



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Keeping the community connected to information, programs, and services.



City Manager Message



Greetings,

Summer has arrived! It's amazing to think we're already halfway through the year. We're excited to kick off the season with a variety of fun-filled events and much more.

This month, you will read about the City's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget, which was recently approved by the City Council. This balanced budget of \$595.3 million includes a General Fund operating budget of \$274.1 million, \$81.2 million allocated to the Capital Improvement Program, and dedicated funds from Measure A (\$43.5 million) and Measure P (\$18.8 million). These funds contribute to key initiatives and projects for the betterment of our city. The combined funding expands homeless services, increases Parks and Recreation programming, and enhances public safety by adding fire personnel for a new Bayfront fire station. Additionally, it includes funding to open and operate Casa Casillas, which will be a new community space dedicated to art. This balanced budget reflects the great strides we have made toward financial stability.

Regarding Measure P, we've initiated a resident survey in both English and Spanish to collect input on infrastructure funding priorities. A survey mailer was sent on May 28 to all homes, condos, and apartments. Residents can either return the survey by mail or visit www.chulavistaca.gov/renewingmeasurep to complete it online. Your feedback is vital for us to allocate resources effectively.

We are starting our summer events with the Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on Wednesday, June 5, celebrating diversity, inclusion, and the vibrant spirit of the LGBTQ+ community. Following this, on Monday, June 17, we will hold the Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony, which commemorates the end of slavery and honors African American resilience and achievement. Both ceremonies will include inspiring speeches from community leaders and symbolic flag raisings.

Join us as we celebrate 101 years of animal services with a "paw-ty"! Chula Vista Animal Services will be hosting a free adoption event on Saturday, June 29. Our goal is to find forever homes for

at least 101 adoptable pets at the shelter. Read more about this special event in this month's edition.

Lastly, mark your calendars for Chula Vista 4th Fest, our free July 4th fireworks show at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center. Tune in to Amor 102.9 for the first-ever bilingual broadcast exclusively for Chula Vista 4th Fest.

Enjoy this month's edition. As always, please [contact me](#) if you have any questions or comments.

~Maria V. Kachadoorian, City Manager



City Seeks Input on Infrastructure Funding Priorities

The City of Chula Vista is seeking input from residents on infrastructure funding priorities, through a survey available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). To continue upgrading and maintaining streets, sidewalks, underground storm drains, as well as improve parks, recreation facilities and other local infrastructure, the City Council is considering placing a measure on the November 2024 ballot to renew the Measure P half-cent sales tax for an additional 10 years at the current rate.



As the City evaluates options for continuing to protect services and keep the community well-maintained, resident input is important. An informational mailer was delivered to homes, condominiums, and apartments in late May inviting residents to take the survey. The survey is included in the mailer, and an online version is also available. In addition, an awareness campaign is encouraging resident participation via social media, City newsletter distribution, outreach to Boards and Commissions, and information available in City buildings.

Since Measure P took effect on April 1, 2017, more than \$190 million has been allocated to projects, including street repairs and maintenance, energy and water efficiency upgrades, and new construction of fire stations and community facilities. The ballot measure also established the Measure P Citizens Oversight Committee, which is composed of members who review and report on

City compliance with the measure's provisions.

The City has also used the funds to upgrade police, fire, paramedic and emergency life-saving equipment, vehicles, and facilities. A new, modern, 9-1-1 dispatch system ensures rapid emergency response times. The City has also updated and transformed parks, recreation, and library facilities.



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The City of Chula Vista is encouraging resident feedback and questions. Please visit the City's [Renewing Measure P webpage](#) to find links to the survey or more information. The survey is available in English at tinyurl.com/CityofChulaVista-Survey or in Spanish at tinyurl.com/CityofChulaVista-SpanishSurvey.

Visit www.chulavistaca.gov/renewingmeasurep for more information.



Animal Services to Celebrate 101st Anniversary with Event, Free Pet Adoptions June 29

Chula Vista Animal Services will hold a 101st Anniversary Pawty from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 29 to commemorate the department's many years of service to the community.

