



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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



## Chula Vista and Odawara Ambassador Program Applications Open



The City of Chula Vista's Cultural Arts Commission is now accepting applications for the 2026 Youth Ambassador Exchange Program with Chula Vista's sister city Odawara, Japan.

A sister city is an officially recognized, long-term partnership that promotes cultural exchange and collaboration among local government, businesses and residents.

The program offers Chula Vista residents ages 18 to 28 the opportunity to participate in an international cultural exchange. Four ambassadors will be selected to represent Chula Vista in Odawara, where they will stay with host families. In return, selected participants will host Odawara ambassadors when they visit Chula Vista.

Participants must be Chula Vista residents and available for the full duration of the program. Selected ambassadors will receive up to \$1,000 as a travel stipend to help offset airfare costs.

The 2026 program is scheduled as follows: Chula Vista ambassadors will travel to Odawara from July 31 to Aug. 11, and Odawara ambassadors will visit Chula Vista from Aug. 11 to Aug. 21.

Applicants are required to review the Odawara Youth Ambassador Exchange Program Guidelines before submitting an application. Applications must be completed in one session, as entries cannot be saved for later submission.

Applications to serve as an ambassador or host family are [available online](#).

The deadline to apply is April 19, 2026.

For more information, contact [culturalarts@chulavistaca.gov](mailto:culturalarts@chulavistaca.gov).



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## South Bay Earth Day Celebration on April 18



Celebrate the planet and have some fun at the City of Chula Vista’s annual South Bay Earth Day on Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chula Vista Bayfront Park. This free, family-friendly event invites the community to enjoy a lively day by the bay while learning easy, practical ways to live more sustainably.

South Bay Earth Day is all about showing how small actions can make a big difference. Attendees can explore interactive exhibits on green energy, water conservation and food waste composting, while connecting with nearly 50 local organizations and eco-friendly vendors working to protect the environment. Even better, the entire event is powered by battery energy, with support from San Diego Community Power.

One of the most popular stops each year is the Fixit Clinic. Instead of tossing out broken items, residents can bring them in for a second life. Skilled volunteers will help repair small electronics, clothing and other household items, keeping usable goods out of landfills. Feeling creative? Bring an old white T-shirt and give it a colorful makeover at the tie-dye station.

Need a break? Head over to the Recharge Zone to relax, charge your phone and sip coffee while learning more about clean energy. Guests are also encouraged to bike to the event and take advantage of the complimentary bike valet.

With live entertainment, delicious food and hands-on activities for all ages, South Bay Earth Day is a feel-good celebration you will not want to miss.



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## Business Spotlight: Denki's Boba



Denki's Boba is more than a place to grab a drink—it's an immersive destination where anime culture and premium beverages come together in the heart of Chula Vista. From the moment guests walk in, they're welcomed into a vibrant, anime-inspired space designed to evoke nostalgia, spark creativity and create genuine community connections. Every detail, from the décor to the menu, reflects Denki's commitment to storytelling, craftsmanship and thoughtful design.

Quality is at the core of Denki's, and every drink is crafted with premium ingredients and meticulous care. Guest favorites include the rich ube crème brûlée milk tea and the tarochimaru, a taro milk tea enhanced with Denki's house made ube cream. Matcha fans can enjoy the ceremonial grade matcha series sourced directly from Japan, featuring options like strawberry matcha and the new banana crème matcha latte.

Denki's smoothies are equally popular, with standouts such as the nostalgic Oreo smoothie and the tarochimaru smoothie, a playful twist on a classic flavor. Whether guests want something indulgent or refreshing, the menu offers a balanced selection for every taste.

"I really wanted to be part of the Chula Vista community because this is where I was born and raised," said owner Nick Gutierrez. "I attended Otay Ranch High School and have always admired how supportive and tightknit the community is. In my opinion, Chula Vista is also one of the cities with the highest potential, and the growth over the past five years really showcases that. We feel very fortunate to be part of it."

That sense of gratitude and hometown pride shapes the environment Denki's strives to create—a welcoming space where people can gather, connect, and celebrate creativity, culture and great drinks. Denki's is honored to contribute to the city's vibrant small business landscape and to serve a community that embraces imagination and local entrepreneurship.

