

THE CHAMBER 
Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce



*Welcome to the
Charlottesville
Region!*

Everything you need for a seamless transition to central Virginia

The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce Defense Affairs Committee welcomes you to the Greater Charlottesville region!!

Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce/Defense Affairs Committee (“DAC”) is a committee of the Chamber dedicated to support and assist the local military, defense, and veteran community. Staffed by a full-time program manager, its activities are conducted by volunteer members. Located at North Fork-A UVA Discovery Park, one mile south of Rivanna Station, it includes a Defense Affairs Integration Office (a military welcome and resource center). On the DAC page of the Chamber’s website, you will find Resources for Military/Veterans that include locally situated federal and state services, local discounts and regional military and veteran associated organizations, among other information. Everyone is welcome to attend the DAC meetings. We are committed to ensuring your assignment here in the Charlottesville area is your best and most productive yet. The following guide provides great information and resources about the area but is not all inclusive.

For more information and support you can visit the Defense Affairs Integration Office at 1001 Research Park Boulevard, Suite 110, Charlottesville, VA 22911, or contact the DAC office at 434-218-4018 or by email at dac@cvillechamber.com

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About the Area

Charlottesville and the Surrounding Counties

The City of Charlottesville, colloquially known as C'ville, is located in western Central Virginia, approximately 100 miles southwest of Washington, D.C. and 70 miles northwest of Richmond, Virginia. The city is situated within the upper Piedmont Plateau, at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and at the headwaters of the Rivanna River.



Charlottesville is the county seat of Albemarle County and serves as the economic, cultural, and educational center of a multi-county region in Central Virginia. It was incorporated as an independent city in 1888. As a result of eight annexations, the most recent of which was in 1968, the city is 10.4 square miles. The City of Charlottesville is autonomous and entirely independent of any county or any other political subdivision.

Albemarle County was created in 1744 from the western portion of Goochland County, though portions of Albemarle were later carved out to create other counties. The County is 726 square miles with a population around 110,000.

Albemarle County is bordered by Greene, [Orange](#), Nelson, Fluvanna, Augusta, Buckingham, Rockingham, and Louisa Counties. These counties offer a small-town lifestyle and picturesque rural settings that are often appealing to many people. Greene and Orange Counties are particularly popular because of their close proximity to NGIC.

Greene County is located just north of Albemarle County and covers 186 square miles. Greene County was established in 1838 from Orange County. The county is named for Revolutionary War hero Nathanael Greene, who was a general in the Continental Army. Stanardsville is the County seat, and the population is just shy of 20,000.

The Charlottesville Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) includes the [City of Charlottesville](#) and the counties of [Albemarle](#), [Buckingham](#), [Fluvanna](#), [Greene](#), [Augusta](#), and [Nelson](#). In 2019, the Census Bureau estimated the City's population to be 47,000 and the Charlottesville SMSA population to be over 200,000. For more information visit their websites.

CLIMATE

The Charlottesville area has four distinct seasons. Winters are somewhat cool, with average temperatures in the high 40s and average lows about 10 degrees colder.



Snowfall varies from year to year but averages about 16" annually. Snowfall does not remain on the ground for long. Summers are hot and humid, with averages in mid-to-high 80s and lows in the mid- 60s. Spring and autumn provide transitions of reasonable length with more moderate temperatures. Rainfall ranges 3" - 5" per month with an annual average of 48".

A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON

Central Virginia has a rich and diverse history with contributions made by many cultures and peoples, all which have shaped it into the place it is today. Visit the websites/links provided to learn more.

The first known people to inhabit this area were the Native Americans of the Monacan Nation. Working with other tribes, they ranged geographically from the Roanoke River Valley to the Potomac River, and from the Fall Line at Richmond and Fredericksburg west through the Blue Ridge Mountains. Their [culture](#) and [heritage](#) continues to thrive today.

Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville form one community made up of two distinct jurisdictions with considerable shared history. The [Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society](#) was founded in 1940 to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of the community,

The mission of the [Jefferson School African American Heritage Center](#) is to honor and preserve the rich heritage and legacy of the African American community of Charlottesville-Albemarle.

[Greene County](#) was formally established in 1838 although its history began thousands of years before then. It was named for an American Revolutionary War hero. Its county seat is Stanardsville, Virginia.

The area's rich history includes three [World Heritage Sites](#): Monticello, University of Virginia, and the UVA Rotunda.

