

# CITY Spotlight CHOWCHILLA



August 2017; Volume 9, Issue 8

## CITY HALL OFFICES BUSINESS HOURS Monday - Friday, 8AM - 5PM CALENDAR

- Aug 8** - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Aug 11** - Summer Luau (outdoors), Chowchilla Skilled Nursing Facility, 5PM
- Aug 13** - American Legion & VFW Breakfast Fundraiser, VFW Hall, 7-11AM
- Aug 15** - Coffee with a COP, McDonalds, 8AM
- Aug 15** - Community CONVERSATION, Pheasant Run Golf Course (Greenhills), 5:30PM
- Aug 16** - Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Aug 19** - Tenaya Guild 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 4PM
- Aug 22** - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Aug 26** - Chowchilla FFA Brews and Brats Fundraiser, Chowchilla Fairgrounds, 5PM
- Sep 4** - City Hall Closed - Labor Day Holiday
- Sep 10** - American Legion & VFW Breakfast Fundraiser, VFW Hall, 7-11AM
- Sep 11** - HOW (Helping One Woman) Fundraiser Dinner, Farnesi's Steakhouse, 6PM
- Sep 12** - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Sep 16** - Chamber Classic Car & Custom Bike Show, Veterans Memorial Park, 10AM
- Sep 19** - Coffee with a COP, McDonalds, 8AM
- Sep 19** - Community CONVERSATION, Veterans Memorial Park, 5:30PM
- Sep 20** - Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 7PM
- Sep 21-24** - American Cowboys Team Roping Association (ACTRA) California Chapter Finals, Fairgrounds, All Day!
- Sep 26** - City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7PM

## City begins shift to solar power for large savings

The City of Chowchilla has successfully concluded the sale of bonds to finance an energy efficiency program designed to create approximately \$28 million dollars in savings for the City over the next 30 years. This includes shifting 80% of the wastewater treatment plant's power supply off of PG&E and on to solar panels, plus using solar panels to power many city buildings and water wells, freeing up money to be applied toward needed infrastructure projects.

Additionally, the City utilized Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREB), a federal program that assists in the financing of energy savings projects by reducing the interest rate costs by 50%.

In a joint effort with Johnson Controls, Inc., 2,166 solar panels will be constructed at the wastewater plant. Instead of paying PG&E an ever increasing power bill the City will now pay a constant amount to service the bond payments of the project construction costs.

The savings from this project will be used to build a 2.5 million gallon water storage tank and upgrade the City's drinking water distribution system. New wells and booster pumps will be added to ensure adequate pressure throughout Chowchilla. Other important infrastructure projects are also included.

According to City Administrator Brian Haddix, "the key to this system is that electricity costs continue to climb, yet the annual payments on the bonds stay the same. As the difference between the two widens, the City realizes increasing savings from owning its own solar panels. Plus, the CREB greatly reduced the cost of the bonds, meaning more savings to the City."

Mayor Gaumnitz stated that, "the City of Chowchilla is constantly looking for ways to drive its costs down while improving our infrastructure. By being creative in using solar power to run our wastewater treatment plant, and by employing energy efficient equipment, we can modernize our City services without placing the burden on the backs of taxpayers."



## Water meter installation project continues throughout the city

The City has contracted with Johnson Controls, Inc. and Vanguard Utility Services to install the remainder of water meters on City service connections. This is to comply with California State Law (AB 2572) that requires meters be installed within the next few years. In addition to installing and replacing water meters, Vanguard will install transmitters on every meter in the city to allow for remote meter reading in the near future.

As work progresses you will be individually contacted when Vanguard comes to your neighborhood. They will leave a notice on your door notifying you that work will soon begin in your area. All work will be performed Monday through Friday between 7:00am and 5:00pm. It will be necessary to turn off your water to install the new meter and you will be given advance notice. The replacement will take about 25 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions call the Public Works Department at (559) 665-8615, ext. 789, please leave a message after hours.

