City Manager's Report

Offices of the City Manager

Elected & Appointed Officials

11-16-2026

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- November 5:
    - Joined Krisy Hammill, Director of the Office of Budget and Grants Management for a financial briefing by PFM, the City's financial advisor. The presentation provided an overview of the City's financial health and identified areas where competing priorities continue to create challenges. The City Council will have a retreat on January 15 and the financial health of the organization will be the primary focus of the event.
- November 6:
    - Over 100 City employees gathered at the Contemplative Sciences building at UVA to work with The Spill Teem on the continued rollout of organizational excellence. This is the City's internal culture-setting effort to support the realization of Council's Vision: to be a place where everyone thrives.
- November 9:
    - Joined Jean Runyon, President of Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC), and Jeff Richardson, Albemarle County Executive, for a quarterly check-in. We each shared updates on key priorities. PVCC is very much committed to engaging in training and preparation activities to help residents find opportunities to work at AstraZeneca. There is a concerted effort underway by the Virginia Community College System to develop opportunities in the regions where multiple pharmaceutical companies are building new facilities.
- November 10:
    - Joined Assistant City Manager Roman for a meeting with Nathan Smith and Richard Southee, leadership of Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS). The meeting was to check in on the operations of the low barrier shelter at 2000 Holiday Drive. Great work continues in service to the unhoused population, and we will continue providing a solid foundation on which our most vulnerable can begin to reclaim control of their lives.
    - Joined Abi Matthew Wade, Economic Mobility Officer, to celebrate the work of community members who engaged in the co-development of economic mobility and opportunity priorities. Abi is developing a plan to help lift individuals and families from poverty to thriving in our community. The community participants worked over several weeks in crafting the components of this work. I delivered congratulatory remarks with my deepest thanks to those who dedicated their time to support others.
    - Spoke to the Rotary Club of Charlottesville at their monthly meeting. I provided a snapshot on current events in the City and planning for what's to come.

City Manager's Office – Assistant City Manager India Adams-Jacobs

- Bennett's Village Treehouse at Pen Park has received the Virginia Recreation and Park Society's Best New Facility Award in the Playgrounds category. The award recognizes the facility as an inclusive space where residents of all ages and abilities can play, connect, and feel welcome. It also reflects the Parks & Recreation team's dedication and Bennett's Village's collaboration with the families, advocates, donors, and community partners who made the project possible.
- Public Works has completed the crosswalk at Angus Road and Route 29, improving pedestrian safety in that area.
- Led by the Director of Utilities, the Utilities Department has issued a gas survey to more than 120 regional stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of its community utilities education. Stakeholder input will inform efforts to maintain and improve service delivery.
- The Director of Information Technology and the Emergency Management Coordinator jointly attended a tabletop cybersecurity training course to strengthen organizational resilience. In addition, the Director of Information Technology attended the SAP Public Sector Summit and technology modernization from a local government perspective.

Communications & Public Engagement (CAPE) - Director Afton Schneider (she/her)

- Organizational Excellence Initiative:
    - CAPE provided communications and multimedia support for the November 6 Organizational Excellence Retreat, capturing content to support the Citywide rollout of the initiative. The team is developing three videos to introduce the four organizational value pillars to employees, demonstrate their impact on community service, and support future employee onboarding.
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan:
    - CAPE supported the Office of Sustainability in promoting community engagement opportunities for the City's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. The team created a dedicated Connect Charlottesville page to provide information and collect community feedback on the plan's 16 proposed strategies. CAPE also promoted opportunities for public input through the City's On the Spot video series and digital communications.
- Election Communications:
    - CAPE coordinated with the Office of the Voter Registrar and City leadership to support public information efforts surrounding the November 3 election. The team also participated in the Election Day command post, providing

communications support, monitoring potential issues, and helping ensure coordinated messaging and timely responses throughout the day.

