



City Manager's Report

City Departments

8-3-2026

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- The Bypass Fire Station has achieved LEED Gold certification, making it the 8th building in the City of Charlottesville asset inventory. Congratulations to the Public Works Capital Division and everyone involved in this achievement in support of climate action.
- July 21
 - Met with Salvation Army Leadership to discuss the \$7M grant from the State for homeless services. The discussion included an update on their project and capital campaign timeline.
- July 22
 - Met with HR Director Joe Gilkerson to review some proposed professional development training for directors, managers, and supervisors.
 - Joined Vice Mayor Oschrin and City Attorney Maddux for an engagement with Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) Interns serving with the City government this period.
 - Attended a Finance Work Group discussion reviewing the sales tax referendum for the schools' construction and how to prepare for public consumption of the details.
- July 23
 - Attended the Grand Opening of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) Baling Facility for recycled materials at the Ivy Solid Waste and Recycling Center. We got to watch a mound of cardboard converted into a single bale. It felt very much like watching an episode of How It's Made.
- July 24
 - Attended multiple meetings with community stakeholders that show the interest people have in aligning with the local government, partnering with the City, and adding opportunities to strengthen the economic profile of Charlottesville

Utilities – Director Jason McIlwee (he/him)

- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects
 - The Department of Utilities continues to enhance the operability and extend the lifespan of its infrastructure with upgrades performed through the CIP. These CIP projects are planned, strategically implemented, and prioritized based on a set of criteria created by Utilities. Occurring Citywide on an ongoing basis, CIP work helps the department continue to provide safe, reliable, and efficient utility services for the entire Charlottesville community.
 - Currently, a CIP project is underway along a section of Barracks Road to install new water mains that will ensure efficient fire flow in the area, and Phase One of the West Main Street Utilities Replacement Project has

started replacing the City's last remaining section of aging natural gas infrastructure with new corrosion-resistant pipe. Upcoming CIP projects will include Phase Two of the Locust Avenue Water Line Replacement Project, and water line replacement along High Street. These projects will continue to bring the aging water system in the area up to current industry standards.

- To learn more about these and other CIP projects, and stay informed about timely updates, please visit www.charlottesville.gov/utilitiescip.
- Drought Watch
 - Despite the recent rainfall we have experienced, the precipitation has remained very localized to isolated parts of our area and has not significantly contributed to reservoir levels. Unfortunately, this lack of overall precipitation continues to push us closer to mandatory water restrictions. The City's Department of Utilities, in conjunction with the RWSA and the Albemarle County Service Authority, have declared an official "Drought Watch" and request voluntary water use restrictions from public water system customers in Albemarle and Charlottesville. The Department of Utilities wants to remind the community that voluntarily conserving water may help our area avoid mandatory water restrictions if drought conditions persist or intensify. If drought conditions reach the warning level, mandatory water restrictions will be put in place and enforced with fines for violations.
 - Below are steps you can take to conserve water:
 - Reduce lawn and garden water schedules to alternating days, only watering between dusk and dawn.
 - Turn off ornamental fountains.
 - Limit washing of vehicles and paved surfaces unless addressing public health and safety.
 - Limit filling of swimming pools.
 - For more information on drought conditions and restrictions, please visit www.charlottesville.gov/drought.

Parks & Recreation – Director Riaan Anthony (he/him)

- Thank you to all our Parks & Recreation staff for making Parks & Recreation Month a great success! Your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to serving our community are what make our department exceptional. We take great pride in providing beautiful parks, well-maintained facilities, and high-quality recreation programs that enhance the quality of life for everyone in Charlottesville. Every day, your hard work creates safe, welcoming spaces where residents and visitors can play, connect, and thrive. Thank you for all that you do. Your service makes a lasting difference, and I am proud to be part of such an outstanding team.

