



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

BEACON Kitchen Grand Opening



The City of Charlottesville is on the cusp of gaining a valuable new resource to support small and emerging food and beverage businesses. **BEACON Kitchen** will celebrate its **grand opening on Saturday, April 5th, at noon**. Located at 221 Carlton Road, Unit 1, BEACON Kitchen will provide monthly memberships and hourly rental programs for bakers, cooks, and other culinary artists to access the licensed commercial kitchen space and specialized equipment necessary to explore and enhance their offerings. Facilities are available 24/7 to provide the highest level of flexibility. Recognizing that culinary excellence is only part of what makes a successful business, **New Hill Development Corporation** is also offering assistance with marketing and bookkeeping to help keep businesses on the right track and facilitate additional growth.

Whether you're part of an established food and beverage business that needs more kitchen space or an individual interested in experimenting and refining your latest recipe, don't miss your opportunity to see and experience all that BEACON Kitchen has to offer. Sign up now to **attend the April 5th grand opening**. The event is free and includes an "after party" from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Available Property Spotlight

Are you a restaurateur ready to move into standalone brick and mortar location? Perhaps an established food and beverage business looking for a second location? If either of these sounds you're your situation, make sure to take a look at the restaurant space for lease at **606 West Main Street**. Formerly home of Blue Moon Diner, this site boasts over 3,000 square feet of built-out restaurant space in one of the City of Charlottesville's most bustling areas. It includes multiple dining areas, a bar, event room, and rooftop terrace, along with an existing hood system and walk-in. To find out more about this iconic location in the Downtown area of Charlottesville, visit its **listing page** on the Cushman & Wakefield | Thalhimer website.



Find information on other available properties in the City of Charlottesville by visiting the Office of Economic Development's "**Sites & Buildings**" webpage. If you have commercial, retail, or industrial space available for lease or sale, let us know by emailing property information and any marketing flyer to ecodev@charlottesville.gov.

Mock Interview Workshop

Studies show that 33% of employers know within the first 90 seconds of an interview whether they will hire someone, while

READY TO WORK
MOCK INTERVIEW WORKSHOP

Benefits:

- Increase your confidence
- Improve your presentation skills
- Practice one-on-one and on a panel setting
- Receive immediate feedback, advice and best practice tips
- Get Trained. Get Hired.

3:00 pm - 5:00pm
 Mar. 24, 2025
 Sentara
 920 E High Street
 Suite 103

SCAN ME 
 or visit bit.ly/47YuASr

HIRED

It's Free! Sign Up Today!

47% of employers say they would reject a candidate who lacked confidence or had little knowledge of the company. Don't leave your success to chance - sign up now to attend the Ready To Work Mock Interview Workshop on March 24 from 3-5pm at Sentara's Outpatient Clinic: 920 E High Street, Suite 103 in Charlottesville where you can practice with HR and Workforce professionals in both one-on-one and panel interview formats. Receive feedback and best practice tips to help you perform at your best. Studies also show that mock interviews can increase a candidate's confidence by up to 85% and that interview coaching can improve job offer rates by 75%. The workshop is free and open to all, but registration is required. Click here to register. Get Trained. Get Hired.

Five Year Mark

Where were you on March 11, 2020? Five years ago this week, the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a pandemic, disrupting the workforce world as we know it. Post-pandemic we've seen the pendulum swing from "The Great Resignation," to "Quiet Quitting," to "Quiet Hiring," and now "The Great Detachment;" what experts are calling a period of falling employee engagement, satisfaction and choice. A big part of that is comprised of "the manager squeeze," where managers struggle to create the culture needed while carrying on in "the year of efficiency" while lacking the training and support to coach their staff. How did we get here? Click here to read more.



Coffee & Conversations

Have you had the chance to attend a Coffee & Conversation event yet? This month, you have two opportunities to join us!

☐ **March 21**
 ☐ 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
 ☐ Culinary Concepts AB, LLC
 2041 Barracks Road, Charlottesville

☐ **March 28**
 ☐ 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
 ☐ Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau
 3510 Remson Court, Suite 102, Charlottesville

Coffee & Conversations is a casual networking event connecting local employers and job seekers over complimentary coffee and refreshments. Employers can share job openings, job seekers can present their resumes, and community organizations can promote their programs and services. Expand your network and discover new opportunities!

This event is **free and open to all**, but we kindly ask that you RSVP to bichej@charlottesville.gov. Attend one or both sessions—and bring a friend!

Friday March 21 | 10:00AM-11:30AM

Coffee & Conversations

Workforce Mingle

A casual gathering of local jobseekers and employers to share and explore opportunities, skills and networking - all over complementary coffee.



Charlottesville ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 CULINARY CONCEPTS AB

*RSVP: bichej@charlottesville.gov

Friday March 28 | 9:30-10:30AM



Coffee & Conversations

Workforce Mingle

A casual gathering of local jobseekers and employers to share and explore opportunities, skills and networking - all over coffee.



Free coffee and refreshments.
*Must RSVP by 3/26



*RSVP: bichej@charlottesville.gov

Charlottesville
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

CEDA Board Member Recognized



At the March 11th meeting of the Charlottesville Economic Development Authority (CEDA), CEDA Chair, Addison Barnhardt, recognized Jonathan Chasen for his service to the Board. Appointed by City Council to the Authority in 2021, Mr. Chasen actively served and contributed to the work of the CEDA Board, which included approval of a number of Cville Match grant awards to assist local businesses and approval of Performance Agreements to help advance critical projects in the City of Charlottesville, including redevelopment of the aging, former Friendship Court housing complex into the new, modern Kindlewood affordable housing community.

OED staff thanks Mr. Chasen for his engagement and guidance during his time on the CEDA Board and wishes him all the best in his future endeavors!

OED Fun Fact

Did you know that the odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000. Consider yourself very lucky if you do find one! Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Free Business Resources



The Albemarle County & City of Charlottesville Buy Local campaign highlights small businesses within the Charlottesville-Albemarle area through a multi-channel, multimedia promotional and educational campaign. To learn more about the campaign, click [here!](#)



The Central Virginia Small Business Development Center is a team of business and technical experts available to advise and assist entrepreneurs, confidentially and free of charge. They offer 1:1 assistance, curated research, access to technical experts and professionals, and timely

events/training. To see upcoming
SBDC events, click [here!](#)

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