

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







City Manager Message



Greetings,

As we move into the heart of summer, I hope you are enjoying the outdoors with family and friends and the many activities the City has throughout this season.

This month, we're excited to share a major project launching in Chula Vista. The Chula Vista Bayfront Shuttle is a free, all-electric, ADA-accessible service designed to make it easier to explore our beautiful bayfront and key destinations like Third Avenue, Chula Vista Center, the Living Coast Discovery Center, and more. The shuttle officially launched this week and will run daily from 8 am to 6 pm. Be sure to hop on and travel with ease to your favorite spot!

Progress continues on our university efforts with key legislation authored by Assemblymember David Alvarez. Assembly Bill 662 will convene a task force to study potential governance structures for a future university and funding mechanisms. We will continue to follow this legislation and bring forward for Council consideration a feasibility study that identifies a first phase of development on our University-Innovation District. More on this soon.

Join us in celebrating our rangers at the Ranger Day event on Saturday, August 2nd. Learn about our parks from the City Rangers at this family-friendly event, get a free adventure backpack from our Library Department and learn key information on pet park safety from Chula Vista Animal Services. We hope to see you there!

Also, last month, I shared my plans to retire later this year, and I am excited to share the City Council has unanimously selected Assistant City Manager Tiffany Allen as the next City Manager. Tiffany brings more than two decades of experience and a deep understanding of our city. I am confident that under her leadership, Chula Vista will continue to thrive through major projects like the Bayfront, Millenia Library, University and Innovation District and other transformational economic development initiatives. Congratulations to Tiffany!

For daily updates on city happenings don't forget to follow us on social media @ThinkChulaVista. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

~Maria V. Kachadoorian, City Manager



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Free Bayfront Shuttle Service

Take a ride on the new Chula Vista Bayfront Shuttle! This no cost, emissions-free shuttle will make it easier than ever for residents and visitors to explore all that Chula Vista has to offer. The shuttle is designed to improve access to the city's revitalized bayfront, including the recently opened Gaylord Pacific Resort and Convention Center.

Running daily from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m., the Chula Vista Bayfront Shuttle will provide convenient transportation with all-electric



vehicles, offering an environmentally friendly option for travel around the city. The shuttle routes will connect the shoreline to key areas including the Living Coast Discovery Center, Downtown Chula Vista, Chula Vista Center, residential communities, parks, and existing trolley stations.

Routes include the Blue Line connecting mainly the Chula Vista Bayfront to transit centers at E and H Street and Green Line connecting Bayfront to the adjacent community.

For more information on the bayfront shuttle visit the **Chula Vista City Website**.



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Celebrating Ranger Day



The City of Chula Vista invites the community to join us in honoring the dedicated individuals who safeguard our parks, wildlife, and natural heritage at our Ranger Day event on Saturday, August 2nd at 10 a.m. at Rohr Park. This family-friendly celebration offers residents an exciting opportunity to learn more about the vital work our City Rangers do to protect and preserve our public lands.

Visitors can enjoy interactive activities including pet park safety tips from Animal Services, adventure backpacks from Library Services, and educational booths where attendees can meet our rangers and discover how they protect Chula Vista's beautiful open spaces.

"We welcome the community to join us for Ranger Day," said Park Ranger Sam Alzubaidi. "This is an opportunity to learn how to preserve and enjoy our parks."

Rangers are essential to maintaining ecological balance, enforcing conservation laws, and ensuring the safety and enjoyment of public lands for all. Their efforts in wildlife conservation, habitat protection, and community education make them heroes in green uniforms.

Come celebrate our rangers and the natural wonders they protect. We also would like to encourage you to look into the Junior Park Ranger Program! Learn about animals, how to read a compass, and so much more! For more information, visit the <u>city's website</u> or follow us on <u>social media</u>.



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Celebrating our Women Engineers

The City of Chula Vista is proud to recognize the exceptional engineers who are shaping the city's future through innovation, resilience, and dedication. From modernizing traffic systems and strengthening stormwater infrastructure to designing resilient public spaces, these professionals are at the forefront of critical projects that improve everyday life for residents.

One such effort includes the award-winning work on the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center Pedestrian Bridge and guard house at the Wueste Road entrance to the Elite Athlete Training Center.



