



City Manager Message



Greetings,

As we enter the month of March, I am delighted to highlight the ongoing positive impact that Measure P is having in our community. Projects funded by the temporary, half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2016, are visible citywide. Measure P is enabling improvements across our community, from our streets, parks, fields, courts, telecommunications networks, fire and police services, and other community facilities.

Some of the notable projects include the successful rehabilitation and repair of over 300 residential street segments, ensuring safer, well-maintained neighborhoods. Additionally, Measure P funded two new fire stations (Stations 3 and 5), along with the reconstruction of a third (Fire Station 1) underway. The recent state-of-the-art renovation of Loma Verde Community Center is also transforming our community.

Measure P is a demonstration of our collective commitment to addressing high-priority infrastructure needs and enhancing our overall quality of life. To learn more about Measure P projects in our neighborhoods, explore a section of our City website devoted to this topic, [Measure P | City of Chula Vista \(chulavistaca.gov\)](https://www.chulavistaca.gov/measure-p)

In the past month, we celebrated the opening of Hilltop Dog Park, a leash-free dog area within this city Park. We love our furry residents, and we are dedicated to ensuring they live happy lives alongside their owners. If you're interested in adding a four-legged family member, please visit our Chula Vista Animal Care Facility. The shelter is currently beyond capacity, with many dogs eagerly awaiting forever homes.

March is Women's History Month, and we take this opportunity to honor and celebrate the countless contributions made by the remarkable women in our city. Their achievements have played an integral role in shaping our community. Be sure to visit one of our City library branches to check out trending books by women authors.

Looking ahead, please save the date for South Bay Earth Day on Saturday, April 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bayfront Park. It promises to be a fun-filled day celebrating Earth Month and an opportunity to learn about environmentally friendly lifestyles. For more information, visit <https://southbayearthday.com/>

~Maria V. Kachadoorian, City Manager

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CVPD Communications Center

The Chula Vista Police Department Communications Center plays a crucial role in law enforcement operations. Our Communications Center is responsible for receiving emergency calls, assessing the situation, and dispatching appropriate resources. It serves as a central hub for coordinating police responses to incidents, accidents, and emergencies. Dispatchers are trained to prioritize and allocate resources efficiently. They ensure that officers and other emergency personnel are dispatched promptly to address urgent situations, contributing to public safety.

Serving as a vital link between our community and law enforcement, dispatchers provide critical information to callers; gather and disseminate information to field units, help officers make informed decisions; coordinate responses and prioritize calls for service based on urgency. They may relay details about suspects, vehicles, or other specific circumstances, enhancing officer safety and efficiency.

Currently, the Communications Center is led by Police Communications Manager Carla Even and five Police Dispatch Supervisors: Michelle Ramirez, Tina Larson, Margaret Preciado, Jamie Taylor, and Rosa Slim. The Center is also staffed by 15 full-time dispatchers, one part-time call taker and 11 full-time dispatcher trainees.

The importance of dispatchers cannot be overstated, as they are often the first point of contact in emergency situations. Their ability to gather information quickly, remain calm, and provide assistance is vital for effective emergency response. Dispatchers play a critical role in ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of emergency services.

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standardizes 9-1-1 operations to ensure a consistent and efficient approach to call handling nationwide, enhancing public service. NENA requires 90 percent of 9-1-1 calls to be answered within 15 seconds and 95 percent within 20 seconds. The exemplary performance of Chula Vista Police Dispatch Center exceeded national standard 9-1-1 answer times and exceeded San Diego County average 9-1-1 answer times by over 10 percent. In 2023, our dispatch answered 97.62 percent of 9-1-1 calls within 15 seconds and 98.68 percent of calls within 20 seconds.

In 2023, the Chula Vista Police Communications Center processed 318,005 calls. All of this while not being fully staffed due to vacancies. [If you are looking for a fulfilling, rewarding career, check out the website for information on Dispatch positions.](#)



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The CVPD dispatch team has been proactive in embracing technology to enhance our emergency response capabilities. In addition, they also received a high ranking in positive survey responses from callers with 4.52 out of a possible 5 points.

We commend the CVPD Communications Center team's commitment and outstanding service to our community. Thank you for all you do!





