



City Manager's Report

City Departments

10-5-2026

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- I am excited to welcome India Adams-Jacobs to the City Manager's Office as the final member of the reorganized office that I initiated in October 2025. As Assistant City Manager, India will support the Infrastructure Portfolio which includes Information Technology, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Sustainability, and Utilities. India is a seasoned public administrator having served as Town Manager of Bowling Green, VA and Colonial Beach, VA. She has contributed to communities at different levels of leadership in Washington, Florida, and Virginia. We welcome her to the team and look forward to her contribution in our continued efforts to positively impact lives daily.
- On Sunday, September 27 - Tuesday, September 29 the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and UVA hosted a delegation (Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, Orange County, and University of North Carolina) of more than 80 representatives of business, industry, local government, and community champions. They learned about our efforts in economic development, biosciences, community-university partnership, homeless interventions, and affordable housing. This was a reciprocal following a local group's visit to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area in May. It was a great exchange, and they spent time and money on the Downtown Mall!
- September 22:
 - Rivanna Authorities Board Meetings:
 - Solid Waste Authority:
 - Recycling activity at all three collection centers is showing growth in use which highlights the connected value held by households in our area.
 - Battery collection as a new service has been well received with the collection of lithium, lithium-ion, and nickel cadmium batteries.
 - Preparing for FY28 budget discussions to begin in October.
 - Received a Special Collections presentation by Phil McKalips, Director of Solid Waste, regarding the activity levels of the City and County, plus cost breakdowns.
 - Water & Sewer Authority
 - The Imagine a Day without Water art contest remains open until October 26. Students in grades K-12 are invited to submit art entries under the theme: Small Drop, Big Difference. More information can be found at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/ArtContest>.
 - Received a Major Capital Projects Update on a host of infrastructure improvements underway through 2030.
 - Drought Watch for our region has been lifted as our water assets have returned to ample supply.

- Received a cybersecurity update in a closed session from the new IT Director, Brian Ayala, to verify efforts are underway to ensure the safety and security of the infrastructure that operates our solid waste and water and server systems.

Utilities – Director Jason McIlwee (he/him)

- Fall 2026 Energy-Saving Trees Program:
 - The Department of Utilities is excited to announce that the Energy-Saving Trees Program has returned for the fall! Customers in the City of Charlottesville can continue the tree-mendous success of this program by planting an additional 100 trees, which will bring the total number of trees planted through this program to nearly 1,500! The Energy-Saving Trees Program offers free trees to City residents to help them conserve energy and reduce energy bills through strategic planting on their property, providing benefits to individual households as well as the broader community. Tree reservations are open effective Monday, October 5. For more information on the Energy-Saving Trees Program and to sign up for program notifications, please visit www.arborday.org/charlottesville.
- Energy Efficiency and Home Weatherization Resources:
 - Winter temperatures will be here before we know it. The Charlottesville Department of Utilities encourages residents to get ahead of the winter weather season and make sure their homes are prepared to keep them warm when frigid temperatures arrive. Utilities offers a range of resources to help households with home weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades so they can remain comfortable and save money on utility bills this winter and all year-round. These resources include a free attic insulation self-assessment, a total of \$650 in rebates towards upgrading attic insulation and attic air sealing, rebates for thermostats, and a no-cost home weatherization program for qualified customers. For more information on all the weatherization and energy efficiency resources offered by Utilities, please visit www.charlottesville.gov/utilityincentives.
- Capital Improvement Projects:
 - Work on Phase One of the West Main Street Utilities Replacement Project is wrapping up. The design of Phase Two is currently underway, with a projected start date of late spring or early summer 2027. More information surrounding Phase Two will be shared ahead of construction.
 - The Locust Avenue Water Line Replacement Project is set to continue the week of October 19 with Phase Two. The Department of Utilities is hosting an open house for Phase Two on Thursday, October 15, at Sunrise Elementary School from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. The open house is an

opportunity for community members to ask questions about the project and speak with representatives from the Department of Utilities, the City's traffic engineer, engineering firm AH Engineering Consultants, and the contractor hired to perform the work, Pyramid Construction. Invitations to the open house will be sent to residences along and near Locust Avenue. For more information on capital improvement projects, please visit www.charlottesville.gov/utilitiescip.