- The Riverview Park Restroom Ribbon Cutting was on July 28. This new, long-awaited modular restroom provides an important amenity for park visitors and the many walkers, runners, and cyclists who enjoy the adjacent Rivanna Trail. The new facility enhances accessibility, convenience, comfort, and the overall visitor experience while supporting one of Charlottesville's most popular outdoor recreation destinations.
- We had a great turnout for our first Sounds of Summer which took place on July 11 in Tonsler Park. Attendees enjoyed the 110 Proof GoGo Band and food from Shawarma King and Carrie's Soul Food.
 - The second Splash Sundays event was held on July 26, at Washington Park Pool and featured free swimming, music from DJ Double U, inflatables, delicious eats from Carrie's Soul Food, popsicles from La Flor Michoacana, and photos with a special mermaid guest.
 - Next month's Sounds of Summer includes the Better Together Back 2 School Bash. It will take place on August 9 from 12:30-3:30 PM at Forest Hills Park.
- Meadowcreek Golf Course hosted 68 golfers for the City Amateur Championship on June 27-28. The annual two-day event brings golfers from the area and around the state to compete and earn points towards their professional status.
- Parks & Recreation has added Renew Active® as part of its insurance-based memberships to Carver Recreation Center and Smith Aquatic & Fitness Center. Renew Active® is a fitness program for body and mind. It's available exclusively from UnitedHealthcare® Medicare plans at no additional cost. For more information and to check your eligibility, visit: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/404/Fitness-and-Wellness>
- Senior Programs began the month by hosting a successful Nature Arts Camp which featured educational field trips throughout Charlottesville each day. Participants had the opportunity to engage with various City departments, explore local natural resources, create nature-inspired crafts, and build meaningful connections with their peers through shared experiences.
- Interest in senior wellness programming continues to grow, particularly in Tai Chi, resulting in the addition of a second class beginning in July to accommodate increased demand.
- Our Pickleball ladder league is going strong with 30 players in the beginner group and 10 players in the advanced group.
- The annual sanding of the Downtown Mall has been completed. Mall staff hand-swept the 182,000+ sq. ft. of pavers with push brooms, placing sand in the voided jointing.

Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)

- **Huntley Avenue Improvements**
 - Public Works' concrete crew is scheduled to complete the remaining ADA curb ramp work from August 3 through August 14. Where tree roots have affected sidewalks, asphalt repairs will provide a smooth walking surface while helping preserve existing trees. Paving is tentatively scheduled for August 17 through August 21. Because much of Huntley Avenue remains in good condition, resurfacing will be limited to areas where recent improvements created elevation differences between the gutter pan and roadway. The section near Morgan Court that will connect to the Route 240 development will be paved after development construction is complete to avoid damage from construction traffic. Weather permitting, all remaining work is expected to be completed by September.
- **Stribling Avenue Project**
 - Public Works has received the City Manager's approval to resume right-of-way acquisition for the Stribling Avenue project. Public Works is also reevaluating the section beyond Huntley Avenue to identify a simpler, lower-cost approach that reduces impacts to nearby properties while improving pedestrian safety. The alternative being considered would use targeted sidewalk improvements, existing roadway space, one-way traffic in selected areas, new striping, traffic-calming measures, and focused intersection improvements instead of constructing a continuous sidewalk along the entire corridor.
- **Elliott Avenue and Rialto Street Intersection Improvements**
 - Public Works has scheduled safety improvements at the Elliott Avenue and Rialto Street intersection. The work will narrow the intersection through curb extensions, add ADA-compliant curb ramps, and install high-visibility crosswalk signage and pavement markings. Weather permitting, the improvements are expected to be completed by the end of the month.
- **Summit Elementary School Traffic and Safety Improvements**
 - The City has worked closely with Summit Elementary School and the surrounding community to identify practical improvements that reduce safety concerns, improve traffic flow, and support school arrival and dismissal operations. Previously approved flexible delineators between the bicycle lane and travel lane will be replaced with enhanced pavement markings. A 50-foot section of the bicycle lane beginning at the school driveway will be painted green, and additional bicycle-lane markings will be installed throughout the corridor. These improvements are intended to make the bicycle lane more visible and discourage vehicles from blocking it. If concerns continue after the school year begins, the remaining bicycle lane between the school driveway and Meridian Avenue may also be painted green. Additional improvements include flexible posts within the

buffer between the loading lane and travel lane and “Do Not Block the Box” pavement markings at the school driveway entrance.