District 4 Appointment Process

The Chula Vista City Council took action on February 26, 2024, to declare the City Council District 4 seat vacant and launch an appointment process to refill the position. The actions follow the recent resignation of former Councilmember Andrea Cardenas. Based on Chula Vista City Charter Section 303(C)(1), the City Council must make good faith, best efforts to appoint a new Councilmember for District 4 within 45 days. The deadline for the City Council to make the appointment is April 11, 2024. The timeline, which is subject to change, is as follows:

- March 1-15 – The application period is open, and completed applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 15.
- March 26 – The City Council will meet, and current Councilmembers will nominate candidates for interviews (if four or fewer applications are received, all candidates will be interviewed at this time).
- April 9 – If more than four applications are received, the City Council conducts candidate interviews in public session.

Pursuant to Chula Vista Municipal Code section 2.53.040, the City Clerk will collect and provide all qualified applications received within the application period to the Mayor, each Councilmember, and the public, no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting scheduled for nominations and/or interviews.

[To apply or for additional details about the interview and appointment nomination process, please visit the webpage](#), or the City Clerk's office at Chula Vista City Hall, 276 Fourth Ave., Chula Vista, CA 91910, during regular business hours.

This City Council seat term will run from the date the appointee takes the oath of office to December 2024, when a successor is expected to be sworn in.

If the City Council does not make an appointment within the 45-day period, the seat will remain vacant for the remainder of the term.



Employee Spotlight: Storm Patrol Team

We all remember the devastating rainstorms in late January and early February that brought excess rain and flooding to many parts of San Diego County. Overall, Chula Vista fared well during the storms in part due to a proactive approach by our Public Works teams. Led by Public Works Manager, Mark Sanchez, stormwater and wastewater division employees prepared by producing nearly 15,000 sandbags for distribution to Chula Vista residents! The "storm patrol team" also performed pre- and post-storm inspections and patrolled potential locations of concern during the storms.

Over the course of nine days, the team distributed more than 10,000 sandbags with 8,300 of those bags handed out in three days! The City actually fills the sandbags with gravel, and the bags perform well when placed at doorsteps, on patios and in other locations. Each bag weighs approximately 25 pounds.

The storm patrol team is proud of the work they do every day, but especially during inclement weather. Hector Gutierrez, Equipment Operator, said, "we are ready and available to assist our community in any natural disaster. We are skilled and prepared." Richard Fernandez, Senior Maintenance Worker, stated, "our residents can have peace of mind knowing they will be safe." Adrian Obaid, Senior Maintenance Worker, added, "since I grew up here and live here, it feels good to help the residents of my community."

When not on storm patrol and preparing sandbags, the team performs routine duties including sewer maintenance, inspection, and repair and regular storm drain maintenance, inspection, and repair. Team members have completed major storm drain repairs that prevent erosion and loss of property. As a result of these proactive duties, Chula Vista has one of the best records in the county and Southern California when it comes to avoiding sewer overflows. In addition, the team performs minor sidewalk concrete repairs, utility mark outs, minor asphalt work and supports other divisions such as Parks and Streets as needed.



We offer a big round of applause to these hard-working, dedicated Public Works employees for their efforts every day, listed here by position. **Supervisors:** Joseph Burgos, Nelson Rivera, Michael Capone, Jesse Gomez, and Hector Flores. **Equipment Operators:** Claudio Estrada, Hector Gutierrez, and Juan Torres. **Senior Maintenance Workers:** Enrique Bonillas, Felix Chavez, BJ Clonch, Richard Fernandez, Richard Garcia, Adrian Herrera, Trevor Jordan, Karen Krause, Erik Monroy, Adrian Obaid, Sergio Padilla, Danny Salazar, Tony Sanchez, Raymond Tovar, Michael Trollinger, Albert Ulloa, Keith Wilcox, and Josh Wolfgramm. **Maintenance Worker I and II:** Matthew Aquino, Dominic Camacho, Adolfo Chavarria, Marco Cisneros, Juan Enriquez, Salvador Gonzalez, Osbaldo Martinez, Eric McManus, Levi Mendez, Michael Otero, Julian Valdez, Reyes Valdivia, Aaron Zaragoza, Javon Garrido, and Jacob Hinojos.

