



March 4, 2019

Dear Chula Vista,

I hope this newsletter finds you happy, healthy, and enjoying a beautiful spring day in our fine city!

As we anticipate blossoms on our backyard fruit trees this month, and possibly a record harvest due to heavy rains this season, please know that there is a great volunteer organization that can take that extra fruit off of your hands and deliver it to a worthy cause!

Senior Gleaners is a food rescue non-profit. You can become a volunteer, donate spare fruit, help transport produce or even join their board! You can email Senior Gleaners [here](#), or call (619) 633-9180. www.seniorgleanerssdco.org

Meanwhile, thank you for your interest and engagement in our great city!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jill M. Galvez'.

Chula Vista City Councilmember, District 2 Northwest

Si desea recibir este boletín en español, responda a este correo electrónico y solicite la versión en español.

Happening this month

Chula Vista Champions Awards

Join us **Saturday, March 9, at 11am** at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center to celebrate people who help make Chula Vista and our world a better place!

Chula Vista Champions (nominated by our community) represent our city in academics, sports, community service, cultural arts and more. *No tickets required.*

Mariachi Festival

The National City Chamber of Commerce is bringing the 7th Annual International Mariachi Festival and Competition to Chula Vista's Bayside Park, 999 Bayside Parkway, on **Sunday March 10 from 11 am to 7 pm.**

There is a free shuttle to the event from the H Street trolley station. *Buy your tickets [here](#).*

Taste of Third

Epicureans! Sample great food and drinks, enjoy live music, magicians, and artistic entertainment as you stroll along downtown Third Avenue Chula Vista at the Taste of Third, **Thursday, March 14 from 5 pm to 9 pm.**

Ticket holders (*\$25 in advance, \$30 day of event*). *Get your tickets [here](#).*

Bayfront Park #2 – “Sweetwater Park” Design Workshop

The design workshop for the second new Bayfront park - the Sweetwater Park – will be held at **6 pm on Wednesday, March 20** at the Chula Vista Public Library Civic Branch, 365 F Street.

The Harbor Park workshop was held on January 10 and featured our future waterfront park (with a beach!). *More information can be found [here](#).*

Tax Assistance from the AARP

Volunteers will be available to help prepare tax returns for low income families and seniors up until April 10.

Bring a picture ID, proof of social security number and documentation for income and deductions. Assistance is offered on a first come, first served basis.

Monday/Wednesday from 10am – 2pm at the Civic Center Library, 365 F Street, and Tuesday /Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm at the South Branch Library, 389 Orange Avenue.

News of Interest

Chula Vista Budget

The 2019 budget includes the hiring of 5 new police officers, a fully funded reserve (15% of the General Fund) and we have one-time surpluses this year that we can use to pay down pension obligations or on major projects.

We will be putting together our 2020 Fiscal Year budget this spring, and voting on it in June 2019.

You are welcome to come to two upcoming public workshops on the budget (dates to be announced soon), and/or city council meetings to share your thoughts with your elected officials.

To read the *San Diego Union Tribune* article, click [here](#).

Cannabis

Chula Vista received 136 cannabis license applications, 84 of which are for the 8 storefront retail permits, 2 per district, allowed in the city.

Northwest Chula Vista received 30 applications for storefront retail, but only 2 will be permitted. To watch the *KUSI* story, click [here](#).

Illegal Cannabis Shops

Thanks to the passage of Measure A, our City Attorney Glen Googins has hired an attorney to head up his newly formed Criminal Prosecution Unit. She will assume her position on March 15th.

Her first and highest priority will be to prosecute operators of illegal marijuana shops. Those convicted could face forfeiture of their illegal assets and up to six months in jail.

We are aware of the new illegal dispensary on Third Avenue other illegal cannabis shops that disrespect our city by not following our laws and will continue to insist that illegal storefront be closed, with consequences.

