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City Supports Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg is promoting and supporting June 4 through June 12 as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.

The Chesapeake Bay Commission initiated this first annual celebration in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania to recognize the economic importance and beauty of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

"We are always looking to partner with organizations, residents, and business owners to promote the health of the waters in Harrisonburg," explained Trey Jarrels, city's stream health coordinator. "If everyone does their small part in keeping the streams clean, collectively, we can make such a positive impact."

This week in Harrisonburg, city staff will be educating a local elementary school class on the importance of the quality of the water in our area and how it can impact others regionally and throughout the state.

Residents in Harrisonburg should not only work to prevent pollution of the local waterways during this awareness week but are encouraged to keep local streams clean every day.

The city's waters drain into six different subwatersheds. A watershed is the area that drains to a common waterway, such as a stream, lake, estuary, wetland, aquifer, or even the ocean. Ultimately, all of these watersheds drain into the Shenandoah River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Blacks Run flows throughout Harrisonburg and has been on the list of impaired waters for a number of years. Through educational and cleanup efforts, its health has shown improvement.

City residents and business owners are encouraged to visit www.cleanstream.org for more information on ways to make a positive impact on the Harrisonburg waterways that feed into the Chesapeake Bay.

*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.*

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