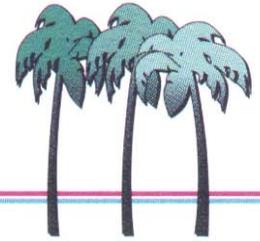




City of Chowchilla

City Spotlight



February 2011 Volume 3, Issue 2

Monthly Calendar

Feb 2 & 9 - First 5 FREE Nutrition Workshops, 5-6 p.m., Family Resource Center

Feb 3, 10, 17, 24 - "Staying Connected With Your Teen" FREE Workshops, 6-8 p.m., Family Resource Center

Feb 4 - Furlough Day - City Offices Closed

Feb 5 - Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, Little Theater, 7 a.m.

Feb 5 - Girls Softball Registration, Wilson Gym, 9 a.m.-1p.m.

Feb 5, 7 - Little League Try-Outs, RC Wisener Park

Feb 11 - City Offices Closed

Feb 12 - Chamber of Commerce Valentine Wine Express, 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Feb 18 - Furlough Day - City Offices Closed

Feb 19 - CAF Hall of Fame Dinner, SFA Hall, 6 p.m.

Feb 21 - Presidents Day Holiday - City Offices Closed

Feb 25 - City Offices Closed

Feb 28 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

COMING IN MARCH:

Opening Ceremonies:
Little League - March 12
Girls Softball - March 19

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



Water Conservation Helps Everyone Water Meter Billing begins this month

State water code mandates that all utility customers with water meters be billed after January 1, 2011. City staff explored ways to delay this process but there were no waivers available and our city (along with all cities in the state) is subject to penalties if we do not comply. Therefore, City Council voted to begin this billing February 1, 2011.

One frequently asked question regarding water meter usage is: **If my bill is a lot more using metered consumption, what do I do?**

Look at your water use habits. If you are watering your landscape frequently, cut back on the duration of the watering and frequency. Especially at this time of year, most landscaping does fine with little or no watering. Sprinkler timers should be set to a rain delay setting or even switched off for periods of rain.

Here are some other tips to help you conserve water and save money:

- ◆ **Color the water.**
Fixing household leaks can save homeowners up to 10% on their water bill. To check if your toilet has a leak, put a few drops of food coloring into the tank. If the color seeps into the bowl before you flush, you have a leak.
- ◆ **Don't flush trash.**
The toilet is not a trash can. A bug in a tissue that's truly dead can't crawl out of a trash can.
- ◆ **Test the shower.**
If your shower fills a one gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the shower head with a low-flow version.
- ◆ **Plug the bathtub.**
People waste gallons of water in the tub by waiting to plug the drain until the water is hot. Plug the drain and adjust the temperature as the bathtub fills up.

- ◆ **Recycle water.**
Think of ways to reuse water instead of pouring it down the drain. For example, instead of throwing out old water in a pet's dish, use it to water plants.

The City encourages you to conserve water and reduce your usage. A great resource is www.saveourh2o.org where you can find helpful conservation tools such as a Water Savings Calculator and Rebate Finders for rebates in our area on water efficient products and services.

In next month's City Spotlight, **look for the Chamber's special coupon savings from local businesses** helping you conserve your water. The discount will be good for plumbing services and supplies to eliminate water pipe leaks, drips, and running toilets, water saving shower heads and faucets, and lawn sprinkler repairs.

Wiping out Graffiti

On January 8, 2011, officers responded to the report of graffiti spray painted on a business in the downtown district of the City. The investigation revealed a number of businesses had been vandalized with graffiti which appears to have occurred between 3 - 7 a.m.

The police department is asking for the community's help solving this case. Should you have information regarding the graffiti that occurred or any other crimes please

contact the police department at 665-8600, or the anonymous tip line at 665-8624.

Graffiti is vandalism and vandalism is a crime. The City spends precious dollars and hours painting over graffiti on public surfaces. Preventing graffiti is tough. 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. For more information on graffiti removal, see City Municipal Code 9.24.

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.





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

David Alexander, *Mayor*
Isaac Jackson, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Dennis Haworth, *Council Member*
Janan Hebert, *Council Member*
Jim Kopshever, *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. 705
City Administrator	ext. 100
Asst. City Administrator	ext. 101
RDA/CDBG	ext. 101
City Clerk	ext. 705
Human Resources	ext. 705
Public Information	ext. 110
Airport Contact	ext. 322
Planning	ext. 405
Inspections	ext. 406
Building	ext. 410
Code Enforcement	ext. 406
Fire	ext. 600
Utilities	ext. 783
Finance	ext. 784
Parks & Recreation	ext. 110
Public Services	ext. 789

Direct Numbers

CATX	665-8655
Police	665-8600
Anonymous Tip Line	665-8624
Fire	665-8626

Emergency - Call 911

Contacting Us

To contact the newsletter editor, send email or mail to address 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.



Pedestrian Safety - Watch Those Crosswalks!

Pedestrian safety is a very serious issue. Pedestrian deaths occur in 17 percent of all traffic fatalities.

CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE 21950 (a) and (c) STATE THAT:

The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a

pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

The driver of a vehicle approaching a pedestrian within any marked or unmarked crosswalk shall **exercise all due care** and shall reduce

the speed of the vehicle or take any other action relating to the operation of the vehicle as necessary to safeguard the safety of the pedestrian.

Pedestrians have the right-of-way in crosswalks. That's the law. Please slow down & pay attention; a life may be saved!



Spring Sports - Registrations Ending Soon

The Chowchilla Little League/Tee-Ball season sign-ups continue through February 4. Little League is for children ages 6-14 years as of May 1, 2011 and Tee-Ball is for ages 5-6.

Registrations will be accepted through Feb. 4 at Small Wonders Day Care located at 315 Kings Avenue from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may also

register online at: www.eteamz.com/chowchillalittleleague

Chowchilla Athletic Foundation **Girls Softball** is for girls 6 years through 8th grade. The last day to register is February 5 at the Wilson Gym between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. You may also pick up and deliver registration forms to Shirt Shak located at 510 Robertson Boulevard.

The opening ceremony for Minors, Majors and Tee-Ball is scheduled for March 12. Girls Softball opening ceremonies take place on March 19.

Sponsors are always welcome. Interested in sponsorship? Have more questions? Give them a call today:

Little League - 975-9206
Girls Softball - 706-6915

Stay Informed via Text or Email



The City of Chowchilla Police Department has begun using a new service to access important, valuable community information when you need it, using the latest technology.

Chowchilla PD will create and publish messages through the Nixle Community Information Service. Nixle will then deliver this information to you instantly by cell phone text message

and/or email. Notifications can also be accessed online at Nixle's website at www.nixle.com.

The service is reliable and free to use. There is NO spam and no hidden costs: you receive messages as part of your text messaging plan. YOU decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, email, or just simply over the web.

You may register now at the company's main web site at www.nixle.com. There you can also access frequently asked questions.

New communication forms continue to evolve and we believe this service will allow us to keep our residents informed in a very convenient and timely manner. Get signed up today!

Chowchilla Area Transit Express (CATX)

Service Changes

Due to budget issues and reduced staffing, CATX bus service has been affected along with other City department services.

Normal routine service is available M-F (with the exception of furlough days)

from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. however there may be occasional interruptions in service because of lack of certified staff. When instances of no service availability occur, we will inform you as soon as possible on our City

website and Facebook page.

Eff. Feb. 1: CATX bus passes are available for purchase only from our Finance Counter at the Civic Center. They are no longer available for purchase on the busses.