



## Updates from the Office of Economic Development

### You're Invited: Coffee & Conversations - A Casual Connection Opportunity

Friday Aug 8th | 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.

**VIRGINIA CAREER WORKS**  
PIEDMONT REGION

\*RSVP: [bichej@charlottesville.gov](mailto:bichej@charlottesville.gov)



Ready to meet your next employee, coworker, colleague, employer, or community partner? Mark your calendar and come join us for the next *Coffee and Conversations* event on **Friday, August 8th** from **9:30am to 10:30am** at the **Virginia Career Works Charlottesville Center** (943 Glenwood Station Lane, Charlottesville). This engaging, relaxed gathering is **free and open to all**, and promises a rewarding morning of networking, learning, and community-building — all over complimentary coffee and refreshments.

Whether you're seeking your next opportunity, scouting new talent, offering workforce support services, or simply curious to connect, our relaxed, mini job fair format invites real conversations and a unique chance to:

- Meet local professionals and connect with potential candidates or employers
- Discover current job openings and career pathways
- Explore community resources and services
- Get answers to workforce questions and helpful referrals

This isn't your typical job fair. It's **slaid-back, casual, and welcoming** — no suits required. Just bring your best self:

- Jobseekers: Pack a few copies of your resume
- Employers & organizations: Don't forget your business cards

The **best part**? It's all about **building community**. Connections made over coffee often spark meaningful opportunities — so don't miss out. Secure your spot and **RSVP by Wednesday, August 6th** to [bichej@charlottesville.gov](mailto:bichej@charlottesville.gov).

Come for the coffee. Stay for the connections. Tell a friend!

### New Openings Bring Fresh Flavor and Fun To Charlottesville

Several new businesses have opened recently in Charlottesville, joining some of the City's familiar locations offering revamped spaces, fun activities for the family, and, of course, great food.

**Dairy Market** on Preston Avenue, has two exciting additions. **SunPins** delivers a modern twist on classic fun, offering duckpin bowling and darts in a vibrant, stylish setting. Perfect for a competitive date night and fun with the family. Just steps away, **Cumbre Bakery** has launched its second Charlottesville location, offering its signature pastries with a fresh new look. Guests can enjoy classic favorites alongside a few new additions to the Argentine-themed menu.



On the **Downtown Mall**, two exciting newcomers have arrived. Right next door to the beloved **Baggyby's Gourmet Sandwiches** and under the same ownership is Brekky, a fast-casual restaurant offering breakfast, coffee, grab-and-go options, and a salad bar. The combination of morning favorites and quick bites in a convenient location is sure to become a new go-to for the early risers and lunch-on-the go crowd alike! And we can't talk about great food offerings without mentioning a way to work off some of those extra calories. **Uplift**, is the newest gym on the block. Located in the Hardware Store Building, offers more than just equipment – It's a vibrant fitness community space combining a fully equipped gym, group classes, personal training, and co-working space, all with the convenience of being located directly on the Downtown Mall.

As Charlottesville continues to grow and evolve, these new openings prove that the creative business spirit of the City is alive and well, connected, and full of flavor.

## Help Build the Workforce of Tomorrow - Sponsor NextGen Skilled Trades Day!



Be a part of something transformative! Join us in shaping the future of our local workforce by sponsoring *NextGen Skilled Trades Day*—a free, hands-on career exploration event happening Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 10 AM to 2 PM at Piedmont Virginia Community College.

NextGen Skilled Trades Day introduces students, families, and community members to the wide range of high-demand, high-paying careers in the skilled trades—careers like welding, carpentry, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and more. With hands-on demos, employer exhibits, and career-readiness resources, this event is designed to spark interest, build pathways, and connect future talent with the businesses who need them most.

As a sponsor, your business will be recognized as a leader in workforce development, gaining brand visibility and meaningful connections with the next generation of talent. Sponsorship benefits range from top-tier logo placement and premium booth space to speaking opportunities, demo zone sponsorships, and more.

Whether you're a large contractor or a small local business, there's a sponsorship level to match your goals and budget, starting at just \$500.

