



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

5-4-2026

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- Attended Tom Tom Festival 2026
- April 22:
 - Served as a panelist on the CivicFutures Stage with Paul Beyer, Executive Director of Tom Tom Foundation, and Leslie Lynn Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer for Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, where we discussed the priorities of creative placemaking centered on the Downtown Mall, but looking beyond at the opportunity for economic development more broadly and support for the arts.
 - Enjoyed lunch with Mayor Knox White of Greenville, South Carolina who was a panelist along with Ted Voorhees from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, who joined our very own Jeff Richardson on the vision for economic development framed by community data analysis provided by Hamilton Lombard.
 - Mayor Knox was treated to a special tour of the Downtown Mall led by Mayor Wade – it was great to see the City’s Chief Cheerleader in his element and championing our city.
- April 24:
 - The Downtown Mall Block Party which was again sponsored by the City of Charlottesville as an opportunity for all residents to engage and enjoy our vibrant pedestrian mall.
 - Attended Mayors & Chairs meeting at Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) with Mayor Wade and Deputy City Manager Freas; this is a quarterly convening of the regional executives group to review priorities for land use, transportation, quality of life, and legislative priorities, key topics discussed: state budget deliberations, collective bargaining, local land use, and opportunity zones as recognized by the federal government.
- April 28:
 - Joined Mayor Wade in delivering a Welcome to Charlottesville message for HUD Virginia’s Entitlement Community All Grantee Meeting held at Central Library.
 - Attended the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority Board meeting.
 - Approved a slate of officers effective May 1:
 - Mike Gaffney continues as Chair
 - Sam Sanders, Vice President
 - Jeff Richardson, Secretary/Treasurer
 - Drinking Water Week, May 3-9, Acknowledges the serious and complicated work of ensuring our community has a consistent and safe supply of water

- Central Water Line - Phase 1 Update: 30 feet have been installed at Piedmont and Price Avenue.
- Received a presentation to compare drought and water supply of 2002 to 2026. Infrastructure improvements to date are why we are less concerned about drought conditions while the measurements are similar to the difficult experience the community faced in 2002. The results are reassuring at this time.

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

- CAPE and the Charlottesville Community Media Center recently launched CPA-TV and Charlottesville TV10 on the Roku App. Download each channel for FREE for Netflix-style libraries of community and local government content with 24/7 livestreaming. Find either channel on the Roku Streaming Store by searching "CPATV" and "Charlottesville TV10".
- Recent filming and editing include the Washington Park trail connection ribbon cutting ceremony, the Office of Sustainability's (OS) and Botanical Garden of the Piedmont's ECO FAIR 2026, the Utilities Department's storm drain painting and unveiling, and OS's electric school bus ribbon cutting. 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 or on the Roku app (search "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](#).
- CAPE staff supported the Tom Tom Festival through a coordinated approach to both promotion and public safety messaging. The team helped amplify festival programming across City channels while also working closely with partners to share timely, accurate safety information with attendees and residents.
 - In preparation, staff participated in multiple safety trainings and tabletop exercises to strengthen coordination and response planning. The festival also marked the inaugural use of a safety text alert system, which allowed attendees to opt in to receive Tom Tom Festival-specific safety updates in real time, with messaging limited to the duration of the festival and concluding once it ended.

City Treasurer – Jason Vandever (he/him)

- This month the City Treasurer's Office has been busy preparing to bill Personal Property and Real Estate tax bills, due June 5. This process involves several rounds of testing and validating data to ensure accuracy for each invoice. This is

a joint effort with the City Assessor and Commissioner of the Revenue. Taxpayers in Charlottesville should begin receiving tax bills this week in the mail or via email. Residents are reminded that they can sign up for free e-billing and auto-pay services by visiting the [City's website](#). Additionally, e-check payments made online can be made at no additional cost. Questions about tax bills should be directed to the Treasurer's Office at citytreas@charlottesville.gov or 434-970-3146.

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

- The FY2027 Adopted Budget is now available on the [City's Budget webpage](#).
- Budget and Grants Management staff assisted HUD in hosting its "All Grantee" meeting here in Charlottesville on April 28. The meeting was held at Central Library and there were approximately 90 attendees. The last time we hosted was in 2019 and we were excited to be able to host them again.

