



City of Harrisonburg  
Public Information Office  
409 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801  
540-432-8931 (office)

For Immediate Release  
February 9, 2016

Contact: Mary-Hope Vass, Public Information Officer  
540.432.8931  
[MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov](mailto:MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov)

## City's Fire Chief Makes Plans to Retire

Harrisonburg, Va. – The City Manager's Office announces the upcoming retirement of the chief of the Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD).

Fire Chief Larry Shifflett will officially retire on August 1, 2016 after serving the Harrisonburg Fire Department for 47 years.

"During my years of service, I have had the good fortune to work for four city managers and numerous City Council members, all of whom have placed public safety as one of their highest priorities," explained Larry Shifflett, fire chief. "Their continuous support has allowed the Harrisonburg Fire Department to develop into what it has become today. I am extremely proud of the department and all of the staff members who have also dedicated so much to this city."

Although he was an adult when his fire career officially began, being a second generation firefighter, Shifflett was exposed to the culture at a very young age. Ernest Shifflett, Chief Shifflett's father, served as assistant fire chief for the city for more than 30 years, including a stint as acting fire chief from 1976 until 1978, and was an active member of the Harrisonburg Rescue Squad for more than 25 years.

Chief Shifflett started his career as a volunteer with Hose Company #4 in 1961. In June 1969, he was hired as a full-time firefighter with the city. He went on to be promoted to lieutenant in 1978 and captain in 1982.

In July 1983, Larry Shifflett was appointed as fire chief of HFD and has served in that capacity for 33 years.

"Larry has been a great person to work with and has unparalleled knowledge in his area of expertise," said Kurt Hodgen, city manager. "Under his leadership, the Harrisonburg Fire Department has become well-known across the state and even country for the quality and capability of its firefighters, as well as the programs and services it provides to the Harrisonburg community. We are extremely grateful for Larry's years of service, dedication, and commitment to his staff, co-workers, and the entire city."

-MORE-

**PRESS RELEASE: CITY'S FIRE CHIEF MAKES PLANS TO RETIRE**  
**PAGE 2**

Over the course of his career, Chief Shifflett has introduced many valuable practices to HFD. The department has expanded in fire suppression, added the fire prevention division, incorporated state-of-the-art technology, and even added a Fire Museum. Under his leadership, the city's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating went from a Class 3 to a Class 2, on a scale of one to ten with one being the best rating and the department has won numerous state and national awards. The department has also been a consistent leader in the training of firefighters and overall preparedness.

Chief Shifflet is the sixth fire chief to serve the Harrisonburg Fire Department and the longest-tenured employee of those currently employed by the city, with 47 years of service.

In the coming weeks, the fire chief position will be posted [online](#) and open to accept applications.



To learn more about the Harrisonburg Fire Department, the latest news, and divisions, visit [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire).

*The City of Harrisonburg is home to four **Harrisonburg Fire Department** stations. For more information about each fire station, visit [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/hfd-stations](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/hfd-stations).*



###