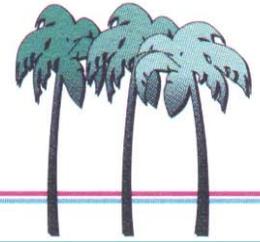


City of Chowchilla City Spotlight



March 2013 Volume 5, Issue 3

Monthly Calendar

Mar 1 - City Offices Closed

Mar 2 - Rotary Crab Feed

Mar 8 - City Offices Closed

Mar 9 - Little League Opening Day, RC Wisener Park

Mar 9 - Redskin Band Boosters Spaghetti Dinner

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

Mar 15 - City Offices Closed

Mar 16 - City Council Goal Setting, Civic Center, 9 a.m.

Mar 16 - Spring Animal Rabies and Licensing Clinic

Mar 16 - Girls Softball Opening Day, S&L Park

Mar 16 - Lions Club Spring Roundup Dinner

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

Mar 22 - City Offices Closed

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

Mar 29 - City Offices Closed

Mar 30 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt Event, S&L Park, 10 a.m.

Coming in April:

Apr 3-7 - Chowchilla Western Stampede, Fairgrounds

Apr 13 - Annual K-9 Dinner

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



City Water System Improvements New Wells and Water Tank Coming to Chowchilla

The City water system is probably the most important infrastructure investment that the City operates as it is critical for drinking, cooking, bathing and fire suppression. Chowchilla's water comes from eight deep wells located throughout the community. Work is underway to drill two more wells and build a 1.2 million gallon water storage tank. These items will provide more water during the summer months and also meet State required fire flow minimums.

Construction will start this spring on a new 800 feet deep well on the west side of the City near Santa Cruz and Rose that when completed should deliver over 1,000 gallons of water per minute. Zim Industries of Fresno is the contractor to build the well. Project improvements will also include a backup generator, a block wall and extensive landscaping. The pump motor and generator will be housed in buildings to keep them protected and quiet.

A second new well is planned for the east side of the community near Ronald Reagan School. The improvements will

also include a back-up generator, a block wall and landscaping around the site. Construction is planned to start in 2014. This site will also house a 1.2 million gallon storage tank that will fill during the night when the demand for water is low and will drain during the day when the demand is high. The tank will also provide extra water to control any large fires.

Municipal wells and tanks are very expensive. The new west side well will cost over one-million dollars. The new east side well and tank cost over 2.5 million dollars. The money for these improvements is coming from impact fees paid by developers and some revenues collected from the rate payers.

You might wonder why the City would want to spend so much on adding new wells. Quite simply, the existing wells don't supply an adequate volume of water to satisfy the fire-flow requirements and during the summer months there is often not an adequate volume of water to service the community when one or more of the wells are out of service for repairs. Four of the City's existing eight

wells are over fifty years old and are in poor condition. The water quality is good but the wells don't produce as much water as the new wells and they also don't keep sand out of the system as efficiently as the new wells. In the future, the City's master plan calls to install several more new wells so that the older wells can be abandoned, and the addition of a second large water tank for the industrial area near Avenue 24-1/2 and Chowchilla Boulevard.

COLORING CONTEST

Soroptimist International of Chowchilla is sponsoring their annual Easter Coloring/Decorating Contest for the March 30 Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kids 12 years & younger can enter to win great prizes.

Visit the City website at www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us to download a copy of the Contest Entry Form and rules or pick one up at the Chowchilla Civic Center.

The drop-off deadline is 4 pm Wednesday, March 20.

Traffic Collisions on the Increase

Police Department Encourages Driver Awareness to Improve Safety

The Chowchilla Police Department has seen a sharp increase in traffic collisions particularly those involving vehicles and pedestrians. It goes without saying that a vehicle versus a pedestrian is a very dangerous collision causing severe injury and sometimes death.

We all need to do our part to ensure safe roads. As a community we need to slow down, stay focused on the road and keep things away from the driver that interfere with their ability to drive such as cell phones, food, and dogs in laps.

We also need to stay alert. Pedestrians are difficult to

see at night and it is important to keep scanning and looking ahead for objects that may cause a collision. The Chowchilla Police Department will increase their enforcement on vehicle code violations to help decrease future collisions in order to help driver awareness.



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
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.



Utilities Bill Due Date Changed

Payments Now Due the Last Day of the Month

You will see on your monthly utilities bill that the payment due date is no longer the 19th, instead it is now the last day of the month.

The City of Chowchilla Finance Department has changed the due date for the monthly utility bill to provide more time to those who have challenges making the payments by the old date.

Due to the current economy, the City of Chowchilla recognizes customers may need additional time to pay their utility bills. The new due date not only allows customers extra time to make their payment, it eliminates the late penalties and interest charges, if payment is made by the due date. This may also relieve customers of the disconnect and reconnect charges incurred due to actual shut

off. These additional fees are \$28 for disconnect and \$28 for reconnection due to actual service shut-off.

To avoid shut-off notices, customers are urged to pay their utilities bill as soon as it is received.

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Chowchilla Finance Department at 665-8615, ext. 783.



CAT LINX Transit Service to Merced

Did you know that the City of Chowchilla has a daily fixed-route transit service link to Merced through the Chowchilla Area Transit (CAT) LINX program? The City has contracted with Merced

Transportation to conduct the pilot program between Chowchilla and the Merced Transportation Center where riders can link to many other transit options.

Trips from Chowchilla are scheduled to arrive at the Merced Transportation Center at 7:25 am, 12:55 pm, and 5:05 pm. Daily

service is offered Monday - Friday, except holidays.

The cost for a one-way trip is \$2.50 per rider and daily passes are available for purchase at the Chowchilla Civic Center.

For further information on CAT LINX or CATX, call (559) 665-8655.

Be Careful What You Flush

Be careful what you flush

It may not make a mess at your end of the system but wastewater officials are very concerned about the mess at the opposite end and they are asking residents to be aware of what you are flushing down the toilet. Using the toilet to dispose of things such as

cotton balls, cotton swabs and paper towels is **NOT** a good practice. These disappear with the water but often pile-up in the sewer system because they don't speedily decompose. The result is clogged pipes, backed-up sewers, public health hazards and rate-payer-funded fixes.

To keep is simple the community is asked to flush only the "usual things" and toilet paper, and throw everything else in the trash. That will keep rates down and the entire wastewater system dependable.

If you do your part then the viability of the wastewater system will remain good.



Rabies Vaccination Clinic

The Chowchilla Police Department and the Friends of the Madera Animal Shelter Chowchilla Chapter will host the annual **Spring Rabies Clinic** on Saturday, March 16 at the police station at 122 Trinity Avenue. Times are from 9 am - 10 am for senior citizens and persons with special needs, and from 10 am - 12 noon for all other residents.

Distemper/Parvo rabies and worming shots will be available for dogs. FVRCD, rabies and worming shots will be available for cats. ALL cats must be in carriers.

FMAS will offer low cost spaying/neuter certificates during the clinic at a cost of \$20 for dogs and \$15 for cats.

The next rabies vaccination clinic will be held in

September of this year.

For more information on the clinic, contact the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600.



FMAS reminds you to spay and neuter your pets.