



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

11-4-2024

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- 10/21 Attended the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Network2Work @ PVCC. I offer my congratulations to Ridge Schuyler and team for the amazing work they are doing to connect people to opportunities that change their lives.
- 10/22 Monthly Meeting with Superintendent Gurley – preparation for the FY26 budget cycle and discussed the special work session that has been added to the calendar for December 19th as a Preview to School Board Priorities.
- 10/22 Attended Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority Board Meeting – highlights included FY24 financial results, regional planning priorities, and construction update on multiple projects aimed at a secure and long term water management plan.
- 10/23 Attended a meeting organized by Public Works with all current holders of utility franchise agreements to discuss the need for better coordination, improved management and maintenance of infrastructure, adherence to compliance standards, and engagement in the city's priority to end access barriers associated with our priority of achieving an ADA culture of compliance.
- 10/24-10/26 Participated in a Transit Site Visit to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois where a regional delegation organized by CAT was able to see what regional transportation planning looks like; it was amazing to see MTD in action and they are doing amazing work while leading the way for climate innovation; a lot more to come on this great exploratory visit.
- 10/28 Attended a meeting with Region 10 and UVA Health along with Senator Deeds to discuss needs and service gaps in the community and how better coordination and collaboration could lead to better outcomes; series of information sharing to result and follow up discussions to come.
- 10/28 Met with Eddie Howard to learn more about the work of Abundant Life Ministries.
- Reminder to all: Leaf Collection begins November 4th.
- Sign up for Text Alerts - text address to 434-771-0251.

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

- Strategic Planning Kickoff: This month, we launched a comprehensive strategic planning process with city teams focused on advancing the ten key outcome areas adopted by Council. Through collaborative sessions, our departments are setting targeted priorities to support a thriving community and align with Council's vision, "To be a place where everyone thrives." We have also advanced our commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion by integrating these

principles into ongoing strategic planning efforts, ensuring our policies and actions reflect and serve the diverse needs of our community.

- **Emergency Management Initiatives:** We are conducting a thorough assessment of the city's emergency response capabilities, collaborating across departments to strengthen our readiness and resilience framework. This work ensures our ability to respond effectively in times of crisis and aligns with our strategic objectives.
- **Key Recruitment Efforts:** Led targeted recruitment efforts to fill critical administrative and legal roles that will strengthen our capacity to deliver on Council's priority areas. These hires will ensure we have the expertise needed to meet our strategic goals.
- **Collaborative Contract Negotiations:** Continued negotiations with the SPCA to establish a contract that supports our animal welfare objectives while reflecting our broader strategic priorities.

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

- The 27th annual Grand Illumination is coming up on Friday, December 6th at Ting Pavilion. Folks of all ages can visit the Holiday Market, play games, win prizes, collect cool giveaways at City Hall Plaza, and enjoy live music from local and regional artists during the Holiday Concert. Speaking of which, we're looking for singers, dancers, and musicians for this year's event. If you or someone you know has a talent for spreading holiday cheer through music, please send a name, contact information, and at least one performance video to cvillegrand@charlottesville.gov.
- Our biweekly community newsletter, City Scoop, is now LIVE! You may sign up to receive the newsletter via email [here](#), you can find a link on our website and social media platforms, and you can also find copies in City Hall and at a few locations on the Downtown Mall.
- **Reminder:** The City's public affairs tv program, Inside Charlottesville, airs every Friday and Sunday at 7:00 PM and every Saturday and Monday at 9:00 AM on Charlottesville TV10 – Comcast Channel 10 in the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties. We also have a free Roku app for TV10 which folks can find by searching for "Charlottesville TV10" on Roku.

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

- **The Jordan Park Accessible Pathways:** The City Council approved \$25,000 in CDBG funds on September 16 to create a new and accessible paved pathway within Jordan Park. This would enable the connection of the existing accessible curb ramp at the park's Sixth Street entrance with several amenities, including a basketball court, playgrounds, and a new trail bridge. The project is a

collaboration between the Office of Community Solutions and Parks and Recreation Department. Demolition of the existing pathways and construction of the new pathways is now underway. It is expected to be completed during the week of November 1st.

