

THE HRHA NEWSLETTER

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



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From Feedback to Action: HRHA's Commitment to Residents

HRHA is excited to embark on a new year of service and growth in 2025. HRHA has held a steadfast commitment to empowering and supporting our residents. In alignment with that commitment, HRHA closed out 2024 by surveying participants in our Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program. This survey gave participants a voice in shaping the events and resources offered in 2025, ensuring our efforts align with their needs, goals, and aspirations.

For those unfamiliar with the FSS Program, it is designed to help individuals and families achieve greater self-sufficiency through initiatives that promote financial wellness, job training, education, and more. This year's survey results revealed that our participants prioritize goals related to homeownership, mental health, and credit repair. Guided by this feedback, HRHA will focus on providing targeted workshops, resources, and support to help residents overcome challenges and achieve their dreams in the year ahead.

HRHA Hosts Third Annual Community Give Back Event

In December 2024, HRHA proudly hosted its third annual Community Give Back event, which began in 2022 to support our residents during the holiday season. This year, 50-holiday assistance bags were made and distributed to families. Of the 50 bags, 44 were provided to families with more than one child, underscoring the financial challenges that households with larger families face.

The event continues to highlight the importance of giving back to our community.

Many of the items provided for the event are donated by the community, which also gives back to it. Thanks to the support of our growing community partners, this year's event offered more items to those in need. United Bank contributed winter coats through its coat drive, ensuring children stay warm through the colder months.

Additionally, JMU Dining sweetened the holiday season by donating fresh sugar and chocolate chip cookies to families. These partnerships have helped make the winter warmer and the holidays brighter for the youth in our community, showing the power of collaboration in creating a positive impact.

Bluestone Town Center Updates

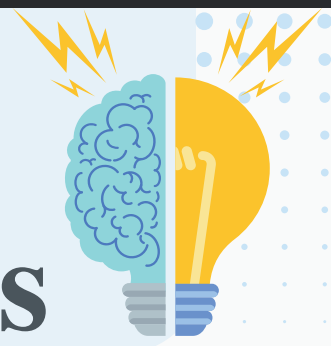


As the construction process begins for Bluestone Town Center, we'll be sharing the steps to bring affordable mixed-income housing and service-oriented commercial space to Harrisonburg.

Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you don't miss any updates about Bluestone Town Center, including construction timelines and general updates.

If you're already subscribed, take a moment to update your preferences to ensure you're receiving the latest news. Not on our list yet? Join today! Subscribe or update your preferences here: <https://tinyurl.com/BluestoneTCUpdates>

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:

“Only urban areas have affordable housing needs.”

Housing affordability is commonly associated with urban areas, though individuals and families in rural communities face similar challenges. Factors such as limited housing stock, slower housing market growth, and fewer rental options can increase housing costs in these regions. Additionally, longer commute times and limited public transportation add to the challenges faced by individuals and families in rural communities.



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, 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