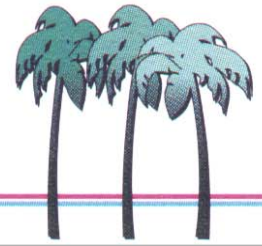


City of Chowchilla City Spotlight



June 2009 Volume 1, Issue 6

Upcoming Events

June 8 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

June 12 - City Furlough Day, **City Offices CLOSED**
(with exception of Public Safety)

June 13 - Chowchilla P.D. K9 Kids Carnival, Veterans Park
(see article at bottom of page)

June 16 - Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

June 17 - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

June 18 - Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

June 21 - Fathers Day

June 22 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

June 26 - City Furlough Day, **City Offices CLOSED**
(with exception of Public Safety)

June 27 - Chamber's "Fun in the Sun" Benefit Run & Motorcycle Show N' Shine, Veterans Park, 8 a.m.

Mark your calendars now:

August 7 - 20th Annual Community Block Party. Call Parks, Recreation & Community Services at (559) 665-8640 for more information.

Meeting agendas, minutes and details on events are available on the City's website at www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

State of the City - Balancing Act

On April 27, 2009, the Chowchilla City Council directed the implementation of **work furloughs** for all City employees, with the exception of Public Safety. Employees are now observing a mandatory unpaid furlough day every other Friday that began May 1 and will continue through June. All City offices, except Public Safety, were closed on three Fridays in May and will be

closed on June 12 & June 26. The City Council and staff have been vigilant with the current fiscal crisis to strictly monitor the ratio of revenue to expenses. The 2008/09 budget was approved originally reflecting an increase in revenues of \$4,500. However, during mid-year budget review, the most recent Treasurer's Report showed a projected deficit of \$181,000 in the amended

budget. The deficit is due to routine annual revenue sources that were anticipated to be received in the areas of property tax, sales tax, licenses and permits, but fell short. The City is actively seeking all possible revenue sources available through federal stimulus monies, grants, or other government programs to ensure the financial stability of the City. Updates will continue monthly.



Summer in the City

In order to adjust services to work within the reduced budget, many summer programs will undergo some changes this season. Here's a brief update:

☀ **Community Pool:** There will not be daily open swim or lap swim, however there will be special community swim days once every week

or two. A swim lesson program is being offered weekday afternoons beginning the week of June 15.

☀ **Summer Chillin':** This popular day camp program for children ages 5-12 will be conducted beginning in mid-June. The week-long camps run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily and include a free lunch.

☀ **Adult Softball:** Team registrations are now being accepted for both Co-Rec & Men's Softball. The team cost is \$395. Games will run from mid-June thru early August.

For details or registration information on any of these programs, call Parks, Recreation & Community Services at (559) 665-8640.

Safe Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs Save Lives

Building safety codes are life savers. International Code Council codes include specific provisions to make pools and spas safe:

FENCES:

- * Install a fence at least 4 feet high around the pool area.
- * Install a self-latching gate or

door in the fence to make pool areas inaccessible to children and non-swimmers. * Spas and hot tubs should have a similar fence or an approved, lockable cover.

DOOR ALARM:

Install a door alarm. When the door or gate is opened,

the alarm sounds and acts as an early warning device.

POOL ALARM:

Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water.

For free safety brochures, visit our Community Development Department at the Civic Center.

K9 Kids Carnival



Through the generosity of the community, fundraisers have supported the ongoing costs of the Chowchilla Police K9 program since 2003. As a way to say thank you, and with sponsorship from the

Chowchilla Lions, a special **Kids Carnival** will be held on Sat., June 13 at Veterans Park from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Ice cream, popcorn, & cotton candy will be **free** while supplies last. There will

also be face painting, games, a bounce house, and hourly K9 demonstrations. For more information or to become a program supporter, call the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600.



City of Chowchilla

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Chowchilla City Council

Justin White, *Mayor*
Jim Kopshever, *Mayor Pro Tem*
David Alexander, *Council Member*
John Chavez, *Council Member*
Dennis Haworth, *Council Member*

Nancy Red, *City Administrator*

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center. The agenda is posted on the City website.