For a more comprehensive reading of the Central Virginia history, visit the following websites:

https://www.cvillepedia.org/Albemarle_County
<http://www2.iath.virginia.edu/schwartz/cville/cville.history.html>

https://www.cvillepedia.org/Vinegar_Hill
https://www.cvillepedia.org/Jefferson_School <https://www.exploregreene.com/about/history>

<https://nelsonhistorical.org/cpage.php?pt=24>
<https://www.fluvannacounty.org/explore/page/fluva-na-history>

<https://louisahistory.org/> <https://www.orangecovahist.org/>



A school of the Monacan Nation



The historic appearance of the Jefferson School circa 1940-1950



The Rotunda at the University of Virginia

SPEAK LIKE A 'LOCAL'

Some of the place names in the area are not pronounced like you might think they are. Monticello is pronounced "Monti-chello" and the nearby restaurant, Michie Tavern, is "Mickey", like the famous mouse. Rio Road, a primary route, is not "Ree-o" like you'd expect; it's "Rye-o." Staunton, over in the valley, rhymes with Scranton, and there's only one "d" in Stanardsville. At the University of Virginia, the campus is called "Grounds" and there are no freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors; they're referred to as "First Year, Second Year, Rising Third Year," and so forth.



Things to Know

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Virginia is one of only four states in the Union to refer to itself as a Commonwealth. Its legislature is called the General Assembly, dating back to its establishment in 1619 as the first democratic legislature in North America. It consists today of the 100-member House of Delegates and 40-member Senate. Statewide elections are conducted in November of odd-numbered years.

Depending on where you live, you will fall under the jurisdiction of either a county or independent city government. Cities are not subordinate to counties in Virginia. Each of our local governments maintains a high-quality website with information you'll need on county services, taxes, tourism, and other resources. You'll also find government offices to be quite responsive to requests by phone.

[ALBEMARLE COUNTY](#): The county is governed by a six-member Board of Supervisors, each elected to represent one of the county's magisterial districts. Elections for the Board of Supervisors are staggered so they are not all in the same year. The Board chooses a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members and appoints a professional County Executive to run day-to-day operations of the government. The election of supervisors is held as a part of the Commonwealth's general election in November of odd-numbered years.

[CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY](#): The City of Charlottesville operates under a Council-Manager form of government. Charlottesville voters elect a five-member Council to serve at large as the City's legislative and governing body. The members serve four-year terms, they select one Councilor to serve as Mayor and one as Vice Mayor for two years, and they appoint a professional City Manager to serve as Chief Executive for the City. Municipal elections are held in November in odd-numbered years.

[GREENE COUNTY](#): The Board of Supervisors is the main legislative body for the County of Greene and is composed of five members elected by voters, one member from each magisterial district and one at-large member. Supervisors are elected for four-year terms. At the first meeting of the year, the Board selects a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

CHARLOTTESVILLE REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Charlottesville Regional Chamber advocates, convenes, and engages people, organizations, and businesses to drive a thriving regional economy. It acknowledges challenges and identifies opportunities to promote a vibrant, healthy, and inclusive business community. For more information or to get involved, visit the [Chamber website](#). You may be interested in joining any one of many committees, roundtables or councils, to include (but not limited to) the Minority Business Alliance, Rising Professionals, Defense Affairs Committee, or Businesswomen's Roundtable.

DEPARTMENT of MOTOR VEHICLES (DMV)

Virginia's DMV offers a great deal of service and important information on its [website](#).

Civilians moving to Virginia from another state are required to obtain a Virginia driver's license within 60 days. You must also register your vehicle(s) within 30 days. Even if you're moving within Virginia, there are DMV steps to take. You can find a complete moving checklist [here](#).



Active-duty U.S. military personnel may maintain licensing and registration from their home states if they choose. Those returning from an overseas assignment and importing a vehicle must title and register it in Virginia. There are also special requirements for foreign military personnel temporarily stationed in Virginia under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. See Frequently Asked Questions and the Military Guide brochure [here](#).

Vehicles registered in Virginia must undergo a safety inspection. These are conducted by state approved independent automotive repair shops for a nominal fee. Virginia is picky about dark tinted windows and some other equipment so know the rules before you get your vehicle inspected to avoid failing and a re-inspection. There is no vehicle emissions testing in Albemarle and the surrounding counties.

The nearest full-service DMV facility to NGIC is located at 2055 Abbey Rd, Charlottesville, about 13 miles away, east of the city, in what is known as the Pantops area. Appointments are required; visit [their website](#) to book. The good news is that once you're "in the system" many routine DMV transactions can be accomplished online. You can also register to vote at DMV. DMV's mobile office, DMV 2 Go, usually visits Rivanna Station once a month for routine transactions, although service was interrupted due to COVID-19.

For more information regarding vehicle inspections go to the [Virginia State Police Website](#).

You'll also pay personal property taxes on your vehicles(s). Rates vary by city/county and you will receive an invoice once per year from the local jurisdiction where your vehicle is registered. IMPORTANT NOTE: Taxes can be paid in two installments roughly six months apart, but you will not receive a notice or invoice for the second installment. Late payments are subject to penalty and interest. If you're likely to forget to make the second payment, consider paying the entire tax bill upfront.

TAXES

Virginia collects taxes in multiple different ways: income tax, real estate tax, personal property (vehicle) tax mentioned above in the DMV section, and sales tax.