To celebrate the occasion, all pet adoptions will be free. Adopters will also receive a special goody bag with "party favors" for new pets. All adoptable pets are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated.

"The main goal of the celebration is to encourage as many adoptions as possible," said Viviana Castellanos, public information specialist for Chula Vista Animal Services. "Animal Services is also hoping the celebration will bring more awareness to the shelter, and the importance of adopting specifically from the Chula Vista shelter."

Chula Vista Animal Services serves not only Chula Vista, but also the cities of Imperial Beach, National City and Lemon Grove. The shelter has seen a major increase in the number of animals received at the shelter, and in particular large dogs. Animal Services is hoping this party will help more animals, some of whom have been at the shelter for nearly 500 days, find homes.

"We typically have about 80 dogs in our care, and right now we have 150, give or take," said Castellanos. "Dogs can end up on the street if we don't have enough room to take them in."

Dogs, cats, bunnies, guinea pigs, and some reptiles are currently available for adoption at the shelter. Information and available pet descriptions are available [online](#).

For more information, visit [Chula Vista Animal Services](#).





Chula Vista Police Captain Dan Peak Named Assistant Chief

The passing of Assistant Chief Phil Collum in April was an immense loss for the Chula Vista Police Department, creating a void that will be felt by our community for a considerable time. Yet, the outpouring of support shown to the police department by people from all over the state – leaders and community members alike – made such an impact on those close to Collum and the entire staff he helped lead, along with Chief Roxana Kennedy and her command staff.



In a recent message to her staff, Chief Kennedy wrote, “We must also find the strength to carry on, for Phil, for each other, for the organization, and for the community we serve.”

In a step forward, Chief Kennedy announced the promotion of Captain Dan Peak to the position of Assistant Chief of Police. Like his predecessor, Assistant Chief Peak will help oversee the department’s overall operations and community engagement strategies.

Assistant Chief Peak began his law enforcement career with the San Diego Sheriff’s Department in 1999 and was shortly after hired as a Chula Vista Police Department-sponsored recruit in the San Diego Regional Academy. After graduation, Assistant Chief Peak worked various assignments including Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Field Agent, DUI Coordinator, and

Crimes of Violence Detective. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2009 and served as Patrol Supervisor, SWAT Team Leader, Traffic Division Sergeant, and Professional Standards Sergeant. In 2014, he was promoted to Lieutenant and served as Patrol Watch Commander, Drone Manager, Liaison to the District Attorney’s Office, Adjutant/Special Projects Lieutenant, Criminal Investigations Division Lieutenant, SWAT Commander, and Public Information Officer. In April 2022, he was promoted to Captain to oversee the Investigations Division, and subsequently the Patrol Division in October 2022.

Assistant Chief Peak holds a graduate certificate in criminal justice from the University of Virginia and a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice management from Union Institute & University. He is also a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy (Class 274).

Assistant Chief Peak had the honor of working closely with Assistant Chief Collum, as well as Chief Kennedy, for almost two years as part of the department's Command Staff. He's been instrumental in steering the department on course with its mission and vision in service to the community of Chula Vista, providing a basis for continuity during this period of transition. We're grateful to have his experience and leadership as he assumes this new role.



Recognizing City Employees: Homeless Outreach Team Pioneer Hugo Cardenas

Few people can say they started a groundbreaking program during their career. Even fewer can say the program became a model across the country. Luckily for Chula Vista, the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) is Police Officer Hugo Cardenas' legacy.



Hugo Cardenas (second from left) with other HOT Team members.

In 2015, Cardenas had recently been hired by the Chula Vista Police Department (CVPD), after laterally transferring from an East Coast police department. He had retired as a police sergeant there, and moved to Chula Vista, his wife's hometown, to be back in California. CVPD leadership asked him to form a team to address a myriad of issues surrounding unsheltered residents throughout the City. Cardenas quickly found a couple of major challenges: City departments were working in silos, and most people thought assisting unsheltered individuals was not a "police matter."

"I needed to be a social worker, not a police officer," Cardenas recalled.

