



**HARRISONBURG | VA**  
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## Application period open for Harrisonburg Citizen Academy

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Community members interested in learning more about their local government will soon have an opportunity to engage with City staff and get hands-on experience during the Harrisonburg Citizen Academy.

The 13-week program, held one night each week from Aug. 24 to mid-November, allows participants to visit City of Harrisonburg departments and some partner organizations to learn from staff members about the services they provide our community. Attendees will have the opportunity to go in depth with City departments and ask questions about Harrisonburg programs and projects while seeing up-close demonstrations of the tools, equipment and vehicles staff use in the performance of their duties.

“This is an opportunity we as staff look forward to each year, because it allows us to engage one-on-one with community members and talk about the services we offer that can help them, their families and their businesses,” Harrisonburg Director of Communications Michael Parks, the administrator of Harrisonburg Citizen Academy, said. “It’s also a great opportunity for anyone looking to take on a bigger role in improving Harrisonburg – every year we have participants that go on to join a City board or commission, or even run for Harrisonburg City Council.”



*(Above) Participants in the 2022 Harrisonburg Citizen Academy watch a demonstration by Harrisonburg Public Utilities. Academy attendees will get to learn more about projects and programs that seek to improve our community.*

Classes take place from 6 to 8 p.m. each Thursday night, with some alterations – the Aug. 31 class at Harrisonburg Public Works will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to allow for extra time. And the Nov. 15 class with the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office, Rockingham County/City of Harrisonburg Commonwealth’s Attorney Office and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg will take place on a Wednesday evening. There also will be an optional Saturday class that will visit the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority and Harrisonburg Water Treatment Plant in October (exact date to be determined).

Participants are required to attend the majority of classes to be eligible to receive a completion certificate.

Those interested can learn more and find an application and schedule with times and locations for class at [www.harrisonburgva.gov/citizen-academy](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/citizen-academy). Applications are due by Aug. 11. Any questions may be directed to [Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov).

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).



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