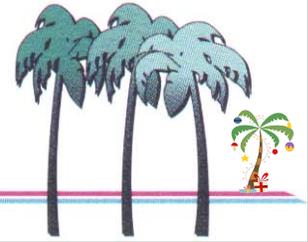




City of Chowchilla

City Spotlight



December 2009 Volume 1, Issue 12

Upcoming Events

Dec. 5 - Chowchilla Lions Club 42nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. **NEW location this year!** See article this page.

Dec. 11 - Furlough Day - City Offices Closed

Dec. 14 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Dec. 16 - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Dec. 17 - Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Dec. 23 - Furlough Day - City Offices Closed

Dec. 24 & 25 - Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holidays - City Offices Closed

Jan. 1, 2010 - New Year's Day Holiday - City Offices Closed

Mark your calendars now:

Saturday, January 16 - Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce Installation & Awards Dinner, Little Theater. Call the Chamber office at 665-5603 for information.

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



Christmas Tree Lighting Chowchilla Lions Club 42nd Annual Event

On the evening of **Saturday, December 5th**, the community will gather to herald in the holidays at the 42nd Annual Chowchilla Lions Club **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**. The program begins at 5:30 p.m. at a **NEW LOCATION** on Robertson Boulevard at Front Street. Everyone is invited to attend as we return to the tradition of having the lighted Christmas

tree on Robertson Boulevard to be seen by everyone as they drive into town. The Chowchilla Lioness Lions Club will provide seasonal hot drinks to ease the chilly night air. The night's ceremony will include entertainment, the arrival of the "big man" himself, Santa Claus, and the lighting of the official City Christmas Tree along with other festivities. The Christmas Tree Lighting event concludes the day filled with

activities throughout downtown Chowchilla including "Shop Chowchilla Day" coordinated by the Chowchilla Community Merchants Association in cooperation with the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce.

For information on the holiday festivities contact the Chowchilla Parks & Recreation Department at 665-8640 or by email at: parksrec@ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Seasonal Solid Waste Information

LEAF CLEANUP:

Leaves should NOT be raked into piles in the street. All leaves should be placed in your GREEN waste container and put out for regular pickup service. The street sweeper will only remove leaves that naturally fall in the street.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

There will be no garbage service on Christmas and New Year's Days which both fall on a Friday. Customers with a Friday pickup day will have their garbage collected on the following Saturdays after those two holidays.

TREE ROUNDUP:

The annual Christmas Tree Roundup will take place from January 4-9, 2010. Trees will be picked up free from your curbside. Please make sure all trees are free of decorations and trees over six feet tall must be cut in half.

Help for First Time Homebuyers

Self-Help Enterprises
Building Houses...Homes...Communities...

Interested in buying a home?

The City of Chowchilla in partnership with Self-Help Enterprises is offering assistance to **First Time Homebuyers interested in purchasing a home within Chowchilla city limits**

Loan terms: Zero interest and Zero Payments, Deferred

¿Quiere Comprar una Casa?

La Ciudad de Chowchilla, en colaboración con Self-Help Enterprises, le está ofreciendo asistencia a los **Primeros Compradores de Vivienda interesados en comprar una casa dentro de los límites de la ciudad de Chowchilla.**

Condiciones del préstamo: Cero Interés, Cero Pagos, Diferido

Call Maria Gonzalez Today! Se Habla Español

(559) 802-1643 / (800) 722-4822 ext 643
English TDD (800) 735-2929 Spanish TDD (800) 855-3000

Ready to buy that first home, but short on cash?

Self-Help Enterprises and the City of Chowchilla have a program to help YOU.

The Homebuyer Assistance Program offers affordable secondary mortgage financing needed to keep a first mortgage payment affordable (applicants must qualify for the program).

This program is funded by the State Department of Housing and Community Development Block Grant Programs.



City of Chowchilla

130 S. Second Street
Civic Center Plaza
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Telephone: (559) 665-8615

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

Human Resources ext. 105

RDA/CDBG ext. 107

Public Information ext. 110

Airport Contact ext. 322

Planning ext. 405

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: Water Meters

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

Is Chowchilla going to a water meter system?

H.T., Chowchilla

There are state regulations that require all installed water meters be read

beginning in 2010.

Although water meters may have already been in place for years, the City of Chowchilla, following state mandates, will begin reading meters in the coming year. In the meantime, you may observe a designated City employee currently

finishing an inventory of these meters around town in order to establish a meter reading route.

For more information on water meters, contact our Public Works Department at 665-8615, ext. 305.

Streetlight Shine Bright



As winter approaches and nights are longer, you may notice more darkness in your neighborhood if your streetlight

is out. The Chowchilla Police Department encour-

ages you to report all streetlight outages in order to curtail vandalism and other crimes. All you need is three pieces of information: the location of the streetlight, the pole number located directly on the pole (this may read PG&E followed by a number or it may be a number by itself), and lastly, whether the pole is wood or metal.

There are three simple methods to report street light outages:

1. Call the Public Works/Services Dept. at 665-8615, extension 305.
2. Send an email to: publicservices@ci.chowchilla.ca.us
3. Go to the City website: www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us and look under 'What's New' on the home page for a direct link.

Check Before You Burn

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District wants to remind you of the annual **restrictions on fireplace use** that are in effect now through February.

Residential wood burning can pump dangerous levels of soot, ash, dust and other particulate matter into the Valley's air. That pollution has serious health implications, increasing respiratory diseases and

raising the risk of heart or stroke concerns.

To reduce the pollution, the air quality agency issues one of two wood-burning forecasts. "**Wood Burning Prohibited**" is issued on poor weather condition days and all wood burning is prohibited. Burning on a no-burn day can result in a fine from SJVAPD.

"**Please Burn Cleanly**" is issued on days when the

risk is lower. On these days, only dry, seasoned wood, or manufactured logs should be used to minimize pollution.

"Check Before You Burn" daily county forecasts, issued by the air district, are available on local weather channels, online at: www.valleyair.org (you can also set up a daily email alert) or by calling 1-800-SMOG INFO.

2010 Census - Protecting Your Information



The U.S. Census Bureau depends on your cooperation and trust and promises to protect the confidentiality of your information. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act reinforce these

protections. Private information is never published. It is against the law to disclose or publish any of the following information: names, addresses including GPS coordinates, Social Security numbers, and telephone numbers.

They Collect Information to Produce Statistics. They use your information to create statistics. Your answers cannot be used against you by

any government agency or court. **They're Sworn for Life to Protect Your Confidentiality.** All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data.

Violating the Oath Is a Serious Crime. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.