CITY OF HARRISONBURG
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release: Oct. 5, 2026

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City To Build New HFD Station at Site of Station #4 on Rock Street

Modern, one-story station to sit on lots between Rock & Gay streets

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg is in the beginning stages of a project which will reconfirm and enhance the organization's commitment to the health and wellness of community members and the City employees who work to keep them safe.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department is moving forward with plans to replace HFD Fire Station #4, located at 210 E. Rock St., with a new fire station that will be designed with an eye toward ensuring exceptional emergency response times and enhancing the safety, health and wellness of firefighters so they can continue to have the resources needed to be successful in their mission of public safety. Constructed in 1975, the station has become an integral part of the Northeast Neighborhood and is the primary emergency services facility serving Harrisonburg's core Downtown district.

(Above) A project is now underway that will replace Harrisonburg Fire Department Station #4 with a modern, larger facility at the current location, spanning from Rock Street to Gay Street in the Northeast Neighborhood.

"Station #4 is a critical part of this community, and we are thrilled to be keeping it right here," Mayor Deanna Reed, a long-time Northeast Neighborhood community member, said. "Our commitment to the safety and well-being of this community is tied directly to ensuring our firefighters have the facilities they need to provide service."

The City evaluated the existing station in 2019 with the intent to renovate the structure. However, the results of that study found substantial needed improvements that made further investment in the structure not fiscally responsible. The project was then paused in 2020 due to challenges related to the global pandemic but remained an important priority, leading to the City purchasing a parcel of land adjacent to the existing station at the corner of East Gay Street and Community Street in 2025 with the goal of keeping Station #4 in the Northeast Neighborhood and moving the project forward in the near future.

“This fire station in particular is so important because it is the only station in the city located completely within a neighborhood,” Fire Chief Matthew Tobia said. “We truly appreciate the commitment of City Council, under the direction of Mayor Reed, and City Manager Banks in continuing to prioritize public safety as a core function of government. This investment will positively impact current and future generations who call this city their home.”

The entire project is expected to take approximately two years to complete. A process is underway soliciting interest from suitable firms in designing and building the new fire station. After a firm is selected, and design work is completed, the existing fire station will be demolished to make way for the new fire station. During construction, firefighters who normally serve at Station #4 will be temporarily re-located to nearby fire stations. The temporary relocation is expected to last approximately one year.

The new fire station is expected to be a one-story building with modern features including a solar array that will help offset energy costs. The station will have exterior features that ensure it will be viewed as a part of the neighborhood and will include space for current and future needs. The goal is to ensure that the station is functional for at least 50 years.

HFD plans to hold periodic meetings to ensure community members are informed about the progress of the project. Community members also can follow the department on social media platforms to receive updates and important announcements.

Anyone with questions can contact HFD Headquarters during business hours by calling 540-432-7703.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department is an ISO-Class II All-Hazards agency providing essential emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the public who live, work and travel in Harrisonburg. More information about the Fire Department is available on-line at www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire or on Facebook© and Instagram©.

The City of Harrisonburg *is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to 56,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.*

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