



City Manager's Report

City Departments

10-21-2024

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- I offer my sincere thanks to staff and community members who contributed to recent recognition for the City of Charlottesville:
 - Congratulations to the Sustainability Team for continuing to steward the city's efforts to promote water conservation through education outreach and water efficient products and appliance. 7th year in a row to be recognized by the EPA.
 - Congratulate CAT on receiving the Community Changemaker Award from C3 at its annual Party for the Planet on October 4th.
 - AIA Central Virginia selected the Charlottesville Board of Architectural Review as a recipient of this year's Community Service Award.
- October 4: Attended the annual CPD Appreciation Dinner where I had the honor of joining Chief Kochis in celebrating the achievements of our sworn and civilian staff for exceptional achievement in the past year. It was a great event where I was also able to express the support and appreciation to our law enforcement team for a grateful community.
- October 8: Offered opening remarks to over 100 staff assembled to serve as City Strategists for the Strategic Planning process internal to the city organization. We have an energetic and optimistic group who were ready to share their expertise in helping to craft the strategies and measures to support implementing Council's Vision of Charlottesville: To be a place where everyone thrives.
- October 9: Attended the Jaunt Shareholders meeting where I cast a vote to add Ben Chambers, the city's transportation planning manager to the Jaunt Board of Directors. Congratulations Ben!
- October 11: Met with Senator Deeds and Wendy Horton to discuss community health access needs and committed to continuing the conversation.
- October 11: Toured the Restoration-Hope House with Sandra Carter and Christine McMakin to see one of the key partners in re-entry transition services in our community.
- October 13-15 Attended the Annual Conference and Meeting of the Virginia Municipal League in Virginia Beach. It was a great opportunity to network with peers from across the state, hear updates on policy matters for the upcoming session, and to explore ideas from other communities on matters of homelessness, emergency management, and community engagement.

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

- DCM-SE Marshall was appointed to participate as a member of the National ICMA 2024-2025 Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Committee.
- On September 17, 2024, DCM-SE participated as a panelist for the Virginia Women's Foundation's "Women On Board" session, which discussed the need for gender diversity on nonprofit, government, and for-profit boards.
- At the ICMA Annual Conference DCM-SE
 - Served as a discussant and presenter at the ICMA Session entitled: "Moving the Needle: Economic Mobility Strategies for Next Gen Leaders"
 - Served as a discussant and presenter at the ICMA Session entitled "Real Talk: Doing the Work of DEI" on September 22, 2024.
 - Filmed an ICMA-TV segment on September 22, 2024, focusing on the City of Charlottesville and its equity work
 - Participated in the Equity and Inclusion Leader's Lunch on September 22, 2024

- Served as a panelist for a three-person discussion on the impact of women's service in local government and the barriers they may face during the SheLeadsGov Luncheon on September 23, 2024. The sold-out luncheon had roughly 300 attendees.
- Presented her capstone report as a part of the 2024 ICMA Leadership Institute on Race, Equity, and Inclusion Fellowship. This competitive fellowship is co-sponsored by ICMA, the Kettering Foundation, and the National Civic League. Information on all of the participant's capstones can be found at the following link using a document created by DCM-SE Marshall on behalf of the Fellows: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhfb8e7>
- On September 20, 2024, DCM-SE presented as part of the National League of Cities "Guiding Economic Mobility in Your Community: New Research Release by Opportunity Insights" webinar to discuss how she is using the Opportunity Atlas tool for the City of Charlottesville's Economic Prosperity work.
- On Friday, October 4, 2024, attended VLGMA Deputies and Assistants Meeting in Louisa County along with DCM-Administration Ratliff and Office of Sustainability Director Riddervold to learn more about advances in nuclear and solar power.
- DCM-SE Marshall was invited to participate in the e planning process for the 2025 National Economic Mobility and Opportunity Conference to be held in May 2025 (<https://emoconference.org/>). The Conference is sponsored by ICMA, NLC, and other critical local government organizations.