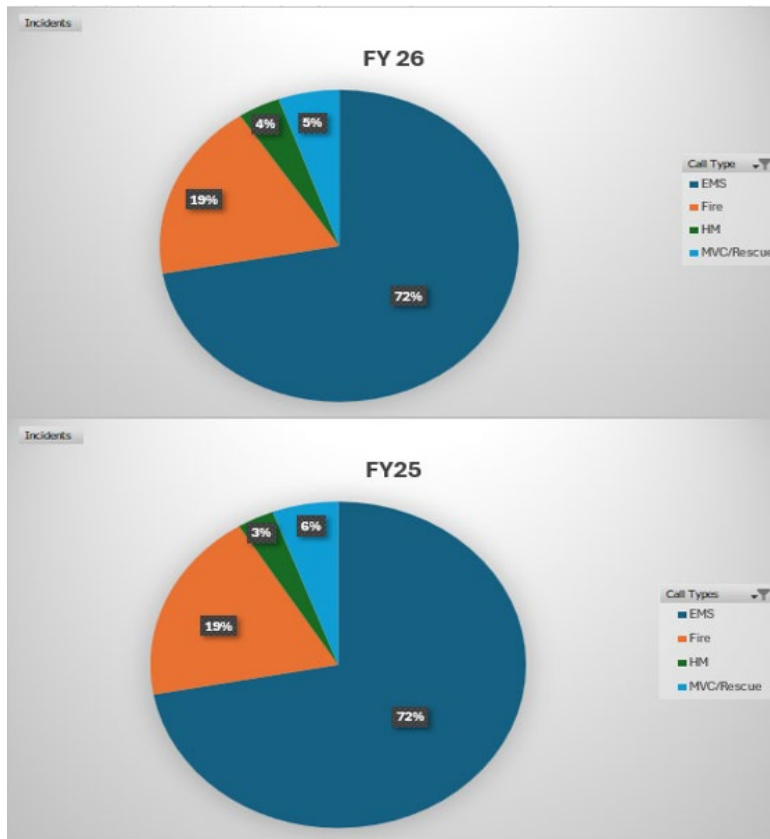
- Jonathan Dean, Public Service Division Manager
 - Congratulations to Jonathan Dean, who has accepted the position of Deputy Public Works Director for the City of Harrisonburg. Jonathan’s calm and professional approach to working with employees, along with his exceptional leadership, has made a lasting impact on Public Works. During his time as Public Service Division Manager, Jonathan was instrumental in developing the City’s first comprehensive Snow and Ice Plan. He was also a driving force behind the department’s asset management efforts and the full implementation of the Pavement Management System and Pavement Condition Index. This work gives the City a consistent, data-driven approach to prioritizing paving, maintaining streets, and preventing further deterioration of the roadway network. Jonathan will be greatly missed, and we wish him continued success in his new leadership role.
- Acting Public Service Division Manager (Mike Crowley)
 - Effective August 3, Mike Crowley will serve as Acting Public Service Division Manager while the City recruits for a permanent replacement.

Charlottesville Fire Department (CFD) – Chief Michael Thomas (he/him)

- CFD conducted annual physicals on all department members.
- CFD has begun hydrant inspections.
- This year’s Girls’ Fire Camp was a success.
- CFD’s new fire engine has arrived, and staff are currently working to place it in service.
- Community Risk Reduction
 - The Fire Marshal's Office continued proactive community engagement through education, inspections, and outreach initiatives.
 - Conducted community outreach at the Free Bridge encampment and held fire safety discussions regarding:
 - Safe open fire practices
 - Propane cylinder safety
 - Heat-related illness prevention during periods of extreme temperatures
 - Participated in the Charlottesville City Market providing fire safety education.
 - Participated in the Franks Ix Park Festival.
 - Assisted with the Orange County Youth Academy Program.
 - Assisted with CFD CAMP Inspire.

