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Contact: Michael Parks, Harrisonburg Director of Communications
540.432.7701
Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov

Public Works team begins preparations for winter work

HARRISONBURG, Va. – With fall arriving, and October soon to come, the thoughts of many at the City of Harrisonburg’s Public Works Department turns toward snow and ice... and rodeo.

The City held a dry run on Friday focused on planning for future winter weather and everything that goes into keeping roads and sidewalks safe during snow and ice events. Supervisors met with crews to discuss all the responsibilities staff will have during winter weather events, and to inspect all the City’s snow and ice removal equipment. The dry run also gave the department a chance to go over any questions from last year and discuss any new items for this year.

But they also got to have a little fun. And that’s where the rodeo, or rather “road-eo” comes in.

Each year, Public Works staff tests their skills with a friendly truck driving competition on snow removal equipment, running a course to see how well they can navigate the narrow streets and tight turns they’ll be faced with come winter. This year’s competition also tested drivers’ ability to back the vehicle up into a tight space.

“Our dry run is a great opportunity to make sure we have planned for and prepared for winter weather and to make sure we are able to efficiently and safely improve roadway



(Top) Members of the Public Works team during Friday’s Dry Run. (Middle) A driver finishes the test course by pulling into a tight area and lowering the plow. (Bottom, from left) Winners of the Dry Run rodeo were Will Vint – First, Tomas Aguire – Second, and Tom Hartman, Third.

conditions in the case of snow or ice,” Public Works Director Tom Hartman said. “But the day is also a chance for us to get everyone together and have some fun before things get really busy for our winter weather crews.”

Find more information on the City’s snow and ice efforts at www.harrisonburgva.gov/snow-plow.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 54,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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