State Income Tax

You are required to file a Virginia state income tax return each year, even if you have lived here for only a portion of the year. Virginia has a separate tax form for part-year residents that can be used to exclude income earned while living in another state. Members of the armed forces on active duty are taxed only in their legal states of residence. If you are a member of the armed forces, but you are not a Virginia resident, you are not subject to Virginia income tax on your active-duty military pay, even though you are stationed in Virginia. You are liable to pay Virginia income tax as a nonresident on income you earn from any business, trade, profession, or occupation in Virginia.

Detailed information can be found [here](#).

Real Estate Tax

If you own your home or other real estate in Virginia, you will receive an annual tax bill from your county or city tax office. If you have a mortgage, you'll still get the bill; look for a note stating a copy was also sent to your mortgage servicing company. The local government websites listed above contain details on tax rates and how property values are determined. Real estate taxes vary among municipalities.

PUBLIC

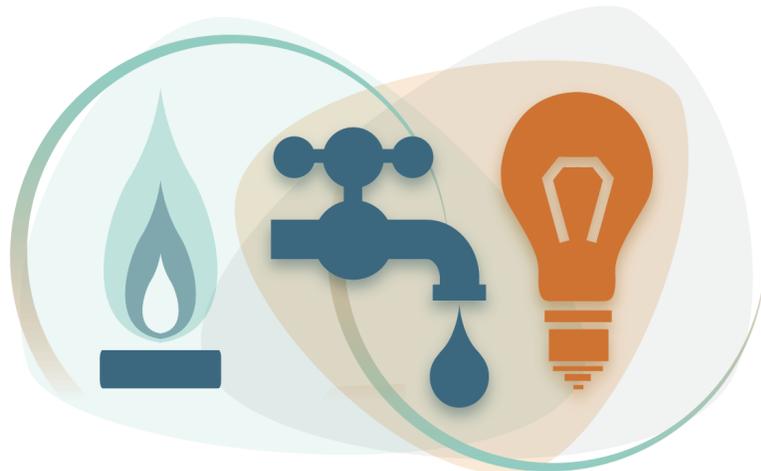
UTILITIES

[Charlottesville City](#): The City of Charlottesville provides water/sewer service, natural gas, and trash pickup to city residents.

Albemarle County: The County provides water/sewer service in the more heavily populated suburban areas but some parts of the county may depend on wells and septic tanks. Make sure you ask before renting or purchasing a home. Trash pickup is by private contractors and needs to be procured by residents.

For more information: [Albemarle County new resident guide](#)

Greene County: Water and sewer services are provided by [Rapidan Services Authority](#). Trash collection is available through private companies.



PRIVATE UTILITY PROVIDERS

[Dominion Energy](#) provides electric power to the City of Charlottesville and most of Albemarle County.

[Rappahannock Electric Cooperative](#) provides most of the electric power for Greene County.

[Central Virginia Electric Cooperative \(CVEC\)](#) CVEC is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility serving residential, agriculture, commercial, and industrial accounts in rural areas.

[Columbia Gas of Virginia](#) Columbia Gas is an energy delivery company that provides natural gas and electric service across Virginia

INTERNET/CABLE

The City of Charlottesville and suburban areas of Albemarle and Greene Counties generally have high-speed broadband and cable TV through [Comcast/Xfinity](#) or occasionally [CenturyLink](#). Rural areas may be limited to DSL internet, satellite TV, and in some areas, satellite internet. [Ting](#) is a gigabit fiber Internet service provider primarily in the downtown area of Charlottesville. TIP: If you are transferring your service from your current location, make sure they can provide the local Charlottesville channels WCAV (CBS) and WVIR (NBC).

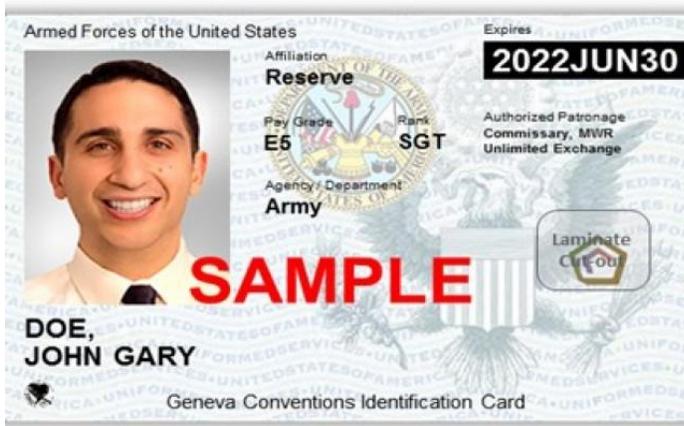
MILITARY CREDIT UNIONS

There are no brick-and-mortar military financial institutions (Pentagon FCU / Navy FCU, etc.) in the area. On the other hand, if you use an app for your banking with the various credit unions, you can use the “find an ATM” affiliated with your financial institution on your phone’s app - ATMs at 7-11 quick shops are affiliated with NFCU and may be affiliated with other of the military financial institutions as well. If your credit union is part of the shared branching network (formerly known as CU Service Centers), you can complete most *routine* transactions from anywhere, including, make deposits at any credit union that’s part of the network, withdraw cash from a teller or ATM, make loan payments, and move money between accounts. It’s possible to do even more, depending on the branch you visit and the services they provide, but you might need to pay modest fees.