Everyone is invited to experience Denki's Boba—whether you're an anime fan, a boba enthusiast or simply searching for your next favorite spot.

Denki's Boba is located at 2240 Otay Lakes Rd #303. They are open every day from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. You can follow Denki's Boba on Instagram and TikTok at @DenkisBoba.

If you would like your small business featured in a future newsletter, please complete this [submission form](#). For business assistance, please check out [www.chulavistaca.gov/businesses](http://www.chulavistaca.gov/businesses) and be sure to refer to the [Business Resource Guide](#) for additional information on available resources to assist your business.



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## Community Partner Spotlight: SD Fixit Clinic

The San Diego Fixit Clinic is built on a simple idea with a big impact. Instead of tossing broken items and buying new ones, community members can learn how to repair everyday belongings alongside skilled volunteers. The concept was started by Peter Mui in the Bay Area, who recognized that many commonly discarded items, especially electronics and textiles, often need only minor repairs. What began as small, hands-on gatherings at libraries and makerspaces has since grown into a nationwide movement.



At a Fixit Clinic, the focus is on “do-it-together” learning. Volunteers, including retired tradespeople, veterans and hobbyists, guide participants through the process of troubleshooting and repairing items such as small appliances, clothing and electronics. It is not just about fixing things, it is about sharing knowledge, building confidence and strengthening community connections.

The clinics also create opportunities for younger generations to get involved. Pre-teens and teens can assist as apprentices, working alongside experienced mentors and gaining exposure to science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills in a real-world setting. The result is an intergenerational exchange where practical knowledge is passed down and new curiosity is sparked.

While the program began in the Bay Area, it has maintained a strong presence in San Diego County, where it aligns closely with regional sustainability efforts, including the City of Chula Vista’s Zero Waste Plan, which prioritizes reducing waste at its source. While recycling remains important, programs like the SD Fixit Clinic emphasize reuse and repair as the first step, helping keep usable items out of landfills and extending their lifespan.

Since launching locally in 2016, SD Fixit Clinic continues to grow due in part to a strong partnership between Zero Waste San Diego and the City of Chula Vista by offering residents a hands-on way to reduce waste while learning valuable skills. Clinics have also evolved and often include fun and interesting additional activities like repurposing damaged clothing into useful everyday items like shopping bags or pet toys.

Residents are encouraged to stop by the SD Fixit Clinic at South Bay Earth Day on Saturday, April 18, at Chula Vista Bayfront Park to see how a simple repair can make a lasting difference.

Learn more about the [San Diego Fixit Clinic](#).



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## City Budget: Community Budget Presentations



### COMMUNITY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Community Budget Presentation meetings will be held to discuss the **FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget** with the community.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 AT 6 P.M.**  
Civic Center Library Auditorium - 365 F St.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 AT 5:30 P.M.**  
Otay Ranch Library Hub Community Room - 2015 Birch Rd., Suite 407

**MONDAY, MAY 4 AT 6 P.M.**  
Norman Park Senior Center - 270 F St.

To share your thoughts on the FY 2026-27 City budget, please submit your public comments using the **Budget Comment Form**.



[www.chulavistaca.gov/budget](http://www.chulavistaca.gov/budget)

For more information:  
[www.chulavistaca.gov/budget](http://www.chulavistaca.gov/budget)

The City of Chula Vista will present a preliminary draft of the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Budget at community budget presentations on April 15, 22 and May 4. The public is invited to learn about and provide input on the preliminary budget, which serves as a financial plan, operations guide and policy document for City programs and services.

The presentations are planned for:

- Wednesday, April 15, at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center Library Auditorium located at 365 F Street
- Wednesday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Otay Ranch Library Hub Community Room located at 2015 Birch Road, Suite 407S
- Monday, May 4, at 6 p.m. at the Norman Park Senior Center located at 270 F Street

City staff will then present the City Manager’s Proposed Budget to City Council at the Tuesday, May 5, City Council meeting allow for City Council revisions and acceptance of the budget as its own. City Council is set to have a public hearing and adopt the budget at the May 19 meeting. Copies of the Proposed Budget will be made available for public review in the Office of the City Clerk and the City’s website 10 days prior to the public hearing, on May 19, at <https://www.chulavistaca.gov/budget>.

