



City Manager's Report

City Departments

3-18-2024

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- Congratulations to the following individuals who were appointed to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:
 - Kent Merritt
 - Mark Denison
 - Jenny Taylor
 - Jeff McDonald
 - Jeanette Abi-Nader
- I recorded a Rental Relief Information video with Commissioner of Revenue Todd Divers in the City's Community Studio; this piece will be shared across multiple mediums in support of our efforts to connect eligible applicants to this relief program.
- James Freas and I met with CRHA leadership and representatives from EJP Consulting Group for preliminary planning of CRHA's application to HUD for the Choice Neighborhoods Program for an implementation grant to support affordable housing and economic development in the 10th & Page, Venable, and Rose Hill neighborhoods.
- Participated in a WINA Radio Interview with Jay Hart that aired last weekend regarding collective bargaining.
- Held a Press Conference on Wednesday, March 6th to review the City Manager's Proposed FY25 Budget to Council.

Deputy City Manager for Social Equity – Ashley Marshall (she/her)

- Charlottesville Part of Winning 2023 National League of Cities Capstone Challenge
 - The City of Charlottesville's Office of Social Equity applied for the 2023 NLC Capstone Challenge in 2023, a competitive program that pairs capstone and enterprise partners with localities to create solutions for member's needs. The City, along with two other localities, partnered with City Health Dashboard to look at the potential connection that historic housing segregation may have on modern health and economic disparities. We are thrilled to say that CityHealth Dashboard's work with Charlottesville, Houston, TX,, and Rochester, NY won the 2023 competition! Charlottesville has previously worked with CityHealth Dashboard through their 2021 inaugural Put Your City On the Map competitive opportunity and were one of the first 22 localities with populations of 50,000 or less to ever be included on the Dashboard. You can see CityHealth Dashboards final report at <https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/alerts> and also look up key health data about our community through their site's mapping tool.
- Annual Eggstravaganza Event on March 23, 2024
 - The Parks and Recreation Department will host its Annual Eggstravaganza event, a free and family-friendly egg hunt, on Saturday, March 23rd, at McIntire Park. The event will feature an egg hunt, arts & crafts, a photo opportunity with a bunny, bounce houses, and food vendors. Further, all attendees will be able to provide input on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan that is currently being developed. This year's event is in conjunction with Albemarle County Parks and Recreation. For more information please call (434) 970-3572 or visit our website at: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1730>

- Foster Parent Information Session in April 2024
 - The Department of Human Services will be hosting its next foster parent information session on April 10, virtually at 6:15. To register: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/260/Become-a-Foster-Parent>
- Applications Open for Spring & Summer 2024 Teen CAYIP Internships
 - The Department of Human Services will host its teen internship program, CAYIP, during Spring and Summer 2024. The Spring Session will be held from April 15, 2024, to June 9, 2024, and the application window for that session opens on March 18, 2024, at 8am and close March 29, 2024, at 5pm. The Summer Session will be held from June 24, 2024, to August 4, 2024, and the application window for youth interested in the summer session will open April 1, 2024, at 8am and close May 1, 2024, at 5pm. Youth and Parents interested in CAYPI, as well as organizations who are interested in hosting an intern can learn more at: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/256/Community-Attention-Youth-Internship>

Charlottesville Police Department – Chief Michael Kochis (he/him)

- The Police Department Has begun a community engagement initiative in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club called "courtside chats." Officers will engage with youth, and share ideas about community solutions. Officers will also play basketball with the youth who are present.
- The Police Department has advertised its second Community Police Academy which will begin on April 11, 2024 and finish on June 6, 2024. This program requires a commitment of one night a week for 9 weeks.
- The Police Department is continuing the community walks weekly. We are asking for any suggestions as to areas the community would like us to visit and discuss issues, concerns, and opportunities with.