Chula Vista Police Bust an Illegal Pot Shop

Chula Vista police busted the illegal pot shop at 589 Vance Street, a block away from Vista Square Elementary in Northwest Chula Vista.

The shop sold colorfully packaged items, such as cereal, cookies and candy. To read the *Star News* article, click [here](#).

New Behavioral Health Facility to open in East Chula Vista

Scripps Mercy and Acadia Healthcare announced that they will build a new 120 bed, in-patient behavioral health facility in 2023.

To read the entire story click [here](#).

New Solar Panels at the Chula Vista Civic Center Library have been installed and roof repairs have been completed at the Chula Vista Civic Library, thanks to Measure P.

The new solar panels have a capacity to produce 179 kilowatts!

SuKarne Grand Opening in Chula Vista

SuKarne, a Culiacán, Mexico, based exporter of beef, pork and chicken opened its 11th US store in Chula Vista this month at **985 Broadway in Chula Vista**.

I purchased a box of frozen prime rib filets. It is not an exaggeration to say that was the most delicious meat I've ever prepared for my family. Apologies to my vegetarian/vegan constituents.

The Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce elected Bill Hall as its 2019 president. Congratulations, Bill!

TAVA – The Third Avenue Village Association – held its annual meeting last month.

New President Randy Bellamy led the ceremonies at the Factory of Dreams. Thank you to Brew Bar, Don Pedro's Taco Shop, 3 Punk Ales, and the Third Avenue Tasting Room for delicious food and libations!

Recent city council items

Community Choice Aggregation, 2/19/2019

The City Council approved sharing the costs of an \$89K feasibility study for Community Choice Aggregation.

Community Choice Aggregation is a program that allows local governments to procure power on behalf of their residents, businesses and municipal accounts from an alternative supplier while still receiving transmission and distribution service from their existing utility.

Chula Vista (\$43K), La Mesa (\$23K), and Santee (\$23K) are sharing the costs of the study, which will identify risks, considerations, and possible benefits of forming a Joint Power Agreement.

Bike Lanes on Broadway project, 2/26/19

The City Council voted (5-0) to award a \$2.985 million contract with Tri-Group for a two-phase project to install 4 miles of bike lanes on Broadway (Historic 101) from C Street to Main Street.

The city received \$851K from the state and transferred monies from the MTS billboard fund, WTDIFs, and other pavement funding projects that are not ready to be implemented at this time.

The project includes fiber optic cable for smart traffic signaling and other modernization along the Broadway/Historic 101 corridor, part of our Smart Cities initiative.

Friendship Park Library Deck, 2/26/19

Construction begins April 2019 for a sleek, modern deck along the north side of the Civic Center Library.

After completion in June 2019, the deck will cover the existing below-ground library service entrance.

It will be accessible from the main reading room and the children's library. The \$630K project is paid for by a 2017 HUD grant.

We thank Mayor Mary Casillas Salas for her vision for this project. *To see the presentation and architectural renderings of the new deck, go to minute 59:30 of the city council meeting video [here](#).*

Otay River Restoration Project, 2/26/19

In 1917, a flood destroyed the Otay Valley River Bed. The subsequent construction of Savage Dam further diminished the natural ecosystem of the Otay River Valley.

For the past two years, the 160 acre restoration project has received grading, the introduction of tens of thousands of native plants, and invasive species have been removed.

When complete, this area will include hiking and biking trails, allowing residents and visitors to enjoy the unique flora and fauna native to our region.

To see the presentation, go to minute 40:00 of the city council meeting video [here](#).

Congratulations to the following new Chula Vista Commissioners:

Madeleine Corbeil, Commission on Aging
Dana Tomlinson, Board of Library Trustees,
Taylor Ward, Cultural Arts Commission
Michael McCabe, International Friendship Commission
DeVonte Roberts, Cultural Arts Commission

Chula Vista commissions have openings – including the Planning Commission, the Safety Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Youth Action Council.

Please click [here](#) to for more information and/or to apply to be a Chula Vista Commissioner.