The City operates on a fiscal year calendar from July 1 through June 30. Each year, the City Manager is required to present the City Council with a balanced General Fund budget, meaning total expenditure is equal to or less than total revenues.

The citywide budget includes more than 200 funds, with the General Fund being the largest operating fund. The budget is generally composed of an operating budget and a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. The operating budget covers the provision of services such as police, fire, parks and recreation, and libraries. Since these operations represent ongoing expenses, the budgets are prepared for a single fiscal year, and overall expenditures are equal to or less than anticipated revenues.

The CIP budget invests in long-term capital improvements, facilities, and equipment, with revenues collected and accumulated over time as fund balance. Capital projects often extend beyond a single fiscal year, and so capital budgets often include expenditures funded by both current year revenues and funds previously budgeted.

For more information on the City budget development, monitoring and implementation, please visit our website: <https://www.chulavistaca.gov/budget>.



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## Community News

### Good to know:



#### Applications for Reduced Sewer Service Charges

The City is pleased to offer 30 percent reductions in sewer service charges to eligible residential customers for bills issued from July 2026 through June 2027. Funding is limited and eligibility is based on financial need. The program is funded by available, unrestricted revenues allocated by the City.

The application period for the Reduced Sewer Service Charge Program is from April 13 to May 15, 2026. The City will send a mailer to all residential sewer service customers with information on the program and application criteria in early April.

Please visit the City's [Reduced Sewer Service Charge Program webpage](#) for more information on eligibility and required documentation.

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#### Now Recruiting: Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP) Academy – June 2026

The Chula Vista Police Department is now accepting applications for its upcoming Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP) Academy, taking place June 22–26, 2026.

The SVP program provides adults age 50 and older with a meaningful opportunity to stay active, connected, and engaged while giving back to the community. No prior law enforcement experience is required. Volunteers play an important role by assisting police personnel with a variety of non-hazardous tasks that help support public safety efforts across Chula Vista.

SVP members often find the experience both rewarding and impactful, as they contribute to the well-being of their community while building connections with fellow volunteers and department staff.

Those interested are encouraged to apply early. A ride-along and background investigation are required prior to acceptance into the academy, and applicants should plan for approximately two months to complete these steps. Space is limited.

For more information or to apply:

Phone: (619) 476-2417

Email: [SVPP@ChulaVistaPDCA.gov](mailto:SVPP@ChulaVistaPDCA.gov)

Website: [www.chulavistaca.gov/svp](http://www.chulavistaca.gov/svp)

Community members looking for a purposeful way to get involved are encouraged to consider joining the SVP program.

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## Chula Vista Fire Department Completes First Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Certification Program

The Chula Vista Fire Department recently launched its first in-house Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program, expanding career pathways and strengthening the local emergency services workforce. The inaugural class brought together a diverse group of participants—from high school students to experienced wildland firefighters—demonstrating the program’s ability to engage individuals at multiple entry points into public safety careers.

Over the course of 10 weeks and more than 160 hours of instruction, participants received hands-on training, classroom education, and professional development to prepare for careers in emergency medical services. A total of 27 students successfully completed the program and are now eligible to take the National Registry EMT exam. To reduce financial barriers and support participant success, students received stipends that allowed them to focus on completing the program while balancing work and school commitments. Funded by California Volunteers Youth Service Corps and the San Diego Workforce Partnership, this program highlights the City’s continued investment in building a skilled, job-ready workforce.

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## Chula Vista “Fuels Crew” Provides Pathway to Careers in the Fire Service

The Chula Vista Fire Department’s Hazardous Fuels Reduction Crew (Fuels Crew), launched in 2023 with support from Measure A, is advancing both wildfire resilience and workforce development in the community. While the program plays a critical role in reducing wildfire risk through vegetation management, defensible space creation, and post-fire support operations, it also serves as a hands-on training pipeline into the fire service. Crew members receive industry-recognized certifications and practical experience in wildland firefighting, preparing them for long-term careers in emergency services.



In fall 2025, the program expanded through a California Volunteers Youth Service Corps grant, enabling the addition of 30 new crew members. This investment has already produced measurable results, with multiple participants successfully transitioning into positions with fire agencies across California and the western United States—demonstrating the Fuels Crew Program’s growing impact as a pathway to meaningful, career-building opportunities.

