

CITY Spotlight CHOWCHILLA



January 2016; Volume 8, Issue 1

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

CALENDAR

Jan 8 - City Offices Closed

Jan 9-10 - World Series of Team Roping-California Shootout Fairgrounds, All Day

Jan 9 - Chowchilla Western Stampede Grand Marshall Dinner, Fairgrounds, 6PM

Jan 12 - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM

Jan 15 - Winter Gymkhana Event, Fairgrounds, 6PM

Jan 16 - Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner, Eastman Hall—Fairgrounds, 6PM

Jan 18 - Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday, City Offices Closed

Jan 19 - Parks & Recreation Comm. Meeting, City Hall, 6PM

Jan 20 - Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 7PM

Jan 22 - City Offices Closed

Jan 26 - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM

Feb 5 - City Offices Closed

Feb 9 - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM

Feb 15 - Presidents Day Holiday, City Offices Closed

Feb 17 - Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 7PM

Feb 19 - City Offices Closed

Feb 19 - Winter Gymkhana Event, Fairgrounds, 6M

Feb 23 - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM

Feb 26 - Edward Ray Day in Chowchilla, All Day

Feb 27 - Sportsmen's Dinner, Fairgrounds, 5:30PM

Waseem Ahmed Selected to Serve as Mayor

During the annual reorganization of the City Council in December, members appointed **Waseem Ahmed** to serve as **Mayor** on the City Council for 2016. At the same meeting **Mary 'Trinket' Gaumnitz** was selected to serve as **Mayor Pro Tem**.

Waseem Ahmed was elected to the City Council in 2014 and 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.



Trinket Gaumnitz, Mayor Pro Tem

Mary Gaumnitz who is known to many as **'Trinket'** was also elected to the City Council in the 2014 election and so is also in her first term that continues until December 2018.

Raised in Chowchilla and having attended the local schools, **Trinket** is well known throughout the community. She is a Special Education teacher in the Weaver School District in Merced and started her career as an instructional aide in 1986. During that initial experience she decided to go back to school where she earned her teaching credential. She has been teaching in the Special Education field since 1999.

Trinket believes strongly in the values of a community and strives as much as she can to attend many community functions and special events in Chowchilla. As an elected official she intends to fully represent the residents to her fullest ability.



Waseem Ahmed, Mayor

City Approves Utilities Cost Savings Project

The Chowchilla City Council has approved entering into an agreement with Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI) to develop water and energy efficiency projects. JCI analyzed all city operations and facilities and identified worthwhile cost savings projects in the City's General Fund, Water Fund and Wastewater Fund. The proposed \$9.8 million water and energy efficiency project will be financed with the savings it generates, which are guaranteed by JCI.

One project example is to reduce the amount the City pays in energy costs by building solar panel arrays to supply electricity for both the wastewater treatment plant and for the city water system, currently costing about \$200,000 and \$400,000 respectively in annual expenses. Another is changing city-owned streetlights over to LED lights that use a lot less electricity. An additional example is installing an electronic system to monitor water well-sites that immediately notifies City personnel of problems like reduced flow. This project will reduce the overtime costs now incurred to manually inspect every well-site at any given day or time. There are many other projects, both big and small, that are proposed to produce substantial savings within a short time following their implementation.

With the approval of City Council Johnson Controls, Inc. will now conduct a more detailed analysis of the proposed projects in the general community, the water system and in the wastewater system and determine the engineering design costs. These costs will be incurred by JCI on behalf of the City and will be rolled over into the total project cost that will include financing expenses once the projects begin construction.

The City of Chowchilla is aggressively looking at ways to reduce operational costs to City facilities and at the same time work to upgrade aging systems. The intent is to improve services, ensure reliable facilities and amenities, and provide substantial future cost savings.

CITY OFFICES

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Chowchilla, CA 93610

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Email: Info@CityOfChowchilla.org
Web: www.CityOfChowchilla.org

CITY COUNCIL

Waseem Ahmed, *Mayor*
Mary Gaumnitz, *Mayor Pro Tem*
John Chavez, *Council Member*
Dennis Haworth, *Council Member*
Richard Walker, *Council Member*
Brian Haddix, *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	665-8647
Police	665-8600
Anonymous Tips	665-8624
Fire	665-8625



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



City Recommends "Off Until Spring" Watering Campaign

The City's Public Works Department is encouraging residents to let the weather guide your watering schedule this winter to help counter the ongoing drought and help conserve water for when it is needed most, during the spring and summer.

Even if El Niño brings a lot of rain and snow during the next few months it will still take a few years to replenish the aquifer that flows deep underground below us which provides our drinking water. To help, residents are asked to change the schedule on their irrigation systems to water less, or not at all this winter.

Cooler weather means less plant growth, therefore less water is needed by your lawn and shrubs.

Currently watering is limited to two days per week. It is suggested that you voluntarily reduce your watering to just one day a week. It is even recommended to just turn off your sprinklers until spring.

The fact is, with the moisture we receive during the winter just from dew and fog, and hopefully the winter rains, there is generally no reason to add extra water to your plants. They have more than an adequate supply and any water you add will not be absorbed by the plants but will simply runoff into the street and down the storm drain as wasted water.

Please do just a little bit more this winter to help us get through the drought and stop watering your lawns and yard plants for the winter, or at least cut your watering down to one day a week.

Xpress Bill Pay
Innovative Internet Payment Systems

It's EASY and FREE!
PAY Your Utility Bill **ONLINE** at www.ci.Chowchilla.CA.US

Cycle-Soak Method Saves H₂O and \$\$\$

Water smarter for a healthier lawn. When the hot weather returns homeowners can save water and money by using the Cycle-Soak Method of irrigating their landscapes. The Cycle-Soak Method is a great way to reduce runoff, improve root depth and increase watering effectiveness. Essentially it helps home consumers to:

- ◆ Use water more efficiently
- ◆ Capture more water into your landscape
- ◆ Produce better, healthier plants

On your irrigation controller don't set the cycle to run 20-30 minutes at a time because 30-40% of the water you apply flows over the curb and into the storm sewer. Instead you want to create a better environment for the water to penetrate into the soil to the plant roots.

The Cycle-Soak Method is easily set-up on your irrigation controller. Set your system to come on at late at night, say 11PM, and run each station for 5-6 minutes. You want to let that water soak in for about an hour so set your controller to come on again an hour later following your first setting, around midnight in our example. Run each station again for another 5-6 minutes. If you think it is necessary, repeat the cycle one more time, again to start another hour later, say 1AM. You will get some runoff using this method but nothing like the 30-40% loss with a typical system setting.

Your landscape will look better because it won't dry out completely between cycles and the water will flow deeper into the soil, and not drown your plants with too much water. Not only does this provide more thorough and efficient watering of your landscape it also affects your bottom line expenses by reducing water consumption and lower your water bill. Plus, the Cycle-Soak Method helps conserve water for the future.

Dog Licenses

All dogs residing within the Chowchilla city limits must have a license and it must be renewed every January 1.

The Chowchilla Police Department issues dog licenses during the hours of Monday-Thursday 8AM-5PM, Friday 8AM-7PM, and Saturday 9AM-1PM.

Renewals **ONLY** can be mailed to the Police Department at 122 Trinity Avenue with payment by cashier's check or money order payable to the City of Chowchilla. Proof of current rabies vaccination must also be included if it is not already on file with the department or has expired.

The license fee is \$9.00 (senior discount \$4.50) for altered dogs, and \$18.00 (senior discount \$9.00) for unaltered dogs. A \$20 late fee is added to licenses after April 1.

Call the Police Department at (559) 665-8600 with questions.