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

- OED recently celebrated the Spring 2026 cohort's completion of GO Start-Up. From European-inspired baked goods and activewear clothing lines to innovative booking applications, members of the Spring 2026 cohort came together with a shared passion for building something meaningful. Under the guidance of Keith Groomes, Jr., the City's Entrepreneurship Program Specialist, individuals were able to learn the basics of entrepreneurship and the steps for moving their vision from idea into actionable strategy.
- Jenny Biché, OED's Workforce Development Program Manager, recently shared stories from two Skills Builder graduates, both of whom spoke about the value of the program and its role in helping them land meaningful employment. Skills Builder, formerly known as Ready to Work, is a no-cost soft skills training program operated in partnership between OED and Rappahannock Goodwill, serving as the region's Virginia Career Works manager. Individuals who complete the Skills Builder training are offered guaranteed interviews with one of several Charlottesville-based employers. Some graduates go on to accept job offers from these employers, while others are able to secure job offers with other local employers.
- Over 800 visitors experienced the VA250 Mobile Museum on the Downtown Mall recently. Brought to the Mall through a collaborative effort among Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Friends of Charlottesville Downtown, the City of Charlottesville, the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission, Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau, and VA250 Charlottesville-Albemarle,

this “museum on wheels” brought key stories of Virginia’s rich history to guests of all ages.

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

- OEM concluded its two-day Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Workshop on March 31 and April 1, facilitated by Emergency Management Solutions International (EMSI). Over 60 staff from across the City participated, and the workshop received an overall evaluation score of 4.56 out of 5.0. Participant feedback pointed clearly toward an appetite for role-specific follow-up training, which is the next layer of training OEM is scoping with EMSI.
- OEM facilitated a tabletop exercise on April 7 in advance of the Tom Tom Festival Block Party held April 24 and 25. About 30 participants — City public safety, other key City departments, Tom Tom, and Tom Tom's security firm OneMain Security — worked through three scenarios developed for the event. The Incident Command Post (ICP) was activated for the block party, coordination ran smoothly, and a public safety hot wash is scheduled before May 15.
- OEM joined the Department of Human Services and United Way of Greater Charlottesville this month in hosting a ceremony to recognize the volunteers who shoveled sidewalks for residents during Winter Storm Fern. Mayor Juandiego Wade attended, and Misty Graves Director of the Department of Human Services led the program for the City. Virginia 211 was also recognized for its role in fielding resident calls during the storm. The ceremony was a meaningful way to thank the volunteers and partners who supported their neighbors during the event.
- OEM staff supported regional emergency management activities throughout the month. Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Brent Burnette served as both controller (running the exercise) and evaluator (assessing response) at the Incident Command Post for a four-hour full-scale exercise at Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport on April 18, and as evaluator for a Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD) virtual tabletop on pandemic response. On April 22, Brent took part in the relaunch of the regional City-County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, kicked off by the regional emergency management liaison from the Emergency Communications Center (ECC). CERT was a strong community fixture years ago, and this is the early start of a regional relaunch.
- OEM, working with continuity planning contractor Launch! Consulting is starting a series of Continuity of Operations (COOP) tabletop exercises grouped by department: Commissioner of the Revenue, Treasurer, and Finance on May 28; Human Resources, Public Works, and Utilities on June 10; and Social Services, Human Services, and Parks & Recreation on a date to be set. The exercises

continue a broader effort to keep the COOP plans developed in late 2025 actively in use rather than sitting on a shelf.

- OEM is supporting the University of Virginia (UVA) in planning for the lacrosse championship games to be hosted at Scott Stadium over Memorial Day weekend. Crowd impact across the four-day period is expected to be 60,000 to 80,000 people. Although most of that activity will be centered at Scott Stadium, there will be impacts to both the City and County.

Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)

- 2026–2029 Citywide Construction Program Overview:
 - Public Works convened all City departments and department heads to coordinate a citywide review of major construction activity scheduled over the next 18 to 36 months, representing nearly \$60 million in active and planned infrastructure investment. Led by Public Works, this effort was intended to align planning, identify overlapping impacts, and establish a coordinated approach to managing one of the most significant periods of concurrent public and private construction the City has seen in decades. This work includes regional transportation projects, utility replacements, City capital improvements, and private development, much of it occurring within the same corridors and timeframes, creating unavoidable impacts to traffic flow, mobility, access, and daily operations across the City. Public Works is leading the coordination of this effort to ensure impacts are managed proactively, communication remains consistent, and implementation is disciplined across departments and project partners.
 - The current construction program includes:
 - 4 VDOT projects
 - 1 RWSA project
 - 2 City utility projects
 - 2 private development projects
 - 8 City capital roadway projects
- Utility Poles Update:
 - The City continues to make steady progress in addressing double pole conditions through coordination with Dominion Energy, Brightspeed, and telecommunications providers. To date, 30 double poles have been removed citywide, with additional priority locations actively advancing through utility coordination and scheduled removals.
- In 2025, the City established a focused priority list to address the most significant accessibility conflicts and recurring community concerns. Progress to date includes:
 - Emmet Street & Wise Street – Removed

