



For Immediate Release: April 15, 2026

Contact: Juliana McGrath
Outreach and Communication Specialist
(540) 217-8841
Juliana.McGrath@harrisonburgva.gov

Stolen Vehicle Recovered After Crash in Harrisonburg

Harrisonburg, Va.- April 15, 2026 – A stolen vehicle has been recovered and returned to the owner after a crash in Harrisonburg.

Just before noon on April 15, 2026, Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) officers received an alert from a Flock Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) that a stolen vehicle was traveling through the area. HPD patrol officers immediately responded to the area and began looking for the vehicle which had been stolen from The Mill apartment complex over the weekend.

Officers located the vehicle, a black Acura, traveling northbound on N. Main St. and observed the vehicle disregarding multiple traffic laws. When officers attempted to stop the vehicle, it continued north at a high rate of speed and eluded officers before turning onto Warsaw Ave.

When officers arrived on scene, they found that the vehicle had struck a curb and a tree behind the Warsaw Avenue Parking Garage on the campus of James Madison University. The driver had fled the area before officers arrived, and one female passenger was detained. The male driver fled on foot and, after a brief search, was located near the railroad tracks on Maryland Avenue and taken into custody.

Leonardo Aleman, 26, of Harrisonburg, is being charged with the following:

- Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer (felony)
- Hit and Run
- Property Damage (felony)
- Motor Vehicle Theft (felony)
- Driving without a License

Aleman also had an outstanding capias out of Harrisonburg for a felony probation violation.

Thank you to the James Madison University Police Department, the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, and the Broadway Police Department K9 Unit for your assistance in this case, leading to the swift apprehension of the suspect.

###