Deputy City Manager for Operations – James Freas (he/him)

- In partnership with Preservation Piedmont, DCM-O organized a book launch event on October 5th with Sarah Bronin, who recently authored the book *Key to the City: How Zoning Shapes Our World*. The event was well attended despite the excellent weather.
- DCM-O is working with Transit, Police, and DPW to reopen the upper floor of the Transit Center as an emergency operations center for use during Downtown Mall events. Anticipated timeline is 9 months to a year to complete necessary modifications.
- In response to the tragic death of a pedestrian in a vehicular crash on Elliot Street, DPW has installed some immediate quick-build safety improvements at the 1st St intersection including signage, striping to narrow the vehicular lanes, and new bollards at the intersection to narrow the crossing distance.
- On September 14th DCM-O, DCM-SE, and planning staff from NDS joined community members at the kick-off event for UVA's visioning process for UVA Health owned properties at Grove Street and the Oaklawn property in the Fifeville neighborhood.

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

- Matt Alfele was recently promoted into a new position, Planning Manager for Development Review. In this position he will be leading the development review process for the City, including site plan and special permit review and rezoning requests.
- NDS has recently advertised a new position, Planning Manager for Long Range Planning, which will be responsible for leading the City's planning program for Small Area Plans, Comprehensive Plan updates, and zoning amendments.

- NDS continued its monthly Neighborhood Walks series in the Venable neighborhood on October 13th. The next Neighborhood Walk will take place in the 10th & Page neighborhood on November 10th at 2 PM, meeting at the bike rack at 341 11th St NW.
- Hundreds of walkers, runners, and bikers hit the Rivanna Trail on October 6th to celebrate Loop De'Ville, which was co-sponsored by the City and Albemarle County this year. Participants got the chance to explore over 20 miles of trails around the City and enjoy music, food, and fun at the Rivanna River Company. If you weren't able to attend this year, guided monthly walks are offered by the Rivanna Trail Foundation. November's walk will start in Pen Park at noon on November 17th.
- On October 15th, the BAR recommended City Council approve proposed changes and updates to the Architectural Design Control District Design Guidelines regarding Outdoor Cafes. Staff anticipates presenting the changes to Council this fall.
- On October 23rd, [AIA Central Virginia](#) (American Institute of Architects) will celebrate The Charlottesville Board of Architectural Review as a recipient of this year's Community Service Award. The Community Service Award honors our Board for its remarkable contributions to the built environment in Central Virginia through public advocacy and by upholding the integrity of design in Charlottesville. AIA Central Virginia recognizes that their efforts have enriched our community and made a lasting impact on how the public perceives and interacts with the built environment.
- Charlottesville's Downtown Mall serves as a regional gathering place for residents and the thousands who annually visit the area. [Recently listed on the VLR \(Virginia Landmarks Register\) and the NRHP \(National Register of Historic Places\)](#), the Mall's 50th anniversary in July 2026 coincides with our nation's 250th birthday. As part of Charlottesville's continuing stewardship of the Mall, Neighborhood Development Services and Parks & Rec have co-sponsored a grant request to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for **the Downtown Mall Preservation and Rehabilitation Project**. DHR will announce grant awardees before the end of 2024. [\[VA250 Charlottesville, DHR Preservation Fund\]](#)
- The Charlottesville and Albemarle Planning Commissions will restart their periodic work session opportunities on Tuesday October 29, 2024 at 5:30 at the County Office building (McIntire Road) Room 241. There will be a presentation on the Resilience Together Project by city and county staff and an opportunity for Commissioner discussion and feedback for next steps of the project. Both Planning Commissioner's look forward to the opportunity to meet.

Human Services – Director Misty Graves (she/her)

- In early September, Department of Human Services staff participated in a training conducted by Dr. Channing Matthews on the topic of how to apply Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion practices into the work of a human services professional. The Department strives to support staff so they are trained to provide the best services to the residents we serve as supports City Councils overall commitment as part of their Strategic Plan.
- Charlsie Stratton, Deputy Director, received this year's United Way Caring for Community Award for Above and Beyond Employee (non-childcare). Ms. Stratton was

nominated by a community member who acknowledged her ability to lead others with compassion, commitment, and respect.

