



# **City Manager's Report**

*Offices of the City Manager  
Elected & Appointed Officials*

**8-4-2025**

## **City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)**

- July 22: Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA) and Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (RWSA) Board Meetings
  - A recent solid waste long term tracking project found that City residents are using available services:
    - eWaste increased 45%
    - Household waste increased 190%
    - Appliances increased 4600%
    - Furniture and mattresses increased 105%
  - Solar panel installation at the landfill is expected to be completed in August.
  - The baling facility is now under construction.
  - A lithium battery collection and disposal program is in the works at Ivy Convenience Center to help with the threat of spontaneous fires. The board approved \$150,000 to move this forward.
  - An interim emergency siren system has been established for Sugar Hollow Reservoir. It was tested July 22 and led to a testing program for an ongoing notification program. This is meant to notify area residents that water levels may rise quickly without notice.
  - Staff presented cybersecurity and physical security updates on readiness of the critical systems at Rivanna.
  - The Board completed the performance evaluation of Executive Director Bill Mawyer who was given high performance marks unanimously.
- July 25: Firefighter for a Day
  - I had the great fortune of hanging out with some of our great firefighters and paramedics during a ride along. In June, I was able to connect with officers in Charlottesville Police Department (CPD) and this month it was Charlottesville Fire Department's (CFD) turn.
  - I watched our skilled team members work fast and deliberately to extinguish a fire and save a home in the Belmont neighborhood.
  - I also observed precision at its finest while two drivers maneuvered through tight spots in our community with our largest piece of equipment.
  - Our little secret: I got behind the wheel in a parking lot and I assure you, the tension was high, and I gained a new appreciation for the pressure test.
  - Many thanks to our public safety teams in CPD and CFD. Your jobs are critically important, and we thank you for the care you provide to our community.
- July 29: Midway Manor Bus Shelter Ribbon Cutting
  - The residents of Midway Manor did not have a covered bus shelter located just outside of their home. This has been a long-delayed request

to support seniors who call Midway Manor home. With the help of funding from the state Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the City has been installing new shelters in Charlottesville along Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) routes. The celebration last week was to honor the steadfast advocacy of longtime resident Mary Carey. Ms. Carey has been a committed and tireless advocate, and we were proud to celebrate her, too. Thank you again, Ms. Carey!

- July 30: Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) Graduation
  - Congratulations to the youth who worked with the City's CAYIP program this summer. On Wednesday, we recognized them for their hard work, and they were encouraged to get ready for the new school year and to make good decisions. Thank you to the Human Services staff for their hard work supporting this program. Great job supporting our youth!
- General Matters
  - Our extended leadership team (roughly 60 supervisors, managers, and directors) joined the City Manager's Office to experience a re-entry simulation facilitated by our very own Home to Hope navigators, Whitmore Merrick and Stacey Washington, along with supports from UVA Law. I want to thank both Whitmore and Stacey for their hard work, as well as Lisa from UVA and the community partners who made an impact on our team. City staff discovered how difficult it is for citizens returning from incarceration. Knowing and doing better is the kind of takeaway that will make all the difference with the City team.
  - Over the past two weeks, I participated in the annual ratings calls with Moody's and S&P as they evaluate our financial health and issue the important credit rating for the City. Our team did a great job as usual in presenting the best version of Charlottesville and we remain optimistic that the high marks will continue to support the organization serving this community with access to low interest rates and high creditability.
  - I joined my peers in Albemarle County, Fluvanna County, and Louisa County for a lunch reception in honor of Ted Voorhees who is leaving his job as County Executive of Orange County. Ted is moving to Chapel Hill, North Carolina to work as the City Manager starting next month. Good luck, Ted!
  - Congratulations to Jeff Davis, City Assessor, who retired on July 31. Thank you for everything, Jeff!

