



**HARRISONBURG | VA**  
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## **Harrisonburg-Rockingham African-American Festival set to return** *Event will come to Ralph Sampson Park for the first time since 2019*

HARRISONBURG, Va. – A beloved Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation festival based on unity, family, faith and love is returning in September after three years away.

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham African-American Festival will take place Saturday, Sept. 9, from noon to 6 p.m. at Ralph Sampson Park. The event, now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, hasn't taken place since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, organizers are excited to bring this special celebration back to The Friendly City.

“The Harrisonburg-Rockingham African-American Festival has been a significant part of the community for many years,” Carol Johnson Raymond, chairperson of the committee that organizes the festival, said. “As with many events, the pandemic had us on hold for three years, however we are back and cannot wait to welcome all back to this amazing and fun cultural event. We welcome all to join us as there will be something for everyone.”



*(Above) A past Harrisonburg-Rockingham African-American Festival. This year's event will take place Sept. 9 from noon to 6 p.m. at Ralph Sampson Park. There will be activities, demonstrations, vendors, food and much more, with something for attendees of all ages.*

The event will boast a wealth of entertainment, activities, food and much more. The Community Row will feature nonprofits showcasing the services they provide to the community, while the Market Place will include vendors offering a variety of specialty items from jewelry to unique prints. There will be activities for children provided by Explore More Discovery Museum, a Community Spotlight featuring locals who make Harrisonburg a better place for all, and lots of entertainment – including a performance from Major League Band out of Fredericksburg, Va.

“We are thrilled to be able to bring this celebration of heritage and diversity to our community,” Harrisonburg Parks & Rec’s Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center Supervisor Stephanie Howard said. “Harrisonburg is a City for All, where our community’s diversity is embraced and celebrated. I hope everyone will come out and enjoy this event alongside their neighbors, family and friends.”

Participants can park at the Simms Center, 620 Simms Ave.; at Ralph Sampson Park, 431 E. Washington St.; or along on-street parking spots on Washington Street near the park. The event is supported by sponsors such as Steven Kia and Blue Ridge Insurance, along with the help of business sponsors and Lakeside Book Company.

Find more information on the event at <https://harrisonburgva.gov/aaf-festival>

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).

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