



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

2-3-2025

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- CHO Airport Authority meeting was held on January 14th
 - We welcomed Pace Lochte as the 3rd member of the Airport Authority.
 - Jeff Richardson was elected Chair.
 - I was elected Vice Chair.
 - Received a report of a well-executed snow operations activation in January.
 - Did you know the airport property is made up of the equivalent of 49 miles of roadway, roughly the distance between Charlottesville and Short Pump?
 - The United flight to Chicago that started August 2023 has increased frequency due to exceptional performance with its return to our market using a larger aircraft with first class seats.
 - A second flight with the same larger aircraft to Chicago began in April 2024.
 - A 3rd flight is scheduled to begin service in March with additional first-class service on a smaller, but more spacious aircraft.
- RSWA
 - We acknowledged Mike Gaffney's renewed appointment to serve on both Boards.
 - The new Baling Facility bids came in slightly under budget (\$3.84M) and we expect completion by Fall 2026.
 - Apr 19th - Waste Special Collection Event @ Ivy for residents of city & county; registration required: Call Ivy @ (434) 295-3306.
- RWSA
 - Daniel Campbell selected as new Director of Operations and Environmental Services.
 - The Central Water Line project has significant escalation in budget with a new realized need to bury the line deeper than existing city services to avoid any unintended impacts to either infrastructure. More details to come on this project as we get closer to its start.
 - During a joint meeting of both boards, we received staff presentations:
 - Asset management presentation to outline efforts to integrate a comprehensive asset management program which is a best practice.
 - Rivanna has secured multiple grants totaling \$10M in grants to support capital projects that support the infrastructure of the water, wastewater, and solid waste function of the organization.
- TJPDC
 - Director Christine Jacobs reports they are fully staffed with 3 new team members on board.

- They will prepare public introductions of these new staff in the coming weeks.
- A Class & Comp Study is underway to ensure the organization keeps up with market demands on personnel.
- Legislative Report: Feb 4th - Crossover Day at the General Assembly.

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

- 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 it by searching for "Charlottesville TV10" on Roku.
 - February's episode includes "On the Spot" with City Manager Sanders, updates from the Charlottesville Fire and Police departments, highlights of the Project Safe Neighborhoods press conference, the Utilities team's Gas and Decarbonization Study, the E-bike demonstration, information on our Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled program, and "Get to Know Your Government" featuring Home to Hope and the Downtown Job Center's Roy Fitch.
- We have begun work on the City's annual report; the first to come out in many years. We plan to release the report at the start of FY26 (July 1, 2025).

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

- Johnson Elementary School has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy performance. ENERGY STAR-certified buildings are verified to perform in the top 25% of buildings nationwide, based on weather-normalized source energy use that considers occupancy, hours of operation, and other key metrics.
- Alongside the Community Climate Collaborative, Sustainability (OS) will co-host a climate cafe on the impact of invasive vines on Charlottesville's urban tree canopy. The cafe will feature the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership (CHIPP) and all participating partners of the CHIPP neighborhood project. The event will take place on February 14 at The Bradbury (300 E. Main Street) from 9:30-11AM.

- OS joined representatives of both Blue Ridge PRISM and the Charlottesville Tree Commission to present to the Lewis Mountain Neighborhood Association regarding upcoming opportunities to join the OS/Parks and Recreation-led CHIPP effort.
- The Climate Program Manager delivered a Resilient Together update presentation to the UVA Sustainability Committee on January 16 and a Climate Program update to Cville100 on January 21.
- Resilient Together convened the second meeting of its Climate Resilience Cohort. Focus was on supporting participants to design and develop upcoming resilience engagement events of their own.
- A community electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure needs study has started, led by consultants, Cadmus. This study will focus on lowering barriers to EV adoption within the community. It also considers opportunities for City fleet electrification.
- OS delivered an initial set of electric tools to the Parks and Recreation Downtown Mall crew as part of the landscaping equipment electrification pilot. We appreciate the team being enthusiastic partners in this project!
- An application was submitted to the EPA Clean School Bus Rebates program. If successful, this will provide funding support for the purchase of two additional electric school buses, expanding the electric school bus pilot to a total of four buses.
- An application was submitted to participate in the NOAA/NIHHS Center for Heat Resilient Communities learning cohort. The application contemplates the formation of a Charlottesville-specific heat working group and included letters of support for this effort from the Office of Emergency Management, Risk Management, the Department of Human Services, the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, the Blue Ridge Health District, the Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless, and the Local Energy Alliance Program.
- An application was submitted to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) for capacity building to evolve the current floodplain management program.

