by Victoria Hill

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Interested in subscribing? Questions?  
Contact Victoria Hill  
Resident Services and Communications  
Coordinator  
vhill@harrisonburgrha.com

## Community Outreach



HRHA is dedicated to helping serve our residents, individuals, and families receiving housing vouchers. Despite 2022 nearly flying by, HRHA has created several events in the past few months not only to foster higher resident engagement but also to help create and strengthen relationships with our community members.

In June 2022, HRHA collaborated with FUGE summer camps to host an event known as "Community Connections." This event was inspired by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Strong Families Initiatives.

This program focuses on topics such as health, education, and economic empowerment. In June, HRHA focused on the areas of health and education to bring our residents a day of fun in the sun, filled with outdoor games, a basketball tournament, and increased awareness of sustainability (as pictured below)! HRHA strives not only to bring financial, employment, and housing resources to our residents but also to create an environment that embodies a sense of community.



# Kelley Street Garden Dinner

On July 23rd, HRHA collaborated with James Madison University (JMU) again for the second annual Kelley Street Garden Dinner. This annual event celebrates and highlights the achievements of our Franklin Heights residents in their hard work and success in creating and maintaining flourishing garden plots. It also celebrates local Master Gardeners who have spent time with residents not only giving advice on how their vegetables can thrive, but also providing fun activities for kids and adults alike to enjoy while learning about gardening! Some garden vegetables produced this year have been tomatoes, cucumbers, green bell peppers, peas, okra, and much more!

This year some of the event highlight activities were a free and fully catered meal by JMU's Executive Chef James Routhier, cornhole board games, music, as well as a live cooking demonstration! As shown below, Chef Martin did a live demonstration on how residents can make their own simple and easy pickled vegetables to enjoy with some of their favorite meals. HRHA would like to extend a large thank you to JMU's dining staff, James Routhier, and Ben Rosenberger for working with HRHA to put on this amazing event.



Photo Taken by Ben Rosenberger

## Upcoming Financial Wellness Workshop

On September 22nd, HRHA will collaborate with Community and Business Development Manager Sarah Landram, of Dupont Community Credit Union, to conduct a financial wellness workshop for Franklin Heights residents. This workshop is called "Five Factors That Affect Your Credit Score." It will focus on educating residents about elements that influence their credit scores, as well as tips and tricks on how to repair credit and increase future credit scores.

For more information, follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/harrisonburgrha>.



## Executive Director's Corner



HRHA continues to focus on achieving its goals and objectives established for 2022. These include expanding housing options within the City, preserving affordable housing, improving housing choice, and increasing resources to address the housing needs in our community.

These are significant goals established by the Board of Commissioners to address local housing challenges and implement evidence-based, long-term solutions. HRHA is currently finalizing its rezoning application for the Bluestone Town Center, developing construction plans for the Lineweaver renovation project, applying for funding to develop another permanent supportive housing development to address the needs of the unhoused, and applying for resources to further expand rental assistance.

All of these initiatives are in addition to our core housing functions of rental assistance, property management, supportive services, and homeless services coordination.

HRHA recognizes that achievement is only possible due to staff's commitment to the mission and vision and the on-going community support provided to address these community needs and challenges.

In service,

- Michael Wong



# Staff Highlight: Tiffany T. Runion

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 2022, we plan to highlight members of the HRHA team who make this work possible.

## 1. What is one of your favorite aspects of working at HRHA?

We are about to implement a new program called Moving to Work. Moving to Work is so exciting—our families will have more opportunities to become self-sufficient, we'll have more opportunities to recruit new landlords into our Housing Choice Voucher program and work closely with our existing landlords, and we'll be able to re-conceptualize the work of our Housing Choice Voucher team, giving them the chance to work more closely with our families and landlords. Our staff has so many great ideas for this program! I can't wait to integrate staff ideas and see the benefits of this new program for the families we serve.

## 2. What is your role with HRHA?

Deputy Director

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

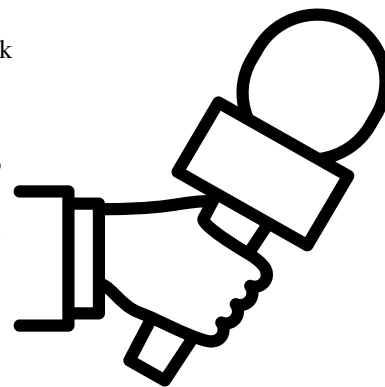
Of course! Last year, we implemented a new software program, and I keep hearing stories (I didn't work here yet) about how the team came together during that time. They learned together, they taught one another, and they took the time to problem solve with each other. From this experience, they built stronger bonds with each other. I want to continue to build those bonds of teamwork and see our departments all working together, to continue to celebrate accomplishments with one another, and to learn from one another.

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

I love to cook from scratch with in-season, local ingredients. My current favorites are potato soup, stuffed pepper soup, and homemade pizza.

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

Life as we knew it changed when COVID hit, impacting people's personal and professional lives in ways that we never imagined. Working through COVID has reminded me to listen more and speak less, and to give patience and grace, both to myself and everyone else that I encounter. We'll never know all of the challenges or hardships that our families or even our co-workers are facing, but if we act with kindness and respect with everyone we meet, we are sure to find some common ground.



# Welcome Victoria, Jacques, and Tiffany!

HRHA is pleased to welcome Victoria Hill, Jacques Mushagasha, and Tiffany T. Runion!

**Jacques Mushagasha**— Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator



**Tiffany T. Runion**— Deputy Director



**Victoria Hill**— Resident Services & Communications Coordinator





# Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority

## Contact Us

### + HRHA Main Office

286 Kelley St

PO Box 1071 (22803)

Harrisonburg VA, 22802

Phone: (540)-434-7386

Fax: (540)-432-1113

### + HRHA Reservoir Office

FSS Program, HMIS, COC

143 Reservoir St

Harrisonburg VA, 22801

Phone: (540)-437-9545

Fax: (540)-432-1113

### + HRHA Commerce Village

Waiting List & Applications

Phone: (540)-615-5557

Fax: (540)-615-5558

### + HRHA Lineweaver & Annex

Phone: (540)-433-0788

## Website



[www.harrisonburgrha.com](http://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

+ Dany Fleming - Chair

Term Expires: November 29, 2023

+ 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, 2021

+ Shonda Green - Commissioner

Term Expires: November 29, 2024

## Back to School Bash

HRHA was happy to serve our community once again by providing back-to-school supplies for our residents. Our Family Self-Sufficiency staff worked with local organizations not only to help raise awareness but also to bring resources to residents. Over 50 backpacks filled with supplies were distributed to prepare students to succeed this school year! Thanks to The Gus Bus, Skyline Literacy, Massanutten Regional Library, Radical Roots Farm and Central Shenandoah Health District for making this event a success!