Call Us

Civic Center	(559) 665-8615
City Council	ext. 105
City Administrator	ext. 100
City Clerk	ext. 105
RDA/CDBG	ext. 107
Public Information	ext. 110
Human Resources	ext. 154
Planning	ext. 402
Inspections	ext. 406
Building	ext. 410
Code Enforcement	ext. 412
Fire	ext. 600
Utilities	ext. 783
Finance	ext. 784
Parks & Recreation	ext. 788
Public Services	ext. 789
Operator	ext. 0

Direct Numbers

Police	665-8600
Fire	665-8626
Parks & Recreation	665-8640

Emergency - Call 911

Contacting Us

To contact the newsletter editor, send email or mail to addresses listed above or call the Public Information Office at (559) 665-8615, extension 110.

Visa and MasterCard credit cards are now accepted for in-person payments at the Finance Department. The City will soon offer an online utility payment option.



Ask the City: Swine Flu/H1N1 Virus

Ask the City is a feature column answering questions submitted to us by email, mail or phone.

What is the status of Swine flu cases locally? *E.H., Chowchilla*

As of 05/19/09 there is one confirmed case of H1N1 (swine flu) and two probable cases in Madera County. The symptoms of swine flu are

similar to seasonal flu and include fever, headache, cough, sore throat, body aches, chills and fatigue. If you or your family have these symptoms, you should stay home and call your health care provider to determine if you need medical attention. This flu strain is milder than first thought, so normal flu precautions should be taken. To prevent spread of respiratory

illnesses, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, wash your hands often with soap and water, and avoid close contact with sick people. The California Dept. of Public Health has set up a toll-free hotline to provide up-to-date information. The number is 1-888-865-0564, Mon.- Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on weekends from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Berenda Reservoir Closed

Berenda Reservoir will not be open this summer season due to current economic conditions and the lack of water availability. The City Council made this difficult decision to ensure that core City services continue to be provided for our residents. Opening the reservoir would obligate the City to spend funds

preparing and maintaining the site, and to provide emergency response services during the season. Although Berenda Reservoir will be closed, residents are reminded of close access to Yosemite Lake in Merced, and the Eastman and Hensley Lakes in the foothills for recreational purposes.

Water Conservation

How many of us stop and think about the water we are using? Most of us don't give it much thought. To date, the City of Chowchilla has been able to keep the water service rates at a level that is lower than many areas of the state due to the fact that we are not billed based on consumption. Because of that, we sometimes tend to

ignore the amount of water we actually use. **Our water supplies are in jeopardy.** The Chowchilla Water District recently conducted a measurement of 75 wells in the area and found the water level dropped from 8 to 40 feet in the last year. As the water table drops, quality can be affected, the cost to pump increases and ground

absorption can occur. **What we do makes a BIG difference.** Take shorter showers, follow the irrigation regulations, look for low flow water conserving devices when purchasing appliances, and keep your private water lines in good repair. Let's all pitch in to conserve this precious resource and help keep our water affordable.



Animal Adoption

The Madera County Animal Shelter's new Adoption Center is now open at 14269 Road 28 in Madera. Adoption fees include spay or neutering, vaccines, microchip ID and county license. Also, low cost vaccination

clinics are available the first Saturday every month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Low cost spay and neuter programs are also available. Call (559) 675-7891 for info or visit www.petfinder.com to see adoptable animals in the Madera County Shelter.

Chowchilla Youth Soccer

Youth Soccer registration is underway for children ages 4 - 12 years of age (age as of 7-31-09). Online registration is easy and offers a \$5 discount. To register, go to: www.leaguelineup.com/sald and click on the "Register Online go!" logo.

In person registration will also take place June 6 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Wilson Gym Lobby. For further information, visit their website or call (559) 665-8640. *Affiliated with Chowchilla Parks, Recreation & Community Services Dept.*

BUY LOCAL



The Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce is participating in a "Buy Local" campaign to keep sales tax dollars in our city and county. Sales tax funds community services such as education, public health programs, fire and police departments, as well as providing support to our local businesses which in turn saves jobs for local residents. **BUY LOCAL.**

United States Census 2010 **Address Canvassers Take to the Streets**

The **2010 Census** began their preliminary wave of address canvassing in March which will conclude late June. During this canvass, the Census Bureau put 140,000 people to work covering all known streets and roads throughout the country. The canvassers will identify every living quarter where people live and verify more than 145 million addresses. For the first time in Census history, Census workers will confirm, add, and delete addresses using a GPS-equipped hand held computer. Each building will receive Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates to make sure it is recorded in the right location. Workers will also update maps by adding new roads. This work ensures everyone gets counted!