Although Cardenas wore a police officer uniform and provided enforcement when needed, he shifted to spending most of his time building relationships with unsheltered individuals and establishing partnerships with nonprofits and social service agencies. He learned everything he could about housing programs, public health, and social services. He brought in partners, such as SBCS, the San Diego Rescue Mission, and the East County Transitional Living Center.

In 2016, Cardenas and the HOT Team were among the first to apply for housing vouchers when the County of San Diego began "Project One for All," an initiative to provide specific subsidized

housing for those who are chronically homeless and who have severe mental illness. The City secured 40 vouchers, and Cardenas said he is proud that most who received the assistance are still housed today.

Two short years later, Cardenas led an effort to gain CVPD access to the Homeless Management Information System. The system is managed by San Diego County and the Regional Task Force on Homelessness. Officials were leery at first, Cardenas said. But after Cardenas and his team highlighted the need to use the system for comprehensive case management, CVPD received access. To this day, CVPD is the only police department with such access, Cardenas said.



Cardenas credits the HOT Team's success on its willingness to build bridges and spread its message of inclusion and support. He and his team have presented to various homeowner associations, hospitals, schools, and business associations to provide resources on how everyone can engage in supporting unsheltered individuals.

Cardenas, who his fellow officers call the Godfather of the HOT Team, called the program one of the greatest opportunities of his career.

"I got into police work to help people," Cardenas said. "This was truly an opportunity to help people. We met people where they were and brought the resources to them."

Cardenas cannot quantify the number of people he's helped over the last eight years on the HOT Team. However, just getting people to engage with the team is a victory, he said. If his team members could help someone get clean, help fix burned bridges and reunify them with their families or loved ones, those are three major victories.

Cardenas retired from CVPD in 2022 but was quickly recruited to serve as a homeless services coordinator with the City's Department of Housing and Homeless Services. In this role, he was able to assist with veteran clients and referred many to The Village (Chula Vista's transitional housing).

In May, he retired for the third time. This time, he said, he will continue his occasional teaching to certify police instructors in scenario training and play golf and senior softball.

Cardenas said he is grateful for his time with the City of Chula Vista and the support he provided to unsheltered people.

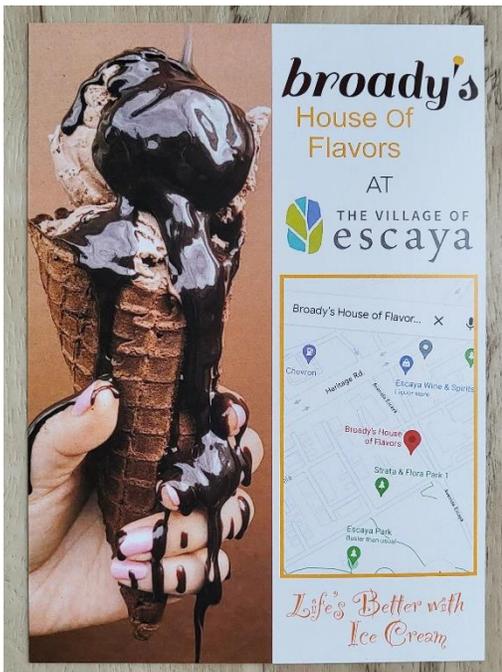
"This is the true definition of why I became a police officer," Cardenas said. "I was at the end of my career and maybe I could leave something behind."



Highlighting Small Businesses: Broady's House of Flavors

Broady's House of Flavors is a gem within Chula Vista's Escaya neighborhood, offering delicious ice cream that has quickly become a favorite among locals. Founder Rich Broady started the business three years ago, and Broady's has been in its current location for the past year and a half.

One of the defining features of Broady's House of Flavors is its focus on sourcing high-quality ingredients. For example, cream is brought in directly from a Wisconsin dairy farm that Broady himself went to visit, ensuring a fresh, rich, and creamy experience with every scoop. This focus on quality is evident when you taste the ice cream, and it has been a major factor in the shop's popularity.



