



City Manager's Report

City Departments

4-20-2026

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- April 8
 - Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Management Board Meeting:
 - Reviewed and approved the proposed FY27 Budget with a 4.6% increase over the prior year.
 - Discussed the proposed capital improvement program with specific attention to long-term needs and high-cost communications projects to support operations.
 - Board reviewed revisions to the Bylaws that will be presented to all participating jurisdictions for approval which makes them final and updated.
- April 9
 - City Council adopted the FY27 Budget, and I offer my sincere thanks to Krisy Hammill, Budget Director, and her team for their tireless efforts to bring forward the next City budget. I want to thank my team in the City Manager's Office for their respective contributions and for supporting the process. A big thanks to all department heads and their teams for the work they did to produce operating and capital budget proposals aimed at supporting their delivery of quality and effective services and programs according to Council's priorities.
- April 14
 - Attended a special meeting of the ECC Management Board to conduct interviews for a new director.

Assistant City Manager (ACM) – Evan Pilachowski (he/him)

- ACM Pilachowski has continued to prioritize meeting with community leaders throughout March and April 2026 to familiarize himself with the community and better understand the needs of its neighborhoods and citizen groups. Notable meetings included traffic calming discussions with the Fifeville Neighborhood Association members, community members from Westwood Road, and an upcoming meeting with the Martha Jefferson Neighborhood Association. Public meetings for Fifeville and traffic patterns around Summit Elementary are being planned for May 2026 to get input from these communities to ensure that planned solutions will address identified problems and have support from the community. Lessons learned from these and other traffic discussions will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the City's existing traffic calming procedures, with recommendations to City Council to follow for any proposed updates.

Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)

- National Safe Digging Month
 - April is National Safe Digging Month. With the start of the outside project season here, the Charlottesville Department of Utilities reminds the community of the importance of contacting VA811 before breaking ground on any digging project – no matter the size. The 811 service professionally marks the location of any buried utilities on your property for free, helping to prevent their damage and a potentially hazardous situation. For more information on VA811, please visit www.charlottesville.gov/gassafety.
- Charlottesville Utilities Storm Drain Art Contest Artwork Unveiling
 - The three winning designs for the Charlottesville Utilities Storm Drain Art Contest are officially on display in McIntire Park! The painted storm drains were unveiled at a ceremony on April 14 and are located along the sidewalk above the front softball fields. This educational art-in-place experience serves to remind the community of the importance of stormwater pollution prevention, where it will engage and educate the community for years to come. We encourage everyone to check them out! More information on the contest and winning designs is at www.charlottesville.gov/stormwater.
- Natural Gas Safety Survey
 - Natural gas is a common energy source in our area, and the Department of Utilities prioritizes gas safety awareness among the public. Every four years, Utilities administers a federally mandated gas safety survey to all stakeholders in the community. This spring, the University of Virginia Center for Survey Research is assisting Utilities in this action and is conducting a safety survey for residents and commercial businesses, compiling a comprehensive sample of the opinions for those stakeholders. If you are asked to participate, we would greatly appreciate your responses, as they will help Utilities continue its robust safety program. All answers will remain confidential.
- West Main Street Utilities Replacement Project
 - The Charlottesville Department of Utilities continues its City-wide implementation of planned infrastructure improvements with the West Main Street Utilities Replacement Project. This project builds on the City's commitment to provide the community with an industry-leading public utility by modernizing aging gas and water distribution infrastructure throughout the City. Funded through Utilities enterprise funds and grant support, this project represents a strategic investment in Charlottesville's future. Phase One is scheduled to begin summer 2026 in the area between the Beta Bridge and the intersection at Chancellor Street and University Avenue. For more information on the project and to sign up to receive notifications and project updates, including an upcoming Phase

One kickoff event, please visit
www.connect.charlottesville.gov/WestMainUtilitiesProject.

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

- City Market
 - Opening Day was Saturday, April 4, and we're so excited to kick off another fantastic season! This year, we have reached an exciting milestone with 112 booths booked on Opening Day, the most ever recorded. In addition, 198 vendors applied for the 2026 City Market, setting another record before the season begins.
 - We are also proud to unveil the new Market Parklet this year. This inviting astroturf space will provide a welcoming place for visitors to sit, eat, play, and enjoy live music. To support this addition, the market footprint has expanded to create room for the parklet and allow for additional food trucks to participate.
- Farmers in the Park
 - Opening Day is Wednesday, May 6. We are especially excited to welcome local breweries this year through a collaboration with the Charlottesville Ale Trail. Each monthly event will feature up to two Ale Trail breweries in a designated drinking area within the park, along with music and beautiful views of Carter Mountain.
 - Interest continues to grow, and we currently have 30 vendors who have already applied.
- General Programs
 - Summer camp registration is already 90% full across all camp locations and offerings. This summer, camp sites will include Tonsler (Camp Blue Ridge, ages 10–12) and Carver and Key (Camp Shenandoah, ages 6–9). Each location will be supported by a site director, assistant director, and full counseling staff.
- Athletics
 - Winter volleyball season is wrapping up, while spring volleyball and spring softball are scheduled to begin on April 20.
- Special Events
 - Our Lunar New Year celebration at Carver Recreation on March 7 sold out with 276 participants and received excellent feedback.
 - The annual Eggstravaganza at McIntire Park on March 21 was also a tremendous success, featuring egg hunts, music, crafts, and family activities.
 - Looking ahead, our next exciting event is the Skate Park Birthday on April 18.

- Stay tuned for more great events this year, including Lego Fest, Butterfly Festival, Halloween, and Grand Illumination.
- We are thrilled by the strong participation, new programming, and growing community engagement across all areas. It is shaping up to be an exciting and impactful season for Parks and Recreation!
- Urban Forest Management Plan Update
 - The Urban Forest Management Plan is now live. More information can be found on the [Connect Charlottesville page](#), developed in collaboration with Neighborhood Development Services. This page serves as a central hub for information related to the Urban Forest Management Plan, including goals, updates, and opportunities for community engagement.
 - As part of this effort, a [public survey](#) is available until May 24 to gather valuable input from residents and stakeholders. Your feedback will play an important role in shaping the future of our urban forest.

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

- Rose Hill Planning “Pop-Up”
 - City staff successfully hosted an in-person Planning “Pop-Up” and Rose Hill Concepts Unveiling, bringing together community members in an open and welcoming setting to share ideas and provide input. The event reflected strong collaboration across multiple departments and teams, resulting in a well-coordinated and engaging experience for attendees.
 - Approximately 45 community members participated, offering valuable feedback that will help inform ongoing planning efforts. Staff also developed and shared video content during the event to clearly communicate how various projects and initiatives connect to the City’s broader planning processes.
 - Special thanks to NDS and the Office of Communications & Public Engagement (CAPE) for providing refreshments and on-site support, as well as assisting with media coverage and outreach materials. Additional recognition is extended to interns Sarah Kim and Mike Parisi for their contributions to graphic design and media production.
- Rose Hill Repaving Concepts
 - The City of Charlottesville is studying safety and mobility improvements along Rose Hill Drive between Preston Avenue and Rugby Avenue (0.6 miles) ahead of repaving in Summer 2027. The project will assess current conditions, gather community input, and identify a preferred design for implementation.
 - The goal is to improve safety and access for all users while supporting nearby neighborhoods, schools, transit stops, and community

destinations, including Jackson P. Burley Middle School, Murray High School, the Health Department, and CAT Route 9.

- More information can be found on the Connect Charlottesville [project page](#).