



City Manager's Report

City Departments

10-20-2025

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- Received and executed Housing & Urban Development’s confirmation for the FY25 Award in the amount of \$1,132,461.06:
 - Community Development Block Grants: \$445,452.00
 - HOME: \$687,009.06
- Signed the Bee City agreement which confirms the City will implement a program to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play, the steps residents can take to sustain them, and to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement.
- October 6:
 - Proud to have joined in the ribbon cutting of the new Fire Station No. 1 (Bypass Fire Station) to ensure of fire personnel have quality, reliable infrastructure to support them in serving our community.
- October 8:
 - Met with Charlottesville City Schools leadership and members of our Capital Development team regarding the continued planning for the Oak Lawn site that UVa is donating to the City of Charlottesville.
- October 9:
 - Joined Mayor Wade and Economic Development Director Chris Engel for the AstraZeneca announcement at Rivanna Station. This is a great moment for Albemarle County and one that has significant implications on the region as an amazing shift toward greater regional promise for all.
 - Facilitated the quarterly Neighborhood Leaders Meeting where the City team was able to engage directly with our neighborhoods on matters of importance to each of them.
- October 10:
 - Welcomed participants to the UVa Lunch and Lessons Learned panel where we heard from practitioners in Baltimore, Dallas, and DeKalb County, Georgia on their amazing work in violence interruption and prevention. Thank you to Dr. Brian Williams for his continued interest in analyzing issues and solutions that impact the community. The Public Engagement in Governance Looking, Listening, and Learning Laboratory (PEGLLLLlab) is a great resource here at UVa with a reach far beyond Charlottesville.
 - Attended the Chamber of Commerce’s Minority Business Alliance Gala where I was able to join in the celebration of Kaye Monroe, Alex Urpi, and Quinton Harrell on their tenured leadership of this important business networking group. Andrea Copeland was also praised for her direct support of this affinity group and as the new President & CEO, she will now have a broader strategy priority.

- Notes from recent Rivanna Solid Waste Authority and Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority meetings:
 - Received a presentation on the Crozet Water Treatment Plant Project. This \$12.2M project was approved to proceed.
 - Received an update on the solar project at Ivy which is now connected. In total, 7,224 solar panels installed which could produce enough power to serve approximately 3,000 homes.
 - Received financial updates for both Authorities with year-end audits reflecting on budget results.
 - Entries for the Imagine a Day without Water art contest will be accepted until October 27. More information on how to participate can be found [online \(link\)](#).
 - Phase 1 of the Central Water Line project begins this month in the first phase from the Observatory Water Treatment Plant to Lewis Street.
 - Reminder: Ivy Solid Waste Recycling Center will shift to cashless operations in February 2026.

Deputy City Manager (DCM) – James Freas (he/him)

- DCM Freas was invited to join the Steering Committee for the Charlottesville Arts Council Planning Project. This collaborative, community-led effort to create a future Arts Council for the area is being facilitated by New City Arts Initiative with the support of the City, UVa Arts, Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau, the FUNd at Charlottesville Albemarle Community Foundation, and the Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation. There will be opportunities throughout the process for community input.
- October 1:
 - Spent an enjoyable afternoon at Pen Park connecting with the Utilities Department staff at their annual picnic.
 - Along with the City Manager and the Mayor, DCM Freas welcomed this year's cohort of Youth Council representatives.

Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)

- The Department of Utilities offered 150 free trees to residents through the Arbor Day Foundation's Energy-Saving Trees Program. This marks the program's second fall offering, and sixth overall program opportunity, and to-date has helped plant more than 1,000 trees in Charlottesville. The program guides residents in strategically planting trees on their property to assist with energy conservation and a reduction in household energy costs. The program also serves to reinforce safe digging practices by having residents contact Virginia 811 prior to planting their tree. Utilities worked with the City's arborist to

determine the most suitable tree species for the community to plant and offered four species to choose from.