This project, which received an honor by the American Public Works Association (APWA), plays a vital role in supporting the city's Economic Vitality and Healthy Community goals, enhancing a world-class training space for elite athletes and helping maximize its use as a local economic driver.

"As engineers we lead some of the city's most complex and impactful projects," said Rosina Flores, Assistant Director of Engineering. "The contributions are not only essential to our infrastructure, but they're shaping the future of Chula Vista with excellence and purpose."

At a time when women represent less than 20% of the national engineering workforce, Chula Vista is proud to stand out. These women bring not only technical expertise but leadership and vision, moving projects forward and inspiring the next generation of women in STEM.



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Chief's Da Crab Shack



Chief's Da Crab Shack opened in September 2024, when owner Jo Cayetano found a passion in food service after 20 years of naval service. Cayetano had originally partnered with Ray Rodriquez in opening JJ's Island Grindz in March 2020, which is now the go-to spot for authentic Guamanian and Hawaiian cuisine.

After experiencing success in the industry despite opening at the onset of the pandemic, Cayetano and Rodriguez then went on to open Chief's Da Tiki bar in

December 2022 which offers a relaxing vibe with an array of delicious tropical mixed drinks. Chief's Da Crab Shack is their newest restaurant venture where food and drink are captivating and delicious. Da Chief's Crab Shack offers Louisiana style seafood boils with unique sauces, po'boy sandwiches, garlic noodles and more.

According to Cayetano, "At Chief's Da Crab Shack in Chula Vista, we're more than just a local seafood spot — we're a proud, disabled-owned, veteran business built on resilience, community, and great food. As a service veteran business owner, I have applied my experience as a Chief Petty Officer when operating the businesses: from leading, management and problem solving at the highest level of standards." July is national Disability Pride Month month—a time when we recognize the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. Show your support for disabled-owned businesses and be sure to visit Da Chief's Crab Shack.

"Serving our neighbors with fresh, flavorful dishes is more than a job, it's a passion rooted in giving back to a city that's shown us so much support. Da Chief's Crab Shack is not just about overcoming challenges — it's about proving that with determination and heart, anything is possible." Chief's Da Crab Shack also serves as an entertainment venue for military retirements, promotions, change of command. and private events for bigger parties.

Chief's Da Crab Shack is located at 4110 Bonita Rd. and is open Wednesday through Monday from noon to 8 p.m. and open until 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Be sure to follow Chief's Da Crab Shack on Instagram.

If you would like your small business featured in a future newsletter, please complete this <u>submission</u> form.

For business assistance, please check out <u>chulavistaca.gov/businesses</u> and be sure to refer to the <u>Business Resource Guide</u> for additional information on available resources to assist your business.



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Spotlighting Community Partners: The Plaza Clubhouse

The Plaza Clubhouse, located at 465 C St. Chula Vista, CA 91910, is a community-based service that empowers individuals with a history of mental health conditions through meaningful engagement, peer connection, and goal-setting. Clubhouse International focuses on rehabilitation through active member participation, where recovery is achieved by working side-by-side with staff and fellow members.

At the heart of the Clubhouse philosophy is a strong belief in community and self-empowerment. Members participate in a variety of daily tasks, from reception and janitorial work to kitchen operations and event planning, building both confidence and job-ready skills. The Clubhouse is intentionally understaffed, a strategic design that places trust and responsibility in the hands of its members.



Through SMART goal setting, members outline personal and professional objectives with support from staff. Additional services include guidance on accessing SNAP benefits, trauma-informed care, and access to transitional employment through partnerships with local businesses, where members are supported every step of the way.

"What I like about coming here, the number 1 thing is facing my fears, setting my goals and my confidence," said Shane Gallagher, a member at the Clubhouse. "My goals, like going to school, getting a job, and getting a career started."

With features like a commercial kitchen, food handler certifications, and a welcoming, inclusive environment, the Plaza Clubhouse in Chula Vista continues to be a beacon of support, belonging, and opportunity.

The Plaza Clubhouse is open to any resident who has a history of mental health conditions. Visit the <u>Direct Services - NAMI San Diego</u> for more information on this community service.



