



# **City Manager's Report**

*Offices of the City Manager  
Elected & Appointed Officials*

12-1-2025

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

- Signed the HOME-ARP Agreement with TJPDC which provides \$570,000 to PHA for the construction of three affordable housing units on the Park Street property.
- CPD hosted another successful Gun Buyback event, getting 58 guns off the street. Thank you to Pastor Edwards and Mt. Zion Church for their partnership.
- November 11 ECC Board Meeting:
  - Approved the Org Chart update to confirm the reporting structure of this regional entity serving the City, County, and university.
  - Received an up on the current public safety software used to support operations and to maintain connections to partner agencies.
  - Approved a project to update the Bylaws that governs board operations.
  - Received a regional emergency management update on how the jurisdictions work together; also talked about our communications platforms and how to engage more members of the public.
  - Agreed to also initiate, review, and update of the Joint Powers Agreement that established the ECC; will be a separate effort from the Bylaws update.
- November 24 CHO Airport Authority:
  - Revenue is up so far this year.
  - CHO is hiring!
    - Looking to participate in local Job Fair events.
    - Connecting with PVCC's Network to Work for filling critical vacancies.
    - Currently parking attendants are the hard-to-fill positions.
  - Director shared a report on how CHO's Help HUB was used to assist TSA workers who continued to report to work although unpaid during the shutdown.
  - Discussed the opportunity for CHO that arises from the large biotech investments coming to this region (1400 jobs).
- November 18 Rivanna Solid Waste Authority and Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority:
  - Recognition of Jim Andrews and Brian Pinkston for service on the Board of Directors as they each leave their seats on City Council and Board of Supervisors.
  - Recognized Leah Beard on her promotion to Director of Administration & Communications for Rivanna Authorities.
  - Ivy Solid Waste and Recycling Center continues to outperform prior years.
  - \$7500 Litter Recycling Grant awarded from VDEQ.
  - New Baling Facility foundation has been poured - will be active next year.

- Wastewater Pump Station has been substantially repaired using insurance proceeds that covered nearly \$10M of the \$14M project.
- Central Water Line - Phase 1
  - The work is now underway in the Fontaine Avenue area
- RWSA is holding a virtual meeting w/FSNA on December 15 ahead of move into the neighborhood.
- Projects to renovate and expand the Administration Building and raising the water level at Ragged Mountain are now underway.
- CIP Budget will be presented to the Boards in February 2026.

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

- Recent filming and editing include the Rugby Avenue shared-use path ribbon cutting ceremony and the James T.S. Taylor historical marker unveiling. We highlight all events on our monthly local public affairs tv program, Inside Charlottesville. Catch new episodes on-air on the first Friday of every month on Charlottesville TV10 and previous episodes every Friday and Sunday at 7:00 PM and Saturday and Monday at 9:00 AM, or stream online on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Vimeo](#), or CAPE's [webpage](#).
- This Friday is Charlottesville's 28<sup>th</sup> Grand Illumination from 5:00-8:00 PM at Ting Pavilion. This spectacular community tree lighting event features music, food, games, prizes, special guests, and plenty of holiday fun for all ages. Admission is free and parking is complimentary at the Market Street and Water Street garages from 5:00-10:00 PM. More information can be found at [cvillegrand.com](http://cvillegrand.com).
- To ensure everyone's safety during Charlottesville's Grand Illumination, new safety measures are being added this year:
  - Bag policy:
    - All bags must be clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC, and must not exceed 12" x 6" x 12" (30.5 cm x 15.25 cm x 30.5 cm)
    - Each attendee may bring one clear bag such as a clear backpack, clear fanny pack, clear cinch bag, or a clear plastic zipper bag like a Ziploc
    - Exceptions may be made for medically necessary items after inspection and tagging by security
  - Certain items are not permitted in the event, including:
    - Luggage
    - Firearms, knives, or other weapons
    - Fireworks or confetti

- Alcoholic beverages, beverage coolers, or containers of any kind (including plastic or glass bottles, cans, coolers, or flasks)
  - Baby bottles and food or drink containers for toddlers are permitted
- Aerosol containers, laser pointers, bicycles, and skateboards
- Only service animals are permitted inside the event, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Budget & Grants Management – Director Krisy Hammill (she/her)**

- The [online budget book](#) for the FY 2027 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) draft is now available on the City's [Budget & Grants Management webpage](#). A joint public hearing with the Planning Commission and City Council is scheduled for December 9 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.