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## OPERATION PRIDE

Rangers enforce and maintain the parks, while making them clean and safe for the public.



### CITY OF CHULA VISTA RANGERS COLLECTED:



10,400  
LBS. OF TRASH



50  
SHOPPING CARTS



WORK FOR HOPE  
PAINTING  
COTTONWOOD PARK



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## Fire Safe Council of San Diego County Home Assessment Program



The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC) has launched its 2026 Home Assessment Program, a free and voluntary service that helps residents reduce wildfire risk and improve defensible space around their homes. San Diego County remains one of the most wildfire-prone regions in the country. New Zone 0 guidance and updated wildfire severity maps have raised questions for many homeowners about how to prepare. The Home Assessment Program offers one-on-one evaluations by trained, non-regulatory staff to help residents take practical steps to protect their homes. Assessments focus on home hardening, vegetation management and defensible space practices that align with current CAL FIRE recommendations and the best available science.

### During a home assessment, participants receive:

- A personalized wildfire resilience assessment
- Recommendations for defensible space and vegetation management
- Guidance on home hardening and ember ignition
- Educational resources and program referrals tailored to their property, neighborhood and personal wildfire resilience goals

The program is free of charge and available to residents in our 2026 priority service area, which includes very high wildfire risk communities such as Chula Vista and Bonita.

To learn more or request a home assessment, visit: [www.firesafesdcounty.org/hap](http://www.firesafesdcounty.org/hap) OR contact Morgan Dioli, Wildfire Resilience Program Manager, 619-562-0096; [firesafe@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:firesafe@rcdsandiego.org)

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## Celebrating Records and Information Management (RIM) Month: Why It Matters to Our Community

Each April, local governments across the country recognize Records and Information Management (RIM) Month. This is a time to highlight the important work that goes on behind the scenes to organize, protect and provide access to public records. While this work may not always be visible, it plays a critical role in supporting transparency, accountability and trust within our community.

At its core, records and information management is about ensuring that the right information is available to the right people at the right time. From City Council agendas and meeting minutes to permits, contracts, and historical archives, these records tell the story of our community and document the decisions that shape our future. Properly managing this information helps ensure that residents can stay informed and engaged in local government.



This month, we also recognize the dedicated professionals who manage these essential systems. Their work ensures continuity of government operations, supports informed decision-making, and preserves the integrity of our public records.

Together, through records and information management, we can continue to build a community rooted in openness, accountability and trust.

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## Unclaimed Monies

Do you have unclaimed money with the City? Claim before May 4, 2026! The City holds a list on unclaimed money from individuals, businesses, and legal heirs. California government code sections 50050 et seq. states that unclaimed money of \$15.00 or more, that are three years or older, will become the property of the City if not claimed within 45 days of the first public notice in a local newspaper. The notices were published in the Star News newspaper on March 20 and March 27, 2026. Unclaimed monies that are under \$15.00, will become property of the City if not claimed within one year of the original payment date.

All claims, for checks that are older than three years, must be received by May 4.

To review the notice of Unclaimed Checks List and for more information, please visit the [Unclaimed Monies webpage](#).



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## Things to do:

### Colibri Art Exhibition by Casa Casillas' Artist in Residence

Step into the vibrant, intuitive world of German Rojas, where color, movement and memory converge. In *Colibri*, Rojas draws inspiration from the hummingbird, an enduring symbol of resilience, lightness, and presence. His work pulses with energy, blending organic forms and expressive abstraction to evoke both personal and collective narratives.

Experience *Colibri* at Casa Casillas Wednesday and Thursday from 12 to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. The gallery is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

**When:** Saturday, April 4 to 30

**Where:** Casa Casillas, 50 Fourth Ave., Chula Vista



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### Colibri Conversations with German Rojas

Join German Rojas for an engaging, all-ages program inspired by *Colibri*, where visitors can explore artistic techniques, ask questions about the exhibition, and connect through open conversation. This welcoming space invites curiosity, creativity, and dialogue offering a closer look into the ideas and process behind the work.

