

November 26, 2025

City Scoop



City of Charlottesville residents: personal property and real estate taxes are due Friday, December 5, 2025!

Payments can be made in-person, via mail, by phone, or online ([real estate](#), [personal property](#)).

Please contact the Treasurer's Office at 434-970-3146 or citytreas@charlottesville.gov for assistance.

Charlottesville Implements New Safety Policies for Grand Illumination

Charlottesville's 28th Grand Illumination is just around the corner! Join us on Friday, December 5, from 5–8 PM at Ting Pavilion for a festive evening featuring live music, delicious food, games, prizes, special guests, and plenty of holiday fun for all ages. Admission is free, and parking is complimentary at the Market Street and Water Street garages from 5–10 PM.

To help ensure the health and safety of all attendees, the City of Charlottesville is implementing [new safety policies](#) starting this year.



The size and type of bags allowed into the event will be limited:

- All bags must be clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC, and must not exceed 12" x 6" x 12" (30.5 cm x 15.25 cm x 30.5 cm).
- Each attendee may bring one clear bag such as a clear backpack, clear fanny pack, clear cinch bag, or a clear plastic zipper bag like a Ziploc.
- Exceptions may be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection and tagging by security.
- All attendees will be subject to security screening before entering the event. Security personnel may inspect the contents of bags, jackets, pockets, and other personal items. Re-entry is allowed, but guests must return through the main gates.

Certain items are not permitted inside the event, including:

- Luggage
- Firearms
- Knives or other weapons
- Fireworks or confetti
- Alcoholic beverages, beverage coolers, or containers of any kind (including plastic or glass bottles, cans, coolers, or flasks. Baby bottles and food or drink containers for toddlers are permitted.)
- Aerosol containers, laser pointers, bicycles, and skateboards

Only service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, will be permitted.

Thank you for helping the City of Charlottesville keep the 28th Grand Illumination fun, safe, and welcoming for all. We can't wait to kick off the holiday season with you!

Enter the Storm Drain Art Contest!

The Charlottesville Department of Utilities is excited to launch its first-ever storm drain art contest! The community is invited to put on their thinking caps to creatively illustrate the importance of stormwater pollution prevention and submit artwork communicating the theme "Stormwater Pollution Prevention: Only Rain Down the Drain!" for a chance to paint their design on a stormwater drain inlet.



Designed to help engage, educate, and motivate the community to prevent pollutants from entering our local waterways through storm drains, this artwork will serve the community for years to come!

The Department of Utilities manages the City's stormwater conveyance system. This system handles stormwater runoff, which is precipitation that flows over the ground, into the stormwater system, and discharges directly into our creeks, streams, and the Rivanna River. As this runoff flows over land and impervious surfaces, it picks up pollutants like trash, chemicals, oils, and sediment.

The Charlottesville Utilities Storm Drain Art Contest is open to all community members aged 12 years or older, with two categories, Youth (ages 12-17) and Open (ages 18+). Submissions can be made until February 9, 2026, via [the online portal](#), by mail, or in-person. At the end of the entry period, a panel of judges selected by Utilities will select two winning designs, one from the Youth category and one from the Open category. A third Fan Favorite winner will be selected from the top entries via online voting by the community from February 16, 2026, through March 9, 2026. Three winners will each receive a \$500 Visa gift card and paint their design on one of three storm drain inlets at a painting event in the spring.

More information on the Charlottesville Utilities Storm Drain Art Contest, including official rules and guidelines, and the submission form, can be found at <https://charlottesville.gov/1982/Storm-Drain-Art-Contest>.

Upcoming Meetings

December 1

- City Council at 4:00 PM in Council Chambers

December 3

- Homestay & Short-Term Rentals Meeting at 5:00 PM in CitySpace

December 4

- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee at 5:00 PM in CitySpace

December 9

- Sister Cities Commission at 4:30 PM in CitySpace

December 11

- Charlottesville Redevelopment & Housing Authority at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers

- Police Civilian Oversight Board at 6:30 PM in CitySpace

December 12

- Historic Resources Committee at 10:00 AM



What's Happening

- This year's Grand Illumination tree needs a name, and it's down to the final vote! Five suggestions from the community were selected, and now it's finally time to vote for the tree's name. The [online poll](#) will be open until December 1.
- This year, 530 amazing entries were received for the annual "Imagine a Day without Water" art contest, and now it's time to vote for the fan favorite! The community can vote for their [favorite entries online](#) until Wednesday, December 3.
- Precision Safe Sidewalks will be performing trip hazard remediation work across downtown Charlottesville over the next two weeks. Weekly updates and specific work sites will be given [via NewsFlash](#).
- Parks & Recreation crews will be working on multiple City-owned properties to control invasive vegetation and restore native habitats in Riverview Park, Butterfly Greenway, and Meadowcreek Disc Golf Course until December 12. Signage and caution tape will be visible in all treatment areas.
- Smith Aquatic & Fitness Center will be [closed to the public](#) for generator installation from Wednesday, December 3 until Friday, December 5.

Visit our
Website

Subscribe to City
Scoop





Try email & social marketing for free!