

CITY Spotlight CHOWCHILLA



April 2016; Volume 8, Issue 4

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

CALENDAR

- Apr 9** - Chowchilla Fair Horse Show, Fairgrounds, 8AM
- Apr 12** - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Apr 15** - City Offices Closed
- Apr 16** - Lioness Lions Club K-9 Dinner, Fairgrounds, 6PM
- Apr 19** - Community Conversation Meeting, Veterans Memorial Park, 5:30PM
- Apr 20** - Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Apr 26** - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Apr 29** - City Offices Closed
- Apr 29** - Chowchilla Athletic Foundation Golf Outing, Pheasant Run Golf Course, 12NOON
- May 5** - Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum, City Hall, 6PM
- May 7** - Treasure Hunters Market event, Trinity Avenue & RC Wisener Park, 8AM-12NOON
- May 7** - Fair Fundraiser Dinner & Auction, Fairgrounds, 6PM
- May 10** - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- May 13** - City Offices Closed
- May 17** - Community Conversation Meeting, Starbucks, 8:00AM
- May 18** - Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- May 19** - Chowchilla Fair Opening Ceremony, Fairgrounds, 3PM
- May 19-22** - Chowchilla Fair, Fairgrounds
- May 21** - Spring Festival Armed Forces Day Parade, Robertson Boulevard, 10AM

City Council authorizes NEW Fire Engine

Citing as their overwhelming duty to ensure the safety of our community and the safety of the volunteer firefighters who comprise the Chowchilla Fire Department, the City Council voted at their March 22 meeting to purchase a new fire engine. This decision satisfies one of the strategic objectives defined in one of the five goals set by the City Council to achieve and maintain a safe and secure community.

Since 2014 the Fire Department has operated with just two engines after the 1968 Ford unit was removed from service since it could no longer be repaired. This decision eliminated the reserve fire unit and forced the department to operate with just two front line fire engines. Thus, there was no backup vehicle when one engine was out of service for maintenance or repairs, nor was there an extra engine that could respond to a second simultaneous fire incident.

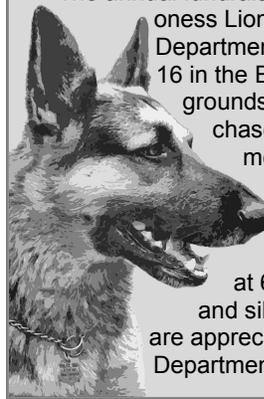
Current firefighting standards require at least two primary fire engines be on-scene at a structure fire, one typically dedicated to supplying water, while the second is dedicated to fighting the fire. While the Fire Department has a mini-pumper and is awaiting the replacement of a water tender lost in a fire a few months ago, neither of those pieces can serve as a reserve engine. Thus, with only two engines available, the situation not only reduces the ability of the volunteer firefighters to fully respond to emergency needs but it also risks the safety of the firefighters by not having adequate resources available to fight a fire.

Following the City Council purchase approval Fire Chief Harry Turner noted that it will take a little over a year for the new fire engine to be delivered and placed into service. Despite this timeline, the volunteers of the Chowchilla Fire Department are committed to fully serving the community. "We are fortunate that we can rely on support assistance when needed from the Central California Women's Facility Fire Station 5 at the prison and the Madera County Fire Department," said Chief Turner.

Purchase of the new fire engine will return the Fire Department to a proper level of service and ensure that our firefighters are sufficiently protected when they battle fires and strive to protect lives and property.

Police K-9 Dinner is April 16

The annual fundraiser dinner hosted by the Chowchilla Lioness Lions Club to benefit the Chowchilla Police Department K-9 program will be on Saturday, April 16 in the Eastman Hall at the Chowchilla Fairgrounds. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased from the Chowchilla Police Department. Call the department at (559) 665-8600 for more information.



The doors open at 5:30PM for socializing and dinner will be served beginning at 6:30PM. The event will feature both live and silent auctions. Donations to the auctions are appreciated and you can contact the Police Department to find out how to contribute items.

Join the CONVERSATION April 19

The next **Community Conversation – Let's Talk Chowchilla** will be on Tuesday, April 19 from 5:30-6:30PM. Join your City officials at the **Veterans Memorial Park** under the **Farnesi Pavilion** at 600 W. Robertson Boulevard and talk about our community.

Community Conversation – Let's Talk Chowchilla 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 want to hear from the residents and stakeholders to build stronger relationships and communication opportunities.

