

City of Chowchilla

City Spotlight

August 2013; Volume 5, Issue 8

CITY OFFICES BUSINESS HOURS

Monday—Thursday, 8AM - 4PM

CALENDAR

Aug 9 - City Offices Closed

Aug 10 - FREE Vehicle Emissions Testing Event, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 9AM-3PM

Aug 11 - FREE Concert, "Baloney Creek" Bluegrass Blues Band, Veterans Park, 7PM

Aug 20 - Parks & Recreation Commission "Special" Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM

Aug 21 - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM

Aug 22 - RDA Successor Agency Meeting, Civic Center, 9AM

Aug 23 - City Offices Closed

Aug 27 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM

Sept 2 - Labor Day Holiday - City Offices Closed

Sept 6 - City Offices Closed

Sept 10 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM

Sept 14 - "theNEW Block Party", Veterans Park, 12NOON-6PM

Sept 18 - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM

Sept 20 - City Offices Closed

Sept 21 - Chowchilla Chamber Classic Car Show, Veterans Park, 10AM-3PM

Sept 24 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM

Sept 26 - RDA Successor Agency Meeting, Civic Center, 9AM

Oct 4 - City Offices Closed

Meeting agendas, minutes and details on events are available on the City website at www.ci.Chowchilla.CA.US

Baloney Creek at Summer Park Concert

The Madera County Arts Council in cooperation with the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce and the City of Chowchilla presents a free outdoor concert in Veterans Memorial Park on Robertson Boulevard at 6th Street.

On Sunday, August 11, the band "Baloney Creek" will perform their own personal style of bluegrass with a twist of swing, a bit of blues and a collection of old time fiddle tunes. Pre-concert activities and concessions will begin at 4PM followed by the concert at 7PM.

Beginning at 4PM the Soroptimist International of Chowchilla will offer a "Taste of the American Picnic" with a variety of foods available for purchase. There will also be fun family games provided by the Greenhills Lions Club, the Chowchilla Library will have kids activity tables, and the Chowchilla 4-H will offer kids face-painting.

A schedule of the remaining MCAC concert season is available at the www.maderaarts.org web site and on the City web site at www.ci.Chowchilla.CA.US.

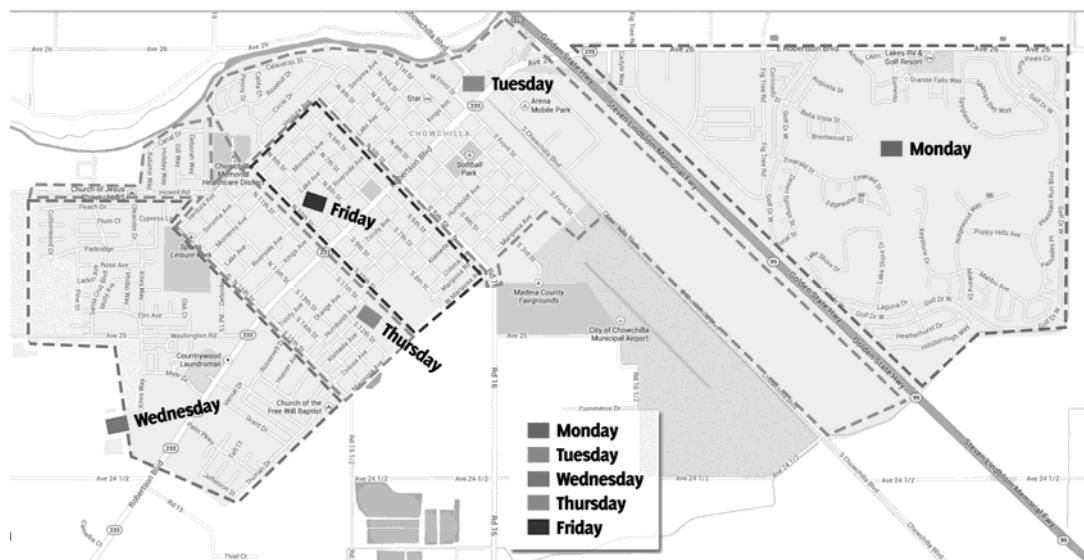
Valley Air District Offers FREE Smog Repairs!

Madera County drivers are invited to the FREE Tune-In Tune-Up event on August 10 at the Chowchilla Fairgrounds from 9AM to 3PM to have their vehicles tested for Emissions. If the tests reveal vehicles with high emissions, the owner will receive A \$500 VOUCHER FOR FREE REPAIRS. The offer is limited to the first 525 vehicles that qualify after the test. This event only provides emissions screenings and NO smog certificates will be issued after the testing.

For event information call 1-800-806-2004, or email Info@Valley-Can.org..

