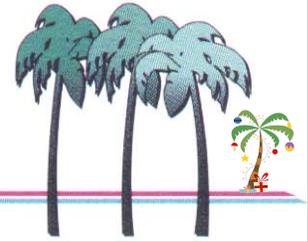


# City of Chowchilla City Spotlight

December 2011 Volume 3, Issue 12



## Monthly Calendar

**Dec 2** - City Offices Closed

**Dec 3** - Lions Club Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, new Rite Aid parking lot at Front St. & Robertson Blvd., 5:30 p.m.

**Dec 3** - Tenaya Guild's Annual Christmas Dinner, Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.

**Dec 9** - Furlough Day, City Offices Closed

**Dec 13** - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

**Dec 13** - Madera Co. EDC Economic Summit, 11:30 a.m., Madera Municipal Golf Course

**Dec 16** - City Offices Closed

**Dec 21** - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

**Dec 22** - Furlough Day, City Offices Closed

**Dec 23 & 26** - City Offices Closed for the Christmas Holiday

**Dec 30** - City Offices Closed

Check out upcoming Chowchilla Fairgrounds events at: [www.chowchillafair.org](http://www.chowchillafair.org)

### Mark your calendars now:

**Jan 14** - Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Dinner & Installation, 6 p.m., Little Theater - Call the Chamber at 665-5603 for info.

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)



## Christmas Tree Lighting Chowchilla Lions Club 44th Annual Event

On the early evening of Saturday, December 3rd, 2011,

the community of Chowchilla will gather to herald in the Christmas holiday at the 44th Annual Chowchilla Lions Club **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**. This annual Lions tradition continues to the delight of many children.

The program begins at 5:30 p.m. at the corner of Robertson Boulevard and Front Street in the parking lot of the new Rite Aid location.

Everyone is invited to attend as we enjoy the tradition of lighting the Christmas tree by Robertson Boulevard to be seen by everyone as they drive into town. The Chowchilla Lioness Lions Club will offer refreshments and

delicious seasonal hot drinks to ease the chilly night air.

The night's ceremony will include entertainment, the arrival of the "jolly man" himself, Santa Claus, and the lighting of the official City Christmas Tree. Come out and have a festive time!



## Leaves, Trash & Trees

### LEAF CLEANUP:

Autumn leaves may be falling but they should NOT be raked into piles and left in the street. All leaves should be placed in your GREEN waste container and put out for pick up service on your regularly scheduled garbage day.

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

There is no regularly scheduled garbage service on Christmas Eve Day (Saturday) nor for Christmas and New Year's Days which both fall on a Sunday. Your regular schedule will remain in effect for the holidays.

### TREE ROUNDUP:

The annual Christmas Tree Roundup will take place from January 2-6, 2012. 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.

## Seasonal Information

### Christmas Basket Program, Warming Center

Applications for the annual Chowchilla **Christmas Basket Program** will be accepted on Saturday, December 3rd from 9-11 a.m. at Life Change Church. You must provide a photo ID or driver's license and one public assistance document or utility bill showing current address. Applicants must qualify for the assistance program.

For those wishing to donate to the Community Christmas Basket Program: coats, toys, and cash donations are being accepted. Coats, gloves and

scarves must be dropped off by December 8th to one of the following locations: DeWitt's Drug Store, Chamber of Commerce office, or the Civic Center. New toys, through the Toys for Tots program, are being accepted at DeWitt's, Steves Chevrolet, or at CUHS. Cash donations are being accepted at Tri-Counties Bank or at Grace Community Church.

The City of Chowchilla will take proactive measures to set up a "**Warming Center**" as needed for those residents

not able to find a warm location when extreme temperatures occur this winter. The Chowchilla Senior Center, located at 820 W. Robertson Boulevard, is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for those in need of warming and will be opened on an "as need" basis after 1:00 p.m. to accommodate those in need. For information during regular business hours, call the City at (559) 665-8615, extension 110. After regular business hours, please contact the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 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](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: Watering Rules still in effect

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

### Are the City's watering regulations still in effect? *J.M., Chowchilla*

Yes. Although the winter season is approaching and the state's emergency restrictions have been lifted, there is always a

need to conserve water. In order to maintain our important water resources, watering regulations remain in effect **YEAR-ROUND**. As a reminder, here is the City's watering schedule:

◆ Customers with addresses ending with an odd number may

water on Mon., Wed. and Friday

- ◆ Customers with addresses ending with an even number may water on Tues., Thurs., and Saturday
- ◆ Watering is prohibited between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day
- ◆ Sunday is a **NO WATERING DAY**

## By the Fireside



**Check Before You Burn** is the San Joaquin Valley Air Control District's annual residential fireplace-use regulation program which runs from Nov. - Feb. each winter. CBYB determines when residential wood burning will add dangerous levels of particulate matter – tiny pieces of soot, ash, dust and other materials – to the Valley's air, and prohibits the use of residential wood-burning devices.

High levels of particulate pollution can have serious health effects, including bronchitis, lung disease and increased risk of heart attacks and stroke. Young

children, elderly people and people with existing respiratory & coronary disease are especially vulnerable.

There are two forecast levels: "Wood burning Prohibited" and "Please Burn Cleanly." When a prohibition is declared, burning any solid fuel in a residential fireplace or wood-burning device is not permitted and violations may result in fines. Backyard chimneys and fire pits are also subject to the prohibitions. There are two exemptions - If the residence does not have access to natural-gas service, even if propane is available, or if

burning solid fuel is the sole source of heat for the residence.

Daily wood-burning forecasts will be available by county each day at 4:30 p.m., at [www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/WoodBurnpage.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/WoodBurnpage.htm), or by calling 800-766-4463.

Incentive discounts to upgrade your open fireplace or wood stove to a cleaner burning unit are now available through their "Burn Cleaner" program. For info, go to [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) and click on the Grants & Incentives tab for an application or for a list of participating retailers.

## Keep Your Christmas Safe



### New, High Value Gifts Offer Rich Pickings for Burglars

Forget Santa Claus shimmying down your chimney; it is burglars you may have to contend with this coming festive season if you're not careful.

Christmas traditionally sees a spike in incidents of domestic burglaries, as organized and opportunistic thieves target homeowners who have stocked up on presents, or who leave their homes unattended while off visiting relatives.

However, there are some sensible precautions that can be taken to reduce the

likelihood you'll be a victim of crime. The Chowchilla Police Department offers the following practical tips:

- \* Don't keep presents in view and always close your curtains after dark. Don't keep receipts with your presents either, as this could enable a thief to return what you've bought in exchange for cold hard cash.
- \* Don't put wrapping and discarded boxes out for trash collection too early, and consider concealing it among other types of trash. Obvious packaging

left outside your property could alert a burglar to the presence of high value items - just the kinds of things they will target.

- \* Check that your doors and windows are locked when they aren't in use.
- \* Secure outside decorations and Christmas lights.
- \* If you are spending a small fortune on gifts at Christmas, remember to inform your home insurer that you will have brand new, expensive items under your roof.