



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

4-6-2026

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- March 17
 - Attended a Charlottesville Business Innovation Council (CBIC) event at CODE Building.
 - Attended the quarterly Neighborhood Leaders meeting (see the attached Q&A report at the bottom of this document).
- March 18
 - Met with Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF) and BamaWorks to discuss fundraising opportunities to support Holiday Drive becoming a homeless services center featuring day and overnight shelter services.
- March 19
 - Met with Salvation Army leadership to discuss progress on the Center of Hope capital campaign.
 - Participated in a filming project with VDOT regarding the City's construction of the Belmont Bridge as critical infrastructure.
- March 20
 - Joined local community members for Runways and Revenue: CHO's Economic Impact - a presentation by Jason Burch, CEO of Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport.
 - Met with the City's IT Director, HR Director, and Finance Director on the need for additional funds to implement a transformative cloud-based human resource management system as we continue to modernize human resources.
- March 23
 - Met with Jean Runyon, PVCC President, and Jeff Richardson, Albemarle County Executive, for our quarterly check-in to discuss regional priorities.
- March 24
 - Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Board Meeting
 - Election of Officers
 - Mike Gaffney continues as Chair
 - Jeff Richardson elected Vice Chair
 - Sam Sanders elected Secretary-Treasurer
 - Terms begin May 2026
 - Director's Report
 - We have exceeded solid waste daily processing limits on multiple occasions with warnings from DEQ, which may lead to intermittent closures.
 - May need to increase the tonnage received.

- FREE Mulch is available at Ivy Solid Waste & Recycling Center for the public.
 - April 11 Electronic Waste Collection at Ivy for City and County residents.
 - Spring Special Collection Days are April 11 - May 9.
 - FY25 audit presentation by Robinson, Farmer, Cox - clean audit.
 - FY26-27 proposed budget: \$11.7M, up \$700k. The Board approved advertising the preliminary rate and holding a Public Hearing on May 26.
- Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority Board Meeting
 - FY26-27 proposed budget: \$72.1M (\$8.1M Increase) [\$39.1M debt service].
 - \$2.4M increase for City share (\$25.3M).
 - Three FTEs/creating a new IT division, splitting IT and Finance.
 - \$464k internal cost savings realized.
 - \$604M CIP
 - Approved formation of the Information & Operational Technology Division.
 - Approved advertising of the preliminary rate and holding a Public Hearing on May 26.
- March 25
 - Hosted a reception to recognize 50 employees who achieved five years of employment with the City.
- March 27
 - City Manager's Office (CMO) met with the Harrisonburg CMO to tour the Navigation Center, a homeless services center operated in sponsorship and partnership between Open Doors, a local nonprofit, and the City of Harrisonburg.

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

- CAPE is excited to welcome new Assistant Director of Communications & Public Engagement Ose Akinlotan. They are transitioning to our team from Neighborhood Development Services, and we look forward to expanding the City's public engagement efforts with their expertise.
- The latest episode of Inside Charlottesville is now live! Catch it on Charlottesville TV10 every Friday and Sunday at 7:00 PM and Saturday and Monday at 9:00 AM, or stream online on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Vimeo](#), or the [CAPE webpage](#).

ADA – Coordinator Paul Rudacille

- The City is renovating the bathrooms at Washington Park to improve accessibility, functionality, and the overall experience for park visitors.
- Information Technology
 - The City is testing third-party software that will help make digital documents more accessible to the public, including Portable Document Format files, Excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations. This work is intended to improve access to City information and better align digital materials with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines standards beginning in April 2027.

Office of Budget & Grants Management – Director Krisy Hammill (she/her)

- Reminder that there are a few more dates for the public to provide input on the FY 2027 Budget
 - April 2 - Budget Work Session - Council "Wrap-Up"
 - April 6 - Public Hearing on the Tax Rate
- All interested citizens can provide comment on a proposed new 1-Year Annual Action Plan ("AAP") for the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs, which will be presented before the Planning Commission during a public hearing on Tuesday, April 14, at 5:00 PM in City Council Chambers. 13 applications have been received: 11 for CDBG and two for Home. Recommendations will be presented to City Council on May 4.

