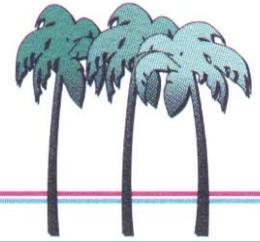


City of Chowchilla City Spotlight

February 2013 Volume 5, Issue 2



Monthly Calendar

Feb 1 - City Offices Closed

Feb 2 - CAF Girls Softball/
Tee-Ball Last Day Registration,
Wilson Gym, 9 am -1 pm

Feb 8 - City Offices Closed

Feb 9 - Chowchilla Lions
Pancake Breakfast, Little
Theater, 7-11 a.m.

Feb 10 - Sober Grad Rigatoni
Lunch, Life Change Church,
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Feb 12 - City Council
Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Feb 15 - City Offices Closed

Feb 18 - City Offices Closed
for Presidents' Day Holiday

Feb 20 - Planning Commission
Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Feb 22 - City Offices Closed

Feb 22 - CUHS Community
Blood Drive, CUHS Gym,
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Feb 26 - City Council
Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Feb 28 - RDA Successor
Agency Oversight Board
Meeting, Civic Center, 9 a.m.

Coming in March:

Mar 16 - Spring Animal Rabies
and Licensing Clinic

Mar 30 - Annual Easter Egg
Hunt Event

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



Winter Fire Safety

News from the Chowchilla Volunteer Fire Department

The Chowchilla Fire Department is made up entirely of volunteers with the exception of the Fire Chief. The city is fortunate to have dedicated volunteer firefighters that commit the time required for training and who respond in times of need.

In addition to the training and responses to calls for service, our volunteer firefighters also participate in fire prevention programs throughout the year. This is the time of year when they concentrate on winter fire safety. This includes education for our citizens on carbon monoxide poisoning, fireplace use and chimney cleaning, and the use of portable heaters.

Does the place you call home contain a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace or an attached garage? The law now requires you must have a carbon monoxide (CO) detector as of January 1, 2013, whether you live in an apartment, hotel or house. Homeowners have been required to install carbon

monoxide detectors within the home since The Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act, effective as of 2011. Now, owners of multi-family leased or rental dwellings, such as apartment buildings and hotels, must comply with the law as of January 1, 2013.

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion and is a poisonous gas that has no odor. There are CO detector brands and types that are very easily installed. Unlike smoke detectors, CO detectors do not need to be mounted on or near the ceiling. They can be plugged right into a regular wall outlet.

The use of fireplaces for heating is increased during the colder winter months. What is sometimes neglected is the normal maintenance and cleaning that should be done on a regular basis prior to using your fireplace each year. Before use each year, the chimney should be checked for cracks and creosote build up. If either exists,

they should be addressed by a qualified person before using the fireplace. An additional concern that needs to be monitored is air quality. The San Joaquin Valley Air District monitors the air quality in several counties, including ours, and issues alerts based on their monitoring results. There are frequent no-burn days in the winter due to poor air quality. When alerts are issued, other forms of heating should be used such as central heating units or wall heaters. Never use fuel fired portable heaters inside a residence without proper ventilation and installation; these can create a high fire hazard as well as produce unvented CO in the air space.

Please use caution when using portable electric heaters ensuring there is adequate clearance between the heater and any flammable materials such as clothing, blankets, curtains, etc.

The department is always looking for qualified volunteers. For information, call 665-8625.

Weed Abatement

Dry Grass and Trash Pose a Significant Fire Hazard

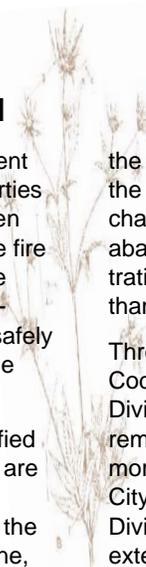
The City of Chowchilla's **Weed Abatement Program** (CMC Section 8.12) is enforced by the City's Code and Zone Enforcement Division of the Community & Economic Development Department. Every year, property owners are notified of dry grass, weeds, trash and other debris that blight neighborhoods and pose a significant fire hazard threat during the annual fire hazard season from March through September.

The goal of the Department is to strive to keep properties cleared of debris and open grounds tilled to minimize fire fuel. The City's pro-active approach continues year-round so properties are safely maintained throughout the entire year.

Property owners are notified by mail if their properties are in violation. If no visible attempt is made to clean the property in a given timeline,

the property will be abated by the City and the owner will be charged for the cost of the abatement plus an administrative fee that can total more than \$300.

Through the efforts of the Code and Zone Enforcement Division, Chowchilla can remain clean and safe. For more information, contact the City's Code Enforcement Division at (559) 665-8615, extension 407.





City of Chowchilla

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Email: generalinfo@ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Website:

www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Chowchilla City Council

Dennis Haworth, *Mayor*
Isaac Jackson, *Mayor Pro Tem*
John Chavez, *Council Member*
Janan Hebert, *Council Member*
Richard Walker, *Council Member*

Mark Lewis, *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
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: Yard Sales

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

How many yard sales can I have in one year and is there a cost?

C.W., Chowchilla

There is no fee required for the first three yard sales in a

calendar year. For more than three sales in a year, a fee of \$15 is charged for each additional sale.

To hold a yard sale in Chowchilla, you first need to obtain a Yard Sale Permit from the City's Finance/Utilities Department. You may also

download the application from the City website at: www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/city_forms.htm

Applications for permits are requested at least 72 hours prior to the sale date. For more details, call us at (559) 665-8615, extension 783.

Silver Alert Help for Missing Seniors



SB 1047, the "Silver Alert" notification system, was signed into law in September and became effective January 1 of this year.

This notification system mirrors the already existing Amber Alert which is an alert system that is activated for missing children. Now law enforcement agencies will be able to request advisories for missing seniors.

Upon activation of a Silver Alert, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) shall assist the investigating law enforcement agency by issuing a be-on-the-lookout alert, an Emergency Digital Information Service message, or an electronic flier.

As with Amber Alert, the Silver Alert system will be coordinated by the CHP.

A law enforcement agency may request a Silver Alert be activated if that agency determines that all of the following conditions are met in regard to the investigation of the missing person:

- (1) The missing person is 65 years of age or older.
- (2) The investigating law enforcement agency has utilized all available local resources.
- (3) The law enforcement agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.

(4) The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.

(5) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

For more information on the Silver Alert or Amber Alert notification systems, visit the California Highway Patrol website at: www.chp.ca.gov

CRO Vehicle Gets a Facelift

While the City of Chowchilla budget remains tight, the Chowchilla Police Department continues to stretch the dollars in their daily operations budget. One area where savings can have big returns is in extending the usable life of police vehicles.

With the help of the City's fleet mechanic, the mechanical lives of the City's police patrol vehicles have been extended. Still, there will be patrol vehicles that need replacement in the near future.

While assessing the vehicle assigned to Chowchilla High School Campus Resource Officer (CRO) Manuel Ramirez, the patrol car was found to be running well, just not looking well. The vehicle had numerous areas of paint that was peeling off and the police marking scheme had been damaged.

City staff determined the best solution was an exterior facelift to extend its useful life. The 2005 Ford

now matches the other vehicles in the police patrol fleet and sports a little extra local identification to identify where CUHS CRO Ramirez is currently assigned.

