



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

Firefly Restaurant Has a New Owner

The Firefly Restaurant has a new owner who is a familiar face in Charlottesville. Jennifer Mowad of Cocoa & Spice has recently taken over Firefly Restaurant. Jennifer stated in a Facebook post "the Firefly you know and love is here to stay... maybe with a little extra sweetness added over time!". Congratulations to all!

Welcome Decades Arcade to the Downtown Mall

Decades Arcade opened Friday at its new location on the Downtown Mall. Owner, Paul Yates, who is a University of Virginia eye surgeon and an electrical engineer also repairs 1980s game consoles. He stated that he grew up with these games and enjoys fixing them more than playing them. Currently the arcade is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Check out their new location at 418 E. Main St. and enjoy some games of yore!

Parking Convenience

Both the Market Street Parking Garage and the Water Street Parking Garage offer convenient parking to monthly, residential, & transient parkers. For monthly or residential parkers, it saves the trouble of having to find parking on street and guarantees a spot within the facility. For transient parkers, it offers easy access upon exiting with technology that allows for payment by credit card or cash at the pay stations. The City of Charlottesville has strived to make parking convenience a priority to better serve the community with their parking needs. For more information on parking options, please click the following link: [Parking Information](#)

UVA Pipelines & Pathways Launches HOOS Driving



The HOOS Driving Training Program provides structured coursework and paid on-the-job-training as a full-time, benefitted Transit Bus Driver with University Transit Service (UTS) or Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT). The training includes CDL permit written test training, CDL pre-trip inspection training and workplace readiness training. English Language Training is also available if needed. After training, employees will begin behind-the-wheel skills test training with UTS or CAT to obtain their permanent Class B CDL. All training is paid at an hourly rate of \$19 with UTS with a \$1,000 sign-on bonus and

\$1,500 retention bonus after 2 semesters of service, or \$21 an hour with CAT. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

Buy Local This Mother's Day

Don't forget to celebrate Mom this Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2023. Shop local and support any of the amazing businesses in Charlottesville. Whether you take Mom for brunch at her favorite Charlottesville restaurant, winery or brewery, find her a unique gift at one of Charlottesville's trendy gift shops and boutiques, or partake in an arts and



crafts activity or workshop hosted by Charlottesville's charming artisans, her day will be extra special knowing you were supporting a local business. Visit [Buy Local](#)

Top Virginia Employers for Interns - 2023 Virginia Intern Day Nominations Forms

To commemorate Virginia Intern Day on Thursday, July 27, 2023, the Commonwealth seeks to recognize the "Top Virginia Employers for Interns" via a social media event. Please complete and submit the **nomination form** (one per employer) by June 15, 2023, so that your business or organization can be considered for this distinction.

The social media event, to be held on July 27, 2023, will showcase the top employers, their interns and internship programs, garnering social media attention from the public as well as from potential internship candidates. Historically, Intern Day (the last Thursday in July) trends number one across social media platforms. The event will also highlight Virginia interns and higher education partners that facilitate the internships.

All employers offering internships, regardless of size and sector, are encouraged to submit a nomination form. The nomination form should take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. For more details and ways to celebrate Virginia Intern Day, please visit [Virginia Intern Day 2023](#)

OED Fun Fact

On this date in 1991, the first performance by the Dave Matthews Band took place at a private party on the rooftop of the Pink Warehouse on South Street.

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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