



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release – Aug. 2, 2022

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Beloved Harrisonburg Fire Museum reopens to public

HARRISONBURG, Va. – A unique collection of Harrisonburg’s fire-fighting history has now reopened for the public to enjoy and learn from.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department’s Fire Museum, closed for some time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resumed self-guided tours this week. Visitors to the area and residents of the Valley alike can discover the history of the Harrisonburg Fire Department dating back to the early 1800s.

Located on the third floor of the Public Safety Building, 101 N. Main St., the museum takes visitors back in time by featuring historic dispatch and fire memorabilia such as uniforms, medals, equipment, old fire alarms and photographs. Extensive stories of major incidents in the city are highlighted through news reports, photographs, and videos. Many of the items on display have been donated by former firefighters and their families.

The museum is both entertaining and educational, and contains items of interest for the young and the young at heart. It is a perfect destination for those who have a deep interest in history and/or the fire service. Named after the department’s longest serving fire chief, Larry W. Shifflett, the museum is dedicated to being a place where people can come to appreciate, learn and reminisce.

Those that visit are provided the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich history of the fire service. One of the many highlights of the museum is allowing visitors the opportunity to try on firefighter gear, which is a fun activity for adults as well as children.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department Museum welcomes visitors Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and observed City holidays. Visitors must first check-in at the lobby of the Public Safety Building before visiting the Fire Museum upstairs.

For more information about special event tours for children, please contact the Community Risk Reduction Division at (540) 432-7703 during business hours. Parking is available at the Elizabeth Street Parking Deck.



(Top) HFD Retired Fire Chief Larry Shifflett speaks about items in the Fire Museum. (Bottom) Some of the historic pieces available to view in the museum.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department is an ISO-Class II All-Hazards agency providing essential emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the public who live, work and travel in Harrisonburg. More information about the Fire Department is available on-line at www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire or on Facebook[®], Twitter[®] and Instagram[®].

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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