Broady's House of Flavors is also focused on community, and frequently hosts walking mom groups, providing a welcoming space for meetups and fostering a sense of camaraderie among community members. These gatherings highlight the shop's role in bringing people together and enhancing the neighborhood's community spirit. Some of Broady's most popular flavors are Superman, known for its vibrant colors and nostalgic taste, and birthday cake, a festive flavor that is perfect for celebrations or simply indulging in a sweet, cake-flavored treat.

Broady's House of Flavors has established itself as a beloved institution in the Escaya neighborhood. With its top-notch ice cream and strong community ties, it offers more than just a treat; it provides a place for locals to connect and create lasting memories. Whether you're craving a scoop of Superman or a taste of birthday cake, Broady's is the perfect destination.

Make sure you stop by Friday, June 7 for National Chocolate Ice Cream Day!

If you would like to have your small business featured in the Small Business Spotlight in future newsletters, please fill out the [submission form](#) and you will be considered. For business assistance, please visit our website at chulavistaca.gov/businesses.



Spotlighting Community Partners: Altrusa International of Chula Vista

For nearly 70 years, a dedicated group of women and men have enriched the lives of thousands of South Bay community members with donations, community service, and goodwill. The Altrusa International Club of Chula Vista was formed in 1956 when a group of like-minded businesswomen came together to share their passion for uplifting the community. Today, the group's 36 members include new professionals, businesswomen, government employees, educators, and retirees. All are still dedicated to the joy of giving.



The small, yet mighty, group spends the year raising funds to support literacy, educational programs, and community services in the South Bay. The group also provides opportunities for children, at-risk youth, and seniors to read and grow in a healthy environment.

Literacy has been a foundational priority for club members, dating back to the 1980's when a founding member, Ray-Etta Morrell, and her fellow Altrusa sisters created the Adult Literacy program for the library. Yellow signs stating "Learn to Read for Free" were posted all over the Chula Vista. The

program was based out of a small house near the Civic Center Public Library, and staffed by a City Literacy Coordinator and volunteers, including many Altrusans. The program moved to a Literacy Center space at the South Chula Vista branch after it opened in 1995. The Altrusa Club gave \$1,000 annually for several years to the Adult Literacy program for the purchase of materials and books.

The literacy theme and library partnership continued into the 2000s when Altrusa supported a new Kindergarten Boot Camp (KBC) in 2013 where the Literacy Center had been. Asked by then-Library Director Betty Waznis, an Altrusan, the Chula Vista Altrusa Club funded supplies. The

Club provided \$9,000 in funds from various resources to get KBC up and running. Club members volunteered at KBC, which expanded to the Civic Center branch, and was active for five years.



Last month, the Chula Vista City Council recognized club members, and the club's cumulative \$300,000 in community donations since its formation. The range of community service is only limited by the imagination of members of Altrusa International of Chula Vista, and the club is always seeking new members. For more information on the Chula Vista Altrusa Club, visit the [club's website](#).



City of Chula Vista FY 2024-25 Budget Adoption

On May 21, 2024, the Chula Vista City Council approved a \$595.3 million budget, including a General Fund operating budget of \$274.1 million and a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget of \$81.2 million. The budget also includes \$43.5 million in Measure A and \$18.8 million in Measure P expenditures. The Measure A and Measure P Citizens' Oversight Committees affirmed

that the proposed fiscal year budgets comply with the adopted Measure A and Measure P expenditure plans.



"I am pleased we were able to approve a prudent 2024-25 budget which is balanced and maintains existing service levels," said Chula Vista Mayor John McCann. "Thanks to Measure A, we can continue public safety hiring and Measure P funding allows the City to address critical infrastructure needs."

The City Council held a hearing on the adopted budget and heard public testimony and reviewed e-comments, in addition to conducting two budget workshops to allow participation on the budget process. The Chula Vista FY 2024-25 budget is available on the City [website](https://www.chulavistaca.gov).



Community News

Good to Know

The Chula Vista Police Department (CVPD) held **the 32nd annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony** on May 2 to recognize the unsung heroes among us. The event celebrated the extraordinary efforts of both CVPD staff and community members who have gone above and beyond in 2023. These stories are powerful, and often unheard, yet immensely impactful. The event shone a light on the daily dedication of our brave men and women in uniform, as well as the exceptional contributions made by community members for the greater good. A special thank you to all who attended to honor and support these remarkable individuals!