Activity	Total
Inspections	70
Violations	147
Permits	18
Plans Review	90
Summons Issued	0

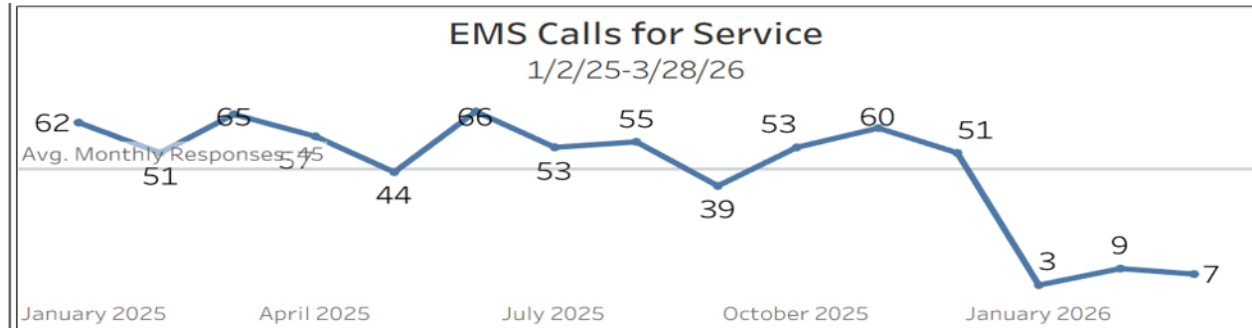
Key Operations Metrics:



- At the end of the fiscal year, there were no major variations in call type as compared to last fiscal year. Call volume has remained steady. There was an uptick in rescues due to the February snowstorm. As noted in previous reports, overall opiate overdose numbers are on the decline.

Unhoused EMS Patients

- Our records show that since January 2026, CFD & CARS have responded to fewer unhoused patients. With the significant drop in these numbers coinciding with the new records management system, there will need to be some investigation into these findings.



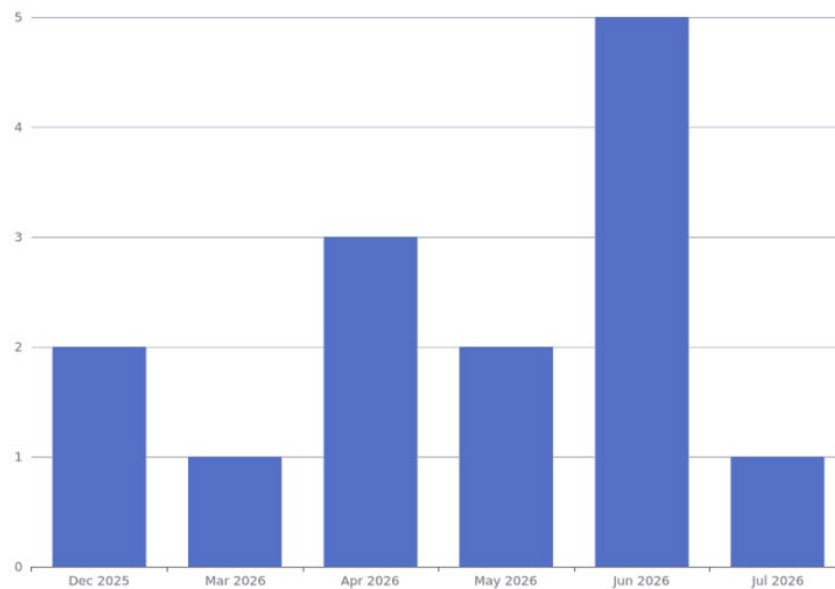
Opioid Overdoses



City of Charlottesville Fire Department
Address: 2420 Fontaine Avenue Extension, Charlottesville, VA, USA
Charlottesville, VA, 22903



Opiate Infographic



CREATED AT	OVERDOSE INCIDENTS
Dec 2025	2
Mar 2026	1
Apr 2026	3
May 2026	2
Jun 2026	5
Jul 2026	1
Total	14

- Opioid overdoses in the City increased in the summer of 2026 but have not reached the levels of historical trends. CFD and CARS have run below an average of less than three overdoses monthly in 2026, a decrease from 2025's average of six overdoses monthly. There was a slight uptick in overdose incidents in June.