JAG SCHOOL SHOP

The U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) is located directly adjacent to the UVA Law School. Within this school, there is a small AAFES shop. This facility carries snacks, some army patches and uniform items, as well as JAG school memorabilia. In addition, larger items can be ordered from the [AAFES website](#) and shipped to this location for pickup, or directly to your home.





DEERS LOCATIONS

A list of local DEERS/ID Card locations may be found [here](#). The two most local locations are at the U.S. Army JAG Legal Center and School and Rivanna Station. These locations may require appointments to receive services, so make sure to call before going in person. Every effort should be made to renew ID cards at losing station, as resources in this area are limited.

Education/Schools

SCHOOLS: Public/Private

Depending on where you choose to live, there are several public-school systems in the Charlottesville / Ruckersville / Palmyra / Orange school districts

- [Charlottesville City Schools](#)
- [Albemarle County Public Schools](#)
- [Greene County Public Schools](#)
- [Fluvanna County Public Schools](#)
- [Orange County Public Schools](#)



There are a variety of private schools to choose from in the local area that might meet your specific needs to include faith-based and special needs-based learning.

- [Niche.com – Best Private Schools](#)
- [Private School Review](#)

There are a few private schools in the Ruckersville community to include faith-based and special-needs based learning

- [Greene County Private Schools](#)

There are a variety of pre-schools in the area. If you use daycare, start researching and applying/getting your name on lists ASAP. Also, ask daycare directors if they participate in Child Care Aware® of Virginia (the military cost-sharing when you don't have access to on-post CDCs). Even if they haven't in the past they can join quickly without much hassle on their end and they will get the same payment, you just pay a portion of it - so it's a great thing for military families. <https://www.childcareaware.org/state/virginia/>

- The DIA / NGIC complex does have a [child care center](#) that prioritizes military children
- [The Charlottesville Moms - Preschools](#)
- [Ruckersville Preschool](#)
- [Ruckersville Schools](#)

If you are looking for individual help providers in a variety of services (tutoring / babysitting / bi-lingual / day care centers, etc.), you might consider using www.Care.com. This organization assists you in finding individuals that meet your specific criteria with regards to experience level / skills training requirements / transportation availability / college education and they can assist with payroll services as well.

UVA offers a service called [HooSitting](#) that pairs local families with UVA students to provide childcare tailored to fit your specific needs.

JROTC

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) at Monticello High School started in 2020, is open to all Albemarle County high school students, led by retired U.S. Army leaders that have been trained and certified to lead JROTC programs, and is a [JROTC National Defense Cadet Corps](#) pending full certification.



COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

University of Virginia: UVA, the Commonwealth's premier university, is the largest employer in the central Virginia area. Many faculty members, administrators and employees are former members of the armed services. At any given time, over 1,300 active-duty military members, veterans, and children of veterans are students at UVA at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Interested and/or incoming military and veteran students should contact the [Office of the Dean of Students \(ODOS\)](#) for any information pertinent to their status. This would include dependents that will be using sponsors' benefits. It has active veteran organizations: [The Student Veterans of America at UVA chapter](#), a [Virginia Law Veterans organization](#), and the [Darden Military Association](#). A Veteran Student Center in Newcomb Hall is expected to be unveiled in Fall 2021. The University is also home to Army, Navy/USMC, and Air Force ROTC Departments.



[Piedmont Virginia Community College \("PVCC"\)](#) is a Virginia community college and is located just south of the city. PVCC is dedicated to creating and maintaining campus-community connections that ensure the entire spectrum of military students have the resources and support needed to successfully navigate their way through college and develop career pathways.



PVCC offers many [comprehensive services](#), including a dedicated Military and Veterans Affairs Advisor, virtual academic advising for enrolled veterans, and virtual support services including tutoring, academic coaching among other services. PVCC has repeatedly earned top designations in the Military Friendly® School rankings.

[Osher Lifelong Learning Institute \(OLLI\)](#) at UVA offers educational opportunities and intellectual enrichment to active adults in the community. The [Institute](#) is member-directed and draws upon its members' resources, as well as other academic and community resources, to organize courses and other educational activities. In this stimulating environment, members acquire new knowledge, explore ideas, exercise creativity, and share interests and expertise with others.