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

- Charlottesville Parks & Recreation continues to advance programming, partnerships, and community engagement through a wide range of fall initiatives.
- We are currently recruiting instructors for gymnastics, dance, group exercise, outdoor recreation, and children's fitness programs. Interested applicants may apply through the [City's employment portal](#).
- Two lifeguard certification courses will be offered this fall—one for new candidates and one for returning lifeguards renewing their certification.
- The first Fall program session, running from September through mid-October, features 36 youth and adult programs offered Monday through Saturday across Carver, Key, and Crow Recreation Centers, as well as Greenleaf and Tonsler Parks.
- Throughout August and early September, multiple Adaptive outdoor adventure and education programs were delivered in collaboration with Rivanna River Company, Beyond Boundaries, and Virginia State Parks. These partnerships provided participants with enriched outdoor experiences and broadened opportunities for recreation, learning, and skill development. Staff and family surveys for the Adaptive Program have also been distributed to gather feedback and identify future improvements.
- The August 9 Sounds of Summer event at Forest Hills Park—scheduled to complement the Back 2 School event at the nearby Boys & Girls Club—drew approximately 800 attendees who enjoyed live music, crafts, inflatables, and local food vendors.
- The August 29–30 Cville Bricks LEGO Showcase at Carver Recreation Center offered an array of hands-on activities, including a community art wall, derby station, timed bridge building challenge, minifigure design activity, and a gallery of professional LEGO creations. Several partners contributed specialized programming, including Charlottesville High School's BACON program, UVA's Innovation Lab with Computers 4 Kids, St. Anne's-Belfield School's Robotics Team, and Blue Ridge Boost.
- The September 27 Butterfly Festival at Darden Tower Park, hosted in partnership with Albemarle County, featured live music, eco-themed crafts, a puppet show and workshop, and an aerial performance illustrating the butterfly life cycle.

Community partners included the Rivanna Conservation Alliance and the Rivanna Master Naturalists.

- Our annual Monster Mash celebration will be held on Saturday, October 24, at Ting Pavilion. This free, family-friendly event will include a costume contest, pumpkin decorating, a magic show, face painting, and other activities.
- Adult softball and volleyball programs launched the week of September 14 with several new teams joining the leagues. The Pickleball rotating partner league began September 22 and is experiencing stronger participation than during the summer. Parks & Rec has also partnered with Cville Smash to offer youth pickleball clinics and leagues, with the first clinic held on September 26.
- Finally, our Aquatics Fall session began on September 8 with 252 participants.

Human Services – Director Misty Graves (she/her)

- Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF) hosted its first annual breakfast mixer on September 28 at Carver Recreation Center with staff from Charlottesville Department of Social Services (DSS), Albemarle County DSS, Fluvanna County DSS, and Greene County DSS. The gathering was intended to build relationships across agencies and strengthen collaboration around meeting the needs of children.
- The Westhaven CARES Center received \$7,000 from the Sentara Community Foundation to support the operations of their food pantry on site. The food pantry is actively utilized, and these funds will help the team continue to meet the demand for residents experiencing food insecurity.
- ANCHOR and HART co-presented at a National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) conference on September 25, 2026. This annual statewide conference brings together mental health professionals, peers, and family members for a day of networking, workshops, panel discussions, keynote speakers, and activities aimed at promoting mental wellness. The topic highlighted collaboration with our neighboring partners and raised awareness about the importance of peer support in co-response.
- Youth Opportunity Coordinator Juanika Howard has launched their second school year of the We LIT(erature) reading program. The program was so successful that it has expanded from one grade level to include 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.
- The Vibrant Community Fund will open its application on October 1 and close on November 13. Information for non-profits who are interested in applying is provided on the website: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/2043/Vibrant-Community-Fund>.