- Youth Council newly appointed members gathered at the end of September to kick-off the 2024 – 2025 school year. Currently, 13 members of Youth Council have been appointed to research issues facing youth and offer a presentation to Council on potential solutions from youth's perspectives.
- On October 2, 2024 the Department of Human Services Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) received notice that the Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation's Grants Committee voted to award the City of Charlottesville \$42,480 to support CAYIP. These funds will help cover operations and stipends for youth ages 14 – 21 in meaningful internship opportunities in the Charlottesville Area.
- The Pathways Fund has dispersed \$228,929 in the first quarter to eligible household for rent, mortgage, and/or utility bill relief. Charlottesville residents who need financial assistance may contact the Community Resource Hotline at 833-524-2904 Monday through Friday from 9 – 5 pm.

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

- Programs:
 - The Downtown Safe Halloween will be Saturday, October 19th from 2pm to 4pm. There will be candy, games, costume contests, fun Halloween crafts and more!
 - The Children's Festival Down by the Bog will be held Sunday, October 20th from 2pm to 4pm at Booker T. Washington Park. Parks and Rec will be joining Wildrock, JMRL, PBS Kids and more for a fun family event.
 - The Masquerade Halloween Party will be Saturday, October 26th from 6pm to 8pm at Carver Recreation Center. Dress up in your favorite costume and bring your family for a night of music, dancing and fun!
 - Registration for Youth Basketball is now until December 1st. The season will run from January 18 to March 23, 2025. Youth skills assessment will take place December 10th to 12th.
- Golf:
 - Meadowcreek Golf Course celebrated 50 years of service on September 19, 2024.
 - The Fall Scramble event will take place on Saturday, October 19. Registration is open and you can register individually or as a team at: [Registration \(constantcontactpages.com\)](https://constantcontactpages.com)
 - The Four Ball Championship has been rescheduled to November 2 – 3 due to excessive rain the past week. Registration is still open and you can register online at: [Charlottesville Amateur Four Ball Championship \(constantcontactpages.com\)](https://constantcontactpages.com)
- Master Plan:
 - All presentations and community engagement results are now posted online at: Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Master Plan: [Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Master Plan | EngagePros \(mysocialpinpoint.com\)](https://mysocialpinpoint.com) is scheduled for December 17, 6:00 pm at Carver Recreation Center where they will present the Key Technical Findings, Preliminary Recommendations and Framework Plans.

Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)

- The Department of Utilities is proud to announce that we have completed the federally mandated Lead Service Line Inventory ahead of schedule. The Department of Utilities has found no evidence of lead water service lines in either the city or private distribution system. The Department of Utilities takes great pride in providing safe and high quality water to our customers and we will continue to collect data to improve our inventory. If you wish to participate or find out more about our program, please visit www.charlottesville.gov/waterquality to view our dashboard and interactive map.

Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)

- Public Service:
 - Leaf collections will begin on Monday, November 4th and each neighborhood will be serviced by vacuum trucks three times during the season on a set rotating schedule.
- Key Highlights:
 - Residents can sign up for text alerts reminding them of when their collection week is coming up.
 - Leaves will be collected loose at the curb (no bags).
 - A drop-off location is also available on Saturdays for residents to utilize.
 - Leaves are brought to a local farm for composting, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves local soils.
- Sign up for Text Alerts:
 - Residents can sign up to receive text alerts on their phone reminding them of when their leaf collection week is approaching. To sign up, text your address to 434-771-0251.
- On the City Website:
 - Full information - including tips for where to pile loose leaves for curbside pickup, a map with neighborhood collection zones and schedules, and other information is available online at www.charlottesville.gov/leaves. Residents can also call with questions (434-970-3830).