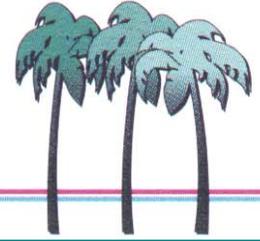


City of Chowchilla City Spotlight



July 2009 Volume 1, Issue 7

Upcoming Events

July 3 - Independence Day - Observed Holiday
City Offices CLOSED

July 4 - Independence Day - Have a **SAFE** holiday!

July 13 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

July 15 - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

July 16 - Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

July 20 - Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, Civic Center, 4 p.m.

July 27 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars now:

August 7 - 20th Annual Community Block Party.
BOOTH SPACE FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!
Call Parks, Recreation & Community Services at (559) 665-8640 for more information.

September 12 - Annual Fall Rabies Clinic. Call the Police Department at (559) 665-8600, ext. 535 for more information.

September 19 - City-Wide Annual Curbside Clean-Up Day. Call the Public Services Department at (559) 665-8615, ext. 789 for more information.

Meeting agendas, minutes and details on events are available on the City's website at www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Budget & Furloughs - *Furloughs continue, but not on Fridays*

Although the City will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2009 due to a previously scheduled observed holiday, Friday closures **will end** at this time. Council mandated employee furloughs will continue for budgetary reasons, however, in order to be more responsive to residents' needs, proposed furlough days will be taken around major holidays for the

remainder of the year. This will allow cost savings for the City as well as be more convenient for our customers. As closure dates become available, they will be announced in this newsletter, the City website, and other media.

The 2009/10 preliminary budget is scheduled to be approved at the special City Council meeting on June 29. Basically, the budget

includes lower expenses but also reflects an unprecedented drop in revenue to the likes of what was seen six years ago. The City Council is very focused on approving a balanced budget which includes a 10% reduction in City employee wages and benefits, and a city-wide departmental reorganization. For up-to-date info, visit our City website.

Fireworks Dangers

Health and safety advocates advise against consumer fireworks

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), consumer fireworks are causing more damage every year - to both people and property. "Consumer fireworks are too dangerous and simply can't be used safely," stated James Shannon, president of NFPA. "Each year, around 10,000 people are treated in emergency rooms because of legal consumer 'safe and

sane' fireworks." According to a NFPA report, in 2006 fireworks caused an estimated 32,600 reported fires, including 1,700 total structure fires. Nationally, there are typically more fires reported on Independence Day than any other day of the year. "This puts civilians and firefighters at greater risk of death and injury and there is no excuse for it" stated City of Chowchilla Fire Chief Harry

Turner. "We are encouraging residents to celebrate the holiday by attending public displays put on by trained professionals." Here is a **FREE** local event you can check out: Saturday, July 4 - City of Madera Fireworks Spectacular, Madera Muni Golf Course, 5:00 to 10:30 p.m. - Food vendors, family activities, music, kids zone, fireworks and more! For more info, call (559) 661-5495.



Extreme Heat - Play it Safe

As the weather gets hotter and extreme summer heat

becomes an issue, the City of Chowchilla wants you to be prepared. The City will open a **Cooling Center** as the need arises based on the temperature and length of expected extreme heat days. Information on the City's Cooling Center will become

available on our City website or by calling us at (559) 665-8615, extension 110.

Summer safety tips will also be posted online. Here are a few of those tips:

- ☀ Plan all outdoor activities for the morning hours.
- ☀ Stay hydrated with water, juices, and caffeine-free beverages.

☀ Watch for signs of heat-related health problems:

For heat cramps or fatigue, stop your activity and move to a cooler environment as feasible immediately.

For heat exhaustion or heat stroke, seek immediate medical attention. Some of the symptoms include sudden high temperature, headache, rapid heart beat, and profuse sweating. If you suspect heat stroke, call 911 immediately!

City Website Keeps You Informed

Want current and up-to-date information? Check out the City of Chowchilla's website at www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us for all the latest news. The home page offers "What's New" giving you information on important notices, events,

or programs. Under Public Information, you can find timely press releases and you can also sign up to receive our City Spotlight newsletters via



email every month. You might also want to check out the Guestbook to find an old class mate or long lost relative. There's much more and it's all right there at your fingertips. Be sure to bookmark the site and visit often!



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Chowchilla City Council

Justin White, Mayor
Jim Kopshever, Mayor Pro Tem
David Alexander, Council Member
John Chavez, Council Member
Dennis Haworth, Council Member

Nancy Red, City Administrator

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center. The agenda is posted on the City website.