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

- Combining winter weather first-aid information from the City-wide Safety Committee and the WISE program's goal to facilitate improved "Community Connections," the City supported the Winter Wear Clothing Drive.
- In the past month, the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership held two more workdays in the Little High neighborhood to continue to engage/train more residents in vine identification and removal from trees on private property. 92 additional trees have been liberated from harmful vines on private property.
- E-bike vouchers were awarded to 37 City residents in early November, concluding the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the 2025 e-bike voucher awards. To generate interest in the voucher drawing and demonstrate the benefits of e-bikes, the Office of Sustainability and Neighborhood Development Services co-hosted a public e-bike demo at Ting Pavilion on October 29.
- Work requests to initiate LED streetlight upgrades along 250 Bypass from the Barracks Road exit to River Road have been submitted. Dominion Energy will schedule the work once materials have been received. Installations are expected to start in December 2025.
- A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new solar PV system installation at CATEC was held on November 14 and a video of the event can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkH5Ryz-kdY>
- The City of Charlottesville held the 11th annual Imagine a Day without Water Art Contest along with water partners Albemarle County Service Authority and Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority. 530 amazing art entries were received from the City and County showing how "Water Works" in their creations. Now, the community is invited to help to select the contest's fan favorite from the top

entries. You have until December 3 to cast your vote for your favorite. Be on the lookout on December 10 for the announcement of all the contest winners. To vote for your favorite entry, go to: <https://artcontest.cmpgn.page/GPnJq9>

- The Climate Program Manager gave a presentation at a recent meeting of UVA's Sustainability Advocates.
- The Climate Program Specialist spoke on a career panel hosted by UVA's co-ed professional environmental fraternity.
- The Climate Team was invited to a Green BACON meeting at Charlottesville High School to talk to students about the City's sustainability efforts.
- To connect student input with the current phase of Resilient Together, UVA, City, and County staff facilitated an interactive workshop for UVA students on Grounds. With nearly 40 students in attendance, participants were able to work collaboratively to discuss the implementation of strategies that were developed in previous Community Design Nights and how they could be tailored to be relevant to students.
- The Resilient Together team made a presentation about Charlottesville & Albemarle's Climate Adaptation and Resilience planning process to a state-wide group of sustainability practitioners at a Resilient Virginia meeting.

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

- On November 18, the City formally closed on the property at 2000 Holiday Drive. Office of Economic Development staff has been working with Public Works and other City staff to ensure a smooth transfer of maintenance and other responsibilities to City control.

#### **Office of Emergency Management (OEM) – Emergency Management Coordinator John Oprandy (he/him)**

- Final Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Training Event: OEM successfully conducted the final session of the COOP training series. This session concluded the citywide initiative to ensure departmental readiness and continuity planning. Participant feedback highlighted improved understanding of essential functions and interdepartmental coordination during disruptions.
- Grand Illumination Planning: OEM played a key role in the planning and coordination of public safety and emergency preparedness for Charlottesville's 28th Grand Illumination. This included scenario planning, coordination with public safety partners, and ensuring emergency communication protocols were in place for the large public gathering.
- LEAD Team Retreat & Strategic Planning: OEM leadership participated in the City's LEAD Team Retreat and Strategic Planning sessions. Contributions

focused on integrating emergency preparedness into broader citywide strategic goals, emphasizing resilience, interagency collaboration, and community engagement.

- **Cooling Center After-Action Review:** OEM conducted a brief after-action review of the City's cooling center operations from the summer. Lessons learned are being applied to improve planning and logistics for upcoming warming center operations, including staffing, resource allocation, and public communication strategies.
- **ECC Management Board Meeting:** OEM attended the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Management Board meeting, where several regional emergency management initiatives were discussed and advanced. Topics included the regional coordination responsibilities of the City, County, and UVA Emergency Managers and improving coordination and protocols for public information and warning.
- **International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Annual Conference Attendance:** OEM was represented at the IAEM Annual Conference. Key takeaways included: Completion of the two-day "Event Security Planning for Public Safety Professionals" course; Expanded knowledge of Rave, the City's public information and warning tool, particularly its use for visitors and event attendees; Insights from Jeremy Knighton, Asheville's Emergency Manager, on the impacts and response to Hurricane Helene, offering valuable lessons for local hazard planning.
- **State and Regional Coordination:** OEM continued active participation in several recurring state and regional emergency management meetings. These engagements support alignment with state guidance, regional collaboration, and situational awareness across jurisdictions.
- **Emergency Management Framework Presentation:** OEM presented and discussed the City's Emergency Management framework with the City Police Department's command staff. Presentations to the City's Lead Team, and City Council are scheduled for December.

#### **Department of Finance – Director Chris Cullinan (he/him)**

- Finance Director Chris attended his first JAUNT Board of Directors meeting in October.

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

- During a Special meeting on November 6, the Human Rights Commission adopted a draft set of City policy recommendations for presentation to City Council on or before November 30. As with the legislative agenda

recommendations, the Commission will focus its City policy recommendations on housing access and stability across protected classes and economic status.

- From November 15-21, the Director of the Human Rights Commission attended the Learning, Educating, and Developing (LEAD) program through the UVA Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. LEAD is a one-week residential leadership development program designed for local government employees. The program includes intensive coursework in employee engagement, work culture development, managing conflict, emotional intelligence, and psychological safety in the workplace, and leading through change.
- The Office of Human Rights currently has 21 open discrimination complaint cases: one is awaiting response to offers of alternative dispute resolution, eight are in the process of alternative dispute resolution, eight are under investigation, and four are under review for determination after investigation.

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

- Audits for Rent Relief Program have been completed. Checks to qualifying applicants are going out starting today. In light of the government shutdown and ensuing delays with federal-dependent programs, we tried really hard to get things out as quickly as possible this year. Becky Morton and her staff are to be commended.
- Business license renewals will be done entirely online this year. Letters have gone out to business owners already. We will be following this up with press releases and further mailed communications.