



City Manager's Report

City Departments

11-18-2024

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- 10/30 Spoke at the Ceremonial Groundbreaking for Vista 29, permanent rental housing in Albemarle County that will have 77 studio apartments and 3 one-bedroom apartments with supportive services. It will be a mixed-income community with a blend of units for homeless and low-income clients from Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville.
- 10/30 Met with Region 10 leadership to discuss community needs and programming in the Charlottesville area; joined by Senator Deeds and Deputy Marshall.
- 11/6 Met with John Sales to discuss CRHA's (Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority) ongoing redevelopment program in the city, to include the City Housing Portfolio co-owned with the city and managed by CRHA.
- 11/7 I was honored to speak to members of our team who were being recognized for 10 to 35 years of service with the City of Charlottesville. This Service Recognition Luncheon is a part of a renewed commitment to engaging staff and celebrating achievement along the way.
- 11/7 Members of GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) held their conference in Charlottesville at the Omni. They took a walk on The Mall with economic development director, Chris Engel, who led them to Council Chambers. I was able to speak to them about the city, the local government, and most importantly, the people who make it special. I asked them to spend money and come back to spend more.
- 11/7 Met with Bernard Whitsett and Kimberly Sheffield to discuss programming and other matters at the Jefferson School City Center.
- 11/11 Joined Mayor Wade, Vice Mayor Pinkston, Councilor Snook, and County Supervisors and Executives to mark Veteran's Day at the annual event held in the County Building and led by the Defense Affairs Committee. To all veterans, families, and active servicemembers, thank you for your service!
- This month, we kicked off Departmental Budget Meetings, an important opportunity for me and the Budget Team to hear the needs of our offices and departments in the execution of their work to serve the community. These meetings will continue into December as we work to settle on key matters ahead of my presentation of a balanced budget to council in the new year.
- Interviewed candidates for the Director of Social Services. Intend to extend an offer and announce the new director by the end of this month.

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

- Served as a panelist during the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference on November 13 in Virginia Beach. I presented on Charlottesville's efforts to address equity and housing in zoning with Charlottesville's Comprehensive Plan and Development Code.
- Traveled to Champaign, Illinois with a delegation of people from Charlottesville, Albemarle, and UVA as well as our regional and state partners, to learn about the successes their transit agency has had in implementing hydrogen fueled busses as well as providing an integrated service for the public, schools, and university.

Neighborhood Development Services – Director Kellie Brown (she/her)

- The Charlottesville Planning Commission and Albemarle County Planning Commission held a Joint meeting on October 29, 2024. Staff from both localities and UVA provided a presentation on the Resilient Together project which is a collaborative process designed to ensure our community is strong, safe and healthy in the face of a changing climate.

Following the presentation, commissioners took the opportunity to provide feedback as well as discuss example resilience strategies. This is the first opportunity for this collaboration since before the pandemic and members look forward to future opportunities.

- NDS continued its monthly Neighborhood Walks series in the 10th & Page neighborhood on November 10th. The next Neighborhood Walk will take place in the Lewis Mountain neighborhood on December 8th at 2 PM, meeting at Foods of All Nations on Ivy Road.

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

- Meadowcreek Golf Course recently hosted the Fall Scramble on October 19 and the Four Ball Championship from November 2–3.
- Fall is a stunning season to play golf at Meadowcreek! Reserve your tee time online at www.meadowcreekgolf.org.
- Registration for Winter/Spring programs opens Monday, December 2, at 10:00 a.m. Explore classes and sign up online through Parks and Recreation's Splash portal.
- The next Master Plan community meeting will take place on December 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Carver Recreation Center. PROS Consulting will present key technical findings and framework plans for community review and feedback.
- All outdoor restrooms will be winterized and closed by December 30, reopening to the public by mid-April.
- Adaptive Recreation hosted a pumpkin carving event at Washington Park on Tuesday, October 29, in collaboration with the Rose Hill Neighborhood Association. Families enjoyed decorating pumpkins, sharing dinner, and music on the playground.
- In General Programming, the new session of classes, including art and gymnastics, kicked off this week. Spots are still available for School Day Out Camps and Winter Break Camps for school-aged youth.
- Athletics is wrapping up league softball, and youth basketball registration is currently open. Through a new partnership with HER Sports, middle school girls have a unique opportunity to participate.
- City Market concluded the 2024 season of Farmers in the Park last week and is excited to welcome the Holiday Market in November. Last week, City Market staff member Justin McKenzie presented to the Food Justice Network, highlighting that 66% of our vendors are women, and 24% self-identify as BIPOC.

Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)

- The Department of Utilities has resources to help customers avoid the headaches of disruptive plumbing pitfalls during the holiday season and this coming winter. The arrival of the holidays brings an increase in food preparation, and Utilities wants to remind households of the importance of the proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) produced by cooking and baking. FOG buildup can clog sewer and drainage pipes, resulting in messy and costly overflows, and Utilities is providing FREE FOG Kits in the lobby of City Hall to help customers properly dispose their FOG. And with the colder months of winter approaching, Utilities wants to emphasize the importance of winterizing

a home's plumbing. Preventing frozen pipes will save customers the hassle and inconvenience of costly repairs and interrupted service.

- More information on FOG and simple step-by-step instructions on measures that help prevent pipes from freezing can be found at www.charlottesville.gov/utilities.

Fire Department – Chief Michael Thomas (he/him)

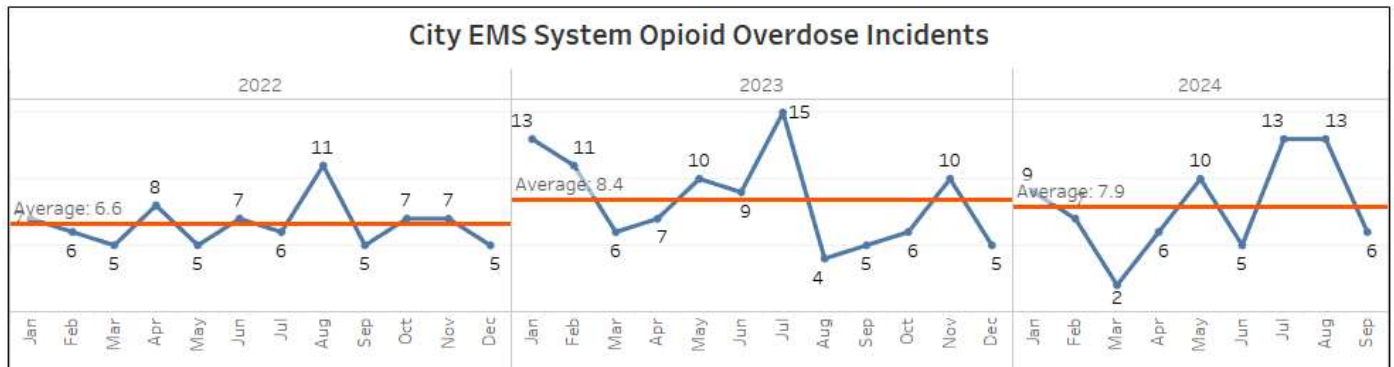
- On November 14th, CFD will proudly graduate 14 members of Recruit School 2024 at Charlottesville High School. After six months of rigorous, specialized training, the recruits have gained expertise in essential skills such as firefighting, emergency medical response, hazardous materials handling, and rescue operations. Beginning November 25th, the new graduates will transition to their shift assignments, taking the next step toward becoming fully certified firefighters/EMTs.

Key Operations Metrics

CFD Incident Comparison: FY23 to FY25 YTD July- October			
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
EMS/Rescue	1,996	1,791	1,752
Fire	48	52	63
Other Type	870	797	1,016
Grand Total	2,914	2,640	2,830

Comparing the first four months of FY25 to the same period in FY24, CFD incidents are up by 7% across all categories.

Fire incidents increased by 21%, EMS incidents decreased by 2%, and all other types of incidents increased by 28%.



Opioid overdoses in the city declined in September. CFD and CARS are running an average of eight overdoses each month in 2024.

Information Technology – Director Steve Hawkes (he/him)

- We are happy to announce Lewis Chisholm, Technical Support Specialist was promoted to Senior Technical Support Specialist. He started in his new position on October 26 and as Senior Technical Support Specialist he is now the lead support specialist on the IT Helpdesk. Congratulations Lewis.
- Also in October the City's Network Team, Fred Felgenhauer, Jeremy Halterman, and Maria Weiss completed their Network Infrastructure Strategic Plan. The five-year plan provides a blueprint for addressing a number of enterprise City IT goals including updating the City's Wifi infrastructure and increasing connectivity speed to better support future technologies.