

CITY Spotlight CHOWCHILLA



February 2015; Volume 7, Issue 2

**CITY OFFICES
BUSINESS HOURS**
Monday - Thursday, 8AM - 4PM
CLOSED FRIDAY

CALENDAR

- Feb 6** - City Offices Closed
- Feb 10** - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM
- Feb 16** - President's Day, City Offices Closed
- Feb 18** - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM
- Feb 20** - City Offices Closed
- Feb 20** - Under the Barn Winter Gymkhana Event, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 6:30PM
- Feb 21** - Annual Chowchilla Sportsmen's Dinner, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 6PM
- Feb 21** - Chowchilla Athletic Foundation Dinner, Portuguese Hall, 6PM
- Feb 24** - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM
- Mar 6** - City Offices Closed
- Mar 7** - Chowchilla Little League Opening Day, RC Wisener Park
- Mar 7** - Rotary Club Crab Feed, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 6:00PM
- Mar 8** - Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2AM
- Mar 10** - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7PM
- Mar 13** - Western Stampede Cattle Drive, Robertson Boulevard, 10AM
- Mar 13-15** - Western Stampede Roping Events, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 8AM
- Mar 14** - Chowchilla Girls Softball Opening Day, Edward Ray Park
- Mar 14** - CCWA Crab Feed, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 6:00PM

ON THE WEB AT
www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

John Chavez Selected to Serve as Mayor

During the annual reorganization of the City Council in December members appointed **John Chavez** to serve as **Mayor** and **Waseem Ahmed** to serve as **Mayor Pro Tem** for 2015.



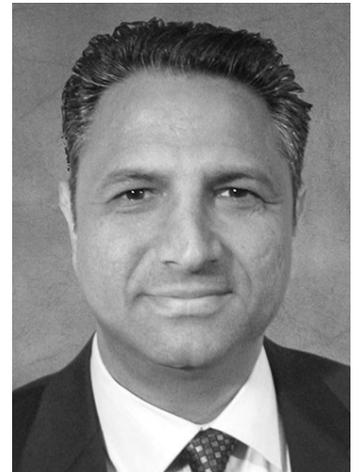
John Chavez, Mayor

John Chavez was elected to his second term on the City Council in 2012. He previously served from 2006-2010. His present Council term expires in December 2016.

Having worked many years at Cornaggia's Bakery, **John** now works at the SaveMart Bakery and Deli and is well known in the community for his talents as a quality baker. He has always shown a strong commitment to youth activities and youth sports programs in the community with his three children. The enjoyable part for him has been his giving of many hours through coaching for and helping grow programs to benefit all kids in the community.

Waseem Ahmed was elected as one of the two new members to the City Council in the November 2014 election. He is serving his first term as a City Council member that will expire in December 2018.

Waseem has many years of active involvement with the community both as a business owner, members of several community boards, along with many local support committees and organizations. He was also on the City Planning Commission for many years prior to his election to City Council.



Waseem Ahmed, Mayor Pro Tem

There is Still a Drought

Despite some winter rains and fog it will be quite some time before the severe drought in California will end, assuming we have normal winter rains and snows for the next few years.

Be sure to continue following the required WATERING SCHEDULE.

During the winter months why not turn off your irrigation completely and run it manually if we encounter a long period without rain. That way you will reduce usage, reduce waste and save money on your water bill.

For more information visit the City web site and for tips on water conservation visit www.SaveOurH2O.org.

WATERING SCHEDULE

EVEN Numbered Addresses
(Ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8)

Tuesdays and/or Saturdays

ODD Numbered Addresses
(Ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)

Wednesdays and/or Sundays

**NO WATERING BETWEEN
10AM AND 7PM**

**NO WATERING IS ALLOWED ON
MONDAYS, THURSDAYS OR FRIDAYS**

Gaumnitz Elected to City Council

The November election added newcomer Mary 'Trinket' Gaumnitz to the City Council dais, being elected to a four year term.



Trinket is a lifelong resident of Chowchilla and a graduate of CUHS. She has worked for the Weaver Union School District in Merced for the last 28 years and through this time achieved a bachelor's degree followed by her master's degree. She obtained her teaching credential from Chapman University and teaches special education.