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City Budget: Online Bill Payments



RESERVE A PARK

The City of Chula Vista provides options for online and automatic bill payments to its customers across several areas of service. Online and automatic bill payments are fast, reliable, convenient and secure methods of remitting payments to the City. Many City departments offer online payment methods for city services, such as automatic bill pay for sewer service bills. For more information on how to enroll your sewer account, please contact cvsewer@chulavistaca.gov or call (619) 691-5117.

The City of Chula Vista will never use social media to contact our customers directly about bills or arrange for payments to be made in person other than at our Finance Department public counter or official places of business, such as the public library and recreation centers for services related to those departments.

The City recommends our residents be vigilant and protect against fraud attempts. The City will never require cash-only payments, require customers to share bank information or personal information such as a social security number. Beware of scams which threaten to take immediate and drastic action against you and require personally identifiable information or obscure payment methods or instructions. The City will not conduct door to door visits in attempts to collect payments from customers. For any questions, please contact the City of Chula Vista Finance Department at (619) 691-5250.

VEHICLE IMPOUND



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Community News

Good to know:



Kitten season has arrived, and **Chula Vista Animal Services** is experiencing an influx of orphaned kittens who need immediate care. Many of these young kittens are not yet old enough for adoption and simply need a quiet, nurturing home environment where they can grow, play, and thrive until they're ready for their forever families.

That's where our community comes in.

Fostering is one of the most impactful ways you can support local animal welfare.

It's a short-term commitment that yields lifelong results for the kittens in your care. Even if you've never fostered before, don't worry — we provide all necessary training, supplies, medical support, and guidance throughout the process. All you need is a little time, a safe space, and a caring heart.

Whether you're a student looking to earn community service hours, a family wanting to teach compassion, or simply an animal lover with room to spare, fostering is a meaningful way to give back.

Right now, our shelter is at capacity, and we urgently need fosters to help care for these kittens during this time. With just a few weeks of your support, a kitten can thrive — and be ready for a forever home.

If you're interested in making a difference, we encourage you to get involved.

To learn more or to sign up, visit our website at www.cvacf.org.



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Vendor booth applications are now being accepted for our 3rd Annual Chula Vista ArtFest taking place Saturday, September 27th, from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Fine arts, crafts, culinary, and literary arts vendors are all welcome! **Applications will be accepted until August 31.** Apply here: ArtFest Vendor Booth Application | City of Chula Vista

Chula Vista ArtFest will also feature music performances, food, and arts activities. Come and be part of this exciting event!

Our city parks are cherished spaces for relaxation, recreation, and community connection, but recent incidents over the July 4th holiday remind us that protecting these spaces requires all of us working together.

At Grove Park and Los Niños Park, City Rangers reported that illegal fireworks were ignited directly on basketball courts, leaving burn marks and damaging the surface. At Greg Rogers Park, individuals used the gazebo for motorcycle burnouts, resulting in tire marks and costly repairs. These are just a few examples of a larger trend of vandalism and unsafe behavior during the holiday weekend.



These actions not only damage city property but create unsafe environments for families, children, and neighbors who rely on these spaces year-round.

We're asking for your help: If you see suspicious or destructive activity in our parks, please report it immediately to the Chula Vista Police Department by calling (619) 691-5151 (or 911 if you believe it to be an emergency).

Together, we can maintain the safety, beauty, and integrity of our public parks for everyone to enjoy.



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Help the City envision a new Urban Park at Oxford and Fourth!

The City has initiated planning efforts for a new park to be located on the vacant lot at the corner of Oxford and Fourth Avenue. This is a 0.46-acre lot which is classified as an Urban Park (0-4 acres) and will provide amenities to surrounding residential areas, schools and businesses. It is located within the same block as Lauderbach Park and Lauderbach Elementary School.

In order to develop the Park Master Plan for this site, the City is looking for input from the public through a series of community meetings and online survey. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 30th at the South Chula Vista Library from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Stay tuned to the City's website for additional information on the park planning process.





Human Relations Commission Awards Nominations Open Until July 18

The Human Relations Commission is launching a new awards program to recognize individuals and organizations in our community that are making Chula Vista a more inclusive, connected and compassionate community.

