

THE HRHA NEWSLETTER

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



In this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| HRHA's Commitment to Empowering Individuals & Families..... | 1 |
| The Business | |
| Spark..... | 2 |
| Educational Landlord | |
| Event..... | 2 |
| New Staff | |
| Members..... | 2 |
| Housing Misconceptions... | 3 |
| Contact & Board of Commissioners..... | 4 |

HRHA's Commitment to Empowering Individuals & Families

In 2024, the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) set various goals for this year, including reaching 100 individuals and families in our Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, which was achieved in June! Dedicated to providing supportive services, HRHA assists participants in pursuing career advancement by assisting in the payment of classes and trainings, such as CDL courses and English Learning classes.

Other services offered include access to technology with loaner laptops, financial literacy and budgeting assistance, and robust job seeker preparation services. This commitment to empowering individuals and families continues to drive our initiatives, helping them achieve greater self-sufficiency and improved quality of life. As we celebrate this milestone, we are inspired to set even higher goals for the future.

Our focus remains on expanding our services and reaching more community members in need. We are grateful for our partners' support and dedication. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient community.

The Business Spark

HRHA collaborated with the Shenandoah Community Capital Fund this July to bring our residents "The Business Spark." This event helped to bring aspiring entrepreneurs into a focused workshop to work on and develop critical business skills and knowledge.

This event focused on several topics, such as idea development, in which participants share their business ideas and receive feedback in a focused group. Participants learned how to leverage their experiences in their respective fields to inspire trust and confidence not only in their customers but also within themselves. They also discussed actionable steps for aspiring business owners to take their first confident step towards making their dreams a reality.

Educational Landlord Event

In July, the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) partnered with the City of Harrisonburg, Blue Ridge Legal Services, and Rockingham County to host an informative and educational event for current and prospective landlords. This event addressed and clarified various critical topics essential to successful property management, including licenses, leases, laws, and liabilities.

Understanding the complexities of landlord-tenant relationships and property management can be daunting. With changing regulations and the intricate nature of legal responsibilities, landlords need to stay informed and updated. Recognizing this need, HRHA and the City of Harrisonburg brought together experts to share their knowledge and provide key insights.

This collaborative effort underscores these organizations' commitment to supporting our community's landlords by providing them with the resources and knowledge they need to manage their properties effectively and legally. We are proud to facilitate these educational opportunities and contribute to a more informed and prepared landlord community.

New Staff Member



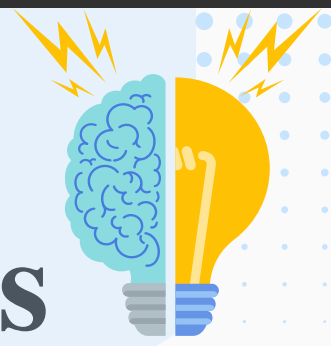
**Community
Development & Grant
Coordinator**

Charles Eichelman

The Harrisonburg Redevelopment Housing Authority (HRHA) is proud to share some exciting news! We are proud to announce our new Community Development & Grant Coordinator, Charles Eichelman, to our team.

Stay tuned for more details on our efforts as a team as we continue to strive for excellence in meeting the housing needs of our community.

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:

“Housing assistance is only for the unemployed.”

The reality is that many housing choice voucher recipients are working individuals or families. The program aims to help low-income families, the elderly, and disabled individuals. It does not require individuals to be unemployed; it assesses applicants based on various factors to determine eligibility.

For many, housing choice vouchers help enable many individuals and families to be able to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing while they work or care for their families.



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

+ Kevin Coffman - Commissioner

Term Expires: November 29, 2027

+ 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, 2028

+ Amanda Leech - Commissioner

Term Expires: October 13, 2024

+ Janet Awkard-Rogers - Commissioner

Term Expires: April 25, 2027