Not sure what to do with those sandbags once the rains are over? Suggestions are to keep them for next year, spread the gravel around your property in a decorative fashion, or use to help keep weeds at bay. Thank you, storm patrol team!



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General Fund Expenditures

The City's General Fund is the operating fund and source of funding for core services such as police, fire, public works, and recreation. The fiscal year 2024 adopted General Fund expenditure budget of \$258.2 million is balanced with the adopted General Fund revenues budget of \$258.2 million. Throughout the fiscal year, various changes to the budget are presented by staff and approved by the City Council, amending the General Fund budget.

The General Fund expenditures budget is organized by department and budget category (Personnel Services, Supplies & Services, Other Expenses, Internal Services, Utilities, Capital, Transfers Out and Non-CIP Project Expenditures). [A breakdown of the fiscal year 2024 Adopted General Fund expenditures by budget category is shown in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget book on the webpage.](#)

For the fiscal year 2024 adopted budget expenditures, Personnel Services expenditures make up 40.3% of the total while Supplies and Services expenditures compose another 9.8%. Transfers Out expenditures are 33.6% of budgeted expenditures and include debt service, pension reserve contributions, and transfers to the Measures A and P sales tax funds.



Public safety (Police and Fire departments) represents approximately 34.8% of the adopted General Fund expenditures budget for fiscal year 2024. The Non-Departmental expenditures, at 37% of budgeted expenditures, are related to Transfers Out, general liability and other insurance premiums, and other citywide costs.

There are several critical areas of expenditures that challenge the long-term outlook of the City's General Fund, including the rise in healthcare and retirement costs, labor agreements, and infrastructure funding (i.e., parks, streets, sidewalks, etc.). Staff recently presented the General Fund Long-Term Financial Plan, a 10-year projection of

revenues and projections at current service levels, to outline these challenges and provide potential solutions.

Additional information on the City Budget can be found in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget on the City's [website](#).



Community Partner Spotlight: AARP California

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 years and older and their families to choose how they live as they age. With a focus on health security, financial stability, and social connections, AARP California provides opportunities to connect and help build an even stronger state for all ages to live, work and play.

AARP California has been active in Chula Vista for many years. The organization supports Chula Vista's Age-Friendly Plan and sponsors programs and community events like the Harborside Festival, Rebuilding Together, CarFit, homeowner ADU education, Bailando Por Su Salud, and Grandparents Raising Grandkids.

In February, AARP California hosted the Cupid Crew card writing service project at the Norman Park Senior Center, where volunteers penned 400 Valentine's Day cards in English and Spanish for Meals on Wheels recipients. AARP California also partners with the Chula Vista Library to offer AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service, which helps low-income seniors with tax preparation.

As part of its commitment to creating more age-friendly, livable communities, AARP California has provided Challenge Grants for the "We Are Chula Vista" campaign. The goal is to increase community awareness, respect, and inclusion of older adults by featuring Chula Vista seniors on banners throughout the city and by [sharing their stories on the City's webpage](#).



Another AARP grant went toward age-friendly active transit and socialization projects in south Chula Vista, helping to expose residents to transit use and providing opportunities to engage in new areas of the community. Become an AARP California volunteer and make a difference in your community. [To learn more about AARP programs and events, visit the website.](#)



Community News

Good to Know

On February 27, the City unveiled new signage at **Kumeyaay Park of Chula Vista**, located at 700 Buena Vista Way, as part of a ceremony. The 28-acre City park was previously called Discovery Park. The new name honors the Kumeyaay Nation, which is made up of 13 tribes and is local to the region. The park is home to a ball field, soccer field, open green space, picnic areas, play equipment and restrooms. [Check out this video by the City of Chula Vista featuring this memorable event.](#)

If you are a senior or have limited income and are looking for help with taxes, stop by the Civic Center Branch Library at 365 F Street on Thursday or Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. AARP will be providing free tax assistance through April 12 on a walk-in basis only. For other tax assistance options, please call 2-1-1.



