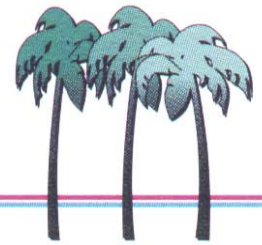


City of Chowchilla City Spotlight



December 2012 Volume 4, Issue 12

Monthly Calendar

Dec 1 - Lions Club Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Rite Aid parking lot, 5:30 p.m. (see article on right)

Dec 1 - Christmas Basket Program sign-ups, Life Change Church, 9-11 a.m.

Dec 1 & 2 - Cornerstone Church Traveling Nativity, Cornerstone Church, 6-8 p.m.

Dec 7 - City Offices Closed

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

Dec 14 - City Offices Closed

Dec 15 - Senior Club Christmas Craft Bazaar, Senior Center, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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

Dec 21 - City Offices Closed

Dec 24 & 25 - City Offices Closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas holidays.

Dec 28 - City Offices Closed

Dec 28 - Western Stampede Winter Gymkhana, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.

Merry Christmas

Coming Up:

Jan 19 - Chamber of Commerce's Community Awards Ceremony & Installation Dinner, Little Theater, 6:00 p.m.

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



Christmas Tree Lighting 45th Year for Chowchilla Lions Club

Club Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. This yearly holiday tradition, co-sponsored by the Lions Club and the City of Chowchilla, is a favorite event for the entire community of Chowchilla.

Saturday, December 1st, 2012 will mark the 45th year for the Annual Chowchilla Lions

The program begins at 5:30 p.m., rain or shine, at the corner of Robertson Boulevard and Front Street in the parking lot of Rite Aid.

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 Chow-

chilla Lioness Lions Club will offer refreshments and delicious seasonal hot drinks at a minimal cost. The night's ceremony will include special entertainment and guests, the arrival of the "jolly man" himself, Santa Claus, and the lighting of the official City Christmas Tree. Santa will stay and visit all the children waiting eagerly to see him.

Seasonal Information Christmas Basket Program, Warming Center

Applications for the annual Chowchilla **Christmas Basket Program** will be taken on Saturday, December 1, 2012 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 and cash donations are now

being accepted. Clean coats, gloves or scarves must be dropped off by December 6th to one of the following locations: Chamber of Commerce office, Paw Spa, SA Jones Land Co., or the Civic Center. 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, ext. 110. After business hours, contact the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600.

Holiday Brief from Public Works

GARBAGE PICKUP: Garbage collection for Christmas Eve Day, Monday, 12/24 will remain the same. All service from Christmas Day, 12/25 - Friday, 12/28 will be delayed by one day. Collection on New Years Day (& following days) will be delayed 1 day.

TREE ROUNDUP: The annual Christmas Tree Roundup will take place from January 7-11, 2013. Trees will be picked up free from your curbside. Please make sure all trees are free of decorations and any tree over six feet tall must be cut in half.

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.





City of Chowchilla

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Chowchilla City Council

Janan Hebert, *Mayor*
Jim Kopshever, *Mayor Pro Tem*
David Alexander, *Council Member*
Dennis Haworth, *Council Member*
Isaac Jackson, *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. 102
City Administrator	ext. 100
Asst. City Administrator	ext. 101
CDBG	ext. 101
City Clerk	ext. 102
Human Resources	ext. 102
Public Information	ext. 110
Planning	ext. 400
Building	ext. 410
Inspections	ext. 407
Code Enforcement	ext. 407
Fire	ext. 600
Utilities	ext. 783
Finance	ext. 784
Recreation	ext. 110
Public Works	ext. 789
Airport Contact	ext. 322

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 accepted for in-person payments at the Civic Center and the Police Department.



Ask the City: Council Agendas

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

How can I address City Council regarding an item not on the Council agenda?

B.C., Chowchilla

There is a brief time frame at the beginning of each regular City Council meeting where

the public is invited to address Council regarding any items not on the agenda. Speakers are limited to 3-5 minutes each and Council is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the agenda. No adverse conclusions should be drawn

if Council does not respond to public comment at that time.

To get an item on an upcoming agenda, the City Clerk's office must be contacted within twenty days of the meeting date. For more information, call the City Clerk's office at 665-8615, ext. 102.

By the Fireside CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN

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, 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 the Air District's "Burn Cleaner" program. For information, go to www.valleyair.org and click on the Grants & Incentives tab for an application or for a list of participating retailers.



Get on the CAT

Chowchilla Area Transit, or **CAT**, has expanded their services along with newly expanded hours.

CAT LINX is the brand new fixed-route transit service to Merced. Trips are available 3 times daily Monday through Friday, excluding major holidays. The cost is

just \$2.50 per one-way trip. A schedule can be found on our website at www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/catx.htm

CATX, the local Dial-A-Ride service now offers two full-time buses on the road with new service times. Operating hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday. CATX also has a full-time dispatcher on duty. All this, and the cost remains the same.

CAT services are provided by the City of Chowchilla through a contract with Merced Transportation. For more information, give CAT a call today at (559) 665-8655.

YOU are Needed

You have until December 18 to get your application in for open seats on the Planning Commission, the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and

the Airport Advisory Committee. Appointments for these vacant seats are expected to be made at the January 8, 2013 City Council meeting. Get involved in your community!

Applications can be found at www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us under Commissions and Committees. For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at (559) 665-8615, extension 102.