



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

6-3-2024

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- Spoke on The Exchange of Change panel at the HUMAN. Conversations event in the City on 5/24. We discussed managing change within organizations.
- Attended Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority and the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority meetings on 5/28.
- Attended a quarterly regional executive's lunch hosted by Orange County to bring together leaders and focus on regionalism.
- Took a construction tour on 5/22 of the Charlottesville General District Court, Buford Middle School, Belmont Bridge, and the Bypass Fire Station.

Deputy City Manager for Administration – Eden Ratliff (he/him)

- Met with representatives from the CA-SPCA and the County of Albemarle to discuss the operations of the shelter and funding needed in a new contract. The current contract expires in March 2025 due to its termination by the SPCA.
- Worked with the Human Resources, Budget and Performance Management, and Information Technology Departments on the implementation and notification of the citywide Classification and Compensation Study.
- Worked in the City Attorney's Office on a new legal intake system to improve the office workflow.
- Reviewing applications for the vacancy Assistant/Deputy City Attorney positions.

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

- Thank you to all who provided feedback on the City's new external newsletter that will launch this summer. We received over 250 responses, and we will work to incorporate your feedback.
- Don't forget to catch our new Public Affairs TV show, Inside Charlottesville, on local channel 10. The show will include monthly updates from the City Manager, Police Chief and Fire Chief, various City departments, new hires, events, and more.
- We are hosting a ribbon cutting for Belmont Bridge on 6/28.

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

- The Energy and Water Management Program (EWMP) and the Climate Program delivered Climate Kits to the entire 5th grade class at Walker Upper Elementary in partnership with the Community Climate Collaborative. Also, EWMP helped the entire 3rd grade at Venable Elementary perform a school water audit and update

some of their higher flow faucets with water efficient flow rates. Thanks to the Ocean Explorer's Club at Venable for campaigning to audit their school and commitment to saving water. Lastly, the EWMP met with the entire 4th grade class at Greenbrier Elementary for presentations of their energy and water conservation ads.

- Several OS staff members attended the recent Southeast Sustainability Directors Network annual meeting and participated in two different panel presentations focused on the Resilient Together project as well as plans for our formula funded federal Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant funding and a partnership approach with LEAP and C3 and Albemarle County on the establishment of an Energy Local Resource Hub to community members and businesses have the tools and information they need to access and accelerate energy related cost savings and emission reductions.
- The Resilient Together Team has continued to engage with the community in various ways, including giving a project update at UVA's Sustainability Awards Luncheon, presenting at C3's quarterly Green Business Alliance meeting, and tabling at Riverfest.
- Grant application submitted to a federal Department of Energy funding opportunity for a proposed project at CATEC involving LED lighting retrofits throughout the facility, roof-top solar, EV charging infrastructure, and a clean energy workforce development partnership with FLIPP, an 501c3 education/training provider offering NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) accredited training.

Office of Community Solutions – Director Alex Ikefuna (he/him)

- Bridge for Connectivity over Pollocks Branch Creek at CRHA on First Street: OCS, working with Parks & Recreation, submitted a grant application to the VA Department of Conservation & Recreation requesting \$350,000 to fund the construction of a trail bridge over the Pollocks Branch creek that would connect the Pollocks Branch Trail at 1st Street South at the CRHA community with Rockland Avenue across the creek. This bridge will improve neighborhood connectivity but also improve safety as this location is used as a regular shortcut despite the unsafe crossing through the creek. Additionally, this project would also provide CRHA and surrounding neighborhoods with recreation facility.
- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (BRAFB): Teardown of the existing cooler unit and materials acquisition has begun, and construction of the new unit is scheduled to begin shortly. (The old cooler unit is being donated by BRAFB to a local food pantry that has great need for it, further extending the beneficial impacts of this project). Working together with other city staff and the BRAFB team, OCS sought out a win-win solution in which \$215,000 in Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) funding was recommended, and Council approved to fully fund a new commercial cooler and associated electrical improvements. This improvement would enable BRAFB to acquire a new, larger, and more-energy-efficient commercial cooler for their Charlottesville distribution center so they can expand the amount of fresh produce they can deliver to their partner food banks, pantries and other community organizations.