Heads up! If you regularly travel Olympic Parkway in Chula Vista, you may have noticed a **new traffic signal light** at Olympic Parkway and Zulu Road. This is the first of two traffic signal lights being installed on Olympic Parkway with the second at the intersection with Genesis Drive to be activated in a few months. The signal lights were necessary to support the Sunbow II development project.

On Valentine's Day, the City opened a new **leash-free dog park in a portion of Hilltop Park**. In response to interest from community members, the City created the area on the northern side of the park, located at 780 Hilltop Drive. Hours, from 7 a.m. to noon daily, are posted. Signage and pet waste disposal equipment have been installed. The new dog park is the tenth in the City. It is the second, after Memorial Park, to offer a leash-free, fence-free dog area. The

other dog parks are located at Meadows Park, Stylus Park, Eucalyptus Park, Mt. San Miguel Park, Veterans Park, Monteville Park, Rohr Park, and Orange Park.

Things to Do



Support your local artists! **Students from Sweetwater Union High School District will exhibit their work** at the Civic Center Library, 365 F Street, through April 3. The exhibit is free and available for public viewing during regular library operating hours. Come and experience the talent, passion, and expression of these up-and-coming artists!

Parks and Recreation offers something for everyone! There are classes and activities for seniors, teens, tiny tots, and organized adult and youth sports, aquatics, therapeutics, and day camps. [Check out the schedule and sign up today!](#)

New at the Civic Center Library, 365 F Street, is a **monthly Silent Book Club**. Scheduled for the second Sunday of each month, patrons BYOB (bring your own book) and enjoy the company of fellow literary enthusiasts. After a 40-minute period of silent reading, members are welcome to discuss

what they're reading with other members or simply continue reading. There is no assigned reading and no obligation to make conversation. Simply enjoy some time with a good book in companionable silence! Stop by for this month's event on Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m.

Get Involved

The City **is seeking nominations for this year's Chula Vista Sustainability Champion Awards**, which recognize individual and group efforts to improve the environment. Any person or group living or working in Chula Vista is eligible to be nominated for the award, which is an initiative of the City of Chula Vista's Sustainability Commission. The awards recognize individuals and groups helping to achieve clean air, water, and land for future generations within Chula Vista. There are seven award categories, including resident, business, organization, student, City employee, educator, and community contributor. Nominations are accepted until March 31 at 5 p.m. [Learn more on the webpage.](#)

Get involved in your community! Interested in volunteering for a City Board or Commission? There are several vacancies. [Learn more on the webpage.](#)

Neighborhood Beautification

OPERATION PRIDE continues monthly clean ups with assistance from The City's Public Works, as well as nonprofits Alpha Project and McAlister Institute (Work for Hope). In February, these efforts resulted in the collection of 40,160 pounds of trash and 79 shopping carts. Work for Hope continues to paint at Rohr Park, and Alpha Project: Take Back the Streets collected 18,580 pounds of trash in February. Thank you!

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Meetings/Events

The City Council will meet on **Tuesday, March 19 and 26** at 5 p.m. Members of the public are invited to provide e-Comments on any agenda item. [Check the website for details](#). 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.

A free compost give-away will be held on **Saturday, March 30** from 8 a.m. to noon at the Otay Landfill, 1700 Maxwell Road. The event is for Chula Vista residents only. Participants must bring their own shovels for loading and containers for filling and transporting compost. Don't forget the tarps to cover your compost!

Since 2015, in appreciation of the community's efforts to recycle yard waste (and now food waste), waste disposal company Republic Services has provided the opportunity for all Chula Vista residents to pick up waste-free compost at these events. Beautify your landscape and improve your garden soil by adding compost.

For more information, please contact the City's Environmental Services division at (619) 691-5122 or [by email](#).

All City offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, April 1 for the Easter holiday. Trash service in the City will not be affected by the holiday – no fooling!



Save the date of **Saturday, April 13** for the annual South Bay Earth Day at Bayside Park, 980 Marina Way, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free event will help build awareness about how to practice habits of sustainability and your impact on the planet, with fun interactive hands-on activities. This zero-waste event is packed with over 50 green vendors, a showcase of eco-conscious products, programs, and green activities geared toward education, conservation, recycling, and sustainability. [Interested vendors can visit the website for more details](#).