Call Us

Civic Center	(559) 665-8615
City Council	ext. 105
City Administrator	ext. 100
City Clerk	ext. 105
RDA/CDBG	ext. 107
Public Information	ext. 110
Human Resources	ext. 154
Planning	ext. 402
Inspections	ext. 406
Building	ext. 410
Code Enforcement	ext. 412
Fire	ext. 600
Utilities	ext. 783
Finance	ext. 784
Parks & Recreation	ext. 788
Public Services	ext. 789
Operator	ext. 0

Direct Numbers

Police	665-8600
Fire	665-8626
Parks & Recreation	665-8640

Emergency - Call 911

Contacting Us

To contact the newsletter editor, send email or mail to addresses listed above or call the Public Information Office at (559) 665-8615, extension 110.

Visa and MasterCard credit cards are now accepted for in-person payments at the Finance Department. The City will soon offer an online utility payment option.



Ask the City: Watering.....When can I?

Ask the City is a feature column answering questions submitted to us by email, mail or phone.

I've seen commercials with watering days that are different than I what have read. So, when are my watering days?

P.H., Chowchilla

The commercials you've been seeing lately on Fresno TV stations are for

Fresno residents only. Our watering days are actually opposite of theirs. Here is a reminder of the City of Chowchilla's watering rules:

- ◆ Customers with addresses ending with an **odd** number may water on Mon., Wed. and Friday
- ◆ Customers with addresses ending with

an **even** number may water on Tues., Thurs., and Saturday

- ◆ Watering is **prohibited** between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on **any** day
- ◆ **Sunday is a NO WATERING DAY**

Citations will be issued for non-compliance of these regulations. Call (559) 665-8615 for more information.



Summer Aquatics and Activities

Swim lessons are currently

being offered Mon. through Thurs. from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Dower Aquatic Facility at Chowchilla High School. A range of classes is offered at a group rate of \$35 per person or at a private rate of \$75 per person. Two sessions remain: July 6-16 and July 20-30. Adult lap swim is also available at the same time as swim lessons at a cost of \$2 daily. You can register M-F between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Parks, Recreation & Community Services office at 145 W. Robertson Boulevard (no registration at the pool).

Open public swim is offered on **Fridays only** from 1-4 p.m. at a cost of \$1 for youth and \$2 for adults. There will be **PAL FREE** swim days on July 3 and July 17. These are

fun-filled days of activities for the youth.

Boys and girls ages 5-12 will have plenty of fun at the **Summer Chillin' Day Camp Program** held weekly this summer at the City's Sports & Leisure Park. The fun-filled week-long camps include arts and crafts, sports, special events, swimming, field trips, and much more. Registrations are being accepted at the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department office during business hours.

Drop-in Yoga classes are taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Chowchilla Senior Center, 820 W. Robertson Boulevard. Yoga is for everyone regardless of age or ability and is the physical and mental discipline bringing strength and flexibility to the body. The cost is \$7

per class and is payable to the instructor at each class. Participants should wear loose comfortable clothing and bring a mat, water, and a hand towel.

UPDATE: Berenda Reservoir opened June 27 for recreational purposes and is anticipated to be open until mid-late July. Due to an unscheduled water release and also to donations and the efforts of volunteers, service clubs, and private citizens, the reservoir will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (times may vary) while water remains available. The Chowchilla Water District donated \$2,500 to cover daily patrol checks and the local Boy Scout Troop is actively involved in the "Adopt-A-Park" program with plans to clean & maintain the area.

For more information on our programs & services, call us at (559) 665-8640.

Emergency Preparedness

Can You Go It Alone For Three Days?

The **first 72 hours** after a major emergency or disaster are critical. Gas, electricity, water, and telephones may not be working. In addition, public safety services such as police and fire departments will be busy handling serious crises. You should be prepared to be self-sufficient - able to live without running water, electricity, and/or gas, and

telephones - for at least three days following a major emergency.

To do so, there are checklists of items to keep on hand in a central location in case you are on your own. **Essential** items include water, a first aid kit, non-perishable food, blankets, portable radio, extra keys, and essential medications. Some safety items to

consider storing are flashlights and batteries, extra clothing and shoes, and communication items. Don't forget about cooking utensils, tools, baby and pet supplies, and sanitation supplies. A complete check list of items as well as an in-depth guide to citizen preparedness is available on the FEMA website at: www.fema.gov/areyouready/ Be smart. Be prepared.



Be Smart. Be Responsible. Be Prepared. Get Ready!