Department of Information Technology – Director Steve Hawkes (he/him)

- Four members of IT attended the 2024 ESRI Federal GIS Conference in Washington DC on February 13 and 14. Potential uses of AI in GIS, connecting sensors to GIS, and leveraging GIS tools to develop apps for City staff were some of the many takeaways from the conference.

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

- Troon Golf has been awarded a contract to manage operations at Meadowcreek Golf Course starting on March 15th.
- Vendor applications are open for Farmers in the Park, which will move from Meade Park to Pen Park in 2024 due to a turf revitalization project. The market will still operate on Wednesdays, from 3 PM to 7 PM, between May and September.
- The Eggstravaganza event, a free and family-friendly egg hunt, will take place on Saturday, March 23rd, at McIntire Park. You can find more information about the event on the Parks & Recreation | Charlottesville, VA website.

- The Master Plan Community Outreach events will be held in different neighborhoods throughout the city, where CPRD will provide entertainment, music, and refreshments. This outreach will allow community members, including stakeholders, citizens, local churches, civic groups, and business owners, to share their feedback on what they want to see from our parks and recreation department over the next 10 to 15 years. The events are scheduled for April 21st at Crow Recreation Center, April 28th in Westhaven neighborhood, May 4th at Washington Park, and May 11th at Forest Hills Park.
- The fountain on the downtown mall will be fully operational starting on April 12.
- All outdoor restrooms will be open to the public starting on April 15.
- Park mowing is expected to begin in early April, but the start date may be earlier depending on the weather.
- The horticulture crew is currently mulching beds and preparing for spring planting.

Human Services – Misty Graves (she/her)

- The Department of Human Services partners with the UVA School of Nursing to staff the Westhaven CARES Center (formally Westhaven Nursing Clinic). Since July 1, 2023, this program has met 58 individual requests for food insecurity related needs with their on-site food pantry and/or food vouchers. The number of beneficiaries is 145 thus far.
- The Community Resource Hotline (CRL) continues to distribute rental/mortgage/utility bill relief for Charlottesville residents. So far this year, the Department of Human Services in partnership with the United Way, has distributed \$750,731.00.
- Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF) was awarded a BAMA grant from the Community Area Foundation and will be utilizing those dollars to engage in radio ads to recruit foster families. CAFF actively searches for a diverse pool of families in and around the city of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and surrounding communities with a specific need for families and individuals willing to foster older youth and teens. Their next foster parent information session is April 10, virtually at 6:15. To register: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/260/Become-a-Foster-Parent>
- DHS's Community Based Services is working diligently to prepare for the launch of summer programming. The Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) is currently recruiting for new sites to host youth. The Summer program is June 24th – August 4th. Applications for youth will open April 1st and close May 1st. If interested in becoming a host site OR learning more about applying: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/256/Community-Attention-Youth-Internship>

Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)

- Streetlight outages can be reported via Dominion using their reporting tool that residents can utilize here: <https://www.dominionenergy.com/virginia/report-outage-or-emergency/streetlight-and-watchlight-outages>

Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)

- The Department of Utilities offered 250 free trees to residents through the Arbor Day Foundation's Energy-Saving Trees Program. This is the third year Utilities has offered this program, which aims to educate residents on strategic tree planting to aid home energy conservation and to help reduce energy bills. The Energy-Saving Trees Program also serves to reinforce safe digging practices by having residents contact Virginia 811 prior to planting their tree. Utilities worked with the City's Arborist to determine the most suitable tree species for the community to plant, offering five species to choose from. Tree reservations opened to the community on March 4th, with 200 trees reserved in the first 48 hours, and the remaining 50 in short order. The tree pick-up event was held March 22nd and 23rd at the Public Works/Utilities Administration Building. The Department of Utilities thanks the community for their enthusiastic support of the Energy-Saving Trees Program and for continuing to make it a tree-mendous success!

Social Services – Director Sue Moffett (she/her)

- March is Social Work Appreciation Month! Big shout out to the hard working and dedicated Family Services Staff who serve the most vulnerable in our community!