- Tree reservations opened to the community on October 6, and within less than 36 hours all 150 trees had been reserved. The tree pick-up event will be held on October 24 and 25 at the Utilities Administration Building, and any unclaimed trees will be donated to the Parks & Recreation Department. The Utilities Department thanks the community for their continued support and enthusiasm for the Energy-Saving Trees Program!
- With the arrival of autumn comes an increase in falling leaves from trees, and the Department of Utilities wants to remind residents of the importance of keeping storm drains clear of debris. Proactive maintenance of keeping storm drains clear of leaves, twigs, branches, and other debris is key to the efficient flow of stormwater and helps prevent sediment from entering our community's waterways. Utilities encourages residents to remain aware of the condition of their neighborhood storm drains, and remember, "Only rain down the drain"!

Human Services – Director Misty Graves (she/her)

- This school year's Youth Council convened this month to learn more about each other and their assignment ahead. The 15 youth are appointed by City Council to engage civically and share their insight with Council at the end of the school year.
- The Community Based Services team at the Department of Human Services successfully completed their FY24 audit by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. The team serves youth to prevent justice involvement.
- The Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) was awarded \$42,480 from the Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation. This additional funding will allow CAYIP to accept more youth into the program this year. To learn more about the program and how youth ages 14 – 24 years old can apply, visit: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/256/Community-Attention-Youth-Internship>
- Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF) recently received notice that they were awarded \$125,000 from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) for the Resource Family Collaborative Grant. This grant will allow CAFF to work with our partners in Greene, Albemarle, and Fluvanna to increase the number of kinship connections for local youth.
 - As of October 13, the CAFF program has 118 youth in our programming. Of those youth, 75 of the 118 are placed in relative/kinship family homes, leaving only 43 youths placed in resource family homes.
 - The state average for youth in kinship care based upon the VDSS snapshot data from October 1 is 18.68%.

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

- City Market
 - Charlottesville City Market ranked third in Farmers Market in the Nation, receiving 3,170 votes in the national popular vote.
 - This is the market's highest ranking since 2020, when it placed second.
 - The City will receive \$1,500 in prize money for the third-place finish.
- Athletics
 - HER Sports All-Girl Youth Flag Football League Debut (Ages 7–11) – The league launched in September with strong participation in its first season. Early feedback from parents and players has been very positive, emphasizing fun, teamwork, and safe play. Coaches and staff are actively monitoring the inaugural season to ensure quality and to gather feedback for future improvements.
 - Pickleball Growth at Carver: Beginner clinics are underway. Carver Recreation Center introduced new Adult Beginner Pickleball Clinics this fall, which have attracted steady interest. Participants are building foundational skills and confidence, preparing for open play and upcoming leagues. Pickleball remains one of the fastest-growing programs, and these clinics help support the sport's continued success in Charlottesville.
- Golf
 - Registration is now open for the 2025 Lazy Parrot Fall Classic at Meadowcreek Golf Course. Register online at [2025 Lazy Parrot Fall Classic \(link\)](#).
- Downtown Safe Halloween Event: Saturday, October 25, 2:00-4:00 PM at the Ting Pavilion. This is a free, family-friendly event featuring games, a costume contest, prizes, and live performances.
- Downtown Mall Educational Walks/Discussions: Parks & Recreation will host guided walks to discuss ongoing Downtown Mall tree maintenance.
 - Thursday, October 16 | 5:30-7:00 PM
 - Wednesday, October 22 | 5:30-7:00 PM
 - Location: Parks & Recreation Administration Building, 501 East Main Street (next to the Market Street parking garage)
- We are pleased to share a brief summary of the successful Virginia Amateur Skateboard League (VASL) contest held at Charlottesville Skate Park earlier this month weekend as part of the statewide VASL series.
- Event Overview: VASL Stop #8 featured three exciting competitions:
 - Street Contest
 - Park Bowl Contest
 - Traditional Bowl Contest
- Each event kicked off with the girls' divisions and included age brackets to ensure inclusive participation. Skateboarders from across Virginia—representing

cities like Virginia Beach, Richmond, and Roanoke—joined local Charlottesville skaters for a day of friendly competition and community building.