- **Charlottesville CDBG Program:** Subrecipients funded through the city's program year 2024-25 (PY24) program continue to make progress launching their funded activities. Including first of its kind support for PACEM's work-enabling transportation program for their clients experiencing homelessness. A proposal is currently under development for a public hearing on November 4th that will capitalize on the remaining balance of unspent CDBG funds from prior years.
- **Virginia Homeless Solutions Program:** The Office of Community Solutions in partnership with the Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless applied for and received funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Virginia Homeless Solution Program. Our continuum received a \$25,000 increase to last year's award. The original funding for last year was \$539,369. It is now 564,369 for FY 25.
- **Housing Operations and Programs Support (HOPS) Grant:** The HOPS Grant application period for FY26 HOPS funding opened as scheduled on September 18th and closed October 18th, following its inclusion in the City's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published in mid-August. OCS staff collaborated with the communications team to promote the NOFA, HOPS application details, and submission instructions. Additionally, the Housing Program Manager facilitated a workshop on October 2 for organizations interested in the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) and HOPS grants. The workshop had 13 attendees (in-person and virtual) and covered policy alignment and a Question and Answer (Q&A) panel to support grant application success. The application period for CAHF Grant FY25 funding is now open and will close November 22 at 5:00 PM.
- **Housing Equity and Anti-Displacement Toolkit (HEAT) / Strategy,** three components of the HEAT Strategy are advancing to support housing equity and anti-displacement goals: (1) **Land Bank Program/Ordinance:** The Land Bank Program, aimed at acquiring and holding properties to create affordable housing opportunities, was presented to Council during the October 7 work session. Staff is coordinating further action with the City Attorney and Deputy City Manager of Operations, with additional direction anticipated after November 1. (2) **Affordable Housing Development-Oriented Tax Abatement Performance Program:** This proposed program is designed to incentivize affordable housing projects through targeted tax abatements, aligning with broader community housing goals. Preliminary development is near completion, and staff will proceed with refinement based on consultation with appropriate city departments. (3) **Charlottesville Supplemental Rental Assistance Program (CSRAP):** The Seventh Amended Grant Agreement for CSRAP has been completed and signed, and \$900,000 has been allocated for FY24-25. This program continues to provide essential housing

support for low-income residents, and staff will keep the Council informed of ongoing collaboration with CRHA to align with community needs.

- **212 and 217 Fifth Street and 407 Harris Road Acquisition:** OCS coordinated the process related to the City Council approval of \$234,000 in grants to enable Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) to meet its gap financing for the \$2.675 million acquisition of 212 and 217 Fifth Street and 407 Harris Road. This would preserve multiple units of naturally occurring affordable housing. This initiative would preserve the affordable units permanently and help to mitigate displacement.
- **Staff Training and Professional Development:** (1) *VHA Housing Credit Conference (Oct. 15-16)*: The Compliance Coordinator attended, gaining insights into best practices for using low-income housing tax credits. (2) *Housing Developer Training Institute (HDTI)*: The Housing Program Manager is scheduled to complete a training with LISC Virginia's HDTI on October 30, 2024, focused on multi-family affordable housing development. This program strengthens staff's knowledge skills, and capacity in real estate policy and program development terms, covering topics like financial feasibility, site management, and asset management, supporting long-term affordable housing goals.

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

- Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) – Ordinance to create the City of Charlottesville C-PACE Financing Program in coordination with the statewide C-PACE program was adopted on October 21st. The program allows for clean energy, efficiency, and other environmentally beneficial investments in new construction, renovations, and retrofits of commercial and industrial properties through access to low-cost, long-term financing. Program details can be found here: <https://virginiapace.com>
- Director received the Community Impact award at C3's October 4th Party for the Planet.
- OS staff attended the 2024 Virginia Clean Energy Summit in Richmond, VA in mid-October. Director participated in the "Innovations in Clean Energy in Virginia" panel with a presentation about Charlottesville Gas's Decarbonization Study.
- Director and Climate Program Manager attended the 2024 Urban Sustainability Directors Network Conference in Minneapolis, MN.
- OS staff representative joined a tour of a state-of-the-art transit facility in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. The purpose of the tour was to gain firsthand knowledge of zero emissions bus transition work involving hydrogen fuel cell transit bus technology and the infrastructure required to implement a pilot program for CAT.
- OS partnered with Full Life Counseling to host "Engaging Our Climate Emotions", a community discussion on how to manage climate anxiety through connection with community and participation in local climate action. The event featured

tabling from the Office of Human Rights, the Department of Human Services, The Women's Initiative, and Region Ten.

- OS and the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership were invited to table at the Fry's Spring OktoberFest celebration and Neighborhood Association meeting.
- The Toilet Rebate Program has been updated with increased rebate amount and expanded eligibility. The program now offers up to \$150 rebate and has expanded eligibility to cover old toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush or more. The Water Conservation Program completed a thorough review of the over 20-year-old Toilet Rebate Program with the support of the WaterNow Alliance, a nonprofit network of local water decision makers advancing sustainable, affordable, equitable and climate resilient water. Toilet Rebate Program details can be found here: www.Charlottesville.gov/ToiletRebate

Downtown Job Center – Roy Fitch (he/him)

- The Downtown Job Center held its first Fall Career Exploration on Friday October 18th from 11am to 2pm at the Ting Pavillion. Over 30 local Employers and Community Resources were present!
- The Downtown Job Center staff were present at the UVA Pipelines & Pathways HOOS Caring student Graduation held on Friday October 25th at 9am.