



# **City Manager's Report**

*City Departments*

9-15-2025

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

- September 4: Held an onboarding session with John Oprandy, the City's new Emergency Management Coordinator.
- September 5: Met with Wendy Horton, outgoing Chief Executive Officer for UVA Health. We discussed multiple opportunities to continue collaborating with the health system despite the leadership transitions.
- September 8: Attended the UVA Building & Grounds Committee Meeting preview with leadership.
- September 9: Attended the CHO Airport Authority Meeting where we heard about the efforts to continue development on the west end of the airport.
  - All vacancies were recently filled.
  - The new onsite fuel project is scheduled for opening in February to effectively double fuel storage.
  - Top leadership recently had an engagement session at UVA to extend conversations related to high usage and coordination for larger, more regular aircraft generated by university activity in the area.
  - Baggage belts for the baggage claim area have been replaced, in addition to recent IT upgrades.
- September 9: Connected with Albemarle County Executive, Jeff Richardson for our monthly meeting.
- September 10: Participated in the Neighborhood Development Services (NDS) Staff Retreat & Fun Day at Tonsler Park. Thank you to the NDS team for your commitment to planning, zoning, and visioning for the City.
- Reminder: the Central Water Line community information meeting will be held on September 16 from 5:00-6:30 PM at Carver Recreation Center.

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

- Community Wellbeing Report: We are thrilled to announce the public launch of our first Community Wellbeing Report. Created by the UVA Center for Partnerships, the Wellbeing Profile shows data on measures related to well-being in our community. Further, there are reports about the well-being in Albemarle County and a combined City/County report. The team at UVA used the American Human Development Index as a framework, and the report looks at how to increase well-being and demographics, public health, education, economic mobility, and housing. The report was introduced on NBC29, and Deputy City Manager (DCM) Marshall discussed the education piece on August 27, 2025. The Community can find the reports at:  
<https://communitypartnerships.virginia.edu/research/albemarle-and-charlottesville-community-wellbeing-profiles>.
- Community Engagement: On August 27, 2025, DCM Marshall participated in discussions with community nonprofits focused on our unsheltered population.

Participating nonprofits included BRACH, PACEM, and the Salvation Army. She also met with the new head of the Salvation Army, Major Donald Wilson, on September 3, 2025.

- State Engagement: DCM Marshall was invited to participate as the local government representative in the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority's interview process to secure a "Local Government Liaison" staff member to serve the Central Virginia area, which includes the City of Charlottesville, on September 5.

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

- The Department of Utilities takes its responsibilities to inform and educate the community on natural gas safety procedures seriously. We want everyone to be aware of how to detect a gas leak, understand the actions to take if a leak is suspected, and to always follow proper safe digging practices with Virginia 811. As part of our comprehensive Public Gas Safety Awareness Plan, our annual scratch-n-sniff Pipeline Gas Safety & You flyer will be sent in the upcoming billing cycle to all customers who receive a paper utility bill. For customers signed up to receive paperless billing, an electronic version of the flyer is featured in our September e-newsletter, with the option for those customers to contact Utilities to receive a scratch-n-sniff card and the ability to smell the rotten egg-like odor associated with natural gas. By working together, we can make the Charlottesville community a safer place to call home. For more information on gas safety, please visit [www.charlottesville.gov/gassafety](http://www.charlottesville.gov/gassafety).
- The Department of Utilities is excited to announce that the Energy-Saving Trees Program is back for the fall! Marking the program's second fall offering, and sixth overall program opportunity, customers in the City of Charlottesville can continue its tree-mendous success this October by adding to the more than 1000 Energy-Saving Trees already planted in Charlottesville. The Energy-Saving Trees Program provides free trees to 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 open Monday, October 6, 2025. For more information on the Energy-Saving Trees Program and to sign up for program notifications, please visit [www.arboday.org/charlottesville](http://www.arboday.org/charlottesville).

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

- The Department of Human Services Director, Misty Graves, along with colleagues at Home to Hope, Charlottesville Police Department, the Commonwealth's Attorney's office, and the Legal Aid Justice Center have been accepted to participate in the 2025 Results for America (RFA) Solutions Sprint, titled Diversion Done Right: How to Implement, Fund, and Sustain an Effective

Program for Safer Communities Solutions Sprint. Alongside RFA's partners, the Vera Institute of Justice's Reshaping Prosecution Initiative, will teach participants how to design, implement, and strengthen evidence-based diversion programs in our community.

- Youth Opportunity Coordinator, Juanika Howard, launched their new reading program at Summit Elementary this week. Ms. Howard recruited volunteers, many of whom are retired educators, to support attaining reading levels for students.

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

- We are proud to share that Parks & Recreation recently received several recognitions in the annual Best of C-Ville contest:
  - Best Arts & Crafts Classes: Runner-Up
  - Best After-School Activities: Finalist
  - Best Kids Park: Winner (Pen Park), Finalists (Forest Hills, Greenleaf)
  - Best Golf Course: Winner (Meadowcreek)
  - Best Walking/Hiking Park: Finalists (Ragged Mountain, Riverview)
  - Best Mountain Biking Park: Winner (Ragged Mountain)
- Save the Dates – Upcoming Events
  - October 25: Downtown Safe Halloween, Ting Pavilion
  - October 25: Fall Scramble, Meadowcreek Golf Course
  - November 17: Winter Programs registration opens, Trails & Greenways
- Project & Program Updates
  - A public input meeting for a new park property in The Meadows was held on August 26, with 20 community members in attendance.
  - The Washington Park ramp project has been delayed due to a survey issue related to the lower retaining wall.
  - General programming's new session of classes—including art and gymnastics—started this week. Spaces are still available for School Day Out camps and Winter Break camps for school-aged youth.
  - Youth Basketball registration is now open, including a new opportunity for middle school girls to work with HER Sports through our newest partnership.
  - The 2025 season of Farmers in the Park concluded last week. We look forward to the Holiday Market beginning in November. City Market staff, led by Justin McKenzie, presented to the Food Justice Network last week. We are proud that 66% of City Market vendors are women, and 24% self-identify as BIPOC.