



# **City Manager's Report**

*City Departments*

5-20-2024

### **City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)**

- **Congratulations to Sue Moffett, Director of Social Services, on her upcoming retirement at the end of May! Thank you for your 30+ years of service to the City of Charlottesville and for all of the wonderful contributions you have made to our community.**
- Met with Jason Burch and the leadership team at the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Authority in preparation for the FY25 budget.
- Met with the Fifeville Neighborhood Association with regards to proposed development activities in the Fifeville neighborhood.
- Spoke at the Community Police Academy on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and engaged with citizens on the role of the city manager and local government.
- Attended the Virginia First Cities Coalition annual meeting in Richmond, VA on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> to review legislative priorities from the recent budget session and discuss the pending budget deal which has now been ratified. The keynote address was given by Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, Don Scott.

### **Deputy City Manager for Social Equity – Ashley Marshall (she/her)**

- Oakwood Cemetery: The Parks and Recreation Department recently concluded a series of informational sessions concerning the recent findings of a forensic investigation conducted at the Oakwood Cemetery. The Department along with the City remains committed to preserving the dignity and historical significance of Oakwood Cemetery for generations to come and began remedial work to correct the issues identified on May 13, 2024. More information can be found at: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1803>
- Department of Social Services: Interviews have been concluded for the Director of Social Services position that was launched to fill the shoes of Ms. Sue Moffett, who is retiring from City service. We would like to thank her for her tireless efforts to ensure the well-being of our community's youth, families, and adults who need extra support, and we wish her a happy retirement!
- ANCHOR Team: Interviews for members of the ANCHOR team are beginning to be scheduled in preparation for a July 1 launch of the City's Co-Responder program. This program will work to begin to fulfill the requirements of the Virginia's Marcus Alert legislation (Protocol 3). Information on the ANCHOR program can be found on CPATV's Vimeo page at; <https://vimeo.com/944588092>

### **Deputy City Manager for Operations – James Freas (he/him)**

- Attended the Congress for the New Urbanism, a national event on building better places, in Cincinnati, OH last week.
- Coordinating interviews for NDS Director and Planning Manager roles.
- Continuing to work with teams to develop sidewalk priorities list for construction scheduling.

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

- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**
  - CFD had our State EMS Inspection with the Virginia Office of EMS this week. This is an audit of EMS certifications, training, and equipment.
- **Recruitment (Read at next City Council Meeting)**
  - CFD is hosting "Camp Inspire," a Girls Fire & EMS Camp to empower young women to pursue careers in the fire service. The camp will take place from June 26th to June 28th and is open to City of Charlottesville students in grades 7-12. Activities include CPR training, hospital and dispatch center tours, Fire/EMS simulations, and team-building exercises. The camp aims to foster diversity and is part of CFD's initiative to increase female representation in the department. Registration is now open until May 31st at [www.charlottesville.gov/fire](http://www.charlottesville.gov/fire).
- **New Employees**
  - CFD is proud to announce the hiring of 16 new employees. The Recruit Class for 2024 will start on May 20th, beginning a six-month fire and EMS certification program. This training will equip our recruits with the skills and knowledge necessary to serve our community.
  - Tammy Johnson will start as the EMS Systems Administrator (EMS Billing) on 6/3/24.
- **Facilities**
  - The Ridge Street Station paving project is nearing completion. The milling and paving have been finished. Lines and parking spaces will be painted as soon as the weather allows.
- **Social Media and Messaging**
  - CFD partnered with Albemarle County Fire Rescue to have joint messages for local media. You should see a commercial on social media, TV, and inside local movie theaters. Thanks to City Communications and Public Engagement team for creating the videos. These will also air on Charlottesville CH10.

### **Charlottesville Area Transit – Director Garland Williams (he/him)**

- Wayne D. Patterson will join CAT as the Assistant Director of Transit for Operations on May 28, 2024. Wayne's strong background in public transit operations made him the ideal candidate. He is currently the Assistant Division Director – South Operations for New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). He has over 15 years of transit operations experience in a union environment.

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

- Smith Aquatic and Fitness Center has resumed regular operating hours, effective immediately:
  - Sunday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
  - Monday to Thursday: 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM
  - Friday & Saturday: 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

- Charlottesville Parks & Recreation is excited to announce the reopening of its four (4) spray grounds for the 2024 season. The spray grounds, located at the following parks, are free and open daily from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM:
  - Belmont Park: 725 Stonehenge Avenue
  - Forest Hills Park: 1022 Forest Hills Avenue
  - Greenleaf Park: 1598 Rose Hill Drive
  - Tonsler Park: 500 Cherry Avenue
- The final Masterplan event was held on Saturday, May 11th, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Forest Hills Park.
- Washington Park Pool and Onesty Pool will open for the season on the weekend of May 25th. Outdoor pools will be open on weekends only until June 10th.
- Farmers in the Park has kicked off at Pen Park for the 2024 season due to a grass revitalization program at Meade Park. The market takes place every Wednesday from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Pen Park.
- The Masterplan process continues with Parks & Recreation hosting a series of Community Engagement events across the city. Your feedback is crucial, and you can still provide comments via the online survey and pinpoint map at [www.charlottesville.gov/parksandrec](http://www.charlottesville.gov/parksandrec).
- We're pleased to announce that food and beverage services have resumed at Meadowcreek Golf Course. The Creekside Café is now open daily, offering a variety of food, beverages, and snacks. Stay tuned for an expanded menu in the coming weeks. Visit [www.meadowcreekgolf.org](http://www.meadowcreekgolf.org) for the current menu.

