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JULY 31, 2025

Matthew Tohia Fire Chief Harrisonburg Fire Department 101 N Main St, Harrisonburg, VA

Dear Matthew Tobia and the Harrisonburg Fire Department Team.

I hope this letter finds you all well. We are writing to express our family's deepest gratitude for the exceptional bravery, compassion, and support you demonstrated during and after the fire at our home. It was an incredibly challenging time for us, and your actions made an immeasurable difference in helping us through it.

When the fire broke out, your swift response and coordinated efforts ensured not only the safety of everyone involved but also saved what could have been an even greater loss. We were deeply moved by the courage and dedication of your team in efforts to keep everyone safe.

In the days that followed, the kindness and support we received from you and your team gave us strength. Whether it was through providing resources, guidance, or with words of encouragement, you reminded us that we are not alone during this difficult time. Your efforts went far beyond duty, and they exemplify what it means to serve with heart and purpose.

Please convey our heartfelt thanks to everyone who was involved, from the firefighters on the front lines, to those working behind the scenes. Your selflessness and humanity will never be forgotten. We are truly grateful for everything you have done for our family.

If there is ever anything we can do to support your department or show our appreciation further, please do not hesitate to let us know. We would be honored to give back in any way we can.

With deepest thanks and appreciation,

The Cortes Family



Firefighter Jason Bower and his wife Alex welcomed their second child in August. Congratulations to the Bower Family on the birth of their second son!







101 NORTH MAIN STREET HARRISONBURG, VA 22802 OFFICE (540) 432-7703

August 25, 2025

Stephen Sine

Dear Mr. Sine

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of to our department. Support from community members like yourselves makes our job easier and more fulfilling. Your support will allow us to continue providing services to the people in our community. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity.

Very Respectfully,

Matthew Tobia Fire Chief Thank you!

CC: Ande Banks, City Manager Michael Parks, Director of Communication

## CHIEF TOBIA REVIEVED THE EMAIL BELOW ABOUT ENGINE 2 - B SHIFT AND THEIR PROFESSIOANLISM, KINDNESS AND EMPATHY.

Good morning, Chief Tobia,

Please accept my gratitude for the assistance your personnel provided me on Sunday, August 17, 2025. We were in town moving my daughter into her new apartment at Squire Hill...or so we thought. We were horrified to discover that despite having a scheduled appointment, the leasing manager did not show up. We had no way to get her moved in; we had nobody to turn to. We were not the only family suffering from the same plight; approximately eight other families were scheduled to move in as well.

Being in the firefighting industry, I knew exactly where to go to for help. I went to Fire Station 2, where I was greeted by your personnel. I explained my situation and it was "all hands on deck." I was invited inside to get out of the heat and humidity, while everyone made efforts to assist me, to include a Battalion Chief.

