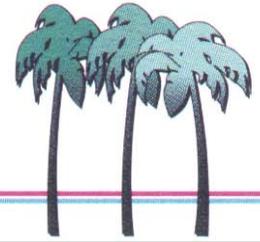




City of Chowchilla

City Spotlight



February 2010 Volume 2, Issue 2

Upcoming Schedule

Feb. 5 - Furlough Day - City Offices Closed

Feb. 8 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Feb. 9 - Utility Rate Study Proposal Public Workshop, Civic Center, 1:00-3:30 p.m. &

Feb. 11 - Civic Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (see box bottom right)

Feb. 13 - Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce Valentine Wine Express. Call the Chamber at 665-5603 for information.

Feb. 15 - Presidents' Day - City Offices Closed

Feb. 17 - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Feb. 18 - Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Feb. 19 - Furlough Day - City Offices Closed

Feb. 22 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars now:

March 1 - City's Weed Abatement Program Enforcement Begins (see article to right)

March 13 - Little League Opening Ceremonies

March 14 - Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 14 - Spring Rabies Clinic, Police Department, 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Changes at the City Staffing Reductions and Department Changes

Due to ongoing budget deficits, the City of Chowchilla was forced to layoff employees from all City departments which will result in a change to some services and programs.

Residents may experience a longer wait time if paying utility bills in person or by phone. Residents are reminded they can always mail in their payments or utilize the payment drop box

located on the front right side of the Civic Center. Other significant changes will be to the street sweeping services. Based on reduced manpower, street sweeping will not be on a regular schedule but will occur as time and staffing allows.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be affected the most at this time. Programs and events will be evaluated on a case-by-case

basis. An altered park maintenance schedule will be established based on available staffing. Rental facility and shelter usage will be limited. CATX transportation services will continue.

The City will strive to maintain the highest level of services it can provide with the reduced staffing, but the community should be prepared to see some changes in normal service levels.

Weed Abatement

Dry Grass and Trash Pose a Significant Fire Hazard

The City's **Weed Abatement Program** (CMC Section 8.12), enforced by the City's Code Enforcement Division, notifies property owners each year of dry grass, weeds, trash and other debris that blight neighborhoods and pose a significant fire hazard threat during the fire season from March through September. The Division strives to keep properties cleared of debris and open grounds tilled to

minimize fire fuel. The City's proactive approach continues year-round so properties are safely maintained throughout the entire year.

Property owners are notified by mail if their properties are in violation. If no visible attempt is made to clean the property in a given timeline, the property will be abated by the City and the owner will be charged for the cost of abate-



ment plus an administrative fee that can total more than \$300.00. Fortunately the number of property owners who comply increases each year. Through the efforts of the Code Enforcement Division, Chowchilla can remain clean and safe. For more info, contact the City's Code Enforcement Division at (559) 665-8615, ext. 412.



Wiping out Graffiti

It's simple: Graffiti is vandalism and vandalism is a crime. The City spends countless dollars and hours painting over graffiti on public surfaces. Preventing graffiti is tougher. There are paints and coatings available that make it harder to mark up a surface. Plants can be used to cover surfaces and make it tougher to vandalize.

Removing graffiti immediately is the best deterrent. The vandals are looking for recognition and if the graffiti is removed, they don't get their recognition. Vandals can be persistent so it may have to be removed more than once. If you see a vandal in action, **call 911 immediately**. Do not try to stop the person. Please report older graffiti by calling Chowchilla PD at 665-8600.

Utility Rates

The Chowchilla City Council requested Public Workshops to present a water and sewer utility rate study proposal.

The two workshops are scheduled for Tuesday, February 9 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. and Thursday, February 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Both workshops will be held in the Civic Center Council Chambers located at 130 S. Second Street. For more information on the workshops, call 665-8615, extension 101.



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

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

Jay Varney, *Acting City Administrator*
Wayne Padilla, *Asst. 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

Parks & Recreation	665-8615
Police	665-8600
Fire	665-8626

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.



Little League/Tee Ball Registration



The **Chowchilla Little League** 2010 baseball season sign-ups continue through Saturday, February 6. Little League is for children ages 7-14 years as of May 1, 2010.

Registrations will be taken daily (through Feb. 5) at Small Wonders Day Care located at 315 Kings Avenue from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may also register on Friday,

February 5 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. or Saturday, February 6 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Community Sports Center/Wilson Gym.

Chowchilla Little League has now taken over the popular Tee-Ball Program and is accepting those registrations at the same time. The Tee-Ball Program is for children ages 5-7 as of May 1, 2010. The cost is \$35.

Opening ceremonies for Minors, Majors and Tee-Ball is scheduled for March 13, 2010.

Volunteers are still needed for umpires, managers, coaches, and concession help. Contact any representative during signups if you're interested. For more information, contact a Little League Board Member. Interested in sponsorship? Call (559) 706-2010.

Cell Phone Recycling - Bring them in!

Each year over 100 million people upgrade their old cell phones. Most simply toss them in a drawer and forget about them. Reusing cell phones ensures that the greatest possible value is recovered and quite literally gives old phones new life. To that end, in May of 2004, the 911 Cell Phone Bank was created to provide an ongoing and

readily available source of 911 emergency cell phones and funds to meet the unexpected and urgent needs of participating law enforcement and affiliated victim services agencies.

Since its inception, the 911 Cell Phone Bank has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars and provided thousands of

emergency cell phones to victim services organizations nationwide.

If you have an old cell phone to donate, please drop it off at the Chowchilla Civic Center or the Chowchilla Police Department lobby. For more information, call (559) 665-8615, ext. 505.

Burn Cleaner



Burn Cleaner, the Valley Air District's annual wood-burning device change-out program, offers **valuable**

incentives for upgrading wood-burning devices and continues a generous incentive for low-income homeowners.

It's the 4th year for the program, which encourages residents to change out older, dirtier wood-burning units for cleaner, more efficient models by offering monetary incentives.

The 2010 program began Jan. 19 and continues until all funding is exhausted. The program offers varying incentive amounts, depending on the type of device being changed out and purchased:

- * \$100 to upgrade a non-certified wood-burning device to an EPA Phase II-certified wood-burning device;
- * \$250 to upgrade a wood-burning device to a pellet stove;
- * \$500 to upgrade a wood-burning (including pellet stove) device to a gas-burning device; and

* \$1,500 to low-income residents for the purchase of any of the above devices (low-income status as verified by tax returns, pay stubs, unemployment or disability checks, or bank statements submitted with applications).

Eligible households must be located in the eight-county air basin. People interested in participating can visit the District's website at www.valleyair.org or call the Emission Reduction Incentive Program at 559-230-5800 to learn more.

Chowchilla Police Department Tip Line

The Department has created a 24-hour, 7 day-a-week telephone **Tip Line** for the public to anonymously report illegal conduct. The Tip Line number is **(559) 665-8624**. As always, 911 remains the number to call in case of emergency or for crimes in progress.