



# **City Manager's Report**

*Offices of the City Manager  
Elected & Appointed Officials*

**3-3-2025**

## **City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)**

- The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget is balanced!
- Join me in Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 4th for the City Manager's Budget Presentation to Council. Remember, it's your budget, too!
- Participated in the VLGMA (Virginia Local Government Management Association) Winter Conference @ The Omni February 19-21
- I joined Mayor Wade in providing a Welcome to Charlottesville to the attendees.
  - I want to acknowledge Deputy City Manager Ashley Marshall who served as Co-Chair for the conference. Well done.
  - I want to give a shoutout to James Freas, Kellie Brown, Eden Ratliff, and Steve Hawkes who shared their expertise as panelists.
- I was proud to speak at the Chamber's State of the Community @ PVCC Bolick Center on February 21st – it was a great opportunity to share the economic outlook, organizational priorities, and perspective on what the opportunities are for the City of Charlottesville; Chef Antwon Brinson gave a very inspiring talk on the power of relationships; County Executive Jeff Richardson gave the county perspective with his normal wit and humor, while professionally expressing the challenges and opportunities for Albemarle County.
- Attended the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority Board Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Received a presentation on the Capital Improvement Program which has 71 projects totaling \$551M with construction scheduled from 2026 to 2030 to continue significant progress to implementing the 2012 Community Water Plan that resulted from the 2001-2002 drought that this area experienced.
- The Board also approved three projects with May 2025 anticipated start dates that are focused on Modernizing 1977 and 1980 constructed facilities at Moore's Creek – projects are expected to be complete by 2027.

## **Office of Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE) – Director Afton Schneider (she/her)**

- We are hosting a Crisis Communications workshop next month including our partners from the County, UVA, and other local stakeholders to ensure we are prepared to manage emergencies effectively from a safety and transparency communications perspective.
- Our biweekly community newsletter, City Scoop, is now LIVE! You may sign up to receive the newsletter via email [here](#), you can find a link on our website and social media platforms, and you can also find copies in City Hall and at a few locations on the Downtown Mall.

- Reminder: The City's public affairs tv program, Inside Charlottesville, airs every Friday and Sunday at 7:00 PM and every Saturday and Monday at 9:00 AM on Charlottesville TV10 – Comcast Channel 10 in the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties. We also have a free Roku app for TV10 which folks can find it by searching for "Charlottesville TV10" on Roku.

### **Office of Economic Development – Director Chris Engel (he/him)**

- The [2024 Office of Economic Development Annual Report](#) is now available. Find out what the OED team has been doing to strengthen the economy and increase prosperity throughout the City during the recent calendar year. The full report is available on from the city website on the Economic Development homepage.
- The Office of Economic Development is inviting all local businesses, both home based and brick and mortar, to participate in the Charlottesville Business Survey, now available on the [OED website](#) until March 31st. This survey is an opportunity for businesses to provide feedback, share their experiences, and express what resources or support they may need. The survey will help OED better understand how to serve the business community. Whether you are a small startup, an established storefront, or an entrepreneur operating from home, your input is valuable in guiding the city's efforts to foster a strong, supportive business environment.

### **Office of Sustainability – Director Kristel Riddervold (she/her)**

- In partnership with LEAP, C3, and Albemarle County, OS supported the development and launch of the [Energy Resource Hub](#), a free service that connects homeowners, renters, and businesses in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County with energy savings rebates and incentives. We will host an in person launch party on March 11 at Carver Recreation Center from 4 – 7 pm.
- OS partnered with NDS to host an E-bike Demonstration for City Staff and community Members at Ting Pavilion. It was a beautiful day and we had a great turnout. Demos were supported by our three local bike shops and the E-bike Lending Library.
- In partnership with C3, OS hosted a climate café focused on the impact of invasive vines on Charlottesville's urban tree canopy. The café featured the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership (CHIPP) and all participating partners of the CHIPP neighborhood project.
- Gave a presentation on invasives and invasives removal to Kellytown Neighborhood Association in partnership with CHIPP, Parks & Rec, and OS.
- OS supported the CHIPP Open House for Invasive Species Awareness Week was held on 2/28.

- Charlottesville was recently selected through a competitive application process to participate in the Center for Heat Resilient Communities learning cohort. As one of 10 members the cohort, OS staff will receive guidance and technical support in developing strategies and projects related to mitigating the impacts of extreme heat.
- Presentation on Charlottesville Climate Action as a Council priority was provided to the Charlottesville Youth Council on 2/24.
- Consultants, Eocene, were in Charlottesville in early February as part of the Urban Forest Management Plan project launch.
- This March the City, Albemarle County Service Authority, and Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority are hosting a free and virtual event to help encourage the community to save water and fix a leak- Home Scavenger Hunt. This is in support of Fix A Leak Week (March 17-23) – a national campaign put on by the Environmental Protection Agency focused on finding and fixing water leaks in homes and businesses. To find the scavenger hunt worksheet and learn how to fix a leak: <https://charlottesville.gov/498/Fix-a-Leak>.

#### **Office of Human Rights – Director Todd Niemeier (he/him)**

- The Office of Human Rights (OHR) submitted the revised Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance, adopted by City Council on January 21, 2025, to the Federal Fair Housing Office for review as part of the interim certification process for the Fair Housing Assistance Program. To date, the OHR has not received any updates regarding this process.
- The Human Rights Commission is currently running a public poll to gather input from members of the public regarding the focus of the Commission’s work in 2025. The poll has been widely advertised on City social media, strategically posted paper flyers with QR code links, and promoted on NBC29. At the time of this report, 258 individuals have participated.
- The Human Rights Commission will hold its Annual Planning Meeting on Saturday, March 22, 2025. During this meeting, Commissioners will review the results of the public poll, decide on topics of focus for the year, and develop a work plan to meet their goals. The Commission welcomes input from City Council on any topics related to human and civil rights on which it would like the Commission’s guidance.

### **Treasurer's Office – City Treasurer Jason Vandever (he/him)**

- This past month our office sent out notices to taxpayers who may have missed the December tax deadline for personal property and real estate taxes. We are working with taxpayers who contact us to help them get caught up or set up appropriate payment arrangements.
- Business License applications for 2025 are due and payable March 4th this year.

### **Commissioner of the Revenue – Director Todd Divers (he/him)**

- Charlottesville City Business License renewals are due on March 4th. Businesses are encouraged to file and pay using the City's online business portal at [www.charlottesville.gov/BusinessPortal](http://www.charlottesville.gov/BusinessPortal). Call 434-970-3170 or email [citycorbiz@charlottesville.gov](mailto:citycorbiz@charlottesville.gov) with questions.
- We are currently accepting applications for Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and/or Disabled. The application period runs through April 1st. Call 434-970-3160 or email [citycor@charlottesville.gov](mailto:citycor@charlottesville.gov) with questions about eligibility or for more information.
- We will begin accepting applications for Rental Relief for the Elderly and/or Disabled on March 4th. The application period runs through May 1st. Call 434-970-3160 or email [citycor@charlottesville.gov](mailto:citycor@charlottesville.gov) with questions about eligibility or for more information.