For Immediate Release – Aug. 2, 2022

Contact: Michael Parks, Harrisonburg Director of Communications
             540.432.7701
             Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov

Harrisonburg Citizen Academy to return this month

HARRISONBURG, Va. – An opportunity for the local community to learn more about City government and the services it offers will soon be available as Harrisonburg Citizen Academy returns.

The 12-week program, held every Thursday night from Aug. 25 to Nov. 10, allows participants to visit City of Harrisonburg departments and learn from staff members about the services they provide. Attendees will have the opportunity to go in depth with each City department and ask questions about City programs and projects, and get to check out the tools, equipment and vehicles staff use in the performance of their duties.

(Above) Participants in the 2021 Harrisonburg Citizen Academy watch a demonstration by the flusher truck at Harrisonburg Public Works. Academy attendees will get to learn more about equipment like this and everything else City staff does to serve the community.

"Harrisonburg Citizen Academy is an excellent way for community members to learn more about what the City does to make Harrisonburg a better place to live, work and play every day," Harrisonburg Director of Communications Michael Parks said. "Whether you're someone interested in serving on a City board or running for City Council, or you're just curious about how government works for you, this program has something for everyone."

Classes run from 6 to 8 p.m. each Thursday night, with some alterations – the Sept. 1 class at Harrisonburg Public Works will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to allow for extra time, and the Harrisonburg Fire Department class will take place on two nights – Nov. 1 and 3 – to allow for extra time. Graduation will take place at the Harrisonburg City Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13. There also will be an optional Saturday class that will visit the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority and Harrisonburg Water Treatment Plant on Oct. 8.

Participants are required to attend the majority of classes to be eligible for graduation.

Those interested can learn more and find an application and schedule with times and locations for class at www.harrisonburgva.gov/citizen-academy. Applications are due by Aug. 12. Any questions may be directed to Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to 51,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.

###