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## City Gears Up for Citizen Academy

Harrisonburg, VA – The City of Harrisonburg will be hosting its annual Citizen Academy later this summer.

City residents are encouraged to register now for the Citizen Academy, which is a 12-week program that will begin in August and meet on Thursdays for two hours in the evening.

“We want to help inform residents of how the services they use are delivered and the general operations of the city,” said Public Information Officer, Mary-Hope Vass.

This program is aimed at educating and exposing residents to the variety of functions within the city. Participants will learn in a hands-on environment and experience how each department operates.

Each class of the Citizen Academy brings unique backgrounds and ideas. This program has also served as a catalyst to get citizens more involved in local government.

“We have Citizen Academy graduates currently serving on City Council, Planning Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission,” said Mayor Ted Byrd. “It is a great way to find an area in local government, which matches the skills and expertise of the community member, who can help make educated decisions to better our city.”

Applications will be accepted from now until **Friday, July 11** and the first class will begin on Thursday, August 21.

To apply, simply fill out and turn in the application that can be found at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/citizen-academy](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/citizen-academy).

Those with questions may call the City Manager’s Office at 540-432-7701 or email [MaryHope.Vass@Harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:MaryHope.Vass@Harrisonburgva.gov).

*Who will notify you if an emergency-related event is happening in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County? Sign up to receive free alerts through the **Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Emergency Alert System** by visiting [www.HREmergencyAlert.com](http://www.HREmergencyAlert.com).*

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