

COMMUNITY-

www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us

chamberofcommerce@ci.chowchilla.ca.us

July 2009

WELCOMING NEW MEMBER:

RAINBOW JUMPERS - PARTY RENTALS - Andy Ramos
331 W. Robertson Blvd., 665-1042



The Chamber invites its members to encourage other businesses in Chowchilla and the surrounding area to become a member of the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce and enjoy member benefits.

Chowchilla District
Chamber of Commerce
Manager: Jacki Flanagan
559-665-5603 Fax: 559-665-0896



New Member
RIBBON CUTTING
In House Placement
Solutions
Employment Staffing Services
Ryan Jones
209-777-0590

2009 Board of Directors

Executive Board

Janet Scroggins - President
Tri-Counties Bank

Vern Moss - Vice President
Madera Cty. Supervisor

Charlie Fall - Treasurer
Aanonson Sprinklers

Waseem Ahmed - Past President
United Park, Inc.

Directors

John Chavez, *Cornaggia's Bakery*

Dan Flanagan, *Flanagan Realty*

Shirlie Jones, *Land Company ERA*

Pat Ginsburg

Jan Harrell, *Golden Acres Apartments*

Brad Banks, *Pizza Factory*

Larry Pistoiresi, Sr., *Steve's Chevrolet*

CalChamber Urges Businesses to Prepare for Warm Weather

The California Chamber of Commerce is urging businesses around the state to take all available precautions to prevent heat illness among their employees as increased temperatures are expected through the week. More about heat related illnesses at www.calchamber.com/dailyheadlines and www.dir.ca.gov/dosh.



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Chowchilla, CA 93610
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ANNUAL CHAMBER/CITY BUSINESS MEETING

July 30, 2009 (Date Change)

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**Putters Bar & Grill Tent
19 Clubhouse Drive**

- **City, County, CCMA & Chamber Updates**
 - **Member Business Introductions**

Members call Chamber office to place your business on the Introduction List (limited to 15 businesses)

To reserve your seat, please call or fax Chamber office
Phone: 665-5603 Fax: 665-0896

DELIVER BETTER CUSTOMER SERVICE BY HAVING FUN

One of the biggest reasons customers do not return is they have no reason to. Sure they might get what they want but they often get it with “no” personality, “no” sparkle and “no” sizzle. Their experience is a dud. There is nothing memorable about the experience.

Are you leaving the fun and playful part of your personality at the front door each day? For many, work is a place to be serious -- fun happens on vacation and away from work. We need to accept fun as another element of the workplace.

Companies that enjoy tremendous customer loyalty offer their customers something they can't get anywhere else -- *FUN*. They provide an unexpected, positive experience. The employees enjoy their work, each other and their customers. They find ways to bring fun and joy into their work and they bring their customers along for the ride.

Have Fun at Work

- **Fun increase productivity.** Research shows that coworkers who learn how to have fun together increase productivity and performance by welcoming spontaneity. People learn when they are having fun. They will take work seriously, but lighten up on life.
- **Laughing reduces stress.** Laughter is a natural stress buster and fun is meant to be part of your life. Learn how to comfortably blend work and fun.
- **Acting silly requires maturity.** When you think of great leaders, they all have a great sense of humor. A person who can do a serious job and not take themselves too seriously is very mature.
- **Fun is a “natural social glue”.** Groups that can have fun together are more relaxed, interact better and are more comfortable with each other when problems need to be worked out.
- **Having fun gets the job done.** Fun is not a reward, it's the lubricant that gets things done easily and effectively. Make fun a regular part of your daily routine.
- **Have fun with your customers.** Your customers will have fun shopping with you and will return more often. Notice that all the new and successful retail concepts are centered around interaction and fun.