- Cherry Avenue near Tonsler Park – Removed
- Jefferson Park Avenue & Maury Avenue – Ready for removal Spring 2026
- 10th Street NW & Wertland Street – Ready for removal Spring 2026
- Additional priority locations remain in active coordination and require attachment transfers by telecommunications providers before removal can occur. While progress on double poles continues, this remains one part of a broader accessibility challenge. The City’s ADA Transition Plan identified approximately 3,000 pole-related accessibility conflicts citywide, which will require continued phased coordination, engineering review, and integration into future ADA and capital improvement projects.
- Downtown Mall Crossing Update
 - Pedestrian access will remain open at 4th Street NE and 2nd Street NW; however, temporary sidewalk closures may be required during active demolition and curb replacement operations. Staff is coordinating with the contractor to maintain pedestrian access through at least one side of each crossing to the greatest extent possible during construction.
 - Access to the Downtown Mall from the south side of both intersections will remain open throughout construction.
 - Additional “Business Open” signage has been installed by the contractor, with additional wayfinding signage forthcoming to support pedestrian access and business visibility during construction.
- Upcoming Street Paving Projects:
 - Public Works will begin the following milling and paving operations:
 - Shamrock Road (Cherry Avenue to End)
 - Milling: May 1 to May 7
 - Paving: May 6 to May 9
 - Angus Road (Emmet Street to Ricky Road)
 - Milling: May 7 to May 10
 - Paving: May 10 to May 14
 - Ricky Road (Angus Road to City Limits)
 - Milling: May 7 to May 10
 - Paving: May 10 to May 14
- Mid-Atlantic Public Works Equipment ROADEO:
 - Six Public Works employees will represent the City at the 2026 Mid-Atlantic APWA Equipment ROADEO on May 13 in Ocean City, Maryland, competing against operators from Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. Participants qualified through demonstrated operational skill, safety performance, and professional equipment experience. Competitors will participate in timed equipment events that test precision, control, and safe operation across multiple equipment classes, including street sweeper,

refuse truck, snowplow, bucket truck, mini excavator, backhoe, and front end loader.

- Representing Charlottesville:
 - James Newman
 - Josh Wyland
 - Joey Frazier
 - Milton Morris
 - Bryan Frazier
 - Bryan Frazier, Jr.
- The Equipment ROADEO is a well-recognized regional competition that draws hundreds of public works professionals and highlights the technical skill, safety, and professionalism required to operate specialized public works equipment at a high level.

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

- The City's first two electric school buses, which were put into service in January, [were announced in April](#). The City received \$409,968 through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus program to support purchase of the buses and participates in Dominion Energy's Electric School Bus Infrastructure program, which provided the chargers for the new buses. Students and drivers are pleased with the buses as they are cleaner and quieter than traditional diesel school buses.
- The annual Solarize campaign kicked off in April and will be open for sign-ups through July. Solarize is a partnership with the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) to help local homeowners install rooftop solar systems. It offers pre-negotiated pricing from vetted solar installers, making the process simpler and more cost-effective than navigating the market on their own. Visit www.solarizeva.org for information on upcoming events, program timelines, and to sign up for a free solar assessment. City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County residents can also connect with Solarize through the [Energy Resource Hub](#).
- Urban Forest Management Plan Project Update: A [Connect Charlottesville page](#) is now live! This page serves as a central hub for information related to the Urban Forest Management Plan, including goals, updates, and opportunities for community engagement. 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.
- Four new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations are now available at the Silk Mills building at 700 Harris Street. These level 2 chargers were installed by InBio

with assistance from the City's EV Charging Infrastructure Grant and will provide a convenient charging option for area residents, as well as visitors to the City's downtown area. [Read more here.](#)