Housing

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Searching for realtors, homes, and rentals can all be consolidated through the Charlottesville Area Association of Realtors. Visit mycaar.com for full listings, including a map-based search for properties based on your preferred criteria. A number of local realtors are certified Military Relocation Professionals. If you prefer, you can search for them specifically at <http://www.militaryrelocationpro.org/find-mrp>.



Traditional real estate companies that are Partners-in-Trust Chamber members are also ready to assist you, but are, by no means, the only residential real estate companies in the area. These companies can also assist in rentals.

- [Four Corners Real Estate Solutions](#)
- [Roy Wheeler Realty Company](#)
- [Story House Real Estate](#)



APARTMENTS AND RENTAL PROPERTIES

Charlottesville and the surrounding areas offer a wide variety of rental options. Whether you are looking for an apartment, townhouse or a single-family home, there are plenty to choose from. Rental rates are higher than the national average especially if you are looking downtown or areas near UVA. Websites like Apartments.com and Hotpads.com are fairly comprehensive but a website for the local apartment association lists apartment communities and property management companies that follow industry standards and ethics. Check-out www.brac.com

There is also a Facebook page titled *JAG Rentals Charlottesville* that lists rentals that are owned by military for military only.

Before you start, calculate your housing allowance at the [Defense Travel Management Office website](#).

TEMPORARY/SHORT TERM HOUSING

Corporate apartments or furnished short term rentals provide a comfortable and spacious temporary living solution when you first arrive. They typically are located in nice apartment communities and are equipped with kitchenware, housewares, linens, washer/dryer, and include all the utilities and cable/WiFi. Most also accept pets. The minimum stay is usually 30 days and there is no maximum lease length. Some apartment finding websites list furnished apartments and there is one local service, [Nest Furnished Living](#), that manages corporate apartments and furnished short term rentals in the region. [Airbnb](#) also lists some furnished short term housing options.



Healthcare

The Charlottesville area is serviced by two hospital systems:

- [Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital](#) is a not-for-profit health care facility located in the Pantops area east of the city. This hospital system also has an emergency facility located on Profitt Road just east of US 29.
- [The University of Virginia Health System](#) is located in the University area of Charlottesville about 11 miles south of Rivanna Station. UVA Health also has an outpatient clinic located at 2355 Seminole Lane just off of Seminole Trail.



For qualified veterans:

The Veteran Administration's McGuire Outpatient Clinic is located adjacent to Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital in Pantops.

See [Charlottesville VA Clinic](#) for more information.

The nearest VA hospital is the [Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center \(CBOC\)](#), located about 85 miles from Rivanna Station in Richmond.

For VFW organizations in the area visit the [VFW website](#), or the list of Regional Veteran Associated Organizations on the [Defense Affairs Committee web page](#).

There are multiple freestanding clinics and urgent care facilities in the area, but call Tricare to determine eligibility to be treated at these facilities.

TRICARE Medical Care

Charlottesville and the surrounding areas are connected to the [TRICARE EAST](#) region. The contractor for this region is [Humana](#), which can be reached at 1-800-344-4817.



The closest military hospitals are the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (3.5 hours away) and Ft Belvoir Community Hospital (2 hours away). Consequently, individuals and their families use either Tricare Select or Tricare Prime Remote:

[TRICARE SELECT](#) - TRICARE PRIME members can use PRIME but if they live more than 20 miles away from the PCM in Crozet, Virginia, they will need to switch to [TRICARE PRIME REMOTE](#); follow the link for how

it works, what you pay, how to enroll, and how to change your PCM to the PCM in this area. You might be told that you can't enroll in the PRIME option because of a mileage rule, but you should specifically request a waiver of this rule in order to enroll in the program. At this time the only PCM in the area is [Sentara Crozet Family Medicine](#).

A walk-in clinic affiliated with the Crozet Family Medicine is located at 435 Merchant Walk Sq Ste 400, Charlottesville, VA.

[Sentara Family Medicine at 5th Street Station](#), but you have to change your PCM to Crozet Family Medicine first and elect a Primary Care Manager.

Linked [here](#) is a directory of all medical providers that accept Tricare in the local area.

There is a contracted liaison for Tricare located in the lobby of the NGIC Nicholson Building. They can assist any servicemember regarding benefits and billing. Angelia Cempre can be reached at 434-951-4747 or angelia.s.cempre.ctr@mail.mil.



VETERINARIANS

A simple Google search will help you to find healthcare for your pets based on where you live with plenty of reviews to help you choose your preferred office. However, there are a few things you'll want to know in advance.

- Airport Animal Clinic, 1758 Worth Park, Charlottesville, VA 22911, 434-964-1288. This clinic is located in the Hollymeade area of the county. You can find them on Facebook at [Airport Animal Clinic](#).
- [Preddy Creek Animal Clinic](#), 5918 Seminole Trail, Barboursville, VA 22923, 434-990-0491. This clinic is in the shopping center that includes Dunkin Donuts and Holiday Inn Express, north of the Charlottesville Airport on US-29.

