



City Manager's Report
Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials
2-2-2026

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- January 20:
 - Joined Mayor Wade for a walkthrough of the new family shelter space at the Salvation Army. County officials and other partners were on-hand to see the space and thank the leadership team for their commitment to addressing this critical need in the community.
 - Participated in the High Performance Building Standards Open House at Central Library hosted by our Sustainability Team. Thanks to our Sustainability Team for demonstrating how we are implementing climate action in the City.
 - Met with our Downtown Mall strategy team for what will be a regular engagement for our plans to care for this great community amenity, prepare for its 50th Birthday on July 3, and enhance the public experience long-term.
 - Met with staff to plan the rollout of the City's commitment to enhanced public engagement as a core responsibility of serving our community well. Connect Charlottesville is currently in a soft launch and will soon help guide how we connect, listen, and serve. Stay tuned!
- January 22:
 - Met with County Executive Jeff Richardson and UVA Foundation CEO Deborah Van Ersel for what will now be a regular meeting to discuss land use, acquisition, and management in the region. This is important to the work to collaborate and see the region as an opportunity.
- January 23
 - Joined Mayor Wade for the quarterly Mayors and CAOs meeting organized by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission. This is a regular engagement to discuss priorities affecting the region and promote the regional collaboration and pursuit of mutually beneficial opportunities.
 - Shifted into Operations Alert in preparation for the forecasted weather event for our region.

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

- CAPE has been in winter weather mode to ensure the community receives the most up-to-date information on snow and ice operations, conditions, and resources.
 - Thank you to Public Safety Information Officer Kyle Ervin for his dedication to keeping the public informed!

- We are currently interviewing for an Assistant Director of Communications & Public Engagement. We look forward to adding a new staff member to the team and expanding our public engagement efforts.

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

- Welcome Sophie Disney, an intern joining the Office of Sustainability for the Spring semester through the UVA Intern Placement Program.
- The Office of Sustainability hosted the first Climate Cafe of 2026, focused on community food equity, distribution, and access. The cafe invited groups like Cultivate Charlottesville, New Roots, Market Central, Loaves & Fishes, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, and The Food Co-Op to connect attendees with volunteer opportunities and provide insight into the current challenges associated with providing healthy food to food-insecure community members.
- OS attended and participated in “A Growing Response to Climate Change”, an event hosted by Resilient Together Climate Resilience cohort members, Cultivate Charlottesville, Market Central, and IRC New Roots. Community members gathered to explore ways to increase the resilience of our local food systems to the changing climate.
- OS and Public Works hosted an open house to showcase the City’s new High Performance Building Standards with staff from across City departments.
- Climate Program Specialist Tray Biasioli gave a guest presentation to UVA’s “Designing a Carbon Neutral Future” class.
- The third work order for the LED Streetlights Upgrade project has been submitted to Dominion Energy, which includes streetlights along Emmet Street from Holiday Drive to JPA (57 streetlights). Work order one is scheduled to start construction along the 250 Bypass from the Barracks Road exit to the Park Street exit the week of February 2 and work order two will follow shortly after once Dominion Energy has the materials in hand.

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

- The City’s Office of Economic Development and Department of Human Services recently collaborated on a pilot program to incorporate two successful economic development programs – GO Start-Up and Ready to Work, in the training offered through the equally successful Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP). During the winter cohort, students were able to learn about entrepreneurship and gain valuable soft skills training, while participating in additional learning and internship opportunities in career fields such as healthcare and food and beverage. Combined, the training and experience offered through this pilot program helped to set students up for future success in

meaningful career fields. Staff from the Office of Economic Development and Department of Human Services are engaging to discuss additional collaboration opportunities in the future.

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

- The City of Charlottesville is excited to announce the launch of the application window for the City's Community Development Block Grants and HOME Investment Partnerships programs.
- The City invites nonprofit community organizations to submit applications that will support important community goals in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, public facilities & infrastructure improvements, and public services.
- Applications are being accepted through our Neighborly grant portal through February 7 at 11:59 PM.
- Please contact Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager, at harveyryant@charlottesville.gov or Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst, at warna@charlottesville.gov if you have any questions.