Reprinted with permission from Barbara Wold's Retail & Consumer Tips, bwold@ix.netcome.com




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Zak Zacharia
Chief of Security

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Cell: 559-974-4600
E-Mail: Zak@Zaksenterprises.com

MERCED COLLEGE CUSTOMER SERVICE ACADEMY PRESENTS:

“CONFLICT MANAGEMENT”

Sign up now for the *Conflict Management* course August 4, 11, and 18. The course module synopsis is: Conflict gets in the way of good business. Explore the causes and impact conflict can have on customer service. Learn strategies and techniques for resolving tough issues and how to turn a difficult customer into a loyal one. Course is held at the Civic Center Plaza Public Meeting Room starting at 6:00 p.m. Course costs \$10.00 and earns 1/2 unit of college credit. Call Jacki at the Chamber to reserve your seat.

HRCaliforniaEXTRA -- PUT COMMISSION AGREEMENT IN WRITING

Written agreements are imperative when a compensation package includes commission payments. In the written agreement, employers should specify when commissions are earned,, and when they will or will not be paid out, according to the California appeals court.

Although the California Labor Code considers commissions wages, the right of an employee for commissions “depends on the terms of the contract for compensation.” *Nein v. HostPro, Inc.* 2009 Cal. App. LEXIS 892 (2009).

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CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION OFFERS SALES TAX CLASSES

The way you file your tax return is changing. The Board of Equalization is actively eliminating the paper that your tax return is filed on. Instead, the Board would like for businesses to electronic file (e-file) their taxes. This may seem too futuristic for some businesses but it is more accurate and time saving to e-file. In addition e-filed returns do not get lost in the mail.

Spending less time on preparing tax returns means more time you can spend at your business. Help is available with easy e-filing tutorials. The Board offers tax return preparation classes for free to help file your returns electronically. A schedule of the tax return preparation classes is available at this link <http://www.boe.ca.gov/electsrv/efiling/sutd.htm>. If you find that you really can not file your return electronically, you can contact me or the Board of Equalization and let us know you need an exemption from filing electronic returns.

Courtesy of Leonard's Letter July 14, 2009

BOE SALES TAX CLASSES:

Tax Preparation / E-File Class		
	7/22/09	1:30-3:30 pm
	10/21/09	1:30-3:30 pm
BOE, 8050 N. Palm Blvd., Suite 205, Fresno		
For information on class - 559-248-4219		
Free parking available		

For more BOE Classes or to register online go to:

ABOUT CITY and COUNTY... (check City Calendar for details,
www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/calendar)

July:

- 18 - Chowchilla Redfins Chicken Dinner, Life Change Church Parking Lot, Drive Thru Pick Up 5-7p, for tickets 665-5983
- 20 - SCORE 60 Minute Crash Course "SHOW ME THE MONEY", Sierra Vista Mall, Community Room, 8-9:30a (Free), to register, 487-5605
- 25 - Chowchilla Speedway Boys & Girls Club Building Fundraiser Fairgrounds, info www.racechowchilla.com
- 27 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center 7 p

August:

- 7 - 20th Annual City Block Party, Sports & Leisure Park 5:30 - 9:30 p
- 10 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center 7 p
- 15 - Chowchilla Auditorium Benefit Dinner, Fairgrounds Eastman Hall, 6p, info 665-1964
- 17 - SCORE 60 Minute Crash Course "INVENTORY FOR CASH", Sierra Vista Mall Community Room, 8-9:30a (Free), to register, 487-5605
- 18 - Parks, Recreation, & Community Services Mtg., Civic Center, 7p
- 19 - Planning Commission, Civic Center, 7p
- 20 - Heritage Preservation Commission, Civic Center, 7p
- 24 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7p



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 Cell (559) 999-5070




"Buy Local"

The "buy local" campaign is in full force with residents being encouraged to keep their sales tax dollars in their local communities.

It does not matter if you shop in big-box chain stores or locally owned stores, as long as you shop Chowchilla first (or search to see if our local stores carry or can order in what you need.)

Businesses are being asked to display the red price tags "Buy Local" in their windows to serve as a reminder. Kits, including stickers & window logos are available at the Chamber.