- Highlights:
 - The top three skaters in each event received medals and mini skateboard trophies.
 - Practice ran from 8:00–10:00 AM, registration opened at 9:00 AM, and contests began promptly at 10:00 AM.
 - Sponsor banners were prominently displayed throughout the street course, adding a professional and festive atmosphere.
 - The weather was ideal, and the park saw a steady flow of participants and spectators throughout the day.
- One memorable moment involved an 8-and-under Charlottesville skater spending over two hours learning a new trick from a visiting national-level skater from Virginia Beach—an inspiring example of mentorship and skill-sharing.
- Community Impact:
 - The event provided a valuable opportunity for skaters to connect, share techniques, and showcase their talents. It fostered a sense of unity among Virginia’s skateboarding community and highlighted Charlottesville as a welcoming and vibrant host city.
- Thank you for your continued support of youth recreation and community events. We look forward to future collaborations that promote active lifestyles and positive engagement.

Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)

- The City received the grand prize in the Design Bid Build Category at the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) Awards program for the Belmont Bridge replacement. This program recognizes outstanding design work in the transportation industry.

Information Technology – Director Steve Hawkes (he/him)

- The City has successfully completed the upgrade to SAP S/4HANA following nearly two years of planning and an 18-month implementation effort. This transition required significant staff time and coordination across departments. With SAP S/4, users now benefit from a modern, intuitive interface that improves user satisfaction and productivity. The platform enables real-time analytics, enhanced reporting, and lays the foundation for future AI capabilities—features not available in our previous system. Upgrading now, ahead of SAP’s 2027 end-of-support deadline, was a more cost-effective and less disruptive option than switching to a new provider, reducing long-term risk, and ensuring continuity.

Charlottesville Fire Department (CFD) – Chief Michael Thomas (he/him)

- Fire Chief's Report:
 - We held a successful ribbon-cutting ceremony this month for the new Station No. 1 (Bypass Station). Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success.
 - CFD proudly donated air packs to CATEC's firefighter program.
 - Key operation metrics:

Type	Fiscal Year		
	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
EMS	5,168	4,879	1,434
Fire	173	204	48
Other	2,322	2,843	912
Total	7,663	7,926	2,394

- From July through September of FY25, call volume decreased by 3.21% overall compared to the same months in FY24. EMS call volume over the equivalent period decreased by 6.95%. Overall, fire calls changed from an average of 16 to an average of 14.

Trends and Patterns		
Average monthly EMS incidents July-September: 325	Average fire incidents July-September: 14	Average monthly other incident types July-September: 266
Change in average monthly incidents since last year: -3.21%	Average change in monthly fire incidents since last year: -12.5%	Average change in monthly other incident types since last year: +4.31

- On average, CFD has run 325 EMS incidents, 14 fire incidents, and 266 other incident types each month this fiscal year. Comparing those monthly averages to the year before, EMS incidents slightly decreased. Fire slightly decreased and other incident types increased.

City EMS System Opioid Overdose Incidents



- Opioid overdoses in the City have decreased in 2025. CFD and Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad (CARS) have run an average of about three overdoses monthly in 2025, a decrease from 2024's average of six monthly overdoses.
- Unhoused EMS Patients:
 - CFD & CARS added a new field to patient care reports to track emergency medical responses to unhoused patients in June 2024. Our records show that since January 2025, CFD & CARS have responded to 53 unhoused patients monthly on average.
 - The top three findings of attendants in charge on these incidents were non-traumatic pain (12% of calls), bodily injuries (15% of calls), and alcohol abuse (8.5% of calls).
- Community Risk Reduction (CRR)/ Fire Marshall's Office (FMO) - Fire Prevention Week (FPW):
 - We had a fantastic week of activities highlighting FPW and the safe use of lithium-ion batteries. Throughout the week, we connected with hundreds of City residents and business owners to share critical fire safety information.
 - City staff also participated in a fire safety presentation for the City Safety Committee, focusing on lithium-ion battery safety and common fire code violations found in City buildings. In addition, CFD continued its outreach by distributing stovetop firestops to residents across Charlottesville—an effort made possible through a partnership between Charlottesville Ale Trail and CFD's CRR team, which is helping to provide additional funding for this important initiative.
 - CFD will continue FPW messaging throughout the month, including visits to multiple preschools to promote fire safety to our youngest community members.