Owners of multi-family, commercial and industrial buildings 20K square feet and greater are required to **report their energy use data** to the City of Chula Vista by June 30, 2024. The City's Building Energy Saving Ordinance requires the reporting annually on the free ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager platform. Reporting energy use data, otherwise known as benchmarking, helps building owners and managers save on their single largest operating

expense: energy. Additional benefits include greenhouse gas emission reductions and improved air quality. Not sure where to start? Visit the Chula Vista energy benchmarking website at www.chulavistaca.gov/benchmark.

Things to Do

Whether you're looking for group fitness classes, club sports, or family-friendly events, Chula Vista Parks and Recreation has programs for a variety of interests this summer! To sign-up for classes, check out upcoming events, and learn about special opportunities, please visit their [website](#).

Join **fitness group classes at Loma Verde Community Center** to improve your health and fitness! This class is judgment-free, for all skill levels from beginner to advanced. We will be using a combination of strength and endurance exercises to enhance muscular strength, cardiorespiratory health, and mental wellbeing. This class will be led by Hyrox World Championship qualifier Matt Aram. Classes are Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. For more information or to register go to www.chulavistaca.gov/rec.

Join us this summer break for the **Flag Football Mini Camp**. This is a great opportunity for children to learn flag football fundamentals plus meet new friends. Each day, Coach Carlo will run drills and games. Campers will have fun and develop their football skills and athletic ability. Make sure to bring water, extra drinks, snacks, and sunscreen. Camp will run Monday through Friday from 1 - 3 p.m. for ages 7-12. Visit us online at www.chulavistaca.gov/rec for more information and to register.

Bring your camping gear and join us for our **annual camp out under the stars at Monteville Community Center**. There will be a hot dog dinner, games & activities, a movie in the park and much more. The camp outs will be held June 7 & 8 from 5 p.m. - 10 a.m. at Monteville Community Park (840 Duncan Ranch Rd, Chula Vista). The cost is \$10, and 2 years old and under are free. Everyone must register at www.chulavistaca.gov/rec.

The **City of Chula Vista's Men's and Coed softball leagues** offer many opportunities for players of all skill levels to compete. Whether you are a weekend warrior or almost a pro, we have something for you. Each team is guaranteed to play eight games, with the top teams advancing to the playoffs. Championship teams will receive T-shirts at the end of the season. Registration is open. Visit us online at www.chulavistaca.gov/rec to register.

Parkway Community Center is introducing new belly dancing classes for ages 6 and up. Learn the basic rhythms used in Middle Eastern music and basic steps. What to wear: comfortable clothes like yoga pants and t-shirt, ballet shoes or socks. Registration is open. Visit us online at www.chulavistaca.gov/rec for more information or to register.

Mark your calendars because **Movies in the Moonlight** is back in Chula Vista. Join us for enchanting evenings under the stars at different parks throughout the city. This month's movie will be Migration at Monteville Park located at 840 Duncan Ranch Rd. Get your blankets and lawn chairs ready for a cozy night filled with family fun! Movie will start at dusk, with

recreational activities kicking off at 6 p.m. Visit us online for more information at www.chulavistaca.gov/rec.

Get Involved

The City is updating its **Climate Action Plan (CAP)** and is **seeking input from the public** through a survey and workshops. City staff has worked with stakeholders to create a draft CAP that includes new greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals for net zero by 2045, new GHG reduction measures that promote clean energy by supporting heat pumps, induction cooking, electric vehicles, solar, and battery storage.

The Chula Vista City Council adopted the City's first CAP in 2017. The plan provided multiple GHG reduction measures, such as the use of San Diego Community Power's cleaner electricity, a Zero Waste Plan with food waste collection, and the EV Community Shuttle.

To view the CAP update summary or fill out a CAP survey, visit <https://www.chulavistaca.gov/cap>. You are also invited to attend in-person presentations at the workshops listed below. Each workshop will present the same information, so please choose the date and location that works best for your schedule.

