



# CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

320 EAST MOSBY ROAD, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801  
OFFICE (540) 434-5928 • FAX (540) 434-2695

For Immediate Release – April 10, 2023

Contact: Brittany Clem-Hott, Outreach & Communications Specialist  
540-434-5928 x2215  
[Brittany.Clem-Hott@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:Brittany.Clem-Hott@harrisonburgva.gov)

## City to host Blacks Run Clean Up, Arbor Day, Rain Barrel events

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg is seeking community participation to help improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff in The Friendly City through three April event opportunities:

- **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Blacks Run Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 15**
- **Arbor Day (observed) on Saturday, April 15**
- **Rain Barrel Workshop on Wednesday, April 19**



Festivities kick off with the 25th anniversary of the Blacks Run Clean Up Day event. This year's event will celebrate a quarter century of positive environmental impacts with enhanced participation by local businesses, added contest giveaways, and the return of the Clean Up Day Green Scene in Harrisonburg's downtown.

The event will kick off with check-in, distribution of supplies and cleanup location assignments at the Green Scene – located in the grass lot beside Turner Pavilion, 228 S. Liberty St. The Green Scene will feature educational exhibits from local environmental-focused organizations and a new passport card activity that volunteers may turn in for a chance to win a prize. Once volunteers have received their supplies and visited the Green Scene they will proceed to their cleanup location.



*(Above) Participants at a past Blacks Run Clean Up Day event show off trash they collected.*

Clean Up Day volunteers may participate in the Harrisonburg Public Works annual Social Media Photo Contest for a chance to win prizes donated by local businesses. Prizes will be awarded to those who capture the best photo of the largest item discovered, weirdest object discovered, largest local business team, and most enthusiastic/spirited team. To be considered, participants may do one (or all) of the following:

- Tag @harrisonburgpublicworks on Facebook
- Tag @hbgpublicworks on Instagram
- Use the hashtag #BRCD2023 on your Facebook or Instagram post.

Prizes will be announced on the Harrisonburg Public Works Facebook page after the event.

Once Clean Up Day is complete, volunteers are encouraged to return to the Green Scene for a special Pizza Party and Passport Activity raffle announcement.

But that's not all...

There's a lot of people who want to get in on celebrating 25 years of this important community event. Volunteers will be given a participant voucher to receive discounted brews and other specials at Downtown breweries/cideries, during open hours, on Clean Up Day. Specials so far include:

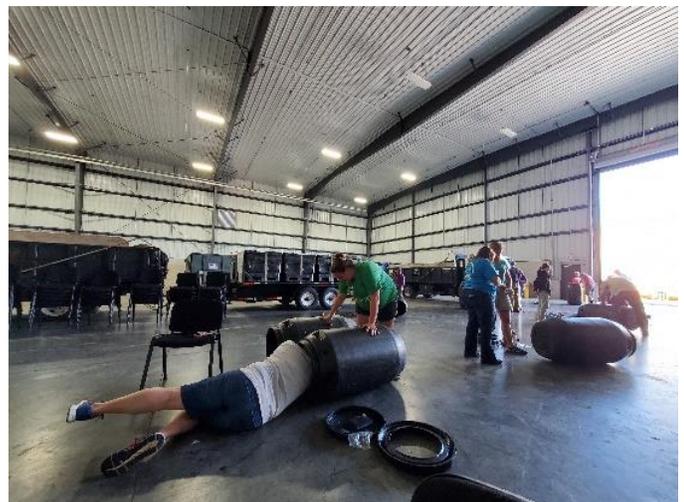
- 3 Notch'd Brewing Company: Discounted Brew and the release of BRCD "Main Stream", an American Wheat brew infused with the water-loving Elderberry
- Brothers Craft Brewing: Discounted Brew and the release of BRCD "Spring Fed", their "Pilsnerd" infused with the fresh flavor of Lemongrass
- Pale Fire Brewing Company: Discounted Brew
- Sage Bird Ciderworks: Discounted Brew and Sage Bird Clean Up Team After-Event Social. Also, Sage Bird Trivia Night on Thursday, April 13, featuring Blacks Run trivia questions.

**The public may pre-register to participate in Clean Up Day by visiting <http://arcg.is/1PKWzz0> or [cleanstream.org](http://cleanstream.org).** Day-of registration is available however pre-registration is encouraged, allowing participants to select which stream location they would like to help with or the option to join an Arbor Day Tree Planting event.

Also on April 15, Public Works Green Space Manager Jeremy Harold will be welcoming volunteers to an **Arbor Day (observed) Tree Planting** event. Twenty trees will be planted by volunteers as part of a stream buffer and tributary to Heritage Oaks Golf Course. This Arbor Day event supports the City's annual designation as a Tree City USA.

Another way the public may participate in Harrisonburg stormwater efforts is to have a Rain Barrel at home. The City partners annually with the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District to offer a **Rain Barrel Workshop on April 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** at the Harrisonburg Recycling Center, 2055 Beery Road. At the workshop, participants will learn about the benefits of having a rain barrel and construct one to take home with them.

"Rain barrels help reduce stormwater runoff, reduce erosion and flooding, create a water source for home plants, and help save money," Harrisonburg Public Works Stormwater Compliance Specialist Shayna Carter said. "We encourage the public to sign up for this fun interactive workshop before spots fill up!"



*(Above) A past Rain Barrel Workshop hosted by Harrisonburg Public Works. The next event is April 19.*

**For more information or to register for the Rain Barrel Workshop, visit <https://svswcd.org/rain-barrel-workshop-harrisonburg/>.**

*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](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).*

You can also follow **Harrisonburg Public Works** on [Facebook](#).