



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

9-2-2025

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- August 18: Met with Major Donald Wilson who now heads the Salvation Army with his wife, Major Jean Wilson. We had a robust conversation about caring for the unhoused in our community.
- August 18: Met with Leslie Smith who now heads the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. We had a good orientation discussion about the needs of the City and ways to partner to address those needs and find opportunities.
- August 19: Met with the Food Co-Op Stakeholders Group along with PHA and Woodard Properties about the 501 Cherry construction plans and needs of the planner grocery operations.
- August 25: Met with the leadership team of the Public Works department to review their recent all staff-crafted set of priorities, including a mission, vision, and values to ensure they are working in alignment with Council's vision - great work, Team!
- August 26: Met with Dr. Andrea Douglas to review the latest on the Swords into Ploughshares program.
- *Reminder: Central Water Line community information meeting will be held on September 16 from 5:00-6:30 PM at Carver Recreation Center.*

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

- The Office of Sustainability (OS) tabled at the annual Westhaven Community Day where City staff were able to engage community members in discussions and activities related to water and energy conservation, extreme heat safety, and emergency preparedness. Following the event, OS staff delivered electrolyte powder, handheld fans, heat awareness signage, and heat first aid booklets to the Westhaven Community Clinic.
- With support from the Office of Sustainability, Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) was able to schedule numerous home energy audits and connect community members with the Energy Resource Hub at the Albemarle County Public Schools Back 2 School Bash held at Ting Pavillion.
- The Climate Program Manager participated in the Career Panel that is part of UVA's Annual Summer Decarbonization Academy.
- The Office of Sustainability was invited by Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) Strategic Initiatives to attend August's Professional Learning Day as a community partner. CCS staff could learn more about teaching materials created or recommended by OS and provide input for how they would like to be supported by OS staff.
- In partnership with the Community Climate Collaborative, the Office of Sustainability co-hosted their fifth climate cafe called "Transit Takeover" featuring Charlottesville Area Transit, the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee,

and IMPACT Charlottesville. The climate cafe series seeks to provide a consistent forum for sharing program updates and connecting community members with opportunities to get involved in local climate action.

- An August social media messaging blitz was delivered to emphasize various clean energy incentive deadlines (solar, electric vehicles, water conservation rebates, and the Energy Resource Hub) to increase traffic to OS socials. We received over 31,000 views and collaborated with LEAP, the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership, and the Piedmont Environmental Council.
- Climate Program joined LEAP staff at the monthly Green Drinks meet-up to help partner organization, ReLeaf, promote the Energy Resource Hub and Solarize Virginia, and to plug the September 10 event takeover at Firefly Restaurant.
- Climate Program staff is working with Dominion Energy to install fast charging stations for the City's forthcoming electric school buses through their Electric School Bus Program.
- In August, the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership (CHIPP), an initiative supported by the Office of Sustainability and the Urban Forestry program, completed a targeted vine removal project in Rose Hill to support neighbors struggling to manage encroaching vines from a vacant property. Moving forward, CHIPP partners will sponsor a "monthly monster" project to cut back vines in visible, high-traffic areas with a focus on shared green spaces in neighborhood association spaces.
- Office of Sustainability staff attended the Charlottesville Middle School ribbon cutting and tour celebrating a major milestone for this project and the many sustainability features of the facility.
- Office of Sustainability staff joined Charlottesville Fire Department for an electric Fire Engine demonstration, exploring emerging electrification opportunities.

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

- The window for accepting Charlottesville Homeowner Assistance Program (CHAP) applications for 2025 closed on September 1. Applicants will receive potential grants of \$1000, \$1500, \$2000, or \$2500. This program considers the combined income of all occupants residing in the home.
 - To learn more about the next application cycle or CHAP in general, please call customer service, 434-970-3160, or e-mail to TaxRelief@Charlottesville.gov.
- The seventh annual Commissioners and Cans food drive closed on August 31. Thank you to everyone who donated food and/or funds for the cause!

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

- The Office of Economic Development’s (OED) GO Start-Up program starts its fall cohort this Wednesday, September 3. Led by OED’s own Entrepreneurship Program Specialist, Keith Groomes, the free, four-week course serves as an “on ramp to the entrepreneurship highway”, offering aspiring entrepreneurs and emerging business owners the opportunity to learn the basics of entrepreneurship and business formation in a casual, interactive setting. Guest speakers from the area’s entrepreneur support organizations provide additional insights and information about the services they offer. Upon completion, participants are encouraged to continue development of their business concepts, and if entrepreneurship is a path they wish to continue pursuing, consider participating in one of the area’s more intensive, paid training courses.
- Mark your calendars for the upcoming NextGen Skilled Trades Day on Saturday, October 4, 10 AM – 2 PM at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC). The first offering of its kind in the Charlottesville area, NextGen Skilled Trades Day is an initiative designed to expose youth and adults to the vast array of employment opportunities in the skilled trades. A collaborative effort among the City of Charlottesville, PVCC, Martin Horn, Greater Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce, and others, the event will feature live equipment demos, hands-on activities, and conversations with local employers. As individuals continue to retire from the trades, we hope events like NextGen Skilled Trades Day will draw more talent into these fields and help address the current shortage of employees in skilled trades.