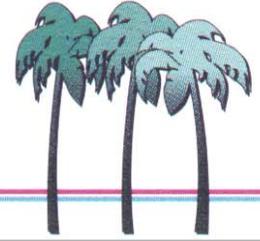


City of Chowchilla City Spotlight



August 2009 Volume 1, Issue 8

Upcoming Events

August 3-7 - "End of Summer" Open Swim Week, 1-4 p.m., Dower Aquatic Facility. Thursday August 6 is a **FREE** PAL Swim Day - call (559) 665-8640 for more info!

August 7 - 20th Annual Community Block Party - 5:30-9:30 p.m. @ Sports & Leisure Park. **See enclosed flier for details.**

August 10 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

August 15 - Chowchilla Fairgrounds Auditorium Benefit Dinner, Eastman Hall @ 6 pm Call (559) 665-3728 for info.

August 18 - Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

August 19 - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

August 20 - Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

August 24 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars now:

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

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

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

Block Party Fun!

Come Out and Meet Your Neighbors



Come enjoy a relaxing summer evening in the park at the **20th Annual Community Block Party** on Friday, August 7 at the Sports & Leisure Park located at 625 N. Fifteenth Street. This popular event is coordinated by the City Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department. From 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., you can wander past the many vendor booths, listen to great entertainment,

cheer on a softball game, eat yummy food, and much more. Kids can play on a variety of climbers, slides and bouncers in the fun "Giant Inflatables Play Zone" for a minimal cost.

To delight the ears, a concert featuring Chowchilla's own "Driven Cure" will perform beginning at 6:45 p.m. The Adult Co-Rec Softball championship games will be played that night as well.

There will also be emergency response and special interest vehicles to please the kids. Don't miss all the vendors displaying various arts & crafts and merchandise. There will also be plenty of informational booths letting you know what's happening in your community. **See the enclosed flier for more info** or call the Parks Recreation & Community Services office at (559) 665-8640.

Energy Discounts

These are challenging economic times for many residents so PG&E is offering programs to provide needed assistance to help with financial challenges or unexpected changes in your situation.

Their CARE (California Alternate Rates for Energy) and FERA (Family Electric Rate Assistance) programs

provide discounts on energy bills for income qualified households and housing facilities.

Qualifications are based on the number of persons living in your home and your total annual household income. For more information, you can visit their website at: www.pge.com or call them at 1-866-743-2273.

BUDGET BRIEF

The Chowchilla City Council will review the 2009/2010 fiscal budget at meetings in August. Based on new state budget figures, there are revenue shortfalls affecting local municipalities, including Chowchilla. The Council is focused on balancing the budget and anticipates passing a final budget once state funding is sorted out. Furloughs have been placed on hold at this time and may be re-evaluated.

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

Mail theft is one of the main ways identity theft occurs. Don't become a victim! Here are some helpful tips from the City of Chowchilla Police Department to consider:

- ▶ Buy a locking mailbox.
- ▶ Never place your outgoing mail (*especially checks*) in your mail box for the mail carrier.
- ▶ Place your mail in properly marked U.S. Postal Service boxes before the last pick-up of the day. Thieves can break into these boxes overnight.
- ▶ Collect your mail daily. If you go on vacation, you can temporarily stop delivery or have a trusted relative collect it daily.
- ▶ Immediately report any tampering or damage to a community mail box.
- ▶ Monitor your mail. Keep track of when you should expect certain statements and bills and notify those companies if mail does not arrive as scheduled.
- ▶ Call your credit card companies to ask them to stop sending

"convenience checks" with their bills.

- ▶ Call 1-888-567-8688 to opt out of receiving pre-approved credit offers.



Mail thieves steal mail not just at night, but blatantly during the daylight hours. Be a good neighbor and report any suspicious activity immediately by calling the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600.



City of Chowchilla

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Civic Center Plaza
Chowchilla, CA 93610

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Fax: (559) 665-7418
Email: generalinfo@ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Website:
www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Chowchilla City Council

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

Jay Varney, *Acting 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
Asst. City Administrator	ext. 101
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



Ask the City: Cooling Center

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

Does Chowchilla have a designated Cooling Center? *G.B., Chowchilla*

The City of Chowchilla will take proactive measures to set up a Cooling Center as needed for those residents not able to find a cool

location when extreme temperatures occur this summer. The Chowchilla Senior Center, located at 820 W. Robertson Blvd., is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for those in need of cooling and will be opened on an "as need" basis after 2:00 p.m. to accommodate those in need. For information during regular business hours, call

the City's Public Information Office at (559) 665-8615, ext. 110. For transportation to the Senior Center during business hours, call CATX at (559) 665-8655. For elderly residents, those requiring special assistance, or for after regular business hours information, contact the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600.

Lean, Clean & Green

August brings very hot temperatures and during fire season, it's important to create defensible space around your home to stay safe. Here are some tips:

- ◆ Remove all dead or dying plants, trash or other debris that is within 30 feet of your home or property.
- ◆ Remove loose surface litter (fallen leaves, needles, bark, twigs, etc.) so it does not exceed a depth of three inches.

- ◆ All logs and stumps should be removed unless they are embedded in the soil. If they are embedded, remove nearby vegetation.
- ◆ Prune lower branches of trees so they are away from your home. Low or close branches create "ladders" from uncleared ground fuels to the trees.

This information was provided by the Chowchilla Volunteer Fire Dept. & Cal Fire. Visit www.fire.ca.gov for more info.

New! "Kiddie College Co-op"

The Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department is changing Kiddie Kollege for the better. Coming this fall will be the "NEW! Kiddie College Co-op". The program will operate on Tuesday and Thursday with a Wednesday option added for older children who will be entering kindergarten in August 2010.

In addition, parents will have the opportunity to work in the classroom alongside the teachers in a co-op position and receive a discount on the monthly program fees. Registrations are being accepted starting in August. The registration packet will be available at the City offices and online at the City website at www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us.

Measure T Committee Seats Now Open

The Madera County Transportation Authority (MCTA) is now accepting applications for four positions on the Measure T Citizens Oversight Committee (COC). The COC was formed to provide public oversight of the half-cent transportation sales tax measure passed in 2006. The purpose of the COC is to ensure the funding program revenues and expenditures are spent as promised to the public.

Applications are being accepted for four seats: District 2, District 5, and both at-large seats. The application deadline is Tuesday, September 8, 2009. For an information packet and application, visit the City website at www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us or call MCTA at (559) 675-0721.



Census 2010

It's Easy, It's Safe, and It means \$ to Chowchilla

What is the Census?

- The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years.
- The census is mandated by the United States Constitution.
- Your participation in the census is required by federal law.

- It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census.
- Census data is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to

provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

Completing your census is in effect, bringing much needed funding to our own community. Census questionnaires will arrive in March 2010. Remember - it's important, confidential, easy, and is required!