- The 2024–2025 CDBG/HOME Annual Action Plan: The city’s CDBG/HOME Taskforce has completed the review of the 17 applications submitted for funding considerations. The recommendations were presented at a public hearing before the Planning Commission on May 14, and to the City Council on May 20, with a second reading scheduled for June 3. A 30-day public comment period runs from May 1 through May 31, 2024. Once approved by the City Council, the final Action Plan will be sent to HUD for final approval.
- Pollocks Branch Trail Bridge at Jordon Park: An update from the Parks & Rec project manager indicates that site prep and construction will begin as early as the week of Monday, May 27, 2024. The benefits of the project include the construction of a bicycle and pedestrian ADA accessible bridge to connect Jordon Park to the developing Moores Creek trail between Avon Street and 5th Street. This project is funded with \$171,655.34 in CDBG funds.
- ADA Accessibility Enhancements Program at Johnson Elementary School Playground: OCS is partnering with the Public Works Department to undertake 2024 ADA Accessibility Enhancements Program at Johnson Elementary Playground project. This initiative was developed by the Department of Public Works to implement a number of ADA/accessibility enhancements in and around a much-loved playground at Johnson Elementary in the heart of the city's Fifeville neighborhood. Through this project, Public Works will remove significant and long-standing barriers to access for mobility impaired students and visitors to the playground and to construct new ADA compliant pathways, both leading out from the school itself as well as into the playground from the parking lot with the school's accessible parking spaces, among other associated enhancements.
- OCS staff will be taking before Council at its Monday 3 June public hearing a proposal to reprogram unspent CDBG funds from prior program years to support this project, with construction scheduled to start shortly after the end of the current school year and to be completed later this summer of 2024, well before the start of the new school year.
- Citywide Agreements Inventory Report: Completed Citywide Agreements Inventory Report designed to provide City Administration a more effective and efficient process for the management of city agreements.
- Friendship Court/Kindlewood, Phase 2: Funding agreement for the Phase 2 of the project has been completed and scheduled for the City Council review and approval on June 3, 2024. This phase of the project would create 104 affordable

units. There are four phases in the project. The City Council has approved a total of \$5.750 million in the City Capital Improvements Plan to support infrastructure development and Friendship Court redevelopment of Phase 2.

- The Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF)/Housing Operation Program Support (HOPS): Completed the grant agreements for CAHF funding and HOPS. The agreements are currently being signed by agencies approved for funding.
- Housing Equity and Anti-Displacement Toolkit (HEAT): Final drafts of the Land Bank Program/Ordinance and Tax Abatement/Performance Grants framework are under internal review before the City Council presentation at a later day/time. OCS staff engaged with Fifeville's Anti-Displacement workgroup in May. Meetings with Meadows Neighborhood members are scheduled for June to discuss housing equity and the Anti-Displacement Toolkit.
- South First Street, Phase 2: Staff has finalized discussions with the Charlottesville Redevelopment Housing Authority (CRHA) and its development team, and the revised Memorandum of Agreement is currently undergoing internal processing and review. This agreement will be presented to the City Council at a later date, following approval by the City Manager. Phase 2 of the project, comprising 113 units, is funded with an additional \$3 million from the City Council, bringing the city's commitment to \$6 million.

Budget Department – Director Krisy Hammill

- The FY25 Adopted Budget online book is now available online at www.charlottesville.gov/budget

Finance Department – Director Chris Cullinan

- Training sessions are currently being held for OpenGov Procurement - the City's new online procurement system. The go live date for the system is set for June 10, 2024.
- The Assessor's Office recently completed the 2023 reassessment. A total of 15,600 assessments were conducted. Of that total, only 0.74% were appealed resulting in a decrease of 0.35% of the total assessment. These numbers are in line with averages for the past several years.

City Manager's Office – ADA Coordinator Paul Rudacille

- The city's ADA transition plan is currently 75% complete. The ADA Coordinator's office handled 32 different requests or complaints related to accessibility during the month of May 2024. Common issues included requesting repairs to sidewalks and curb ramps, inquiries about accessibility at city facilities, and concerns from residents about barriers they were encountering.
- The transition plan work this past month has focused on completing accessibility upgrades at several municipal buildings, as well as improving crosswalk signals and curb ramps in high-traffic areas. The city remains committed to fully implementing the ADA transition plan and continuing to address accessibility barriers for residents and visitors.

Office of Human Rights – Director Todd Niemeier

- The Human Rights Commission and Office of Human Rights will be presenting their CY2023 Annual Report during the June 3, 2024, meeting.