The Organization Award celebrates a nonprofit, business, or public agency offering programs or services that promote unity, respect, and engagement in Chula Vista.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose long-term commitment has made a lasting impact on our community. Some people dedicate their lives to creating a more just, inclusive, and welcoming Chula Vista.

The Youth Award honors individuals 18 or younger who are demonstrating leadership and service that help build a more inclusive and connected community.

The Individual Award honors someone whose everyday actions—through service, advocacy, or leadership—help strengthen relationships and foster inclusion across Chula Vista.

Nominations can be submitted here: HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AWARDS



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Share feedback on the draft 2025 Regional Plan for SANDAG. **The Draft 2025 Regional Plan** outlines the long-term vision to improve the San Diego region's transportation system.

Submit your comments online or in-person by Friday, July 18.

Things To Do:



Chula Vista Fire Department Pancake Breakfast

The Chula Vista Fire Department is hosting a **Pancake Breakfast**! Join us on **Saturday, July 12 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Fire Station 5, 341 Orange Avenue**. A recommended donation of \$8 per plate gets you a pancake breakfast made by Chula Vista Firefighters.

Come and enjoy breakfast, take a ride on the mini tiller and more activities for the family! Pre-registration guarantees your spot but walk ins are welcome the day of the event! https://www.cvfirefighters.org/posts/pancake-breakfast/



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FREE ICE CREAM! Join the Chula Vista Police Department on Wednesday, July 19 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for an Ice Cream Social at McDonald's, 619 Broadway. Meet your Chula Vista Police Department Officers and enjoy this family-friendly event.

All attendees receive free ice cream!





Rohr Park Master Plan Public Input Events

As part of the Rohr Park Master Plan, the City is developing a comprehensive vision to guide renovations and investments over the next decade. The City aims to preserve the park's natural charm while meeting the evolving needs of its growing community.

The City will be receiving public input in-person at the following events:

- Pop-up event on July 19 at Rohr Park from 2 p.m. 5 p.m.
- Public workshop at Chula Vista Municipal Golf Course on August 14

Community members may also share ideas online at Rohr Park Master Plan Visioning - PublicInput



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Let's Talk Trash

Our next Let's Talk Trash event is coming to the South Chula Vista Library! Join us on July 19th at 10 a.m. for this free community event stop by the library to receive a FREE food waste kitchen caddy, free compost (load your own and while supplies last), zero waste giveaways, and receive expert advice on Chula Vista's sustainability programs.

Make sure to bring your own shovel and bucket if you plan on taking home some compost!

We hope to see you there!

More info here: <u>Let's Talk Trash! – A Chula Vista Sustainability</u> <u>Event | Calendar Meeting List | City of Chula Vista</u>





Come out to Harborside Park, 670 Oxford Street, Chula Vista, CA, on Friday, July 25th at 7 p.m. and spend some quality family time watching, Sonic the Hedgehog 3 under the stars. Don't forget chairs, a blanket and your movie snacks!

For more information on Movies in the Moonlight or Snores N' S'mores Campout event visit: Calendar Meeting List | City of Chula Vista



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Save the Date: NatureScape Workshop and Plant Giveaway

Saturday, October 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Sustainability Division is hosting a NatureScape Workshop on Saturday, October 4 from 11 am to 2 pm with presentations by experts covering water-conserving landscapes. Creating a NatureScape is a way to increase your personal living space outdoors into your yard. Presentations will focus on how to create a sustainable yard. The topics covered include: Planting right for your site, benefits of pollinators, water smart irrigation, available resources and water rebates, and benefits & methods of compost.



Workshop attendees will receive a free drought-tolerant plant and participate in raffle prizes. Registration is required to attend the workshop (see below). It is being held at the Chula Vista Library Civic Center Branch at 365 F Street.

REGISTER for the NatureScape Workshop: www.chulavistaca.gov/naturescape



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MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

The Chula Vista City Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, July 22 at 5 p.m. Members of the public are invited to provide e-comments on any agenda item. Please <u>click here</u> 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.

The 2025 Chula Vista ArtFest is a free public event that will take place on **Saturday, September 27th** at the City Hall courtyard from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. This will be a community celebration of the diversity and talent of our local artists in Chula Vista and South Bay. It will feature artists, musical performances, food, and arts activities for the community to enjoy.