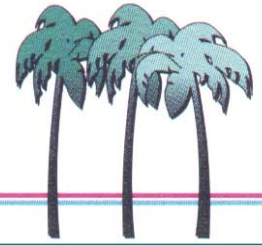


City of Chowchilla City Spotlight

July 2010 Volume 2, Issue 7



Upcoming Schedule

July 2 - Lions Club Fireworks Display and Event, Berenda Reservoir, 4:30 p.m.

July 4 - All Denominational Worship in the Park, Veterans Memorial Park, 10 a.m.

July 5 - 4th of July Observed Holiday - City Offices Closed

July 7 - Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce's State of City/ Business Introductions Breakfast, Putter's Bistro, 8 a.m.

July 9 - Furlough Day (tentative) - City Offices Closed

July 12 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

July 15 - Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

July 19 - Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, Civic Center, 4 p.m.

July 20 - Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

July 21 - Planning Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

July 23 - Furlough Day (tentative) - City Offices Closed

July 26 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars now:

August 13 - Chowchilla's Community-Wide Block Party, Sports & Leisure Park, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

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

Budget, Berenda & Furloughs

With the City facing a large budget shortfall, City Council and staff are working hard on identifying cost-saving measures to implement throughout the City. For the latest budget information, we encourage you to check out our website or Facebook page.

City Council voted to enter into a lease agreement to open Berenda for the season

however a few liability issues have to be resolved prior to opening. At press time, the reservoir opening was anticipated to be before July 4th (tentative). We'll be sure to announce the opening as soon as it happens!

Furlough days are expected to continue this fiscal year but are still in discussion and have not yet been confirmed.



Volunteer Project

When times are tough, the tough get going... and clean up the City! The first Community Volunteer Project on June 19th was a success thanks to the approximately twenty volunteers that spent five hours mowing, weeding, and cleaning up properties around

Chowchilla. Ages of volunteers ranged from 9 to 60. These willing and able community members cleaned up twelve residential properties, mowed around the old library, and removed weeds from a downtown parking lot, a median near Reagan School, and a sports field at Sports & Leisure Park.

Be Water-Wise

Our state is facing severe water challenges and with this reality, your efforts to save water can make a real difference. Rethinking the way you use water will help stretch our limited supplies and ensure water when we need it. Try these tips:

Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

◆ **Save: 12 to 15 gallons each time you water**

Choose a water-efficient irrigation system such as drip irrigation for your trees,

shrubs, and flowers.

◆ **Save: 15 gallons each time you water**

Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds.

◆ **Save: 20 to 30 gallons each time you water/1,000 sq. ft.**

Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios, not your hose.

◆ **Save: 8 to 18 gallons a minute**

Here is a reminder of the City of Chowchilla's watering regulations:



The City of Chowchilla is now on Facebook!

Sign up today for the City's page to keep up with all the latest breaking news as it happens. Check it out!

The group would like to continue this project on a monthly basis and could use your help. The next Volunteer Cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, July 10th. If you're interested, come to Veterans Memorial Park at 8:30 a.m. prepared to work and help make your community a nicer place to live.

- ◆ Customers with addresses ending with an **odd** number may water on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- ◆ Customers with addresses ending with an **even** number may water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday
- ◆ Watering is **prohibited** between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on **any** day
- ◆ **Sunday is a NO WATERING DAY**

Citations will be issued for non-compliance of these regulations. Call (559) 665-8615 for more information and please be water-wise!



City of Chowchilla

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Civic Center Plaza
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Telephone: (559) 665-8615
Fax: (559) 665-7418
Email: generalinfo@ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Website:
www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

Chowchilla City Council

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

Jay Varney, *Acting City Administrator*
Wayne Padilla, *Asst. 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. 705
City Administrator	ext. 100
Asst. City Administrator	ext. 101
RDA/CDBG	ext. 101
City Clerk	ext. 705
Human Resources	ext. 705
Public Information	ext. 110
Airport Contact	ext. 322
Planning	ext. 405
Inspections	ext. 406
Building	ext. 410
Code Enforcement	ext. 412
Fire	ext. 600
Utilities	ext. 783
Finance	ext. 784
Parks & Recreation	ext. 110
Public Services	ext. 789
Operator	ext. 0

Direct Numbers

Police	665-8600
Anonymous Tip Line	665-8624
Fire	665-8626

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.



Ask the City: Free Food Giveaways

Ask the City answers questions submitted to us by email, mail or telephone. Readers can send in their questions to the addresses listed in the left column.

I heard about free food given out in the community. Where is that held? *C.L., Chowchilla*

There are currently some programs going on right now, so here's a brief note on each:

Good Samaritan Food Pantry: Sponsored by LifeChange Church, this is a food assistance program

offered free to residents of Chowchilla. The Food Pantry is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the rear of Faith Hall next to the church located at 717 Robertson Boulevard. The church is also working with the Madera County Food Bank to distribute free produce to residents on a regular basis. For details on the next date, call them at 665-2613.

Meals for Kids: All children under age 18 can receive a free breakfast and lunch Monday through

Friday. This program offers free nutritious breakfasts between 8 and 9 a.m. at the cafeterias at Fuller and Wilson Schools. Lunches are served at the same locations between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Adult meals are also available at a cost of \$3.00 per person.

This program is offered by the Chowchilla Elementary School District and is open to any child in need of a meal - no income verification is required. The meals will continue though the end of July. Call 351-2764.

Energy "Cool Tricks"

On an average summer day, American air conditioners provide enough cold air to produce 16 trillion ice cubes.

ENERGY FACTS

- *To cool your house efficiently, your air conditioner has to be cool itself, so try and keep it in the shade. An air conditioner exposed to direct sunlight will use up to 5% more energy than a shaded one.
- *If your air conditioner's already in the sun, you can build a simple wooden shade screen for it (just don't block the air flow).

SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE

- *If you have central air,

don't close your vents. Closing too many of them actually reduces operating efficiency. Instead, reduce the air to unused rooms by partially closing the registers. Whenever possible, leave the room door partly open to keep the system operating efficiently.

*Turn the air conditioner off when you leave the house for several hours or more.

*A thermostat is not a throttle, so don't switch it to a colder setting when you turn on the unit. It won't cool the room any faster, but it will waste energy when you forget to turn it back up.

- *Put a timer on your room air conditioner or use a programmable thermostat on your central unit. You don't need to leave it on all day to have a cool house when you get home. Hardware stores sell timers that will automatically start the a/c shortly before you get home, saving you money on your electric bill.

Also, don't forget to clean and straighten your coils, and replace or clean dirty air filters. Stay cool this summer *and* save money!



Do's & Don'ts

To hold a Yard Sale in Chowchilla you need to obtain a Yard Sale Permit from the City's Finance/Utilities Department or download a copy from our website. No fee is required for the first three sales in a calendar year. For more than three yard sales in a year, a fee of \$15.00 is charged for each additional sale. The fee is payable at

the time the permit application is submitted. Fees paid are not refundable.

Signs hung and left all over town create an eyesore for the community, so it helps to know where you can properly place signs. Two free-standing signs may be posted, subject to the written permission of the property owner on whose property said signs are to be placed. Signs shall not

exceed six square feet in size. **According to City Municipal Code, no signs are permitted within the public right-of-way or affixed to utility poles, street signs, or similar facilities used for public purposes.**

Applications are requested to be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the sale date. Call (559) 665-8615, ext. 783 for more details.