



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

ENVISION Grants Announced

At the recent Tom Tom Festival, the United Way of Greater Charlottesville announced the inaugural round of ENVISION Grants for small, minority-owned businesses. The grants are intended to increase the capacity of established businesses in either the city or the county. The goal is to provide support to entrepreneurs who often lack access to capital to expand and grow their businesses, add employees and increase the tax base for a more prosperous community.

The grant program is supported by the City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development and the Albemarle County Office of Economic Development and their respective Economic Development Authorities. Businesses may apply for grant amounts of up to \$10,000. More information and the application can be found at [this link](#).

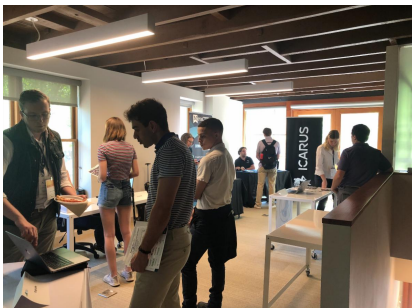
Sombreros Receives Grant

Congratulations to Sombreros Restaurant on the Downtown Mall, who received an Energy Efficiency Grant from the Community Climate Collaborative C3 to be used for a new prep station. It will help to keep the cold food cold by using a third of the energy and has a low impact refrigerator.

Piedmont Pitch

The countdown to the Piedmont Pitch has begun. The City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development and Albemarle County Economic Development have joined forces to offer educational programming leading to a pitch competition for local small businesses. Entrepreneurs and small business owners in Charlottesville and Albemarle have been working diligently in the 10-week Business Essentials Training program conducted by the Central Virginia Small Business Development Center. Graduates have the opportunity to pitch for \$15,000 in prize money on May 11th at 5:30pm. For more information please visit [this link](#).

2023 HireVA x Tom Tom Festival Career Expo



Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development, UVA Environmental Institute, Virginia Career Works – Piedmont Region, UVA Health and the UVA Career Center organized a Career Expo in partnership with the Charlottesville Tom Tom Festival on April 20, 2023, helping to connect college grads and high school students with local area employers. Job and career seekers had the opportunity to travel to a variety of local employers, meeting with staff and learning more about each industry. In addition, 63 representatives for 35 companies were on site to share job opportunities and answer questions. Nearly 200 students were engaged and networking. It was

a successful and enjoyable day for all!

UVA Pipelines & Pathways Grand Opening Celebration

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the UVA Pipelines & Pathways Grand Opening Celebration on May 8th from 1pm-5pm at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center (233 4th Street NW) in Charlottesville. The event is free, open to all community members, and registration is not required. The Pipelines & Pathways program focuses on helping individuals residing in underserved communities in the Charlottesville region gain access to employment at UVA with the opportunity for upward mobility. Several offerings throughout the day are planned, including speeches by UVA President Jim Ryan, City of Charlottesville Vice-Mayor Juandiego Wade, and a ribbon cutting with the Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce. UVA recruiters and hiring managers will be available to discuss open positions with UVA and community partners will have information about resources available to job seekers across the Charlottesville region. [Click here to learn more.](#)



GO Cook Registration Now Open

Thinking of a career in the culinary field? Start your journey today by registering for the next **GO Cook** training program! **GO Cook** is an inclusive training program that teaches both life skills and occupational skills. The 5-week program prepares you for an entry level position in the culinary field where you can earn both your ServeSafe and Certified Cook certificates. Over 60+ employer partners give graduates an opportunity for employment. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Summer at PVCC

Summer semester registration is now open at Piedmont Virginia Community College! Invest in your future by enrolling in a class or two this summer. There are several schedules to choose from. Ten-week and first five-week classes start **May 22**, seven-week classes start **June 12**, and the second five-week classes start **June 27**. Whether you are a current PVCC student, a recent high school graduate or an adult learner, enrolling is easy and financial aid and scholarships are available for those who qualify. Tuition and fees may even be covered in full with PVCC4U.100%! [Learn more about summer classes, financial assistance and registration here.](#)



Market Street Garage Repairs

The Market Street Parking Garage is undergoing repairs to preserve the longevity of the facility and continue serving our parking customers. The repairs, to the 50-year-old facility, include ceiling replacements, concrete repairs, and a new protective coating to the top deck. The work is being done in multiple phases in order to minimize the impacts on current parkers. The facility will remain open throughout, and the repairs are expected to be completed by the end of August 2023. For more information on parking options in Charlottesville please visit [this link](#).

OED Fun Fact

On April 29, 1978, the first annual Foxfield Races were held. Prior to 1977 the property was a local airport as well as a well-known riding school. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Foxfield Races!

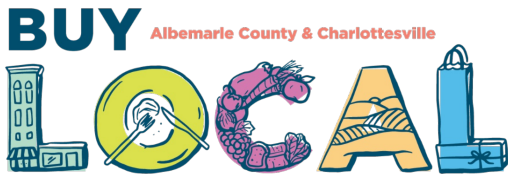
Upcoming Events

City and County to Host Business Pitch Competition



The City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development and Albemarle County Economic Development have joined forces to offer educational programming leading to a pitch competition for local small businesses. Entrepreneurs and small business owners in Charlottesville and Albemarle can apply to participate in the 10-week program including 8 training programs (Business Essentials Training) offered by Central Virginia SBDC and work with a business advisor to hone their pitch and develop a solid business plan. To learn more about the program or to sign up, please visit the Piedmont Pitch [website](#).

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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