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

- Applications for [real estate tax relief](#) for the elderly and disabled are due on April 1. Call 434-970-3160 or email taxrelief@charlottesville.gov with questions.
- Applications for [rental relief](#) for the elderly and disabled are due on May 1. Call 434-970-3160 or email taxrelief@charlottesville.gov with questions.
- Business License renewals were due on March 2. Businesses who have not filed are encouraged to do so immediately. Any unfiled business licenses will soon be statutorily assessed and billed. Likewise, unfiled business tangible personal property and machinery and tools will be statutorily assessed and billed with first half personal property bills. Call 434-970-3170 or email citycorbiz@charlottesville.gov with questions.

Finance – Director Chris Cullinan (he/him)

- The City Assessor's Office is completing the administrative appeals process for the 2026 Reassessment. To date, 132 administrative appeals have been received (0.84% of the 15,656 total assessments). These appeals have resulted in a total decrease of approximately \$28.5M in assessed value (0.23% of the \$12.2B total assessed values in the City). Appeals not resolved administratively will go the Board of Equalization which is scheduled to meet mid-May.

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

- The 4th Annual Piedmont Pitch competition is on the horizon and an initial group of 37 entrepreneurs and emerging business owners, 12 of which identified as already being located in the City of Charlottesville and 10 of which do not have an identified business location, have submitted their draft business plans for consideration to be in the final pitch competition on June 3. From here, applicants will have their business plan reviewed by staff and advisors at the Central Virginia Small Business Development Center (CVSBDC), with feedback given as to how they can strengthen their plan and prepare for advancement in the competition. Those entrepreneurs and emerging business owners ready to move forward will have additional time to refine their plans prior to submitting them for final consideration. Of the final business plans, six individuals will be selected to pitch in the June 3 competition before a panel of local and regional experts for their chance to win part of \$15,000 in total prize funding.
- Piedmont Pitch is part of a collaborative effort among the City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development, Albemarle County Economic Development, Community Investment Collaborative (CIC), and CVSBDC. The competition will take place on Wednesday, June 3, at the PVCC Bolick Center, as part of the Piedmont Ascent Small Business Conference. More information is available by visiting <https://cvsbdc.org/piedmont-pitch/>.

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

- OEM hosted a two-day Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Workshop on March 31 and April 1 at CitySpace. The workshop was built around the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) G191 curriculum and brought together department heads and CMO staff to continue refining the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and work through roles and responsibilities within the EOC. This is part of OEM's ongoing effort to strengthen the City's readiness framework and build familiarity with how the EOC functions during an activation.

- OEM has also been working with Assistant City Manager Samuel Roman on the development of an implementation plan for the City's overall emergency management framework. The plan outlines a phased approach over the next two to three years and was introduced in part at the recent workshop, with a broader rollout planned for a future extended lead team meeting.
- OEM has been working closely with other City departments, primarily public safety, in planning for the Tom Tom Festival Block Party on April 24 and 25. An Incident Command Post (ICP) will be established for the block party to support coordination of public safety operations during the event. As part of that preparation, OEM is facilitating a tabletop exercise on April 7 to exercise the plans that have been developed in advance of the block party. The exercise will bring together approximately 25 participants from City public safety departments, other key City departments, and Tom Tom management and security staff over the course of about two hours to walk through event plans and emergency procedures.
- In addition, OEM recently met with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and was awarded a technical assistance grant. Working with Region 3 Chief Regional Coordinator Gene Stewart, OEM is planning a tabletop exercise this summer focused on shelter management. That exercise will involve Charlottesville and Albemarle County emergency management staff along with Department of Social Services and Human Services personnel. The tabletop is intended to lay the groundwork for a full-scale shelter setup drill planned for spring 2027.