Your investment will:

- Promote your brand to hundreds of attendees and families
- Support a vital educational and economic development initiative
- Connect you with emerging talent and future employees
- Demonstrate your commitment to building a stronger, skilled workforce

Together, we can bridge the skills gap, empower youth, and elevate the trades as a first-choice career path. Learn more or secure your sponsorship today by contacting [Admin@nextgenskilledtradesday.org](mailto:Admin@nextgenskilledtradesday.org)

Let's build the future—together.

## Charlottesville Restaurant Week

Charlottesville Restaurant Week will be July 21st – 27th. Take advantage of three-course meals for \$25, \$35 or \$45 at 30 participating restaurants. Read more about Restaurant Week's participating locations and browse special menu offerings before making your reservations and heading out on the town! ¡Buen provecho!

## We're Halfway There

Apologies to those of you who now have Bon Jovi stuck in your head, but we promise this has nothing to do with livin' on a prayer.

The early days of July marked an important milestone as we are now more than halfway through 2025. Beyond that though, we are now more than halfway through this

decade and this half-century! This is a great time to take a few minutes to focus on how your business is doing. Pull out your business plan (you do have a business plan, right?), dust it off, and see how what you are actually experiencing compares to what you anticipated. Hopefully you are doing much better than expected. If that's the case, figure out what has led to that success and work on ways to build upon it for even more growth in the future. Perhaps you've hit a couple of snags along the way and aren't quite where you expected to be at this point in time. Recognize that you aren't the first business owner to go through unexpected challenges and you won't be the last. How you respond and position your business going forward is what will determine your long-term success. **Contact our office** to learn more about some of the local resources available that provide business counseling services, mentoring opportunities, workforce development assistance, and so much more.



By taking some of these steps now you can better position your business to grow and thrive through the last half of this year, this decade, and even this semicentennial! (Without feeling like you're livin' on a prayer.)

## Ready to Learn How to Launch Your Business Dreams?



Are you ready to turn your ideas into a business but not sure where to begin? GO Start-Up is your opportunity to take the first step. This free course is designed to help future business owners like you learn the basics of planning for and operating a

business, connect with local experts, and build a strong foundation for success. Whether you're still dreaming or already planning, this 4-week program will give you the tools, confidence, and community to GO from idea to action.

Classes begin September 3rd and will be held in person, every Wednesday evening from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in City Space. **Apply** now and begin your entrepreneurship journey today!

## Economic Development - A Thread Through the Community

Have you ever wondered why economic development is so important to the overall well-being and vibrancy of the local community? OED's Assistant Director recently had a chance to sit down with the Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) team and share his thoughts on why economic development is The Answer. Check out the interview by visiting VEDA on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn.



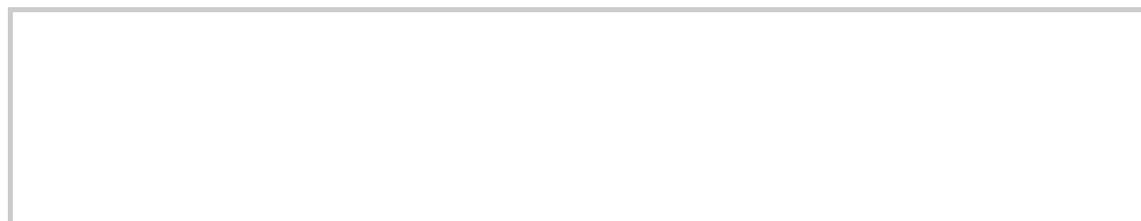
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## OED Fun Fact

Restaurant Week in Charlottesville is almost here! According to historical records, the first restaurant in Charlottesville was the Swan Tavern, which was built around 1773 and owned by John Jouett, Sr. Back in those days colonial taverns would typically serve simple, affordable and quick-to-prepare foods. Popular choices included pork products like bacon and ham, hot biscuits and various stews and soups. Today Charlottesville has many wonderful restaurants with a wide variety of cuisines to please every palate!

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## Free Business Resources





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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City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development | 605 E Market St | Charlottesville, VA  
22902 US

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