Emergency services 24/7:

- [VETSS](#), 1540 Airport Rd, Charlottesville VA 22911, 434-973-3519. This hospital is at the entrance to the Charlottesville airport, after making a complete U-turn at the traffic circle entering from US 29.
- [Greenbrier Emergency Animal Hospital](#), 370 Greenbrier Drive #2 (434) 202-1616

Employment/Networking

Finding employment and/or networking opportunities for spouses, partners, and other family members who relocate to the region is a great way to meet people and begin settling into the community.

The UVA Dual Career Program has created [Embark](#), a community resource to connect highly skilled talent with local employers. They have teamed up with collaborators across the University of Virginia, The City of Charlottesville, and Albemarle County to create a unique space for connection. Their website is full of excellent resources and links to a wide variety of organizations and networking groups. It is the most comprehensive resource and the perfect place to start exploring opportunities of all kinds.

UVA always has a robust variety of temporary employment openings (for example: HR Assistant, Adjunct Professor, Supply Specialist, Bus Driver, etc...) that are actively recruited for. It can also serve as an entrée into full time employment [there](#).

For family, community and civic organizations in the region, the [Charlottesville Chamber](#) provides an extensive list including website links and contact information for each.

If you are interested in working with a non-profit or possibly starting your own, then one of the best places to start is the [Center for Nonprofit Excellence \(CNE\)](#). Their organization supports and lists over 300 nonprofit organizations in Charlottesville, Central Virginia, and beyond.

Veterans of all periods of military service are eligible for job training, job referral and placement assistance through the [Virginia Employment Commission \(VEC\)](#). It also offers transition assistance for those leaving active service. The website also lists upcoming job fairs around the Commonwealth.



PERSONAL ASSISTANTS THROUGH *SQUARED AWAY*

Squared Away is a company which exists to empower military spouses to build meaningful careers no matter where they are. They accomplish this goal by hiring spouses as personal assistants for everyone from executives to startups. Spouses work remotely, committing at least 20 hours a week of availability in U.S. time zones. Work could include communication and email management, copywriting, editing, making travel arrangements, and other functions. These positions can also serve as important networking opportunities for spouses to build relationships and secure higher-level employment if desired. More information can be found [here](#).

Getting Around

By Air

The [Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport](#) (CHO) is located about 3.5 miles south of Rivanna Station. It is served by American, United, and Delta, and can get direct flights to Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, New York (LaGuardia), Philadelphia, and Washington (Dulles) where one would continue for a connecting flight elsewhere.



[Shenandoah Valley Airport](#) (SHD) is located about one hour from Rivanna Station, over the Blue Ridge Mountains, between Harrisonburg and Staunton. It is served by United with nonstop flights to Washington (Dulles) and Chicago.

Other options are Richmond International Airport (RIC), about 80 miles east of Charlottesville (nearest option for Southwest Airlines); and Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD), about 100 miles north.

LOCAL TIP: [Reagan National Airport](#) (DCA) in Washington offers more domestic options, some lower fares including one-stop international routes, and for trips beginning and ending on a weekend, free parking is available at outlying [DC Metrorail stations](#).



By Rail

[Amtrak](#) operates three trains from downtown Charlottesville with regional service to Washington, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, and long-haul service to Chicago and New Orleans.

LOCAL TIP: If you're headed north towards/through Washington, consider using Amtrak's Culpeper Station instead (code CLP), located 42 minutes north of Rivanna Station. Fares are cheaper, the station is less crowded, and parking is free.

By Bus

[Greyhound](#) offers bus service to Charlottesville. The station is located downtown.

[Virginia Breeze](#) intercity connector service is available between Charlottesville and Washington, including a stop at Dulles Airport. Advance booking required. This route also extends south to Danville.

[Megabus](#) offers long-haul bus service from Charlottesville with connections at Washington Union Station. Advance booking required.

By Car

The major east-west thoroughfare is I-64, which passes to the south of the city. It is roughly paralleled by US-250, which goes through the city. US-250 Business changes names a few times as it meanders east through the city, becoming West Main Street downtown, and then Ivy Road as it leaves the city to the west. The major north-south thoroughfare is US-29. US-29 and US-250 share a bypass around the north and west of the city but it's so heavily traveled you'll wonder what it's bypassing. Within the city limits, US-29 Business also changes names. It is Emmet Street north of the university and Jefferson Park Avenue south of it. US 29 is called Seminole Trail north of the city and Monacan Trail south of it.

LOCAL TIP: During non-peak hours, traffic lights on US-29 between Airport Road and US-250 are timed. Once you catch a green light, you can rely on almost all green lights if you maintain 45 mph.

