



# **City Manager's Report**

*City Departments*

**7-21-2025**

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

- July 8
  - Our Extended LEADTeam received a presentation from the UVA Center for Community Well Being, a report on how the community is experiencing life in the Charlottesville area. This moment provided an opportunity for a large cross section of City staff to learn data points that may intersect with their work and to also understand some of the challenges our residents face and how our efforts can support them thriving. The same group of county leadership received the report presentation in May.
- July 9
  - Met with the Retirees Association to share perspectives on the City organization and the City as a whole. This was a very interested, engaged, and concerned group who asked great questions and appreciated the opportunity to engage the City Manager.
- July 14
  - Attended our regular Monthly Meeting with Albemarle County's County Executive Jeff Richardson to discuss City/County matters. We continue to pursue alignment with regional transportation and general cooperation and collaboration on economic development, regional engagement, and forecast opportunities to work together.
- July 15
  - The recent Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (CHO) Board meeting and workshop featured an additional layer of discussion about the mechanics of a terminal renovation effort to modernize the airport. There are considerable opportunities available to be maximized by CHO that will lead to better air travel options and a consistently strong customer experience. We were able to discuss economic development opportunities for the airport and how the airport supports the opportunities to the 29 corridor from Greene County to Downtown Charlottesville.

### **Deputy City Manager for Social Equity – Ashley Reynolds Marshall (she/her)**

- Virginia Local Government Managers' Association (VLGMA) Summer Conference Attendance & Executive Board Leadership:
  - Deputy City Manager for Social Equity (DCM-SE) attended the annual VLGMA Summer Conference, which was held from June 18-20. During the conference, she was nominated and appointed to serve on the VLGMA Executive Committee as an at-large member.
- Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) Welcome – June 23
- DCM-SE welcomed half of the current Summer CAYIP students on June 23 at Carver Recreation Center and had a wonderful time answering their questions

about future pathways, college, and jobs. Great work and kudos to the Department of Human Services team, led by team member Latara Ragland who provides the students with support and access!

- Cherry Avenue Alliance Work Group – June 26
  - DCM-SE continues to work with our local nonprofit partners on homelessness and attended a collaborative workgroup on June 26, held at the Salvation Army. The "Cherry Avenue Alliance" is a partnership of the Salvation Army, Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless (BRACH), and PACEM, with support from the City, County, and Piedmont Housing Alliance.

### **Deputy City Manager for Operations – James Freas (he/him)**

- The Deputy City Manager for Operations (DCM-Ops) attended the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) conference in Providence, Rhode Island, June 10-15. City Manager Sanders, Neighborhood Development Services (NDS) Director Kellie Brown, and Manager of Long-Range Planning, Ose Akinlotan, were also in attendance.

### **Parks & Recreation – Director Riaan Anthony (he/him)**

- July is Parks & Recreation Month! 🎉
  - Every July, we celebrate the vital role parks and recreation play in building vibrant, healthy, and resilient communities. Whether it's providing a safe space for play, enriching lives through arts and culture, promoting health and wellness, or simply offering a place to connect with nature—Parks & Rec makes life better!
  - We invite you to celebrate with us all month long—and especially at our featured event:
    - Sunday Sundown – July 20, 5–7 PM at Washington Park. Join us for an evening of fun in the sun! FREE Pool Admission all day. Free Food starting at 5 PM (while supplies last). Live DJ, Inflatables, Games & Family Fun. Don't miss this chance to celebrate summer with your community!
- General Announcements:
  - Fall 2025 Registration opens August 4!
  - Youth and adult program registration will be available online. Want a head start? Our early program preview goes [live on our website \(link\)](#) on July 21. Plan your fall with Parks & Rec!
  - Coming This Fall:
    - NEW: Youth Flag Football (Ages 7–11). We're excited to launch our Youth Flag Football League this fall! Developed in response to

community feedback, this program expands our youth sports offerings and encourages active, team-based fun.

- Adult Beginner Pickleball Clinics – Coming to Carver! Pickleball is booming, and we're here for it! Join our beginner clinics this fall to learn the basics, rules, and confidence to jump into open play or league games.
- Adaptive & Inclusive Programs:
  - Summer Camp Expansion: Thanks to our dedicated staff, we were able to open additional spots for children previously on the waitlist.
- Senior Nature Camp at Washington Park:
  - Seniors explored City parks and created beautiful art from natural materials while socializing and enjoying the outdoors.
- General Programs:
  - Summer Camps are in full swing!
  - With 1,058 children registered across six weeks, campers are enjoying games, crafts, swimming, and field trips with our enthusiastic staff!
- Aquatics Update:
  - Swim Team Success: The swim team has grown to 220 participants and recently held a successful second home meet. The team banquet is scheduled for July 29, 6–8 PM.
- Smith Aquatic Center Annual Maintenance Closure:
  - Closed July 26 – August 10. During this period, patrons may use their Smith Center pass at Onesty Family Aquatic Center, Washington Park Pool, and Carver Recreation Center.
- Recreation Centers:
  - Carver Recreation Center:
    - Teen Events: In partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS), we hosted two fun-filled events for teens featuring DJs, food trucks, yard games, and a wildly popular Foam Party with over 150 attendees at Washington Park.
    - CAYIP Academy: We were proud to host teens preparing for internships through this amazing youth employment initiative. Carver has supported this program for 12 years and counting!
  - Tonsler Recreation Center:
    - Adult Summer Basketball League: Games continue Thursday and Sunday evenings—come out and cheer on your local athletes!