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

- April is Earth Month! Learn about what Charlottesville is doing to be a good steward of our shared environment by visiting our Climate Action and Sustainability Dashboard at climateaction.charlottesville.gov.
- The Second Quarter sign-up window for Charlottesville's E-Bike Voucher Grant Program is open for the entire month of April. City residents 18 years and older can learn more and enter to win an e-bike voucher at <https://connect.charlottesville.gov/charlottesville-e-bike-voucher-program>. The Q2 drawing will take place, and winners will be notified during the first week of May.
- In partnership with the Community Climate Collaborative and the Virginia Discovery Museum, the Office of Sustainability will distribute educational Climate Kits to all Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) 4th grade students on Wednesday, April 15. The kits include fun and educational activities that help students understand the connection between energy and water use and the environment.
- The second Climate Café of 2026 was held on March 13 featuring the City's Water Conservation Program and partners of the Rivanna Stormwater Education

Partnership to kick off Fix A Leak Week and highlighting climate-related challenges associated with providing clean water to our community.

- The Climate Program Manager provided a Climate Program update to the Cville100 Coalition on March 17.
- The Office of Sustainability Director delivered a presentation on March 18 at the Center at Belvedere on climate resilience and effects on the senior population. The event was organized by Cville Village.
- The Office of Sustainability and the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership (CHIPP) presented to this year's cohort of students enrolled with the Rivanna Master Naturalists on March 18. Opportunities to support neighborhood tree care efforts and connect with local initiatives and resources through the Climate Action Dashboard and the Energy Resource Hub were discussed.
- The Office of Sustainability and the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership (CHIPP) have launched a new neighborhood pilot program in Fry's Spring. Residents and CHIPP partners have assessed the neighborhood for the impact of invasive vines on neighborhood trees and hosted their first workday on Sunday, March 22 with neighbors to train them in vine removal practices. With support from 16 volunteers, 51 trees were liberated from invasive vines.
- The Office of Sustainability's Climate Program was represented at the UVA Public Service Pathways Panel on March 27 where students had the opportunity to ask questions about the professional experiences of panelists and what brought them to work in climate resilience and sustainability.
- In partnership with UVA's Office for Sustainability, the City's Climate Program is supporting a Climate Hazard Zine Workshop on March 30 for students to contribute their knowledge and artistic abilities to the creation of zines that will be distributed at outreach events throughout Earth Month (April). The content of the zines will be focused on emergency preparedness and highlight local resources.
- To encourage community members to connect with volunteer opportunities and local climate and sustainability initiatives, the City and the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont will be hosting an Eco Fair on Saturday, April 18. The Office of Sustainability will be joined by several community partners to provide programming that will include a resource fair, lightning talks and educational demonstrations all with the intent of empowering attendees to identify their areas of interest and take action. Event details: ecofairinthegarden2026.eventbrite.com.
- The March Fix A Leak Campaign consisted of several events, including a Fix a Leak Scavenger Hunt to help you identify water leaks in your home. As a reminder, you have until April 13 to submit your scavenger hunt worksheet to be entered to win a prize. To find the scavenger hunt worksheet and learn how to fix a leak: Charlottesville.gov/FixALeak.
- Charlottesville is hosting a rain barrel workshop in partnership with the Rivanna Stormwater Education Partnership and James River Association. The workshop

is Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 PM at Starr Hill Downtown at the Dairy Market. Staff members will instruct workshop participants on how to assemble and install rain barrels at home. The registration fee for the workshop is \$50 and each registration comes with a 55-gallon drum, DIY rain barrel installation kit, and a beverage. Register for the workshop at <https://form.jotform.com/form/253496875996989>.

- On Saturday, May 9, the City of Charlottesville is an organizer for the annual Rivanna RiverFest at Rivanna River Company. The event runs from 2:30 PM – 9:00 PM with community tables, family activities, free tubing, presentations, performances, and food and drink! This event is free to the public. Come celebrate and experience your river. Learn more about Rivanna RiverFest: <https://www.rivannariver.org/rivanna-riverfest/>.
- The FY25 Energy and Water Performance Report for the City has been finalized (including specific Executive Summaries for the City and the CCS portfolio of facilities) and can be accessed here: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/288/Energy-Water-Management>.
- LED Streetlight Upgrade Project - Progress Update: Work has been completed along the Rt 250 Bypass from the Barracks Road exit to River Road. Emmet Street from Angus Road to JPA is currently being coordinated with Dominion Energy. The next area that has been submitted for design includes Ivy Road to West Main Street.

