

CITY Spotlight CHOWCHILLA



February 2016; Volume 8, Issue 2

CITY HALL OFFICES BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8AM - 4PM
CLOSED FRIDAY

CALENDAR

- 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, 6PM
- 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
- Mar 4 - City Offices Closed
- Mar 5 - Rotary Club Crab Feed, Fairgrounds, 6PM
- Mar 8 - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Mar 11 - Stampede Cattle Drive, Robertson Boulevard, 10AM
- Mar 11-13 - Western Stampede Roping, Fairgrounds, All Day
- Mar 12 - CCWA Crab Feed Fundraiser, Fairgrounds, 5PM
- Mar 13 - Daylight Savings Time Begins at 2AM
- Mar 16 - Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Mar 18 - City Offices Closed
- Mar 19 - City Easter Egg Scramble, Edward Ray Park, 10AM
- Mar 22 - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Mar 23 - RDA Successor Agency Meeting, City Hall, 9AM
- Mar 27 - Easter Sunday

City officials want to hear from the citizens

CASUAL GET-TOGETHERS INVITE INFORMAL DIALOGUE

Following the pilot testing of the "Coffee with..." programs, City officials have restructured the programs into monthly informal get-togethers. The new "open topic" program is called **Community Conversation – Let's Talk Chowchilla** and will be held the third Tuesday of each month beginning in February. Each month a session will rotate around different venues and around different times.

Community Conversation – Let's Talk Chowchilla will feature a morning session starting at 8:00AM one month, followed with a mid-day session beginning at 12:30PM the next month, and then a late-day session starting at 5:30pm the following month.

This cycle repeats starting with the morning session the next month. A full schedule of locations will be announced using the City Facebook page and placed on the City web site (www.CityOfChowchilla.org).

The first session of **Community Conversation – Let's Talk Chowchilla** is on Tuesday, February 16 at 8:00AM at the Starbucks on Robertson Blvd.

This new program of "open topic" discussions brings your local government out into the community where you can meet in casual venues to talk about general interest topics or specific one-on-one issues. City representatives at these programs want to hear from the residents and stakeholders. The desire is to build relationships and encourage opportunities for communication to improve the quality of life in our community.

Community CONVERSATION *Let's Talk Chowchilla*

February 16 - 8:00AM
March 15 - 12:30PM
April 19 - 5:30PM
May 17 - 8:00AM
June 21 - 12:30PM
July 19 - 5:30PM

August 16 - 8:00AM
September 20 - 12:30PM
October 18 - 5:30PM
November 15 - 8:00AM
December 20 - 12:30PM
January 17 - 5:30PM

Volunteers needed for City commissions

Applications are being accepted from citizens at least 18 years old who want to serve the community on a City Commission or Committee. Applicants must be a qualified elector and reside within the city limits or within the Chowchilla Union High School District's Sphere of Influence. One vacancy is on the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Airport Advisory Committee has four vacancies. To learn more about these boards visit the City web site at www.CityOfChowchilla.org.

If you are interested please contact the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 130 S. Second Street, (559) 665-8615 ext. 112 to request an application or obtain an application on the City's website. The application deadline is 4:00PM on Thursday, February 25. The appointments are tentatively scheduled for the City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 8.

What happens when a water leak is found?

Water leaks are usually identified by City employees or citizens who notice standing water or water seeping up through the pavement on roadways or in alleys. Sometimes it may appear the City does not respond in a timely manner once the leak is reported. However, there are specific procedures to follow so the leak can be repaired properly. These procedures help to ensure that all the necessary parts are on-hand, to ensure worker safety and to lessen any inconvenience to the residents.

Employee's use facilities maps and sonic leak detection when possible to determine the logical origin of the water leak. From record drawings (some which are old and not always accurate) crews determine the size of pipes and materials needed for the repair. The parts are ordered from the supplier.

Underground Service Alert (USA) is contacted which creates a work ticket before excavation can

—Continued on back page

CITY OFFICES

130 South Second Street
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Telephone: (559) 665-8615
Fax: (559) 665-7418
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.



Council limits watering to one day a week

CITY RECOMMENDS "OFF UNTIL SPRING" CAMPAIGN

The City Council recently voted to immediately limit outside irrigation to one day a week for properties in the Chowchilla city limits. Addresses that end in an EVEN number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8) can ONLY WATER on SATURDAYS; addresses that end in an ODD number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9) can ONLY WATER on SUNDAYS. Weekend WATERING is ONLY ALLOWED between 7:00PM and 10:00AM.

The City's Public Works Department is further encouraging property owners to let the weather guide your watering schedule this winter because the drought is not over. Even with the rain and snow it will still take a few years to replenish the underground sources that provide our drinking water. Therefore, if residents feel they need to irrigate their property they are asked to change the schedule on their system controllers to shorter time periods, or simply shut down the system for the winter.

Cooler weather means less plant growth, therefore less water is needed by your lawn and shrubs. With the moisture we receive during the winter from dew, fog and rain, there is no beneficial reason to add extra water to your plants. They receive 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.

**Chowchilla's
EASTER EGG
SCRAMBLE**

Saturday, March 19 • 10am-12noon
Candy Eggs, Bunny Photos, Bouncers, more..

CITY OF CHOWCHILLA
Edward Ray Park
15th Street & Sonoma Avenue

EGG
SCRAMBLES
start promptly at
10:15am

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

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

Non-working streetlights

Streetlights add an element of safety in our community. However, non-working lights create darkened and dangerous intersections. Darkened streets also hide undesirable activities. If you know of a streetlight that is not working you are asked to contact the City of Chowchilla Public Works Department so it can be checked and repaired as quickly as possible.

You can call the office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and leave a message at (559) 665-8615, ext. 789. When you call please **give the pole number** (there is a tag on every streetlight pole) along with a nearby **address**, or the nearest **cross streets** to the pole location.



Continued from "water leak" on front page—

start. Utility companies are notified (PG&E, Comcast and AT&T) which have 48 hours to respond to the work ticket and mark their respective utility lines. If a leak is discovered during the weekend when USA offices are closed a work ticket cannot be generated until Monday which adds to the delay.

While waiting for the USA work ticket to be issued, Public Works will schedule equipment and personnel for the excavation and repair. It is not uncommon to have several leak repairs occurring at the same time so repairs are scheduled and prioritized based on the severity and location of the leaks.

Once the leak is repaired the field crew will backfill the hole with sand and test for compaction. If the hole is saturated with water and cannot be backfilled, the crew will cover the hole with steel plates and wait for the hole to dry out. When the hole is dry and compaction is good, the crew will begin roadway surface repairs that is sometimes delayed pending a large enough order of hot asphalt.

Sandbags available

To help control flooding from the winter rain the City of Chowchilla and the County of Madera offer FREE unfilled plastic sandbags. These FREE Sandbags can be picked up at City Hall at 130 S. Second Street during business hours Monday through Thursday between 8AM and 4PM. Sandbags will be provided as long as supplies last.

FREE bulk sand will be piled on City property on N. First Street between Monterey and Sonoma Avenues. You must bring your own shovel.