The informal sessions are held each month on the third Tuesday at different locations around the community. Future dates are listed on the City web site at www.CityOfChowchilla.org.

Did you read me this month?

We want to learn how many people read this newsletter and are offering a prize to find out. Just send an email to Info@CityOfChowchilla.org with the words **YES APRIL** in the Subject line and also provide the title of the article that contains the word "**register**" found in the article text (not this article). A winner will be randomly selected from all the emails submitted by the **May 2 deadline**. Thank you and good luck.

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.



Safe disposal of sharps & unused medicines

When you have unused or expired medicines, or used sharps (needles, syringes and lancets) around the house you have an unsafe situation. You know you need to safely get rid of them. You know it is unsafe to flush medicines down the toilet because the chemicals are added to the waste stream at the water treatment plant. You also know that when used sharps are put in the trash they become a hazard to anyone who handles your trash including adult sanitation workers, children and even pets. Now there is a solution.

The City of Chowchilla has placed separate bins for sharps waste and drugs in the lobby of the Police Department. These safe and convenient disposal containers can be accessed 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Simply bring in your filled sharps containers, or any prescription or non-prescription drugs, to 122 Trinity Avenue and drop them in their respective bins. You don't need to register, nor do you need to leave any contact information.

City officials hope to reduce the chances of poisoning and dangerous cuts or infections through accidental contact with these materials. At the same time they hope to minimize the amount of dangerous chemicals that flow into the City's treatment plant.



City seeks your top five priority budget items

RESIDENT INPUT PLANNING 2016-2017 BUDGET WANTED

City officials are currently developing the next fiscal year budget that begins on July 1. As part of the participatory budgeting process officials want to hear from residents and stakeholders as to their priorities for City projects, programs and services. At the March 29 Town Hall meeting many in attendance offered their priorities to the City Council and staff. "We still want to hear from the community," says Rod Pruett, City Treasurer and Director of Finance, "and we ask them to give us their ideas and comments to help us develop a strong fiscal plan."

Residents are asked to share their top five items they want to be considered for funding in the next budget. The topics can be as general as overall road and drainage upgrades, or as specific as stop signs and marked pedestrian street crossings for a particular intersection. Please send your comments by email to Info@CityOfChowchilla.org. You can also mail or drop-off your comments at Chowchilla City Hall, 130 S. Second Street, Chowchilla, CA 93610, Attn: Community Relations.

Local Athletic Foundation Hosts Golf Fundraiser

Supporters of Chowchilla youth athletic programs for both the school districts and community recreation leagues will hit the links at Pheasant Run Golf Course in Chowchilla on **Friday, April 29** for the **11th Annual CAF Golf Tournament**. Lunch and registration begins at 12:00NOON followed by a "Shotgun Start" at 1:00PM to kick-off the afternoon of fun.

Four person teams will play a scramble format 18-hole outing that will feature special contests along the course. The cost is \$100 per person that includes the greens fees and cart rental. Lunch will be provided before golfers hit the links with an awards dinner providing a fitting end to a fun day to support youth athletics in Chowchilla.

For more information contact Derek Sissom at (559) 301-0611, or Andrew Creighton at (559) 706-3328. The Chowchilla Athletic Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

Treasure Hunters Market May 7

Formerly known as the GREAT Chowchilla Yard Sale, the event has transformed into the **Treasure Hunters Market** and will be held on **Saturday, May 7** from **8AM to 12NOON** and will be set up on **Trinity Avenue between Second and Third Streets** between City Hall and RC Wisener Park.

If you like yard sales this event is for you as the marketplace will appeal to both sellers and buyers. This is where you can sell some of your used goods and collected "treasures" but the **NEW Treasure Hunters Market** is now more than yard sale items.

NEW THIS YEAR! We are inviting sellers of repurposed/repainted furniture and accessories, handcrafted items, antiques and collectibles, jewelry and art works. If you are looking to add a Shabby Chic look to your home, or pick up a special, or unique gift item, this event could be perfect for you.

NO FOOD OR BEVERAGE SALES of any type is allowed by unauthorized vendors.

Individuals, clubs, service organizations, churches and community groups can rent a **18ft x 15ft booth space** for **\$25**. Applications can be picked up at the Chowchilla City Hall or can be downloaded from the City's web site at www.CityOfChowchilla.org. The application deadline is **Wednesday, May 4 at 3:30PM**.