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

- At their annual planning meeting on March 5, Human Rights Commissioners reviewed their work over the last several years alongside the results from a recent public poll soliciting public input regarding the Commission’s potential focus areas for the remainder of 2026. Commissioners decided to focus on economic stability across classes protected by the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance for their policy and legislative recommendations in 2026.
- As part of their regular meeting on April 16, Commissioners will meet with Economic Mobility Officer Abi Matthew Wade to learn about her work and explore opportunities for collaboration. During this meeting, Commissioners will also review draft amendments to the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance in anticipation of adopting them for City Council’s consideration on June 15.
- The Office of Human Rights currently has 20 open discrimination complaint cases: two are awaiting responses to offers of alternative dispute resolution, two are in the process of alternative dispute resolution, nine are under investigation, six are under review for determination after investigation, and one is under review for appeal by the Human Rights Commission.

Police Civilian Oversight – Executive Director James Walker (he/him)

- The Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB) is pleased to highlight the following recent accomplishments and indicators of progress towards its mission of providing independent, civilian-led accountability of policing in the City of Charlottesville.
- General
 - The Board is now fully seated with eight members who demonstrate a commitment to high engagement in the Board's work.
 - The Board and Director have developed a 2026 Board Work Plan, which sets priorities, processes, and oversight implementation tasks.
 - The Board and Director are finalizing a revised ordinance to recommend to City Council with the goal of focusing the scope of Board oversight and practicality of implementation to provide the community more of the oversight originally intended and asked of the Board.
 - The Board has established a contract with independent legal counsel as vetted through the City Attorney's Office.
- Community Outreach & Messaging
 - The Board and Director have developed a community outreach and connections plan, including a directory of connections made and anticipated.
 - The Board has launched an ongoing survey for all community engagements, asking "what has been your experience with policing in the City of Charlottesville," which helps to guide and prioritize tasks on the Board's Work Plan.
 - The Director and members of the Board have attended the following:
 - Hispanic Community Police Academy
 - General Community Police Academy
 - Post-academy internal training of new police officers
 - Internal and community-based CompStat (comparative statistics)
 - Office of Human Rights Teen Expo event
 - City's Budget Forum
 - Over 10 direct meetings with community leaders and advocates in 2026
- Direct Oversight of Police Complaints, Incidents
 - The Board has initiated its first case review, received by the PCOB in fall 2025 and investigated by Internal Affairs (IA).
 - The Director has served four days on police recruit interview panels in the last several months.
 - The Director now serves on an incident review panel with the Police Department, monitoring and providing input of all incidents related to

weapons deployment, use of force, and vehicle pursuits. The Director can flag specific incidents to the Board as needed.

- Police Policy and Procedure Review
 - The Board is conducting a review of Police Department General Orders and has selected several which are most relevant to the community at this time to research, understand, and make recommendations.
- Internal PCOB Process and Documentation
 - The Board held its first public work session in over a year, outside of its regular monthly schedule, to organize and advance specific tasks among its members.
 - The Director has initiated a ride-along campaign for Board member training and awareness of policing practices.
 - Board training has been held on records and public meeting rules related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
 - The Director and Board have developed templates for reporting on work of the Board and case review findings.

UVA Health Mobile Care is coming to Charlottesville Downtown Mall



Serving our Communities with Healthcare and Education

UVA Health Mobile Care makes healthcare easier by bringing primary care to your neighborhood. We offer a range of services for adults and kids so you and your family can get the care you need in one place — without traveling far.

Access to healthcare services can help to prevent sickness and promote well-being. UVA Health Mobile Care is here to help when:

- You can't wait for an appointment with your regular provider and would like to be seen for a non-emergency situation
- You don't yet have a regular provider in a clinic and want to establish care
- You have transportation limitations and need care close to home

Services

- General health check-ups
- Chronic disease management
- Pediatric care
- Care for minor sicknesses and injuries
- Women's health – pelvic concerns and birth control
- Lab tests
- And much more

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Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month | 12 pm - 4 pm

Downtown Pedestrian Mall in front of the pavilion | Charlottesville, VA

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Charlottesville Department of Social Services programs include:
CPS, APS, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, childcare, VIEW.