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

- The Office of Sustainability has been partnering with the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Department to expand their use of electric landscaping tools. P&R recently took delivery of an additional 11 battery-powered tools, including chainsaws, string trimmers and leaf blowers. These tools will allow crews to maintain City facilities while minimizing noise and eliminating harmful air pollution.
- The [2025 Solarize! Campaign \(link\)](#) has been extended through August 15. Solarize helps to reduce the cost and complexity of going solar by streamlining the process. Solar systems installed in 2025 are still eligible for the 30 percent Federal Income Tax Credit, a significant savings opportunity that will no longer be available starting in 2026 due to recent changes in federal legislation.
- Charlottesville residents are eligible for up to \$2000 in incentives toward home efficiency projects through the [Residential Retrofit Mini-Grant program \(link\)](#). Administered by Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP), this program offers incentives toward improving insulation, air-sealing, Energy Star heat pumps, and other efficiency measures.
- CAT and the Office of Sustainability are pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 Sustainable Transit Bus Wrap Art Contest. Gisela Swift was selected as the Community Vote winner and Courtney Massie earned recognition as the Panel Vote Winner. Each winner will get a \$750 cash prize, and their awesome designs will be rolling around the City starting in August.
- Speaking of transit, the next Climate Café will be on Friday, August 10 at 9:30 AM at the Bradbury and this month's theme is transit and mobility. Join the Office of Sustainability, C3, CAT, Bicycle-Pedestrian BPAC, and IMPACT at this free community event to talk all things alternative transportation.
- The Climate Program released the [annual climate action update report \(link\)](#). It includes an updated community-wide greenhouse gas inventory. The City also published its [FY26 Climate Action Workplan \(link\)](#).

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

- During the Human Rights Commission's regular meeting on July 17, representatives from the Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless, Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, International Neighbors, the International Rescue Committee, Legal Aid Justice Center, the Public Housing Association of Residents, and Sin Barreras shared information regarding the housing challenges faced by the people they serve. Commissioners also held one on one meetings with stakeholders who were unable to attend the public meeting. Commissioners will discuss the information they learned in these meetings during their work session on August 7 and begin drafting their legislative agenda

recommendations to City Council for potential adoption at the Commission's next regular meeting on August 21.

- The Office of Human Rights currently has 17 open discrimination complaint cases. Five are in the process of alternative dispute resolution, and 12 are under investigation.

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

- The Commissioner of the Revenue's Office is accepting applications for the Charlottesville Homeowner Assistance Program (CHAP) for 2025.
- Requirements to determine your eligibility:
  - Applicant must be a legal owner AND reside in the residential property as of January 1 of the current year.
  - Applicant, applicant's spouse, or any co-owner residing in the home cannot own any other real estate.
  - The current year's assessed value on applicant's home cannot be greater than \$525,000.
  - Combined adjusted gross income for all occupants residing in the home (you, your spouse, any other co-owners, and any adult relatives) for Tax Year 2024 cannot exceed \$62,100.
- Documentation needed to determine your eligibility:
  - To support your application, you must provide documentation for all occupants residing in the home (applicant, applicant's spouse, any co-owners, or adult relatives):
    - Copy of all filed tax returns (IRS Form 1040, IRS Form 1040-SR, or IRS Form 1040-NR for TY-2024).
    - Copy of all taxable income statements (W-2, 1099, etc. for TY-2023), if tax returns have not been filed.
    - Applications can be filed in person, by mail, or [online \(link\)](#). Call 434-970-3160 or email [taxrelief@charlottesville.gov](mailto:taxrelief@charlottesville.gov) for more information.
- Possible grant amounts are \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,000, and \$2,500.

### **Office of Social Equity – Manager Roy Fitch (he/him)**

- Home To Hope
  - Peer Navigators Whitmore Merrick and Stacey Washington teamed with Kelly Orians and other dedicated community partners to lead a reentry simulation for the Extended Lead Team in CitySpace. The UVA Law Decarceration and Community Reentry Clinic hosted this event, which was well attended and well received.

### **Office of Budget & Grants Management – Director Krisy Hammill (she/her)**

- The budget office has received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 2026 budget. While this was definitely a team effort, Budget & Management Analyst Lauren Roos did the heavy lifting to get the final document prepared and submitted for this year.
- Staff has just learned that the City's grant management software, Neighborly, has just launched a direct integration with the U.S. Department Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) system. If it works as advertised, this means staff will only have to enter data once into Neighborly and it will sync directly with IDIS. This will effectively save several hours a week since IDIS is such a slow, outdated system!

### **Office of Economic Development – Director Chris Engel (he/him)**

- Last week, Luna Labs held a ribbon cutting and open house to celebrate the company's recent expansion at its Charlottesville facility. Almost 25 years ago, Luna Labs began as a Charlottesville startup company. In the years since, the company has grown to become a nationally recognized leader in research and development by providing unique leading-edge solutions to complex technical challenges in the areas such as virtual and augmented reality, material science, telecommunications, and medical technologies. The company consistently points to the support it has received from the City as one of the keys to its success. Luna Labs has been the recipient of Cville Match funding through the Charlottesville Economic Development Authority and was recently awarded a Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP) grant from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) in association with the company's creation of additional, high-wage employment opportunities.