### **Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)**

- The Department of Utilities' Attic Insulation Self-Assessment was developed to help community members better understand their attic's weatherization needs, especially if they are unfamiliar with the current level of insulation in their attic. According to Energy Star®, 90% of U.S. homes are under-insulated, and with

over 21,000 area homes built before Virginia enacted insulation code requirements, many homes in Charlottesville could be good candidates for an attic insulation upgrade. A properly insulated and air sealed attic can improve home energy efficiency, lower utility bills, and increase home comfort in all seasons. Open to homeowners, and renters with landlord approval, the self-assessment is 100% free to use and available to all Charlottesville Utilities customers.

- The Attic Insulation Self-Assessment provides simple step-by-step instructions and takes only a few minutes to perform on a smartphone, tablet, or computer. Once submitted, staff from the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) will analyze the information provided and create a free preliminary evaluation for attic insulation. If interested in pursuing the recommended upgrades, LEAP will then perform an in-person evaluation to determine the exact work needed and the final cost. The Department of Utilities encourages the community to familiarize itself with their attic insulation by using this great resource!
- More information on the Attic Insulation Self-Assessment, including accessing the self-assessment portal, can be found at [www.charlottesville.gov/utilityincentives](http://www.charlottesville.gov/utilityincentives) or by calling 434-970-3686.

### **Neighborhood Development Services – Director Kellie Brown (she/her)**

- Staff is finalizing updates to our Development Review processes to reduce development review timeframes. This has included a visit to the City of Richmond to learn about the creative solutions they have adopted to improve coordination with other departments and expectations for site plans versus other required permits in the development review process.
- Staff attended the July 16 Housing Advisory Committee meeting to introduce NDS Director Kellie Brown and present an update on the Tax Abatement study.
- Our Long-Range Planning (LRP) team is attending the Resilient Virginia conference this month. This year's event, Moving Virginia Forward, will deliver tools, information, and networking opportunities to help build resilience and move communities forward.
- The City received 543 responses to a recent community survey on Short-Term Rental (STR) Results to support the City's evaluation and update of the existing STR ordinance.
- The project will include three key phases:
  - Phase I (July–August): Internal analysis and review of current ordinance, data, and existing policy frameworks.
  - Phase II (September–October): External focus group engagement and community feedback synthesis.
  - Phase III (November–December): Policy refinement and preparation for Council presentation.

- Chuck Miller, City Building Official presented at the annual conference of the Virginia Association of Assessing Officers held in this month at Boar's Head. An understanding of building plans is an integral part of the role of those who work with property assessment and Chuck was able to share his extensive experience to assist in the professional growth of individuals from around the state.
- Our team has been actively engaged with neighborhood leaders, including those from sub-communities, regarding the draft neighborhood factsheets. In our new capacity as administrators for the neighborhood associations, we have successfully completed 10 meetings to date, with additional meetings still being scheduled. LRP continues to expand its community engagement efforts. Upcoming engagements include meetings with the Fry's Spring & Rose Hill Neighborhood Associations. LRP will also host a table at West Haven Day on August 2 to connect with residents. Additionally, representatives from both the Long-Range Transportation Planning divisions participated in the Rose Hill walk audit on July 15.
- Regarding the City-wide Public Engagement Platform, the Request for Proposals (RFP) has officially closed. A cross-departmental team is currently in the final stages of evaluating the submissions.
- Finally, we held a successful community kick-off for the 10th & Page and Rose Hill Vision Plan with residents at the June 10th & Page Neighborhood Association meeting. This was followed by a soft launch with the Rose Hill community at their July Neighborhood Association meeting, with an anticipated "hard launch" for the Vision Plan tentatively scheduled for the August meeting. A formal project kick-off to all Charlottesville stakeholders will happen in the coming months.

### **Human Services – Director Misty Graves (she/her)**

- As part of the City Managers commitment to community resilience and safety, the Department of Human Services and Parks and Recreation hosted a teens and tween's Party in the Park at Washington Park on June 29. The event was a huge success! 102 kids registered under the age of 18 and 55 adults were registered with those children/youth. There were a number of older youth, 18-24 year olds, that were also present. With several food vendors, the event fed approximately 300 people! Feedback during the event indicated that parents and caregivers appreciated the opportunity to have safe and free activities to engage with their family and community members. We look forward to planning additional activities to keep teens and tweens engaged in positive and safe activities in the future.
- For the fiscal year FY25, the Pathways Fund, which is facilitated through the Community Resource Hotline, distributed \$679,171.00 to City residents for rental/mortgage/utility bill relief. This program strives to assist eligible residents with housing stability, avoiding evictions, and connection to resources that

promote ongoing supports towards self-sufficiency. The Community Resource Hotline (Pathways) number is: 833-524-2904 and is available 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday. Language interpretation is available.

**Human Resources — Director Joe Gilkerson (he/him)**

- The Employee Policies have been updated and went into effect on July 1.
- The department has fully moved into its new office location in City Hall Annex.