"Buy Local" is an 18-month campaign within our six counties to raise awareness and to educate consumers of the importance of buying from shops within their own neighborhood, whether it is a national chain or a locally-owned shop. To support, learn more or contribute visit: <http://www.fresnoedc.com/contactBuyLocal.html>

IRS News Release

Media Contact: 202.622.4000

Summertime Tax Tips Available on IRS.gov and Via E-Mail

IR-2009-64, July 6, 2009

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service is publishing summertime tax tips to provide useful and concise advice on topics that affect taxpayers.

Many people don't think about their taxes until the start of the filing season in January. That can be a mistake. Steps such as checking your withholding, getting the proper receipts from charities, organizing all the records you will need or setting a personal tax strategy that can save money at tax time are most effective if they are done well before year's end.

The IRS is publishing three tax tips per week this summer. Topics range from how parents can get credit for sending their kids to day camp to protecting yourself from identity theft.

Now you can receive IRS Tax Tips via e-mail as soon as they are published by signing up through the IRS e-news subscription page, [e-News Subscription](#). When subscribing, a confirmation message will be sent via e-mail. Verification must be sent in response in order to confirm a subscription.

Source Trace Vollmer, Senior Stakeholder Liaison, IRS Fresno Office



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 GENERAL DENTISTRY

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 Facsimile 559.673.1136

Message from the Manager:

Lots of information is being sent from various government agencies and business consulting companies regarding helping small businesses survive during this struggling economic time. I hope that the information sent to you will assist you in planning for your business. More information can be found on the IRS and SBA websites. If you need information you do not find, please contact me at the Chamber office.

To have up to date information on legislation that affects California businesses, the CalChamber on-line newsletters is available. To receive emails from CalChamber: <http://www.calchamber.com/NewsEvents/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Jacki flanagan

Highlights of Board of Directors Meeting

The monthly Board of Directors Meeting of the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce was held July 8, 2009 in the Civic Center Public Meeting Room at 12:00 noon. The Board of Directors received a report on the June 27th Motorcycle Poker Run & Show. Reports were also given by the Map Committee, General Meetings Committee, and Golf Tournament Committee chairpersons. The Manager reported on donations received from community organizations for the Christmas Street Pole Decoration project to match Chamber funds for the refurbishing project. Approval was given to the Chamber Manager to submit for funds from the U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Support Program for promotional activities to raise awareness of the 2010 Census. Deferred business included 2010 Collette Tour destinations and Chamber office relocation. Additional information regarding the July meeting minutes can be found on the Chamber's website at http://www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/chamber/chamber_main.htm.

Cal/OSHA to Turn Attention to Shade Rules

(July 1, 2009) Shade requirements to prevent heat illness in outdoor workers are expected to be the focus of a new Cal/OSHA regulatory process in a few weeks.

The revised approach follows a June 18 hearing at which the Cal/OSHA Standards Board heard comments, but declined to adopt or even vote, on proposed emergency amendments to the State's heat illness standard.

Both employers and labor representatives criticized the emergency rules, proposed as amendments to California's first-in-the-nation heat illness prevention standard, which was adopted in June, 2006.

Current Heat Illness Standard

The existing standard applies to all companies with employees working in outdoor places of employment. Employers are required to provide training for employees and supervisors on heat illness prevention, symptoms, and treatment.

At the June 18 hearing, the Cal/OSHA staff noted that the portion of the current heat illness standard dealing with shade is the one for which citations are most often issued.

Effective Enforcement Needed

The CalChamber pointed out in comments to the board that more effective enforcement of existing California requirements to prevent heat illness in outdoor workers can do more to protect works than adopting more prescriptive, burdensome rules.

Both labor and management representatives agree that enhanced enforcement efforts could effectively address a lack of compliance.

Business groups, as well as the public safety managers association,

agree with the CalChamber's remarks.

The CalChamber also recommended that Cal/OSHA reactivate the Heat Illness Prevention (HIP) Network launched two summers ago by the Cal/Chamber and other business groups in cooperation with Cal/OSHA to warn employers about impending heat emergencies.