**When:** Saturday, April 18 at 12 p.m.

**Where:** Casa Casillas, 50 Fourth Ave., Chula Vista

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### Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Planting Ceremony

Join the City of Chula Vista as we celebrate Arbor Day. A time to unite and educate communities and businesses on the value trees provide to build successful, healthy cities and neighborhoods. It is a chance for all ages to celebrate our natural wonders and most treasured resources together. Tree San Diego will distribute 100 free trees.

**When:** Friday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Monteville Park & Recreation Center, 840 Duncan Ranch Road, Chula Vista, CA 91914

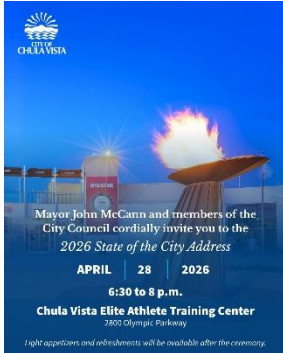
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### State of the City

Mayor John McCann and members of the City Council cordially invite you to the 2026 Chula Vista State of the City Address to learn more about the progress and the future of the City of Chula Vista. Light appetizers and refreshment will be available after the ceremony.

**When:** Tuesday, April 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

**Where:** Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center, 2800 Olympic Parkway, Chula Vista, 91915

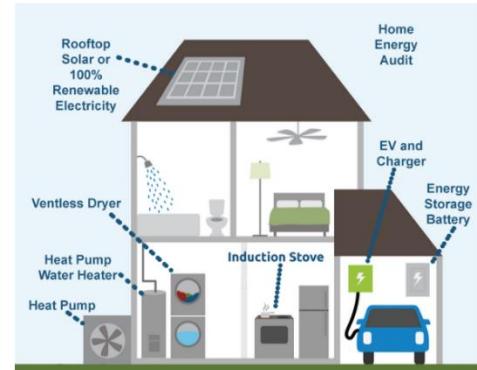
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### Save the Date: Home Electrification Fair

County residents are invited to attend this free event, which focuses on strategies for reducing energy costs, enhancing air quality, and decreasing environmental impact through home electrification. The program will include home electrification, energy efficiency, heat pump systems, induction cooktops, electric vehicle charging, ventless electric dryers, and solar energy solutions.

**When:** Saturday, May 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

**Where:** Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St, Chula Vista, CA 91910



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### Snores and S'mores Family Campout

Bring your camping gear and enjoy a fun-filled overnight adventure in the park with family and friends. Each registered family will receive a 20' x 20' campsite space, plus a night packed with activity including a hot dog dinner, arts & crafts, games, a movie in the park and of course s'mores.

**When:** Saturday, June 13 from 5 p.m. to 10 a.m.

**Where:** Monteville Community Park, 840 Duncan Ranch Rd, Chula Vista

**Cost:** \$10 resident/ \$13 non-resident

**Registration:** [Snores and S'mores](#)





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## Meetings and Events

The Chula Vista City Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April, 14, 21 and 28 at 5 p.m. Members of the public are invited to provide e-comments on any agenda item. We encourage community participation—sign up at [www.chulavistaca.gov](http://www.chulavistaca.gov) to receive email notifications when City Council agendas are available. 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.

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### Saturday, April 18: South Bay Earth Day



Learn how to reduce your impact on the environment at this zero-waste event, that will be packed with hands-on green activities! You will find environmentally friendly lifestyle ideas, at exhibits ranging from green energy conservation to how to properly compost food waste. Want even more in-depth knowledge? Bring any item you have that needs fixing—electronics, sewing, mechanical or otherwise—to the Fixit Clinic. One of our experts will help you diagnose and fix the problem.

Don't forget to make your way to Bayfront Park Earth-Day style! Opt for your human-powered vehicle (your bike!) and check in at our designated bike-only valet! With dozens of green vendors, live and interactive entertainment, organic food and more, come join this diverse celebration for the whole community! This FREE event, organized by the City of Chula Vista, welcomes all ages, so gather your friends and family to show Mother Nature some love this Earth Day!

Interested in being a vendor or sponsor? We would love to have you take part! Call the Environmental Services Division at (619) 691-5122 or e-mail us at [environmental@chulavistaca.gov](mailto:environmental@chulavistaca.gov) for any inquiries.