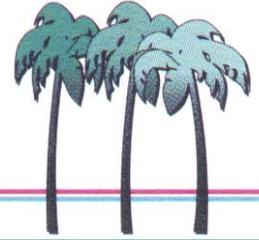




City of Chowchilla

# City Spotlight



November 2011 Volume 3, Issue 11

## Monthly Calendar

**Nov 4** - City Offices Closed

**Nov 5** - Senior Holiday Craft Fair, Senior Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Nov 5** - Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, Fairgrounds Little Theater, 7-11 a.m.

**Nov 5** - Rotary Club Annual Dinner & Drawing

**Nov 6** - Daylight Saving Time "Fall Back" (see info on back)

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

**Nov 10** - Furlough Day, City Offices Closed

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

**Nov 11** - City Offices Closed for Veterans Day Holiday

**Nov 12** - Lioness Lions Club Harvest Festival, Eastman Hall, 6 p.m.

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

**Nov 18** - City Offices Closed

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

**Nov 23** - Furlough Day, City Offices Closed

**Nov 24 & 25** - City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

### Mark your calendars now:

**Dec 3** - Lions Club Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, 5:30 p.m., Location TBA

Meeting agendas, minutes and details on events are available on the City's website at [www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us](http://www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us)

## Don't Stand in Line - Pay Online City of Chowchilla Now Offers Online Bill Payment

As a way to offer you more choices in how you pay your utility bills, the City of Chowchilla now lets you **pay your utility bills online**. We have partnered with Xpress Bill Pay, the premier provider for online bill payment systems.

All you need is an Internet connection through a Web browser and an e-mail address. Once you sign up for your free account and start using this service, you'll wonder how you ever got along without it!

It's simple to use. Every month we'll send you a reminder e-mail to let you

know when your bill is online. Then you just log in to your account at [XpressBillPay.com](http://XpressBillPay.com) and view your bill. It's formatted like your paper statement so it will look familiar to you. You can also see up to a full year's history of your account online, so you can compare your current bill to a year ago.

When you're ready to pay your bill, select a payment type. You can pay with credit card, debit card, or electronic funds transfer. Then enter the information and you're done! It's that easy, and it only takes you a few minutes each month. All this from the convenience of your own home.

We offered this service at the request of our customers — you asked and we delivered! To sign up, just go to [www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us](http://www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us) and click on the 'Pay Your Utility Bill' button and then follow the instructions from there. We even have a Questions & Answers page to answer any questions you may have about the service.

And remember, it's free to sign up and free to use. Sign up today and skip the long lines. You've got better things to do with your time.



## November Closures

Due to November holidays and mandatory furlough days, there will be additional office closure dates for this month.

City offices will be closed Friday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

Because Friday is also a scheduled furlough day, the furlough day will move to Thursday, November 10.

During Thanksgiving week, City offices are closed Thursday, November 24 and Friday

November 25 in observance of the holiday. That mandatory scheduled furlough will move to Wednesday, Nov 23.

As always, City public safety offices will remain open for emergency situations.



## Honoring Chowchilla's Veterans

Chowchilla's Annual Veterans Ceremony, honoring all veterans

who have served the United States as a member of the Armed Forces, will be held on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. in Veterans Memorial Park. That's 11/11/11 at 11 a.m. marking a very special year.

The **Veterans Commemoration Ceremony** is co-sponsored by the City of Chowchilla, Chowchilla American Legion Post #148 and VFW Post #9896 with the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. Refreshments are provided by Soroptimist International of Chowchilla.

The entire community is encouraged to attend this event to gain a stronger

appreciation for the men and women who strive to protect us and to honor our local retired veterans who have unselfishly served our country.

For further information on this ceremony, call the City's Public Information Office at (559) 665-8615, extension 110. The City thanks all of our veterans!



## City of Chowchilla

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Email: [generalinfo@ci.chowchilla.ca.us](mailto:generalinfo@ci.chowchilla.ca.us)

### Website:

[www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us](http://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*

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: Graffiti is a problem

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

### What can I do about graffiti in my neighborhood? *I.S., Chowchilla*

Graffiti is a problem all cities are facing and Chowchilla is certainly not alone. These vandals are striking often and count on not being noticed until after their crime is done.

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.

The number one thing we can all do as a community is to keep our eyes open for any suspicious activity. 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 or if you wish to remain anonymous, you may call the Tip Line at 665-8624.

## Daylight Saving Time

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, America will be back to standard time after changing the Daylight Saving Time (*and not Daylight Savings Time with an "s"*).



On November 6, clocks in America will be adjusted and turned back one hour, marking the end of Daylight Saving Time 2011. The adjustment of clocks

according to Daylight Saving Time is not just a random crazy law; it is a deliberate attempt to save energy by taking maximum advantage of the sunlight during a period of eight months, which is from March through October.

The practice of adjusting clocks according to Daylight Saving Time began back during World War I as an effort to save and utilize energy for the War time period. The

Energy Policy Act set the official time and dates for Daylight Saving Time in 2005.

Each year at 2:00 a.m., the clocks are set forward ("spring forward") one hour on the second Sunday of March that is known as Daylight Saving Time. On the first Sunday of November at 2:00 a.m., clocks are then adjusted to standard time one hour back ("fall back"). Enjoy your extra hour of sleep!

## Light in, Money Out

According to PG&E, did you know the amount of energy that escapes through American windows every winter is equivalent to all the oil that flows through the Alaska pipeline each year?

Your windows do more than let light in, they let heat out. It's fair to say a lot of energy goes "pane"-fully right out the window. Below are some simple ways to save energy.

### Install storm windows.

➤ If you feel thrifty and don't mind plastic on your windows, you can make effective storm windows by tacking clear polyethylene plastic over the outside of your windows.

➤ Glass storm windows are more expensive but they will save some energy and increase your comfort.



wooden, vinyl, or fiberglass frames. If you must have aluminum frames, make sure they have "thermal breaks" (rubber gaskets between inner and outer pieces).

### Install new windows.

➤ Specially-made double-paned windows are now available either with an insulating air-space between the two panes or filled with a gas, such as argon.

➤ "Low E" windows are more costly, but even greater efficiency can be achieved with them.

➤ Frames are important. Standard aluminum frames leak twice as much heat around the edges of the glass as do the best

### Get reflective.

➤ Newly developed window coatings (thin films that are sprayed or baked on the windows during the manufacturing process) reflect heat back into the house but let the sunlight through easily. These are the "Low E" or Spectrally Selective windows. They can cut energy costs by a significant amount.

Want to save energy and money? Take a good look at your home's windows.