Rewritten with the permission of the CalChamber,
for more information go to www.calchamber.com/headlines/

I-9 Form Changes Mean Employers Need to Adjust Hiring Practices

(CalChamber *ALERT* June 12, 2009) The California Chamber of Commerce's *Labor Law Corner* has information for businesses regarding the new I-9 Form. Contact CalChamber at 800-348-23262 or submit your questions at www.hrcalifornia.com.



U.S. Census Bureau

United States
Census
2010

Census Day: April 1, 2010

IS THE CENSUS CONFIDENTIAL?

- **ABSOLUTELY!**
- **YOUR** answers are protected by law and strictly confidential. By **LAW**, Title 13 of the U.S. Code, it is illegal for the Census Bureau, or its employees, to share your personal information with any other government agency, not law enforcement, IRS, Welfare, FBI, Immigration, etc.
 - 1961 - Congress strengthens the law so that even copies of census questionnaires kept in your possession cannot be used as evidence against you in a court of law.
- No court of law, not even the President of the United States, can access **YOUR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES**.
 - 1953-72 - During the Truman administration the White House had to undergo renovation. It was necessary to relocate the President until the renovation was completed. The Secret Service requested from the Census Bureau information on residents living in the proposed relocation area for the purpose of performing background checks. However, because census data is **ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL**, even for the President, the request was denied. Instead, President Truman had to spend his exile at Blair House.
- Highly motivated employees protect your answers. Census workers must pass security and employment reference checks. They are sworn to secrecy, and the **PENALTY FOR VIOLATION IS A \$250,000.00 FINE AND/OR A 5-YEAR PRISON TERM**.
 - 1980 - Armed with a search warrant authorizing them to seize census department documents, four FBI agents entered the Census Bureau's Colorado Springs office. No confidential information was ever released because a census worker held off the agents until her superiors resolved the

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS June - July 2009:

The Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce thanks the listed members for renewing their commitment to the Chowchilla community. Support Chowchilla's businesses and Chamber members!

SaveMart Corporation

Chowchilla Floral & Gifts

BUY LOCAL - SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

IRS  News Release

Summertime Tax Tips Available on IRS.gov and Via E-Mail

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Now you can receive IRS Tax Tips via e-mail as soon as they are published by signing up through the IRS e-news subscription page, [e-News Subscription](#). When subscribing, a confirmation message will be sent via e-mail. Verification must be sent in response in order to confirm a subscription.

BBB warns of fake filing requirement letters for LLCs: Victims paid ten times the actual fee

[July 9, 2009] – The BBB serving Central California is warning business owners that they could easily find themselves the victims of a business filing scam. Fake letters are being sent to California businesses encouraging them to comply with their California Corporations Code filing obligations by submitting fees and documentation to a third party instead of to the Secretary of State's office.

"We had a victim contact us who was ripped off only because they thought they were complying with state regulations regarding their business," said Doug Broten, president of the BBB. "In an economy where businesses are struggling to keep the doors open, this type of scam is especially reprehensible."

The scam request comes from a company claiming to be the Business Filings Division of the State of California and lists a Sacramento address. It includes a false seal of the State of California as well as specific code citations and urges immediate compliance in order to "avoid penalties, fines and suspension." Victims who have fallen for this fraudulent filing paid \$239, which is more than ten times the actual \$20 filing fee the State charges for California nonprofit corporations and all limited liability companies.

Businesses need to know that, according to the Secretary of State, "submitting the fees and filings required by the Corporations Code to a third party for filing with the Secretary of State does not meet the business entity's statutory obligation to file a Statement of Information with the Secretary of State."

Anyone receiving a solicitation letter that seems misleading or confusing is urged to contact the California Attorney General's Office at www.ag.ca.gov/consumers/general.php or by phone at (916) 322-3360 or toll free at (800) 952-5225. Businesses may also contact the BBB at (800) 675-8118 for help in verifying the legitimacy of filing requests.



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