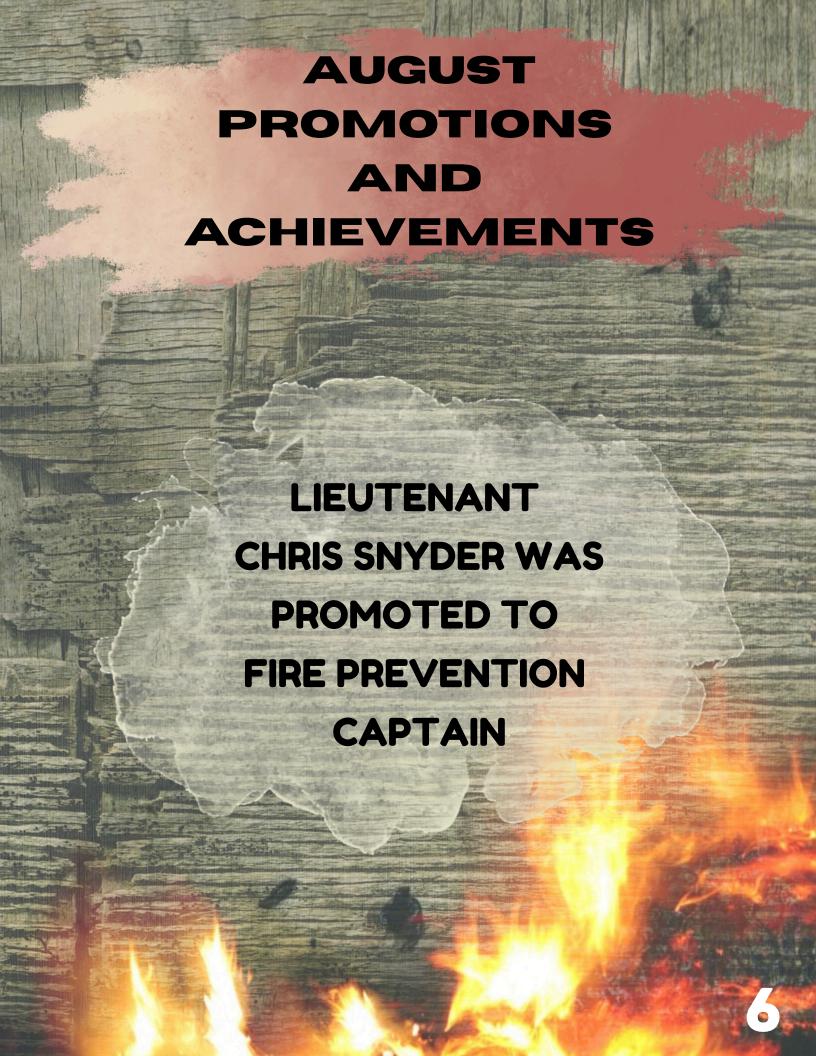
Your personnel were kind, courteous, empathetic, and genuinely concerned about my situation. They took time out of their busy day to help out with something that was far from a true emergency. It is this type of professionalism that is not showcased enough, as we as firefighters shine our brightest while answering true emergencies. Sunday was my emergency...your personnel rose to the occasion without hesitation.

Ultimately, a maintenance worker arrived, albeit four hours later, and everyone got move in. Unfortunately, I was so deeply focused on the crisis at hand that forgot to obtain the names of the personnel who assisted me. Will you please share my gratitude with the personnel at Fire Station 2? Stay safe.

Respectfully,

Justin J. Lefever

DUSTIN RICE, WHO WAS ACTING
OFFICER THAT DAY. AS WELL AS,
FIREFIGHTERS GRANT CLARK,
STUART BELL AND
BATTALION CHIEF LARRY WERNER.





RECRUIT CLASS 12 GRADUATED
THE CENTRAL SHENANDOAH
REGIONALFIRE RESCUE
ACADEMY AT THE END OF
AUGUST.

CONGRATUALTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ON GRADUATING:



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Maggie Lanham, Firefighter

Mandy Waybright, Office Manager

Eric Higgs, Lieutenant

Collin Cole, Firefighter

John Rogers, Firefighter

Keith Link, Firefighter

Chris Lomelin, Firefighter

## AUCUST ANNIVERSARIES

MASTER FIREFIGHTER
GLENN BEATHE - 24 YEARS

CAPTAIN JUSTIN KNIGHTEN - 18 YEARS

LIEUTENANT BRANDON DYER - 11 YEARS

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST KIM SMITH - 8 YEARS

FIREFIGHTER BRYANT STUNDA - 3 YEARS

FIREFIGHTER ZACK GNETRY - 2 YEARS

FIREFIGHTER COLLIN COLE - 2 YEARS

FIREFIGHTER GABE CHAPMAN - 2 YEARS

## August Milestone ANNIVERSARIES



ISABELLA EYLES, FIREFIGHTER 5 YEARS



JOSEPH FIERRO, FIREFIGHTER 5 YEARS



KELLIE SACKSTEDER, FIREFIGHTER 5 YEARS