Neighborhood Development Services – Interim Director Mike Goddard (he/him)

- Zoning Administrator Read Brodhead will be representing the City on a panel at the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials annual conference entitled, "How Local Government Works With a University."
- Read Brodhead received the 2026 "Zoning Administrator of the Year" from the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials. Congratulations, Read!

Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)

- Emmet Street/Angus Road Mobility Improvements:
 - Solar lighting improvements along Emmet Street and Angus Road have been completed. Public Works crews began ADA and traffic signal improvements on September 28 to support a new crosswalk on the north side of the intersection. The improvements will enhance pedestrian visibility, accessibility, and safety with completion anticipated by the end of October.
- Traffic Signal Replacement Program:
 - As part of the City's CIP investment to replace aging traffic signal infrastructure, construction on the first five intersections is scheduled to begin October 19. Locations include Water Street/2nd Street, Preston Avenue/Rugby Avenue, Rugby Avenue/Rugby Road, Barracks Road/Rugby Road, and the emergency signal on Route 250 at the fire station. Work will include replacement of signals, conduits, traffic control equipment, and associated ADA improvements. Construction is anticipated to take approximately nine months.
- Avon Street Multimodal Improvements Public Hearing:
 - VDOT will hold a Location and Design Public Hearing for the Avon Street Multimodal Improvements project on October 22 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Monticello High School. The project includes a shared-use path along the east side of Avon Street between Avon Court and Druid Avenue, a new pedestrian bridge over Moores Creek, upgraded bus stops, and new crosswalks. The open house hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to review preliminary plans and provide comments.
- VDOT Local Programs Workshop:
 - Public Works participated in VDOT's 14th Annual Local Programs Workshop, held September 21–23 in Roanoke. The statewide workshop focused on locally administered transportation programs, project delivery, and collaboration among local governments, VDOT, consultants, and industry partners. Public Works Director Steven Hicks served as a presenter for the "What Makes a Project Attractive" session, discussing factors contractors consider when pursuing public projects, including project readiness, constructability, risk allocation, schedules, and bid

documents. The session focused on how localities can improve competition and project delivery by appropriately balancing risk, cost, and constructability.

Information Technology – Director Steve Hawkes (he/him)

- The Information Technology Department is pleased to share several accomplishments and updates from September.
- Helpdesk & Support Services:
 - The IT team closed 315 Helpdesk support tickets so far in September, with 99% of customer survey responses rating service as “very good” or “outstanding.” The Helpdesk team also deployed five new PCs to employees in September as part of our ongoing device refresh program.
- Citywide Initiatives:
 - User Group Meetings:
 - The City’s SAP User Group met in September where agenda items included an update on SAP SuccessFactors phase II implementation and a presentation by our Senior SAP Engineer and SAP Engineer regarding their attendance at the annual SAP User Group conference.
 - The City’s AI Champions Group met in September where we saw a presentation by the City’s Senior Software Engineer regarding the AI chatbot he’s developing for the Finance Department.
 - Teams/WebEx Telephony Project:
 - The final phase of the IT Department’s project to migrate from Cisco desk phones to Microsoft Teams/WebEx for telephony is underway. So far 17 of 44 Departments/Divisions have been migrated to the new platform. Benefits of the project include a more modern communications infrastructure, cost savings, and better user experience.
 - Applications & Systems Enhancements:
 - The Applications team completed several projects during September, including:
 - Developed and deployed the ‘City Credit Card Chatbot’. The chatbot was developed with the Finance Department to provide a job aid to help City employees better understand the City’s credit card procedures, processes, and policies. The goal of the project is to be able to provide information in a timelier and more intuitive way.
 - Launched the new GIS Viewer:
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/gisviewer>.
 - Laserfiche Upgrade for Commissioner of the Revenue.