ALTERNATE ROUTES:

- Heading to Pantops from Rivanna Station, an alternate route is east on Proffit Road to connect with VA-20 South. Travel time is nearly equivalent. Watch out for a one-lane railroad bridge and tight curves on Proffit Road.
- Heading downtown, consider using the local exit and heading east on Rio Road, then continuing straight onto John W Warner Parkway. Travel time is equivalent to continuing south on US-29 to the bypass.
- Heading to 5th Street Station shopping area (Wegmans, Alamo Drafthouse), continue on US-29 South to I-64 East, then take the 5th Street exit. It's counterintuitive, but faster than working your way through town.
- Heading to Richmond from Greene County or other points north of Rivanna Station, consider US-33 East through Gordonsville, continuing south on US-15 to Zion Crossroads.
- Heading to Fort Belvoir, use Google Maps and don't worry about the tiny country roads it suggests. It's the fastest route and it's a beautiful, relaxing drive until you get to Fredericksburg.

Public Transit

Multiple agencies provide by-reservation, door-to-door, or scheduled service during business hours. Generally, buses move from the outlying areas into Charlottesville in the morning, and the opposite in the afternoon. Jaunt and Greene County Transit buses may provide drop off/pick up service outside the Rivanna Station main gate.

- JAUNT offers scheduled and on-demand service across multiple counties. Visit [their website](#) or call 434-296-3184, option 3 for reservations.
- [CONNECT](#) buses offer scheduled workday service along fixed routes, including free service every 30 minutes between UVa Research Park and the main university/hospital campus (that route is free).
- Greene County Transit offers by-reservation workday and limited weekend service between Greene County and Charlottesville. Visit [their website](#) or call 434-985-5205.
- [Charlottesville Area Transit](#) (CAT) offers a robust city bus system, but the northernmost reach of this service is Walmart/Sam's Club, six miles south of Rivanna Station.
- The University of Virginia operates a separate bus network, the [University Transit Service](#) (UTS), that offers free service and does not require a University ID. Its northern terminus is the same as for CAT, but it also provides service to/from Crozet, Lovingston, and Buckingham.



Things to Do

There is no shortage of things to do in Charlottesville and the surrounding region. Whether you are a lover of history, a fan of the arts, or crave adventure in the great outdoors, there is something for everyone. The best sources of information on things to do and upcoming events are the visitor center websites for [Charlottesville/Albemarle County](#), the other surrounding [counties](#), and the [Commonwealth of Virginia](#).

[Charlottesville Guide](#) [Albemarle Magazine](#) [C-Ville Magazine Calendar](#)

HISTORICAL SITES

The Charlottesville region has a rich history and the area is home to three Founding Fathers who became presidents - Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe - and their residences are [historic sites](#). Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Rotunda and the grounds of the University of Virginia are also UNESCO World Heritage Sites. There are a total of 65 sites on the National Register of Historic Places in the area. Additionally, just an hour east on I-64 is Richmond which is full of Revolutionary and Civil War historical sites and museums. If you travel another 45 minutes down the interstate you can step back in time at [Colonial Williamsburg](#) and the [Jamestown Settlement](#). [Green County](#) also contains vibrant history.



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Charlottesville has a lively arts and entertainment scene. For music lovers there are several live music venues that feature a wide variety of well-known artists and local bands, and musicians. Local clubs and theaters help cultivate great talent like Dave Matthews who created his band while bartending on the Downtown Mall. The University of Virginia also home to many incredible musical and theatrical ensembles including the Charlottesville Symphony.



If you love festivals, then C’ville will not disappoint. Of course, there are great music and arts festivals also unique and popular festivals like the Virginia Festival of the Book and the Virginia Film Festival. One of the most popular is the Tom Tom Summit and Festival that attracts thousands from small cities and towns from around the country. The [African American](#) and [Hispanic](#) communities in the area also have yearly festivals.

Charlottesville is also home to an established arts scene with dozens of art galleries and museums that highlight the works of international and local renowned artists. The Monticello Artisan Trail is a connected network of artisans throughout the area. There are local artisan studios, galleries, events and workshops - as well as information about area farmers and agri-tourism.

[Arts and Culture](#)

[Monticello Artisan Trail](#)

[Charlottesville Symphony](#)

[Live Arts](#)

[Charlottesville Opera](#)

[Ting Pavilion](#)

[Paramount Theater](#)

[Jefferson Theater](#)

[Tom Tom Foundation](#)

[Virginia Film Festival](#)

Events Calendars: [Charlottesville](#) [Greene County](#) [Albemarle County](#) [Louisa County](#)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Another terrific way to get involved with your local community is through the numerous volunteer boards, committees and commissions that exist. You know the saying, “all politics are local” and what happens at the local level tend to have more impact on families than at higher levels. Find something that is of interest to you and apply. As a military family, you bring to the table diverse perspectives and broad experiences.