To learn more about UVA Health Mobile Care, including updates on schedule and services, please visit uvahealth.com/mobile or scan QR code



031726
Neighborhood Leaders Meeting
Q&A Report

(1) What is the current status of the development project City Council approved for a Special Use Permit back in 2017 for the large lot at **1011 East Jefferson Street**? The plan was approved in a 3-2 vote because the developer misled City Council by saying the project would "include affordable housing". It later turned out the developer defined "including affordable housing" as offering 4 of the 126 planned units at 80% AMI for a short term of years. In short, the 1011 East Jefferson project as one of the biggest deceptions of all time.

So what's going on with the project now? In the new zoning code the City clearly made a great effort to prevent future disastrous agreements of this kind. It now insists on "truth in advertising" with developer promises of affordable housing by requiring planned affordable housing projects to remain so "in perpetuity" and for insisting on the 60% AMI level of income.

So why not scrap the 2017 deal, which was made in bad faith (and the developer has done nothing with the property since)? The site could then develop the bulk of the site as housing for City employees, school teachers, librarians, and retail staff who work downtown. This would combine the city's two goals of providing more affordable housing and reducing our carbon footprint. Imagine people who work downtown being able to walk there! And where can we find up to date information about future development projects?

The 1011 E Jefferson Final Site Plan was approved on January 6, 2026. Pursuant to Section 34-825(a), the Final Site Plan shall be valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of approval or until January 6, 2031. The applicant must record the required plats prior to signature by the site plan agent. In addition, the applicant must meet several additional requirements prior to the issuance of a land disturbance permit. The site plan can be found under permit number P18-0141 (available through the City's online permit portal system <https://permits.charlottesville.gov/portal>)

(2) When SNAP benefits were cut last fall, those of us who live in Little High discovered that the nearly 40 residents of **the Mews** were left in very difficult straits. The Little High Neighborhood Association organized two large food drives to try to tide them over and supplement the 25% assistance they were getting from Governor Youngkin and the efforts of the food banks (we also raised more than \$800 for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank). Our help for the residents of the Mews was just a drop in the bucket though as 1 out of every 9 City residents depends on SNAP benefits. As far as I know, the City was minimally involved in providing relief to SNAP recipients (please correct me if I'm wrong about that).

What can the City do to respond in situations like this where a group of residents are suddenly cut off from basic benefits?

Does the City have a fund for emergency public assistance needs? If so, can Charlottesville residents donate directly to the fund?

SNAP Benefits during the Federal Shutdown

- **SNAP recipients in Virginia received their full benefits through the Virginia Emergency Nutrition Assistance (VENA) program.**
- **Benefits were distributed in four weekly payments instead of one lump sum.**
- **In addition to VENA funds, the State allocated \$1 million to support the food bank network.**

Local Efforts and Partnerships

- **The local DSS partnered with food banks and pantries to support families.**
- **A direct communication line was established so recipients and case managers could quickly access emergency food.**
- **Care packages were made available onsite at DSS for SNAP recipients.**
- **Key partners included Loaves and Fishes and the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, which reported having sufficient resources to meet community needs.**

City Emergency Funding

- **The City provides emergency assistance for rent, utilities, and general living expenses, but not specifically for food.**
- **These funds are managed by City departments such as Human Services.**
- **The City also matches a portion of Federal and State funds that support Social Services program administration.**

Guidance on Donations

- **Community members are encouraged to donate directly to established local food assistance organizations as this would be most impactful.**

(3) Given our experience with the snowfall in late January and early February can we learn from this experience and revise the City's snow ordinance accordingly? One thing we all learned is that not all snowstorms are the same. We're used to light, fluffy snow that is *relatively* easy to shovel. Our shoveling efforts are usually also assisted by snowmelt because the daytime temperatures have seldom stayed below freezing for more than a few days at a time. Last month's snowfall was very different. We all recognize the need to clear our sidewalks. I hope you now concede that expecting every resident to perform the hard labor involved is ableist and totally unrealistic.