- Charlottesville's Grand Illumination: A Holiday Celebration:
    - CAPE is looking forward to supporting Parks & Recreation with this year's Grand Illumination, happening Saturday, December 5 from 9 AM-6 PM.
    - This year, Charlottesville's Grand Illumination is expanding into a day-long celebration across Downtown Charlottesville. Enjoy live performances, family-friendly activities, interactive experiences, holiday-themed fun, and cozy gathering spaces as the Downtown Mall comes alive with festive spirit.
    - Interested in being part of the holiday magic? Consider volunteering! Email Special Events Coordinator Ellen Joy at joye@charlottesville.gov for more information.
- Charlottesville Community Media Center:
    - CAPE worked closely with the ADA Team to support accessibility initiatives and help ensure City communications, public meetings, and engagement opportunities remain inclusive and accessible to all residents. This included supporting awareness of accessibility resources such as the assisted listening system available in Council Chambers.
    - The latest episode of Inside Charlottesville is now live! Stream online alongside previous episodes at https://www.charlottesville.gov/1773/Inside-Charlottesville.
- Assistant Director Ose Akinlotan attended the National Association of ADA Coordinators Conference, participating in the Web Accessibility and Professional Certification tracks to prepare for upcoming federal accessibility requirements and strengthen the City's digital accessibility efforts.

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

- The Commissioner of the Revenue's Office is responding to customer inquiries regarding the December 7 tax payment deadline.
- The Office is also finalizing rental relief audits to facilitate grant disbursements in December and preparing systems for the annual transition to the 2027 tax year.

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

- NextGen Skilled Trades Day:
    - On Saturday, October 17, Piedmont Virginia Community College welcomed an estimated 250 attendees and more than 30 exhibitors for the second annual NextGen Skilled Trades Day! The event, initiated in 2025 by the City's OED, brought together students, families, employers, educators, and community members for a day filled with hands-on activities, interactive demonstrations, and opportunities to explore rewarding careers in the skilled trades.

- From construction and automotive technology to electrical, HVAC, manufacturing, and more, attendees experienced firsthand the skills, equipment, and technology that power these essential industries. They also connected directly with employers and training providers to learn about career pathways, certifications, apprenticeships, and educational opportunities.
- The feedback speaks to the value of these experiences. One exhibitor shared, "Intentional conversations - the folks that turned out were really interested in learning and what opportunities are available!" Another commented, "We made some great connections with prospective students/applicants and school representatives."
- A parent shared, "My child had a great time at the event," while a school representative enthusiastically expressed, "The students had a great time. We all learned a lot today!"
- According to the 2026 State of America's Skilled Trades report, approximately 24% of skilled trades workers nationwide are age 55 or older, while only 11% are under age 25. With an aging workforce and growing demand for skilled professionals, introducing the next generation to these career opportunities is more important than ever.
- Thank you to everyone who helped make NextGen Skilled Trades Day 2026 a memorable and meaningful experience. We look forward to building on this momentum in 2027!

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

- The application window for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME is currently open, and applications will be accepted through midnight on Friday, December 4. Mandatory pre-application workshops are underway and anyone interested in attending or asking questions can learn more at https://www.charlottesville.gov/678/CDBG-HOME-Programs.

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

- The draft Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP) is available for public review and comment at the following Connect Charlottesville page: https://connect.charlottesville.gov/ResilientCharlottesville/.
- The draft Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) is available for public review and comment at the following Connect Charlottesville page: https://connect.charlottesville.gov/urbanforest-managementplan/
- The community is invited to attend any of the following Drop-In Sessions for both plans to meet with project team members, talk about the plans, and share any comments and questions. Here is the Community Drop-In Schedule:
  - November 12 from 2:30-4:00 PM (Carver Recreation Center)
  - November 17 from 12:00-2:00 PM (CitySpace)