[City of Charlottesville](#)

[Albemarle County](#)

[Greene County](#)

[Orange County](#)

There are over 120 non-profit community organizations that would love to have you as a volunteer. To find that perfect fit, click [here](#) or contact the [Center for Non-Profit Excellence](#) (CNE) that can steer you toward an organization that meets your criteria.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

If you like outdoor activities, the Shenandoah National Park is only a few miles west of town. It covers 199,000 acres (311 square miles) and has over 500 miles of hiking trails, including a 101-mile section of the Appalachian Trail (AT). The Park has camping, fishing, paddling, bicycling, and interactive exhibits. If you prefer to drive, the park is home to the 105-mile Skyline Drive.



If you *really* like to drive, the famous 469-mile Blue Ridge Parkway connects the Shenandoah to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina.

Visit www.nps.gov/shen/index.htm and www.nps.gov/blri/index.htm for more information. The surrounding areas also boast numerous attractions and things to do outdoors. Check out these websites for lots of great options and adventures to stay connected with nature.

[Visit Charlottesville](#)

[Blue Ridge Outdoors](#)

[Cville Bike Club](#)

[Rivanna River Company](#)

[Things To Do Outdoors VA](#)

[Central Virginia Pickleball](#)

[Virginia State Parks](#)



PARKS/RECREATION, YOUTH CLUBS AND SPORTS LEAGUES

Participating in sports, youth clubs, and recreational activities not only supports a healthy lifestyle for kids and adults, it is also a great way to meet new people and connect with your community. These websites will help you find the organizations and facilities that will help you achieve those goals.

[Visit Charlottesville](#) [Charlottesville Family](#) [Albemarle County Parks and Recreation](#)

[Greene County Youth Club](#) [Piedmont YMCA](#) [Soccer Shots](#) [SOCA Soccer Association](#)

[Monu Soccer Association](#) [YoungLife](#) [The Boys and Girls Club of Charlottesville](#)

[UVa Outdoor Equipment rental](#) [Prolyfyck Run Crew](#)



SPECTATOR SPORTS

If you enjoy watching sports, Charlottesville has that covered too. The University of Virginia (UVA) is part of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and competes at a varsity level with 25 men's and women's teams. Wahoos, often shortened to 'Hoos, is an unofficial nickname for all UVA teams. From the championship basketball teams and rising football program to tennis, golf and even squash, the UVA Cavaliers (Hoos) will keep you cheering all year

long. Check out www.virginiasports.com for schedules and tickets.

The MLB hasn't reached Charlottesville yet but the [Tom Sox](#) are a local collegiate summer baseball team that plays in the southern division of the Valley Baseball League. Tickets and parking are free. Charlottesville also has a semi-pro football team called the [Virginia Silverbacks](#).

If you really crave some professional sports, you can drive an hour down I-64 to catch the [Richmond Flying Squirrels](#) which is a minor league baseball team. If soccer is more your passion, then check out the [Richmond Kickers](#), a professional soccer team in the USL Championship League.





HUNGRY?

If you're a foodie, you'll love Charlottesville. There are over 400 restaurants in Charlottesville - 14th in the number of restaurants per capita in the US. Whether you want fine dining or cheap eats you'll find something you like. The good news is that some of the best restaurants are not at all expensive. Check out these websites to help find great options for your palate and your wallet.

[Visit Cville - Restaurants](#)

[Charlottesville Restaurants](#)

[Dining in Greene](#)

[Charlottesville Dining Guide](#)

[The Charlottesville 29](#)

[Restaurants in Orange](#)

THIRSTY?

Thomas Jefferson dabbled in winemaking but Virginia wines did not catch on until 200 years later. The Charlottesville area is now a destination for lovers of wine, craft beer, hard cider, mead, and distilled spirits. There are over 40 wineries within a 30-mile radius of town, six craft breweries in town and five more nearby on the 'Brew Ridge Trail'. The area also boasts four cideries and several distilleries.



Please, don't drink and drive. Besides the obvious, a DUI could result in the loss of your security clearance and consequently, your job. Enjoy responsibly but use a designated driver or take a tour and let somebody else do the driving.

[Vineyards and Breweries](#)

[Wine Tours](#)

[Brew Ridge Trail](#)

[Charlottesville Ale Trail](#)

[Wineries and Breweries](#)

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

This [website](#) lists the religious organizations in the area, including non-denominational and student groups along with contact information.

Conclusion

We recognize that moving can be an incredibly stressful and emotional time. Charlottesville and the surrounding areas have a great deal to offer to local residents. By offering these resources to new residents, we hope to show you how you can make this region home and begin to thrive here. Thank you for reviewing our Welcome document. We request that any errors, changes, or additions be reported to dac@cvillechamber.com.

DISCLAIMER: Inclusion of business or organization information in this document does not constitute endorsement by the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Defense Affairs Committee, or government at any level. The inclusion is purely for informational purposes only. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some entries may no longer be applicable. We apologize for any misinformation.