- On April 14 and 15, representatives from the Office of Sustainability attended the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association (VEPGA) Quarterly Board Meeting and Annual Meeting discussing the VEPGA electricity purchasing contract with Dominion Energy (of which the City is a part). The City's Energy Management Coordinator presented on Charlottesville's participation in the PJM ELRP Demand Response program from June 2025 – May 2026, where the City curtailed energy usage at 10 facilities to help reduce load on the grid and prevent potential blackouts/brownouts.
- In partnership with the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, the Office of Sustainability hosted a [City-wide Eco Fair](#) on Saturday, April 18, to celebrate Earth Month. The event hosted over 300 community members and allowed for attendees to hear directly from Charlottesville-based organizations working in the climate resilience and sustainability space. The event offered tabling from 26 local organizations, live musical performances, food vendors, a community art project, educational demonstrations, and a lineup of local advocates and experts for a lightning talk series which included two presentations from the City's Climate Program. The goal of the event was to empower residents with education and opportunities to participate in local actions and initiatives related to sustainability and climate action. The event helped promote initiatives such as the E-bike Voucher Program, the Urban Forest Management Plan, and the City's designations as both a Bee City and a member of the Biophilic Cities Network.
- To further celebrate Earth Day, the Office of Sustainability and Parks & Recreation hosted a plant exchange for City employees. Charlottesville staff exchanged houseplants, cuttings, seeds, veggie starts, and other plants as part of the City's Sustainability in the Workplace (WISE) initiative.
- On Saturday, April 25, the Office of Sustainability participated in Kid*Vention, a family-friendly event organized by the Virginia Discovery Museum focused on bringing STEM-related education and activities to the community. At the event, kids learned how to be a "green kid in a green city" committing to a new sustainable action to take home with them.
- The Office of Sustainability Director was honored to serve on the judging panel for the [2026 UVA Sustainability Leaders Awards](#).
- On Saturday, May 9, the City of Charlottesville is an organizer for the annual Rivanna RiverFest at Rivanna River Company. The event runs from 2:30-9:00 PM with community tables, family activities, free tubing, presentations, performances, and food and drink! This event is free for the public - come celebrate and experience your river. Learn more about Rivanna RiverFest: <https://www.rivannariver.org/rivanna-riverfest/>.

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

- At their regular meeting on April 15, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) reviewed proposed amendments to the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance and the HRC Rules & Procedures. The ordinance amendments centered on Commission membership requirements, refinements to the investigation process, and other small revisions for clarity. Changes to the HRC Rules & Procedures included clarification about public notice for emergency meetings and detailed procedures for public hearings of complaints investigated by the OHR.
- As part of their regular meeting on April 16, Commissioners met with Economic Mobility Officer Abi Matthew Wade who presented an overview of her work as well as data related to several specific areas of interest to the Commission. As part of their focus on economic stability across classes protected by the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance, Commissioners are interested in looking closer at barriers to thriving like the availability and affordability of childcare, the misalignment of local wages to local housing costs, benefits gaps, and the specific economic impacts on people with disabilities.
- The OHR is in the process of hiring a Human Rights Policy & Impact Analyst. This position works closely with the Director to support the Human Rights Commission and develop strategic initiatives. This individual will provide administrative support to the HRC, help advance the HRC's policy and legislative work, engage community stakeholders to learn about current and emerging local needs, and propose recommendations for the HRC and OHR's work based on research and community input.
- The OHR currently has 22 open discrimination complaint cases: three are awaiting responses to offers of alternative dispute resolution, two are in the process of alternative dispute resolution, nine are under investigation, seven are under review for determination after investigation, and one is under review for appeal by the HRC.

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

- The Police Civilian Oversight Board is pleased to provide the following updates and developments:
 - Members of the Board are now actively participating on the Police Department's Use of Force Review Panel, which provides an opportunity for Board members to view, discuss, question, and provide a civilian perspective on all incidents related to:
 - (1) Weapons deployment
 - (2) Physical restraint
 - (3) K-9 deployment
 - (4) Vehicle pursuits.

- Members of the Board are working to establish and build new community connections among the Charlottesville faith community, local organizations, and neighborhoods.
- Members of the Board and the Director attended the most recent School Board Work Session related to the implementation of School Resource Officers in the City Schools and were able to answer several questions about how the Board could support implementation through the oversight lens.
- Members of the Board are engaging in a second work session to strengthen a sense of mission and forward purpose for the Board along with review of the ordinance revision recommendations for City Council leading up to the May 18 joint work session.
- Thank you for your commitment and attention to the Police Civilian Oversight Board's ongoing work.