



# **City Manager's Report**

*Offices of the City Manager  
Elected & Appointed Officials*

**6-1-2026**

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

- May 18:
  - Met with Andy Block with the UVA Law Clinic to explore opportunities to collaborate on projects that support the needs of the local government and the community.
- May 19:
  - Met with Cameron Moore, director of PACEM to discuss the possibilities of opening the overnight shelter at Holiday Drive now as a temporary measure; discussions to continue.
  - Met with Kim Sheffield to discuss priorities at Jefferson School City Center to include a relationship with the City government and serving the community.
- May 20:
  - Attended a Public Works Week event in Pen Park to offer thanks and support to our infrastructure team who support the City faithfully and consistently as public servants to our community
- May 21:
  - Monthly meeting with Dr. Gurley to review Charlottesville City Schools priorities.

### **City Treasurer – Jason Vandever (he/him)**

- The Treasurer's Office is busy preparing for the real estate and personal property tax deadline on June 5. We would like to remind residents of the approaching deadline. Questions may be directed to [citytreas@charlottesville.gov](mailto:citytreas@charlottesville.gov) or 434-970-3146. Additionally, the new Annual Trash Decal year begins on July 1. Trash renewal notices will be mailed to existing customers the first week of June.

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

- Following the 2026 TomTom Festival Block Party, OEM sponsored a public safety after-action review to capture lessons learned and inform next year's planning. OEM also participated in a broader after-action review led by Michelle Christian of Parks & Recreation that included TomTom Festival leadership. Both reviews confirmed strong coordination across the City and event partners.
- City Council approved funding this month for two emergency management projects: the purchase of Meridian Barriers and a pet sheltering trailer with supporting supplies. Meridian Barriers are portable barriers used to block vehicle access to streets and public spaces during events, protests, and other gatherings, and they give the City a flexible tool for keeping pedestrians safe in those settings. The pet sheltering trailer strengthens the City's capability for

sheltering operations. OEM will move forward with procurement and deployment of both in the coming months.

- Albemarle County has hired a new Emergency Management Coordinator, Johnny Switzer, who begins in his role on June 1. John Oprandy has already met with Mr. Switzer to begin building what we expect to be a strong working relationship. The City also hosted its Q2 regional emergency management luncheon at CitySpace with UVA and Albemarle County EM staff, continuing a standing practice that keeps our regional partners closely connected.
- On May 21, OEM participated in a tabletop exercise hosted by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) examining how water systems prevent, respond to, and recover from a cyberattack. Participants included the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) and a range of state agencies. The exercise was a useful opportunity to think through the cascading impacts a cyber incident on water infrastructure could have across other critical services, and to strengthen coordination with our state and regional water partners.
- Looking ahead, OEM is supporting planning by public safety and other departments for the July 4 weekend festivities and the 50th anniversary of the Downtown Mall. Planning will culminate at the end of June in advance of the events.

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

- The OS Director and Climate Program Manager are attending the annual convening of the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network in early May. This meeting brings together local government professionals from throughout the southeast to share ideas, build relationships, and learn from real-world sustainability and resilience experiences.
- On Saturday May 9, the City, along with community partners, helped host another successful Rivanna RiverFest at the Rivanna River Company. The day was filled with water and river focused hands-on education for all, good food and drinks, tubing on the river, fly fishing, art, and lots of dancing and music. This was a wonderful opportunity to bring the community together to celebrate our Rivanna River.
- On May 18, City Council voted to authorize the City Manager to execute a Solar Power Purchase Agreement and associated Site Access Agreement for Charlottesville Middle School. The project will offset 81% of the annual electricity load of the school and is projected to realize nearly \$1.3 million in avoided costs over the 25-year term of the agreement.
- The annual Climate Program Update report is scheduled for the 4:00 PM Council work session on June 15. The report will include a summary of projects and

initiatives from FY26, will introduce the FY27 Climate Action workplan, and will present the most recently completed greenhouse gas inventory.