Can the City please just hire individual contractors to shovel the sidewalks after major snowstorms? You would have to exempt low-income residents from charges, making up most or all of the lost revenue by charging those who can afford to pay.

(4) We recognize that the inclement weather this past January and February was not without its challenges, but the City of Charlottesville's snow removal ordinance serves to maintain safe and accessible pedestrian pathways helping prevent hazards for individuals with disabilities, older adults, parents with strollers, and students on Safe Routes to School. Decisions about modifying ordinances rest with City Council, and you may contact your City Council representatives directly to express your interest in seeing them.

(5) We very much appreciate the City's effort to protect our trees! The City could take many additional actions to lower our carbon footprint:

(a) Fill empty City properties with solar panels;

Our current efforts have involved installing solar system on City buildings, preferably as soon as

possible following roof replacement so that the life of the roof and the life of the power generating system align. This past year, solar systems were installed on the Bypass Fire Station and on CATEC. We are actively working on getting solar systems installed on Charlottesville High School as well as Charlottesville Middle School. More information can be found here: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/CitySolar>

(b) Require all City buildings to have solar panels and/or green roofs; We have recently published the Charlottesville High Performance Building Standards v1.0 (HPBS) for municipal building projects. These standards establish current practices as requirements and are intended to standardize building methods across all departments and for all building projects. Vegetated Roofs are covered in Section 4.4 and Photovoltaics are covered in Section 9.3.

(c) Get rid of gas-powered maintenance tools (lawn mowers, weed eaters, leaf-blowers, and the like) and replace them with high quality electric versions. **Where operational requirements allow, the Public Works Department evaluates the possible transition of tools and equipment to battery powered alternatives when replacing or buying new. Recently, the Traffic Operations Team moved to battery powered chainsaws/trimmers for limb and vegetation removal around signs and infrastructure.**

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) recently piloted the use of battery-powered landscape maintenance equipment at the Downtown Mall and the Skate Park, as well as with some of their mobile landscaping crews. DPR staff have found the equipment capable in their initial pilots and report that the reductions in noise and air pollution have improved both the visitor and operator experience. Given the initial success of the pilot, the Department plans to expand the use of battery-powered equipment to other sites they manage in FY26.

(d) Promote composting and offer it as a free service for low-income residents.

The City's loose leaf collection program, conducted every year starting in the Fall, collects and disposes of the leaf materials at a local farm who uses the material for composting.

There are several options for composting in Charlottesville.

- **The City provides a drop-off location at the City Market April through October for community members to compost their household food scraps at no cost: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/705/Composting-at-the-City-Market>**
- **The City offers a free 24/7 compost drop-off program. More information can be found here: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/702/Compost-Drop-Off-247>.**
- **Provided by the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority, a free composting drop-off location is also offered inside the McIntire Recycling Center: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/706/Composting-at-McIntire-Recycling-Center>**

Additional information is available here: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/701/Composting-in-Charlottesville>

(6) We have a large and relatively underdeveloped area in Little High: the area between East Market Street and the railroad tracks which is mostly filled with one-story buildings and small businesses. What, if anything, can we do to attract a medium size grocery store to open in this space? This is an ideal location for a grocery store and we could all drive significantly less if we had one within walking distance.

Is the City doing anything to attract grocery stores?

The city is not actively recruiting grocery stores. Most of the parcels in this location are zoned CX-5 which would permit a grocery store by-right.

(7) What is the plan for Walker next year? How are changes there going to affect our

neighborhood? Is the entrance going to change or will it remain on Gentry? Is there a traffic plan in development to address the number of cars coming in and out of the neighborhood to get to the school?

Next year Walker will transition to the temporary Pre-K Center condition. It is not anticipated that traffic flow will increase noticeably to Walker, due to the fact that enrollment should decrease from the current Upper Elementary function. At present we expect the entrance to remain on Gentry. Of course, the construction of the new Pre-K Center on the Walker campus is expected to begin in the summer of 2027, and that will have traffic impacts, but that project is still in the early stages of design, so it is difficult to assess what those might be until we get a little farther into the design process.