    - November 18 from 4:00-6:00 PM (via Zoom)
    - November 20 from 9:30-11:00 AM (Botanical Fare)
- There has been robust uptake of the landscaping electrification rebates since their launch in early October. Thus far, there have been 18 rebates processed, covering 25 landscaping tools. The most popular rebate item has been electric leaf blowers, with 14 purchased to date.
- The LED lighting upgrade project at five Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) facilities that includes lighting replacements and occupancy sensor/dimmer control upgrades began in September and is still underway. Tall Oaks Elementary was largely completed in October. CATEC and Sunrise Elementary started in October with completion in November. Trailblazer Elementary will start in November and Summit Elementary will start in December with full project completion expected in January 2027.
- Charlottesville's first Tree Week, led by ReLeaf C'ville, hosted a total of 20 community events. These events took the form of guided tree walks, a sustainability-themed trivia night, invasive vine removal efforts, tree ring printmaking, a community art installation, a keynote speaker presentation, and plenty more. Thank you to everyone who participated in celebrating our community's urban canopy!
- The Office of Sustainability (OS) helped host "Bees, Trees, and EVs", a partner event of C'ville Tree Week that brought out community members of all ages for a game of trivia. Community organizations including the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, ReLeaf, Piedmont Master Gardeners, the Local Energy Alliance Program, and CHS Green BACON hosted craft and activity tables and contributed ideas for trivia questions.
- The Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership (CHIPP), a project co-led by the Office of Sustainability and Parks & Recreation, hosted the kick-off event for Charlottesville Tree Week at the Lab School. The event brought out 33 volunteers and resulted in 177 trees being liberated by invasive vines.
- The Office of Sustainability and the CHIPP jointly tabled at the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont's Fall Festival and encouraged attendees to view and comment on the UFMP and the CARP while they are both open for public comment.
- The Imagine a Day without Water Art Contest submittal deadline has passed and now you can help select the Fan Favorite winner! The art contest challenged youth to show how a small water drop makes a big difference through artistic creation. Fan Favorite voting is open now through December 2. All art contest winners will be announced on December 9. To vote for your favorite art entry, visit: https://2026art.cmpgn.page/20VRzp.
- Jill Greiner, Water Efficiency Program Coordinator, successfully graduated in October from the 10-month American Water Works Association's Transformative Water Leadership Academy, strengthening her leadership skills and advancing the City's capacity to address water conservation efforts.

Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)

- Public Engagement:
  - Fifeville Traffic Calming, Thursday, November 12, 6:30–8:30 PM, Tonsler Park:
    - Public Works met with the Fifeville Neighborhood Association and residents to discuss ways to slow traffic, reduce cut-through traffic, and improve pedestrian safety. Options included all-way stops, speed cushions, possible one-way streets, and longer-term sidewalk and intersection improvements. Community feedback will help shape the recommendations. Public Works plans to include proposed improvements in its FY28 budget request.
  - Stribling Avenue Sidewalk, Tuesday, November 17, 6:30–8:30 PM, Fry's Spring Beach Club:
    - Public Works will meet with residents to discuss the proposed sidewalk along Stribling Avenue from Jefferson Park Avenue to Huntley Avenue. The project would provide a continuous sidewalk along this stretch, with raised crosswalks and flashing beacons to improve pedestrian safety.
  - Dairy Road Bridge Replacement, Wednesday, November 18, 5:30–7:30 PM, Charlottesville Early Learning Center, formerly Walker Upper Elementary School, 1564 Dairy Road:
    - Public Works will update residents on the replacement of the Dairy Road bridge over the Route 250 Bypass and explain what to expect during construction, including the detour. The bridge is tentatively scheduled to close January 4, 2027.
- Barracks–Emmet Streetscape:
  - VDOT approved the award of the Barracks–Emmet Streetscape project to M&F Concrete. The project will improve the intersection of Barracks Road and Emmet Street and has a construction budget of $6.9 million. The preconstruction meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 30, and construction could begin as early as December 14. Public Works is working with the contractor to finalize the construction schedule and sequence of work.
- Leaf Collection:
  - Public Works began curbside leaf collection on October 26 and is nearly finished with the first of three scheduled passes through each neighborhood. Residents should place loose, unbagged leaves at the curb and keep sidewalks, bike lanes, and travel lanes clear. Saturday drop-off is available at 1505 Avon Street Extended. Residents can sign up for collection reminders by texting their street address to 434-771-0251.