CITY OFFICES

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Chowchilla, CA 93610

Telephone: (559) 665-8615
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Email: info@ci.chowchilla.ca.us
Web: www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

CITY COUNCIL

John Chavez, *Mayor*
Waseem Ahmed, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Trinket Gaumnitz, *Council Member*
Dennis Haworth, *Council Member*
Richard Walker, *Council Member*
Carolyn Lehr,
Interim City Administrator

City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The agenda can be viewed or downloaded from the City web site.



PHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Civic Center | (559) 665-8615 |
| City Council | ext. 102 |
| City Administrator | ext. 100 |
| City Clerk | ext. 102 |
| Airport Information | ext. 305 |
| 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 & CATLinX | 665-8655 |
| Senior Center | 665-1089 |
| Police | 665-8600 |
| Anonymous Tips | 665-8624 |
| Fire | 665-8625 |



accepted for in-person payments at Chowchilla City Hall and the Police Department.



City Council Renames Park After Edward Ray

The Chowchilla City Council has decided to rename the City's Sports & Leisure Park after Mr. Edward Ray. Edward "Ed" Ray is regarded as a local hero from his role as the driver of the school bus with 26 children who were kidnapped on July 15, 1976. The kidnapping launched Chowchilla into national headlines and created a day that many still would like to forget.

The children and Mr. Ray were driven around for 11 hours in two vans before being entombed in a moving van buried in a Livermore rock quarry. Fortunately, Mr. Ray and some older boys pried open the weighted roof lid and escaped after being underground for 16 hours.

Mr. Ray passed away a few years ago and shortly after the City Council voted to name a park in his honor. At the January 27, 2015 Council meeting the elected officials finalized the idea and voted to rename the popular Sports & Leisure Park in honor of Edward Ray. This park is home to many youth sports leagues and activities, along with family picnics, and is a perfect match for Ed Ray's legacy.

On Thursday, February 26 at 4:00pm, an official ceremony will be held at the park on 15th Street at Sonoma Avenue. The community is invited to join with City officials and members of the Ray family to attend the unveiling of a sign denoting the park as the Edward Ray Park.

Your **CHOWCHILLA**
Transit LINK to MERCED
CALL TO LEARN MORE



Is Your Dog Licensed?

NO? The Chowchilla Police Department can HELP
Call 665-8600

February Utility Bills to Show Slight Increase

In 2012, City Council approved a utility rate structure for the **City Water and Wastewater Utility System** along with a fee to pay for State-required water meter installations and meter replacements. Utility rates furnish funding for the operation, maintenance, and replacement costs to provide city water and wastewater service to customers.

The utility rate changes occur every January 1 through the year 2021 and the adjusted rates appear on the February utility bill. The increase percentage is dependent upon the type of property such as residential, commercial, industrial, etc.

If you have questions about the rate increase, or for help with your utility accounts, call the Finance Department at (559) 665-8615, ext. 783.

Xpress Bill Pay
Innovative Internet Payment Systems

It's **EASY** and **FREE!**

PAY Your Utility Bill **ONLINE** at www.ci.Chowchilla.CA.US



We Can Help You Avoid Utility Bill Late Fees

The monthly utilities bill is sent to all utilities customers soon after the first of each month. To avoid late fees the bill must be paid in full by the last day of that month, or the next business day before 8:00am if the last day falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. If not paid by then, a 10% penalty will be added to the bill. If the bill is not paid by the due date a shutoff notice will be issued. Shutoffs occur seven days from the notice date.

The shutoff fee is \$28 and the reconnect fee is \$28, with both added to the bill. To avoid additional charges and to avoid a disconnect, your payment must be made no less than 72-hours before the shutoff to allow time for the payment to be posted to your account. Contact the Finance Department to verify your payment has been posted if you are uncertain the payment was processed.

If a shutoff occurs, the entire bill, including the \$56 shutoff and reconnect fee must be paid in order to restore service. Service restoration can take up to 24 hours after payment. If you are on the shutoff list it is highly recommended that you make your payment in person at City Hall. It can take up to 72-hours after your payment is made to post to your account. Therefore, there can be no guarantee your services will remain active.

PLEASE PLAN TO PAY YOUR UTILITIES BILL EARLY ENOUGH TO AVOID A SHUTOFF.

If you need help with your utility accounts, call the Finance Department at (559) 665-8615, ext. 783.