Office of Human Rights – Director Todd Niemeier (he/him)

- The Office of Human Rights (OHR) has submitted the revised Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance, adopted by City Council on January 21, 2025, to the Federal Fair Housing Office for review as part of the interim certification process for the Fair Housing Assistance Program.
- The Human Rights Commission held annual officer elections at its regular meeting on January 16, 2025. Commissioners elected Heather Roberson Gaston as Chair and Jason Melendez as Vice Chair. We are grateful to Ernest

Chambers, former Chair, and Wolfgang Keppley, former Vice Chair for their service and leadership in 2024.

- The Human Rights Commission is currently recruiting applicants for two upcoming vacancies, as Ernest Chambers and Kathryn Laughon finish their terms. We thank Ernest and Kathryn for their service and look forward to welcoming new appointees at the Commission's Annual Planning Meeting on March 22, 2025.

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

- January 2025 Grants Inventory Report:
 - Office of Community Solutions (OCS) grants staff completed the biannual issue of the citywide grants inventory report. This updated issue has a significant number of updates including 14 new grants and 16 prior grant projects completed since the July issue. In total, the January 2025 inventory reports \$156,914,895 of active grants across city government.
- Charlottesville Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Programs:
 - The CDBG & HOME programs continue to make progress, with positive initial results being reported by our subrecipients. Substantial progress has been reported by the Charlottesville Redevelopment & Housing Authority (CRHA), for example, on the roof replacements at Dogwood and People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry (PACEM) reports their shelter-to-work transportation program has been so successful they are seeking additional funding to expand it further. The CDBG/HOME application window for program year 2025-26 (PY25) funding requests is now live and runs through Friday, February 7, 2025. Four pre-application workshops have been held, with afternoon and evening sessions on January 16 and January 22. Additional sessions can be scheduled as staff resources permit and as needed. No word has yet been received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as to PY25 allocation amounts for PY25, but it is important to note that the PY24 HUD allocations were announced exceedingly late last year (May 7).
- Neighborly Software Implementation:
 - Staff are pleased to report notable progress in rolling out the Neighborly grants management tools for the CDBG, HOME, Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) and Housing Operations & Program Support (HOPS) programs, with a portal for citywide grants to follow. Staff recently held a configuration meeting with Neighborly development team in which robust implementations of the applications portal tools were demonstrated, focusing at this stage on the applications and invoicing components (with collaborative reviewer and internal/external reporting tools to follow). While work remains to be done to refine and build out each program, the promise these tools offer in terms of streamlining program implementation

and monitoring, both for staff work as well as for subrecipients, was evident.

Budget Office – Director Krisy Hammill (she/her)

- FY 2026 Budget Development is well underway. Just a reminder to continue checking the Budget webpage for updates and important information!

Commissioner of the Revenue – Director Todd Divers (he/him)

- Business License Renewals (FILING AND PAYMENT) are due on March 3.
 - Paper returns and renewals were mailed to businesses in December. However, spotty postal delivery service is not a valid excuse for failure to file or pay as these are due every year at the same time.
 - Businesses are STRONGLY encouraged to take advantage of the City's Business Tax Portal to complete these transactions. Visit <https://charlottesville.gov/businessportal>.
 - Call 434-970-3170 or email citycorbiz@charlottesville.gov if you need assistance.
- Tax Relief:
 - On February 3, the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office will begin taking applications and re-certifications for Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled. In general, the program is open to homeowners who are at least 65 years of age, or who are permanently disabled – though other conditions apply. If you were in the program last year, be on the lookout for a letter with instructions. If you were not in the program last year and would like more information about whether you might qualify, visit <https://charlottesville.gov/relief>. Or call 434-970-3160 or email relief@charlottesville.gov.
 - The deadline to apply will be April 1, 2025.