- OS has been matched with another UVA Intern Placement Program student, Sam Martin. This will be the 18th intern we've hosted since 2019.
- OS and the Office of Budget and Grants Management will again be sharing a summer intern from the Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP). This will be the 9th CAYIP intern we've hosted since 2015.
- To celebrate Bike Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, the Office of Sustainability hosted a community discussion in partnership with Piedmont Environmental Council and Move2HealthEquity on the physical and mental health benefits of being a Biophilic City called [Where Biophilia Meets Blue Zones: A Climate Cafe](#). This discussion was the 9th in a series of [climate cafes](#) organized by the City's Climate Program. The next cafe will take place in July at Botanical Fare on the Downtown Mall.
- To kick-off [Heat Safety Week](#), the Office of Sustainability co-led an internal heat first aid training with the City's Safety Committee. In addition to providing safety tips and intervention strategies for when someone is experiencing heat illness, [resources](#) were provided to staff for how to prepare for emergencies and assemble an emergency go-bag. This training was presented as part of Sustainability's Working in a Sustainable Environment (WISE) Program and Safety Committee's safety topic of the month.
- The [Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership](#) has hosted workdays in both the Little High and Fry's Spring neighborhoods alongside residents and volunteers from the coalition. Combined, these two workdays resulted in the removal of invasive vines from 118 trees and included the removal of: 40 ailanthus, 4 bradford pear, 130 amur honeysuckle, 5 multiflora rosa, 23 privet, and 3 thorny olive.

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

- Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) is launching a pilot program which will incorporate the Office of Economic Development's (OED) online Skills Builder program into the curriculum for their Introduction to Construction and Introduction to Welding courses. Starting this semester, students will have the opportunity to enhance their soft skills training, delivered through Skills Builder, while completing the technical requirements of the PVCC courses. Combined, these should help strengthen the overall foundation from which students will launch their careers in the construction and welding trades. OED partners with Rappahannock Goodwill and Virginia Career Works on the Skills Builder program

and is pleased to be able to extend the program's reach through this innovative partnership with one of our academic partners.

- The 2nd Annual Piedmont Ascent Small Business Conference takes place this Wednesday, June 3, at Piedmont Virginia Community College's Bolick Center. Beginning at 10:00 AM, attendees will be able to participate in small group breakout sessions and enjoy a keynote lunch, all focused on aspects of marketing. Throughout the day there will be opportunities for those in attendance to network with other small business owners and engage with representatives from small business resource organizations. There is a nominal fee to attend Piedmont Pitch, which includes lunch.
- Starting at 3:00 PM, the event will transition into the 4th Annual Piedmont Pitch – a “Shark Tank” style pitch competition for entrepreneurs in the Charlottesville/Albemarle County area. From an initial pool of 37 applicants, six finalists have been selected to pitch their business or idea to a panel of judges and regional experts, for a chance to take home part of \$15,000 in total prize funding. Piedmont Pitch is free and open to the public.
- Piedmont Ascent and Piedmont Pitch are collaborative efforts among the City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development, Albemarle County Economic Development, Community Investment Collaborative, and Central Virginia Small Business Development Center. To learn more visit <https://cvsbdc.org/events/piedmont-ascent/> and <https://cvsbdc.org/piedmont-pitch/>.
- We're almost a month away from the big 50th Anniversary celebration of the Downtown Mall. A full day of free festivities begins at 10:00 AM with walking tours of the Downtown Mall, offered by the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society. At noon and 2:00 PM, you can check out the “Then and Now: Charlottesville in the 1970s” exhibit at Vault Virginia. Starting at 4:00 PM the party really gets started at Central Place with free ice cream, facepainting, and the Cville Band. Baaba Seth Show takes the stage for a free concert at Ting Pavilion, beginning at 5:30 PM. Don't miss the special lantern parade along the Downtown Mall, led by the Elby Brass Band, starting at 8:30 PM, which will take everyone to the 50th Light Show at the CODE Building. This is an event 50 years in the making and we look forward to seeing everyone there! Learn more at <https://downtownville.com/50th-anniversary>.

**Finance – Director Chris Cullinan (he/him)**

- Accounting - The City's auditors began their preliminary field work in advance of the FY26 audit.
- City Assessor's Office - The 2026 reassessment process is complete. The Board of Equalization met on May 12 to hear 11 appeals (0.07% of 15,656 total assessments). Nine assessments were upheld with two being reduced.