



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

7-20-2026

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- Congratulations to Jason Vandever on being selected to serve as 2nd Vice President of the Virginia Treasurer's Association!
- The City accepted a grant of \$154,000 from the state Department of Criminal Justice Services to provide direct support for crime victims in the Victim Witness Program in the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney.
- The City awarded a grant of \$236,146 for the Victim Witness Program, made up of \$188,916 in federal funds and \$47,230 in state funds for the July 2026-June 2027 program year.
- The City was awarded a \$1000 Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) grant to support efforts to stay prepared for any radiological event emanating from the North Anna Power Plant.
- Attended a City-County-University debrief on the Chamber2Chamber visit to Chapel Hill.
 - Agreed to explore a regional transportation collaboration.
 - The City is to host two meetings focused on its research to increase ridership through aligned reporting and collaboration with UTS (UVA's transit system).
- June 23 Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority Meeting
 - Retirement acknowledgement for Patricia Defibaugh for 34 years of service.
 - Acknowledged June 30 as Water Professional's Day.
 - Did you know Rivanna produces 3.4 billion gallons of high-quality drinking water annually?
 - Governor Spanberger issued a voluntary conservation notice aimed at curtailing usage during this period of drier conditions. There are no local restrictions at this time.
 - This has now evolved to a designated Drought Watch which is call for all of us to curtail water usage and be conscious of wasteful activities like water running for dishwashing, brushing teeth, and cleaning.
- July CHO Airport Authority Meeting
 - Approved 9% budget increase over the prior year due to salary adjustments aimed at implementing market salaries (the last compensation study was performed in 2014).
 - Approved an updated legal representation agreement with the City Attorney's Office.

Commissioner of Revenue – Todd Divers (he/him)

- We are working with Communications and Public Engagement to develop a glossy "brochure" that outlines the range of relief programs administered by the Commissioner of Revenue's office. We hope to develop something that can be easily updated from year-to-year and that answers most basic questions about our programs. We think it will be helpful when meeting with citizen/stakeholder groups. Right now, we are addressing the "BIG 3":
 - Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled
 - Rent Relief for the Elderly and Disabled
 - Charlottesville Homeowner Assistance Program
- Once this is complete, we hope to do something similar for the various forms of veterans' tax relief.

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

- Climate Action Update: On June 15, OS Climate Program staff were pleased to deliver the third annual climate action update since the adoption of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). All updated materials can be found on the [Climate Program webpage](#), including (1) [a narrative report](#) - the second annual summary report of City- and Community-led actions since the adoption of the CAP, (2) [a presentation to City Council](#), (3) [the updated 2024 Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#), and (4) [the FY2026 Climate Program Workplan](#).
- The Climate Program Specialist attended the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) Summit in early June.
- As the "Exploring Cville's Clean Energy Transition" project led by the Community Climate Collaborative (C3) continues, the Climate Program Manager participated in a related webinar on June 23 and Office of Sustainability staff joined several small group meetings with the consultants on July 6 as well as a community dinner/presentation on July 7.
- Charlottesville was host to an in-person meeting for the Virginia American Water Works Association (AWWA) Water Awareness and Outreach Committee. The meeting included a Project WET (Water Education Today) facilitator training for professionals all over Virginia to help train other educators to deliver meaningful and Standards of Learning-aligned water education to Virginia's youth. The City's Water Efficiency Program Coordinator is now a certified facilitator.
- The City of Charlottesville and C3 are pleased to announce a new program designed to help Charlottesville-based small businesses and nonprofits reduce their energy costs. The [Small Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program](#) will support participating businesses through the process of evaluating their building for energy-saving opportunities and provide technical assistance and funds to make recommended energy upgrades. This program was the focus of the [Business of Being Green Climate Café](#) event that took place on July 10 at

Botanical Fare. For more information, visit the [Energy Resource Hub](#) and [C3's Energy Efficiency Grants Page](#).

- LED Streetlight Upgrade Project - Progress Update: The City of Charlottesville has been working with Dominion Energy to upgrade streetlights to LED lighting on major roadways across the City. Completed work includes the 250 Bypass from the Barracks Road exit to River Road. Emmet Street from Angus Road to JPA as well as Ivy Road to West Main Street are currently being scheduled with targeted completion by September. 5th Street from I-64 to Preston Avenue, Market Street/Preston Avenue to 9th Street, and High Street to 250 Bypass have been submitted for design.

Finance – Director Chris Cullinan (he/him)

- Director of Finance Chris Cullinan attended the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) national conference in Chicago. The 2026 conference marked the organization's 120th anniversary.
- The City's Risk Manager Philip Spence began his term as President of the Virginia Chapter of PRIMA (Public Risk Management Association). Virginia PRIMA serves public sector risk management professionals throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Their mission is to cultivate and empower a state-wide community of risk management professionals through education, innovation, collaboration, and shared resources, advancing excellence and resiliency in public service, and protecting the communities they serve. Congrats Phil!
- Senior Accountant Nakysa Critzer completed Virginia GFOA's Certificate Program. The program provides training in the areas of accounting, budgeting, cash management, debt, administration, internal controls, Virginia law and other topics pertinent to state and local governments. Participants must successfully complete and pass exams for 10 courses within seven years. Congrats Nykki!

Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)

- E. High/Meade Demonstration Project
 - As part of the Move Safely Blue Ridge initiative led by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), the City is implementing a 60-day demonstration project to evaluate proposed traffic operations and safety improvements along the E. High Street corridor. The project includes temporary signalization at the E. High Street and Stewart Street intersection, along with the temporary deactivation of the existing traffic signal and movement restrictions at E. High Street and Meade Avenue.

Data collected during the demonstration period will be used to evaluate traffic operations, safety, and overall performance to help inform future recommendations.

- Fire Station #1 – LEED Gold Certification
 - Charlottesville Fire Station #1 has achieved LEED Gold Certification, a nationally recognized designation for excellence in sustainable building design, energy efficiency, water conservation, and environmental performance. Achieving LEED Gold reflects the City's commitment to responsible infrastructure investment, reducing long-term operating costs, improving energy performance, and advancing the City's climate and sustainability goals through the development of high-performance public facilities.
- Emmet Street Solar Lighting Project
 - To improve visibility and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, Public Works will install solar-powered lighting within the median of Emmet Street between Angus Road and Hydraulic Road. Installation is scheduled to begin the week of August 3 and is expected to be completed by August 7. The project supports the City's sustainability initiatives while enhancing nighttime visibility and safety along one of Charlottesville's busiest transportation corridors.