(8) Neighbors have observed areas of native plantings such as the milkweed on the old golf course at McIntire Park and the ornamental grasses at Greenleaf Park getting cut back prematurely, therefore undermining the benefits of these plantings. Why does the city landscape crews do this? Why not do seasonal pruning at the appropriate time? In the case of the milkweed, a neighbor observed it being chopped down at the height of the Monarch migration in September while the grasses at Greenleaf were also cut in the fall. (Ornamental grasses are both winter habitat and food for birds. Spring is the appropriate pruning time, not fall)

The fields at McIntire were cut early last year to help ensure the removal of invasive trees and woody shrubs. It involved a second cutting in some areas. In previous years, the fields went uncut which allowed a large number of invasive trees to infest the fields. Now that the area is back at a manageable level, our staff will maintain the fields with a cutback in the fall or winter. We are committed to growing diverse and healthy native landscapes and understand the important role of native grasses and perennial plants. Over time we hope transform the fields into fields full of native grasses, perennials, and pollinator habitat. Unfortunately, the grasses at Greenleaf were put on the wrong work list and cut prematurely. We acknowledge this error and will make sure they are cut next year at the appropriate time.

(9) Following the recent ice storm, city plow trucks were seen going up and down Rose Hill Drive all day long with their plows up, only to come back at night with them down, attempting to plow the solid block of ice that had formed hours after the sun set. What was the reasoning for this? During the daylight hours, the ice on the roads was softer and easier to push out of the way than when it was frozen at night. It felt like city crews were working around the clock to say they were working around the clock while not actually accomplishing anything past dark.

Snow plowing is a dynamic operation with assigned route coverages broken up across route priority designations and geographic areas and different phases of the storm response. This can mean there will be times of plow-up activity when chemicals are actively being applied during certain times of the response. This timing coordination allows the chemical time to work within the appropriate temperature ranges, while not being pushed off the road with plowing. As part of every snow or weather event we constantly perform route monitoring and provide informed feedback to our operators. This helps to inform continuous improvement measures as we work to provide the best

service possible to the community.

(10) Two years in a row, our streets – Welford, Greenleaf, Del Mar and more – were not plowed in a snowstorm. For many of the longtime residents of this neighborhood, this is a new development. With the significant spike in property values along with our property taxes, why are we seeing less services? Is not plowing all the city streets the new normal?

Snow plowing is a dynamic operation with assigned route coverages broken up across route priority designations and geographic areas and different phases of the storm response. This can sometimes mean coverage crossover with route reassignments or equipment issues, as well as integrating new operators into assigned routes. We constantly monitor to help ensure routes are being completed as necessary as our operators plow their coverage areas. This helps to inform continuous improvement measures as we work to provide the best service possible to the community. If you or someone you know experiences issues in the future, we encourage the community to please call into our main customer service line, 434-970-3830, so that it can be logged and prioritized for resolution.

(11) Per the city website, Greenleaf Park has been reclassified as a “community park” with the pavilion now available to be reserved. Hurrah! However, how does the city plan on managing this?

Obviously, the signage on the pavilion will have to be changed, but how will the city publicize this information? More importantly, what is going to happen when someone who reserved the pavilion shows up to use it at noon and someone who did not know about the changes has been camped out there to use it since early morning is already there? Will Parks staff be on call to deal with this situation on weekends or will this be tasked to another department like law enforcement?

Signage will be placed at all newly reservable shelters to indicate 1) that the shelter can be reserved and 2) how to make a reservation. There will also be signage to indicate existing reservations. We encourage renters to keep records of their reservation in case of any questions from others. We do have a roving custodial staff member who may be able to respond, or the non-emergency police number can be used to help resolve any conflicts.

(12) Is there no one who regularly comes by to pick up garbage and restock the dog poop bags at Greenleaf Park anymore? The poop station has been out of bags almost consistently since the new year and some of the garbage cans have not been emptied in weeks.

We have an ongoing order for dog waste bags, but we have noticed an uptick in use system-wide that necessitates more frequent orders. New bags have been purchased, delivered and restocked. There is no valid reason for trash not to have been collected, and we have addressed this with staff