

## JAIL CONSTRUCTION AHEAD



ALBEMARLE-CHARLOTTESVILL REGIONAL JAIL

A rendering shows planned renovations to the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail.

### Charlottesville jail renovation to start in September, with reduced scope thanks to Trump

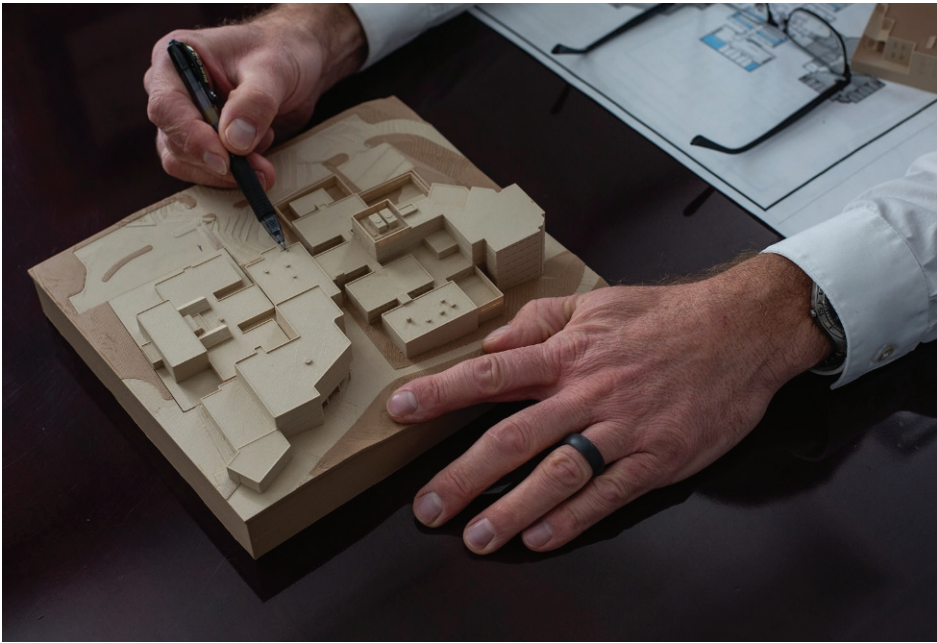
CAROLINE KING  
The Daily Progress

The city of Charlottesville and counties of Albemarle and Nelson have individually approved financing plans for the multimillion-dollar renovations to the jailhouse that serves all three localities — even with a reduction in the project’s scope after the Trump administration’s tariffs drove the cost of construction up significantly.

The votes to approve the financing were delayed in June after construction bids came in millions of dollars over budget. Instead of the \$39 million that was budgeted to cover the cost of construction, which is just part of the total \$49 million to be spent on everything including design and planning, the lowest construction bid came in at \$53 million, from Lynchburg-based English Construction.

Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail Superintendent Martin Kumer now says he and his team have worked with English to negotiate what could be accomplished

Please see **SCOPE**, Page A2



CAL CARY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail Superintendent Martin Kumer points at a 3D model of the jailhouse on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024.

#### CYBERSECURITY

### Ransomware attackers ID’d

Albemarle County says Russia-linked INC Ransom was behind cyberattack

CAROLINE KING  
The Daily Progress

Albemarle County authorities have identified the extortion operation behind the June cyberattack attack that took down the internet in county offices and may have exposed both government employee and county resident data.

INC Ransom was behind the attack, according to county spokeswoman Abbey Stumpf.

Stumpf said she could not provide any more information due to an ongoing criminal investigation.

The county has been tightlipped since the attack.

On Thursday, exactly one month after the attack, the county announced that what it had been describing only as a “cybersecurity incident” since June 12 was in fact a ransomware attack.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software that restricts access to computer files and then demands a ransom payment for their release.

INC Ransom, sometimes known as Inc. Ransom or simply INC, is likely linked to Russia and runs an extortion operation that steals victims’ data, threatens to leak it if not paid and offers to make the victims’ systems more secure in return for payment. INC Ransom has been behind more than 230 attacks, targeting hospitals, schools, technology companies and governments since it emerged in July 2023.

Please see **UPDATE**, Page A2



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The Albemarle County Office Building is located at 401 McIntire Road in downtown Charlottesville.