#### **Human Services – Director Misty Graves (she/her)**

- The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) program received over 200 applications from local youth who are interested in earning while learning this summer. Several City Departments have agreed to join as a host agency and will be providing opportunities for youth to develop their workplace skills. The confirmed internal departments are: Information Technology Department, Parks and Rec: Carver Rec Center, Downtown Jobs Center, Office of Community Solutions, Public Works, Department of Social Services, and Office of Communications and Public Engagement. We are grateful for the partnership and support from our City colleagues. Other departments, businesses, and agencies are still able to host this summer and should contact CAYIP Coordinator, Annie Sechrist ([sechrista@charlottesville.gov](mailto:sechrista@charlottesville.gov))
- The Community Attention Foster Families division of DHS has two open Family Services Specialists positions. These folks would work closely with foster parents and help support the wellbeing of children.
- DHS also supports the work of the bi-monthly One Stop Shop. The next one is June 4th at Carver Recreation Center. Several service providers will be available to help connect folks to resources in a laid back and welcoming atmosphere.

#### **Human Resources – Director Mary Ann Hardie (she/her)**

- The HR Department hosted a Benefits Fair for employees on Friday, May 3rd from 11 am - 3 pm with our city benefit providers/carriers in attendance that had great

participation from employees. Employees were able to interact directly with our benefit providers and ask questions as well as to pick up some free snacks and swag. Great job to our HR Benefits Team.

- We are very excited to share that the city will also be hosting a Job Fair this summer that we look forward to our community participating in. This is an opportunity for interested individuals to learn more about our job openings from the departments. This event is tentatively scheduled for August 29, 2024, at Carver from 5 pm - 8 pm. More details and information to come soon.

### **Neighborhood Development Services – Director James Freas (he/him)**

- NDS's Safe Routes to School Coordinator Kyle Rodland presented on Charlottesville's Safe Routes to School program at the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) last week. Our program under his and Ben Chambers leadership and in partnership with Charlottesville Schools and DPW, is getting increasing recognition for the innovative practices we have put in place to improve safety for children walking and biking to school. Most notable have been the "quick-build" projects, "walking school buses", and expanded deployment of crossing guards in school zones, all put in place to help address walker/biker safety during the bus driver shortage. These practices have continued and expanded and are being followed up with concrete improvements.

### **Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)**

- The Department of Utilities wants to thank the community for participating in the 2024 Customer Satisfaction Survey. We appreciate the feedback and insights and are currently in the process of prioritizing and addressing what matters most to you. The results of the survey have been posted on our website and can be found at [www.charlottesville.gov/utilities](http://www.charlottesville.gov/utilities).
- The year-round proactive maintenance of storm drains, and keeping them clear of leaves and debris, is key to the efficient flow of stormwater and helping to prevent sediment from entering our community's waterways – especially as we enter the summer season, and with it, an increased potential for frequent storms that can result in heavy rainfall. With help from the community, we can keep storm drains clear and water flowing. If you need to report a major storm drain issue, contact Utilities Dispatch 24/7 at (434) 970-3800.
- Opportunities to join the discussion surrounding the Decarbonization Study will occur this summer, and we invite you to participate in an initiative with community-wide impacts. Please go to <https://charlottesville.gov/FormCenter/Utilities-31/Charlottesville-Gas-Decarbonization-Stud-305> to sign up to receive notifications of specific dates and times to share your valuable perspective on this important community matter.

### **Information Technology – Director Steve Hawkes (he/him)**

- Charlotte Robertson was hired as a Software Engineer and started on April 29th. In her role Charlotte will be helping develop and maintain software systems throughout the City.
- Our annual City website meeting was held on May 8 and more than 25 City staff website editors attended the meeting. We discussed the recent website refresh, some new

features of the website editing tool we use, and reviewed the data analytics of our website over the past year.

**Public Works – Director Steven Hicks (he/him)**

- Attended the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) in Miami, FL on 5/7 - 10/2024.
- Launch of new web/mobile app called Recycle Coach. It provides residents with the service and educational resources for the City's waste and recycling programs. You can download the app for free from App Store or Google Play or go to [www.charlottesville.gov/1061/Waste-Management](http://www.charlottesville.gov/1061/Waste-Management)