South Branch Library Workshops at 389 Orange Avenue

- Thursday, June 6 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.
- Saturday, June 8 from 1 - 3 p.m.

The Hub at Otay Ranch Library Workshops at 2015 Birch Road Suite 407

- Saturday, June 22 from 1 - 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 16 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Civic Library Workshops at 365 F Street

- Thursday, July 11 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 13 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We hope to see you at one of the events to hear about your priorities. After collecting feedback, staff will draft the full CAP update and present it to the Sustainability Commission and City Council. If you have any questions, please contact cdowns@chulavisaca.gov.

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) is looking to fill the vacant Chula Vista seat on its Community Advisory Committee. SDCP is a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) that buys electricity on behalf of its member agencies and partners with SDG&E to distribute that electricity to its residential and business customers.

The purpose of the Community Advisory Committee is to advise the SDCP Board of Directors on operations. The Community Advisory Committee is expected to meet in person at the City of San Diego Metropolitan Operations Complex Auditorium (9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123) every second Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. The Committee is made up of two

representatives from each member agency, for a total of 14 members. Applicants must be residents (property owners and/or renters), business owners, employees, or representatives of a community-based organization within the jurisdiction that they are interested in representing. After an appointment is made and approved by the full SDCP Board of Directors, each member may serve up to two, three-year terms. For more information or to submit an application, please [click here](#).



Join the Chula Vista Police Department for a **2024 Community Leadership Workshop!** This free, two-day class is geared towards community leaders (business owners, elected officials, community advocates, church representatives, etc.). Participants will see how the department is a leader in modern, constitutional policing and learn how the department uses crime data analysis and proactive policing to keep the community safe. Attendees can also participate in a use-of-force training simulation and have lunch with Mayor John McCann as part of a Q&A session. To learn more about workshop dates and to apply, visit: [Community Workshops & Academies | City of Chula Vista \(chulavistaca.gov\)](#).

Neighborhood Beautification

OPERATION PRIDE continues monthly clean ups, and in conjunction with Alpha Project, collected 41,120 pounds of trash and 85 shopping carts last month. McAlister (Work for Hope) continues to paint Rohr Park, and Chula Vista Rangers are continuing to enforce and keep the parks clean and safe for the public. Thank you for your continued efforts.

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Meetings/Events

The City Council is scheduled to meet on **Tuesday, June 11** at 5 p.m. Members of the public are invited to provide e-comments on any agenda item. Please click [here](#) for more information on City Council meetings. A Spanish-language video stream is available and interpretation services for Spanish speakers are provided at each City Council meeting. Members of the public can watch the meeting [via livestream](#). Chula Vista City Council meetings are video recorded and aired live on Cox Cable channel 24 (only in Chula Vista). Recorded meetings are also archived on the City's website.



Join Chula Vista Mayor John McCann and the Chula Vista City Council at the 2024 State of the City address on **Tuesday, June 18** at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center, 2800 Olympic Parkway. The event will be held outside of the Visitor's Center from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All are welcome.

Join us as we raise the Pride and Juneteenth Flags! A Pride Flag Raising Ceremony is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, June 5** at 5 p.m. The Juneteenth Flag raising ceremony is scheduled to take place on **Monday, June 17** at 6 p.m. Both will be held outside of the Chula Vista Council Chambers, at Chula Vista City Hall, 276 Fourth Avenue. Parking is available at the

parking lot off F Street and at the parking lot off Davidson Street. ADA parking is available in both lots.



The Chula Vista Firefighter's Foundation (CVFF) will hold an annual Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station 5, located at 341 Orange Avenue, on **Saturday, July 6**, from 8 to 11 a.m. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and hash browns prepared by Chula Vista firefighters. You can also tour the station, and enjoy activities for children, such as an interactive obstacle course. Proceeds will benefit programs put on by the Chula Vista Firefighter's Foundation, such as 'Adopt a Family' and 'Christmas in October.' To guarantee your spot at the breakfast, please RSVP here: <https://www.cvfirefighters.org/product/pancake-breakfast-2024/>