New Waste Hauler to Service Chowchilla

A new waste hauler will begin servicing the Chowchilla community beginning in August. Mid Valley Disposal recently purchased Madera Disposal and as part of the improvements there are some adjustments to the trash pick-up route schedules set to begin September 1. The map provides a general illustration of the new routes. You can view a better quality map on the City web site at www.ci.Chowchilla.CA.US. If you have questions call Mid Valley Disposal at (559) 665-3099.



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
Web: 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 7:00PM in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center. The agenda is posted on the City web site.

EMERGENCY - CALL 911

Call Us

Civic Center	(559) 665-8615
City Council	ext. 102
City Administrator	ext. 100
City Clerk	ext. 102
Airport Information	ext. 322
Building & Inspections	ext. 410
Code Enforcement	ext. 407
Community Relations	ext. 110
Finance	ext. 783
Fire	ext. 600
Human Resources	ext. 102
Planning	ext. 400
Police Dispatch	ext. 590/591
Public Works	ext. 789
Recreation	ext. 110
Utilities	ext. 783

Direct Numbers

CATX/CAT LINX:	665-8655
Police:	665-8600
Anonymous Tips:	665-8624
Fire:	665-8625
Senior Center:	665-1089

Newsletter Editor Contact

Send email to "Attn: Editor" at generalinfo@ci.Chowchilla.CA.US, or mail to 130 S. Second Street, Civic Center Plaza, Chowchilla, CA 93610, or call Community Relations at 665-8615, ext. 110.



Visa and MasterCard credit cards are accepted for in-person payments at the Chowchilla Civic Center and the Police Department.



"theNEW BLOCK PARTY" - September 14

"theNEW BLOCK PARTY" event will be on Saturday, September 14 from 12NOON to 6PM and will be held at its new location in the Veterans Memorial Park on Robertson Boulevard at 6th Street. Featuring lots of informative and fun things for kids and adults, "theNEW BLOCK PARTY" is a wonderful activity for the entire family. There are activity tables, arts & crafts vendors, information booths, food sales benefitting non-profit groups, bounce houses, entertainment, and much more.



If you would like to be a vendor you can pick up an application at the Chowchilla City Hall or download one at the City web site at www.ci.Chowchilla.CA.US.

OWNER-BUILDERS Beware! Know Your Responsibilities

WHAT IS AN OWNER-BUILDER?

An owner-builder is what the term indicates, the person owns the property and acts as the general contractor on the job, and either does the work or has employees (or licensed subcontractors) work on the project. Some homeowners believe they can save money by not hiring a licensed general contractor to oversee property improvements. Or, they try to save money by hiring unlicensed individuals and lying on the permit application by saying they, as homeowners, will do the work. Unfortunately, most homeowners don't know they can face very serious legal and financial problems if they choose to be an owner-builder and don't follow the law.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN OWNER-BUILDER

When you sign a building permit application as an owner-builder, you assume full responsibility for all phases of your project and its integrity. You may be considered an employer if you hire unlicensed contractors to do the work. This could make you responsible for:

- Registering with the state and federal government as an employer;
- Withholding state and federal income taxes, Social Security taxes, paying disability insurance, and making employment compensation contributions; and
- Providing workers' compensation insurance.

OWNER-BUILDERS ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Supervising the job, including scheduling workers and obtaining building permits and requesting inspections;
- Correcting the work and getting it re-inspected if any of the construction doesn't pass building inspections; and
- Making sure all workers and material suppliers are paid, or face the possibility of mechanic's liens against their home or property.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OWNER-BUILDERS

For home improvements:

- The work site must be your principal residence that you have occupied for 12 months prior to completion of the work;
- The work must be performed prior to the sale of the home; and
- You cannot take advantage of the contractor license exemption on more than two structures during any three-year period.

SHOULD I HIRE A CONSULTANT TO OVERSEE THE JOB?

Consultants who submit a bid to construct any structure or portion of a structure and/or supervise all of the construction and hiring of subcontractors are acting in the capacity of a contractor and must have a state contractor license. When a project is identified on permits as an owner-builder job, consultants do not take over the legal responsibility for the job; the homeowner still holds all responsibility. Be cautious: sometimes the consultant is either someone who has had his or her **Contractors State License Board** (CSLB) license suspended or revoked, is not qualified to get a license, or couldn't pass the criminal background check needed to get a license. CSLB urges you to only hire state-licensed contractors to perform work on your property.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CONTRACTOR IS LICENSED?

By law, anyone who contracts for or bids on a construction project valued at \$500 or more (total labor and materials) must be licensed by CSLB. To qualify for a license, a contractor must pass a criminal background check, verify four years of journey-level experience in the trade, pass both a trade and license law examination, and post a license bond. Contractors are required by law to put their CSLB license number in all advertisements. Unlicensed operators are required to say they are not licensed in their advertisements. Ask to see the contractor's plastic pocket license and a photo identification. **Verify the license and its status on the CSLB website: www.cslb.ca.gov or toll-free automated line: 800.321.CSLB (2752).**