The next city council meeting is Tuesday, March 12 at 5 pm at City Council Chambers, 276 Fourth Avenue. *To view the agenda click [here](#).*

City Council meetings can be **viewed live on television on Cox Cable channel 24** (only in Chula Vista) **or AT&T U-verse channel 99** (anywhere in the county) or via live streaming, on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

What we're working on

Sewer Bills

The city and our office apologize for the backlog of sewer bills that have hit many of our mailboxes this month.

I have been taking many of your calls and emails, and the city's revenue department has been helping to address individual questions about your bills.

Chula Vista introduced a new billing system and had significant employee turnover in our billing department last year.

We apologize for the inconvenience and your frustration with having to budget for 2-3 bills from 2018. **You will not be assessed late penalties if you need more time to pay your bills and make arrangements with the city.**

Sewer billing charges are reset every July 1, based on the lowest two months of water usage over the previous year.

We are billed bi-monthly, every two months, based on that calculation. It is prudent to restrict water usage this month and to not water our landscapes when it rains.

Holiday Gardens

Thank you to the Holiday Gardens HOA for inviting me to attend their board meeting last month. It was a pleasure to meet your residents. Robert and I are working with the CVPD to address concerns you raised about vandalism and vagrancy in your private community, as well as non-permitted vehicles parking in your designated spaces.

Read Across America

This week is Read Across America, an annual celebration of the birthday of Dr. Seuss. I am delighted to read to Clear View Elementary students and hope for more invitations.

Regional Task Force on the Homeless

The city of Chula Vista will be applying for HEAP funding to address our growing homeless population. We hope to team with National City on an effective strategy for our region. We are focusing on street outreach efforts and safety, and continue to look for options for safe, off-street parking solutions for homeless residents. We anticipate that SBCS and other non-profits that serve our region will also be applying for HEAP funding.

San Diego County received \$21.4M in HEAP funding from HUD this year. \$14M will go to the city of San Diego and the rest of the county will be applying for a portion of the remaining \$8M

in HEAP funding grants for 2018 projects. HEAP stands for Homeless Emergency Aid Program.

Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) is another funding source with grants for homeless youth, aged 14 – 25 (one day short of age 25) from the Continuum of Care (CoC) grants from HUD this year.

In 2018, the San Diego point-in-time homeless count for Chula Vista was 337 individuals. Next year's count will be increasing, due to 1) the use of drones and heat-sensing technology to help count homeless populations in inaccessible areas such as riverbeds and 2) a meaningful upgrade to our county's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in January 2019.

You can view the 2018 Point in Time Homeless report [here](#). The 2019 report will be available next month. More information about the Regional Task Force on the Homeless can be found [here](#).

Job opportunities

Bids, bids, bids! Look [online](#) in March to [register](#) and see all of the construction projects happening in Chula Vista this spring!

The city is seeking contractors for the [Third Avenue Streetscape](#) phase 2, the new Civic Center Library Deck, Norman Park Senior Center updates and repairs, and a new roof for the Historic Chula Vista Woman's Club, amongst many other projects.

Chula Vista government jobs, including public safety, attorney, parks & rec, public works, and administration, *can be found* [here](#).

Seven Mile Casino is hiring! Click [here](#).

The Living Coast Discovery Center needs animal care specialists! Click [here](#).

Otay Water is hiring. Click [here](#).

CONTACT US

Councilmember **Jill Galvez** can be reached at **(619) 691-5177**, or by clicking any of the links below:



Senior Council Aide **Robert Moreno** can be reached at **(619) 585-5713**, or by email:



Thank you for the opportunity to serve you on the Chula Vista City Council.

Warm regards,

Jill M. Galvez | Councilmember | District 2, Northwest

276 Fourth Avenue | Chula Vista, CA | 91910

Phone: 619.691.5177 | Cell: 619.997.1016 | Email: jmgalvez@chulavistaca.gov



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