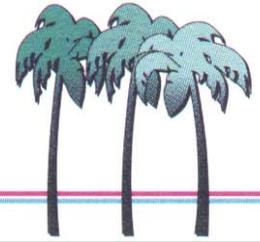


City of Chowchilla City Spotlight



October 2011 Volume 3, Issue 10

Monthly Calendar

Oct 5 - Soroptimist's Salad Bar Luncheon, O'Laughlin Hall, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Oct 7 - City Offices Closed

Oct 11 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Oct 14 - Furlough Day, City Offices Closed

Oct 17 - Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, Civic Center, 4 p.m.

Oct 18 - Drive-Thru Free Flu Shot Clinic (*see info on back*)

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

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

Oct 21 - City Offices Closed

Oct 22 - Friends of the Library Taco Salad Dinner, call 665-2630 for info.

Oct 25 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Oct 27 - Lioness Lions Club Halloween Spooktacular Event (*see back for info*)

Oct 28 - Furlough Day, City Offices Closed

Oct 29 - Fairgrounds Halloween "Trunk or Treat" Event (*see back for info*)

Every Saturday - Chowchilla Marketplace, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 5-10 p.m.

Mark your calendars now:

Nov 1 - Veterans Commemoration Ceremony, 11 a.m., Veterans Memorial Park

Meeting agendas, minutes and details on events are available on the City's website at

www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Go To: FirePreventionWeek.org
Protect Your Family From Fire
October 9-15, 2011 • It's Fire Prevention Week

What's the best way to protect your family from fire? Be ahead of the game, of course. With more than 360,000 home fires reported in the U.S. in 2009, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), your best defense is a good offense.

That's why the Chowchilla Volunteer Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA during the week of Oct. 9-15 to let our community know: "**It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!**" This year's campaign focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires -- cooking, heating and electrical equipment, as well as candles & smoking materials.

"In 2009, 2,565 people died in home fires. Nearly all of these deaths could have been prevented by taking a few simple precautions," says Harry Turner, Fire Chief of the Chowchilla Fire Department. "By anticipating the hazards, you are much less likely to be one of the nearly 13,000 people injured in home fires each year."

The Chowchilla Fire Department offers the following tips for protecting your home and family from fire:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Replace or repair damaged/loose electrical cords.
- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedrooms where people fall asleep.

"Chowchilla's residents can take protection to keep their homes and families safe. This can be achieved by developing an escape plan which you practice regularly and equip-

ping homes with smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers, stated Turner."

Follow these safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms in the home so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms at least monthly and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond when tested.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to respond if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Gather everyone in your house and make a plan. Walk through your home and check all possible ways out. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.

For more information, call the Fire Dept. at 559-665-8626.

New Council Meeting Night



At the September 12, 2011 regular City Council Meeting, Council members voted 4-1 to change their regular meeting date. The City Council will now hold their regular meetings on the second and fourth **Tuesday** every month at 7:00 p.m. Previous meetings were held

on the second and fourth Monday every month at the same time. See the Monthly Calendar to the left for October meeting dates.

For further information, visit our City website or City Facebook page, or call the City Clerk's office at (559) 665-8615, extension 705.

NEWS FROM FINANCE

Great News! The City is now offering an option for automatic payment withdrawals from bank accounts for your utility payments. You can pick up a form from the Finance window to sign up.

An ONLINE payment option is coming soon! Check our website or Facebook page for the announcement.



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Chowchilla City Council

David Alexander, *Mayor*
Isaac Jackson, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Dennis Haworth, *Council Member*
Janan Hebert, *Council Member*
Jim Kopshever, *Council Member*

Mark Lewis, *City Administrator*
Wayne Padilla, *Asst. City Administrator*

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth **Tuesday** 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 Civic Center and the Police Department.



Ask the City: Free Flu Shots

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

Last year, there were flu shot clinics in Chowchilla and Madera. Can we get free shots again this year?

T.R., Chowchilla

Yes, there are Madera County Public Health Clinics scheduled throughout the county during October. These **FREE** flu shot clinics are for

county residents ages 12 and older. Here are some dates and locations:

- Tuesday, Oct. 4th @ Madera Fairgrounds, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 13th @ Liberty High School in Madera Ranchos, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

➤ **Tuesday, Oct. 18th @ Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.**

➤ Thursday, Oct. 20th @ Madera Fairgrounds, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

For more county locations or further information, call MCPHD at (559) 675-7893 or (800) 427-6897.

CAF Youth Basketball



The CAF Youth Basketball League is a co-ed league for kids second through ninth grades with divisions for second & third graders, fourth, fifth, & sixth graders, and seventh, eighth, & ninth graders. All fourth through ninth graders must go to ONE of the evaluation days. If a player is not evaluated, they will be placed on a waiting list.

You may register your child at Chowchilla Youth Soccer games or during evaluation dates. To register during soccer games, look for CAFYB's table set up from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. between the softball fields at Sports & Leisure Park, located at 625 N. 15th Street on the following game days: Saturday, October 1st & Saturday, October 8th.

Evaluations will be held at the Community Sports Center/Wilson Gym, located at 1201 W. Robertson Blvd. on Thursday, October 13 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and on Tuesday, October 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more info, contact Jason at 209-658-7534 or via e-mail at cafyouthbasketball@yahoo.com

Be Smart - Protect Your Valuables

The Chowchilla Police Department is asking for the public's assistance again. There has been a rise in thefts from motor vehicles lately. In most cases the burglars are targeting vehicles that have valuables laying in plain view. Below are tips that should deter burglars and keep you and your valuables safe.

➤ Do not leave tempting valuables in plain view (GPS device, lap top,

- PDA, cell phone, MP3, wallet, purse)
- Do not leave windows or sunroof open, not even a little bit
- Never leave doors unlocked
- Never leave keys in your vehicle
- Do not leave a garage door opener in plain view
- Do not leave out items with your personal info
- Do not move valuable items to the trunk while in public view

➤ Slow down and use common sense before you leave your car

Sergeant Dave Riviere of Chowchilla P.D. says "The MOST important thing YOU can do is CALL THE POLICE to report a CRIME or any SUSPICIOUS activity. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember, you can always remain a pair of anonymous eyes." (See left for the anonymous tip line.)



Halloween Happenings

On Thursday, October 27, the Chowchilla Lioness Lions Club, in conjunction with the Lions, Rotary, & Soroptimist Clubs, will bring back a favorite event of the past - the **Halloween Spooktacular**. There will be a costume contest, carnival games, and prizes

at the Sports Center/Wilson Gym. This free event is for kids of all ages. Details TBA - check out our website or Facebook page for updates.

The Chowchilla Fairgrounds will be hosting a **Trunk or Treat** on Saturday, October 29. Beginning at 5:00pm, rain or shine,

kids ages 2-18 will trick or treat from trunk to trunk. Each trunk will be decorated in Halloween fun. The event is free and will be followed with Movie in the Park at 7:00pm. If you'd like to decorate a trunk & pass out candy, or for more info, call them at 665-3728.