- Completed the DSS Umbrella user interface for incorporating the Kinship program.
- Professional Development:
 - The City's IT Director was a speaker at the September 2026 Commonwealth of Virginia Information Technology Symposium (COVITS) discussing the topic "Small Shop, Big Target: Cybersecurity in Virginia's Localities".

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

- Key Operations Metrics:
 - Medical incidents remain the majority of CFD's call volume with public service calls and hazardous situations making up the other high frequency call types. This is on par with historical data.

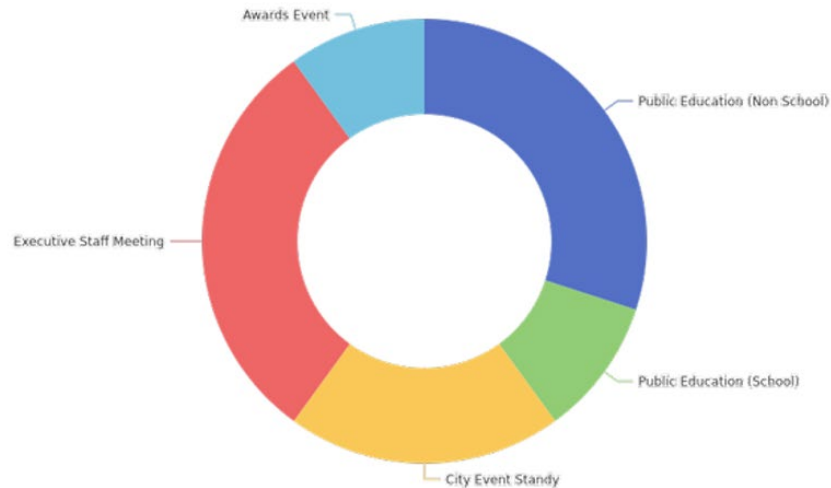
Events in the Last 30 Days:



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



Fire Chief's Event Counts



EVENT TYPES	EVENT COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Public Education (Non School)	3	30.00%
Public Education (School)	1	10.00%
City Event Standby	2	20.00%
Executive Staff Meeting	3	30.00%
Awards Event	1	10.00%
Total	10	100.00%

- CFD conducted several public engagements in the last month, including:
 - 9/11 Mission BBQ Remembrance
 - 9/11 Homeschool Co-op Group
 - 9/11 Stair Climb
 - Zion Union Baptist Church Friends & Family Day
 - Homeschool Nature Group Tour
 - C'Ville Sabroso Festival
 - UVA Football Games
 - Greenbrier Elementary School Fall Festival
 - Tour of New Station 1 for VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment

- CFD also held Deputy Chief interviews.

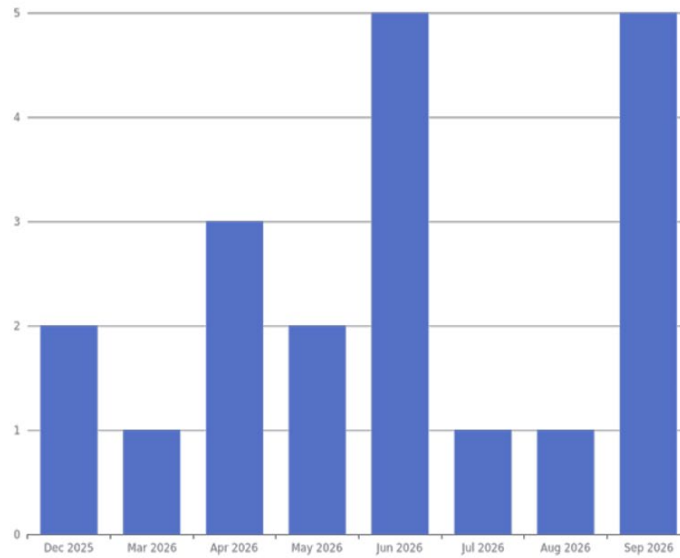
Opioid Overdoses



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
Aug 2026	1
Sep 2026	5
Total	20