## September Pet Vaccine Clinic

The Chowchilla Police Department Animal Control Division will hold the Fall Pet Vaccine Clinic in mid-September. The Clinic date will be announced in late August and in the September City Spotlight newsletter.

Held at the Chowchilla Police Department, the Clinic will open 9-10AM for seniors and persons with disabilities, and 10AM-12:00NN for the all others.

Dogs can get distemper/parvo, rabies and worming shots, and cats can receive FVRCD, rabies and worming shots.

## CITY OFFICES

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Chowchilla, CA 93610

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## CITY COUNCIL

Mary 'Trinket' Gaumnitz, *Mayor*  
Dennis Haworth, *Mayor Pro Tem*  
Waseem Ahmed, *Council Member*  
Ray Barragan, *Council Member*  
John Chavez, *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.



# Chowchilla Chamber Classic Car & Custom Bike Show

The Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce Annual Classic Car Show has grown to include custom bikes for the 2017 event. The Classic Car & Custom Bike Show is Saturday, September 16 at Veterans Memorial Park on Robertson Blvd at 6th Street.

A \$25 early registration fee for car and bike owners ends September 4. After that date the fee is \$30. Registration will continue to the event day with on-site registration from 8-10AM.

The show officially opens at 10AM and continues to 3PM with the awards presentation at 3:30PM.

The public is invited to visit the show and vote for their favorite car to win the Community Choice Award. There will be music along with food and merchandise vendors. An on-site 50/50 drawing will be conducted with proceeds going to benefit the Sober Grad program.

The vehicle registration form is available at the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce website at [www.ChowchillaChamber.org](http://www.ChowchillaChamber.org), or call the office at (559) 665-5603.



## Chowchilla welcomes ACTRA pro ropers

The Chowchilla Fairgrounds will host the American Cowboy Team Roping Association (ACTRA) California Chapter Roping Finals September 21-24. Approximately 2,000 roping teams along with their families and friends are expected at the event. Daily roping events will be held in the two covered fairgrounds arenas and feature roping events designed for professional team ropers as well as families and individuals who pursue the sport as a hobby. The California Chapter Finals is the biggest roping event in the state with total cash awards exceeding \$300,000.

## NEW Sidewalk Repair Cost Assistance Program

Many property owners are unaware that California Law assigns the responsibility to maintain sidewalks, curbs and gutters to the contiguous property owners. As would be expected, property owners are usually displeased to learn that sidewalk maintenance is their financial obligation. But, failure to perform repairs makes problem areas worse and potentially creates unwanted trip and fall hazards.

In an attempt to address this issue and help lighten the cost burden, the City of Chowchilla has implemented a Sidewalk Repair Cost Assistance Program with two options to benefit a property owner.

When repair needs are found the City notifies the property owner who has 60 days to comply. The property owner may choose to enter into the new cost assistance program, or use a contractor of their own choice at their own cost. If the owner chooses to use their own contractor, or make repairs themselves, the assistance program will not apply. If a property owner fails to use the loan program or make the necessary repairs, the City will make the repairs and can lien the property for the repair costs not collected from the owner.

The Sidewalk Repair Cost Assistance Program has two types of cost assistance available. One option is a no interest loan to the property owner, not to exceed \$1,000, for a City selected contractor to complete the needed repairs as part of a city-wide annual repair project. The owner would pay back the loan through their utility bill for a period of up to 36 months.

The second option, which can be paired with the first option, concerns areas damaged by street trees, those growing between the sidewalk and curb. In this instance, repair costs are shared between the City and the property owner. The program will not fund the removal of any street tree unless recommended by an arborist. Any tree that is removed would need to be replaced with a tree from the City's approved list and would be an eligible program cost. Regular tree maintenance is not eligible under this program.

Download the program booklet/application from the City website, or call (559) 665-8615, ext. 789.

Chowchilla Adult Recreation  
**Co-Ed Grass Volleyball**  
@ Edward Ray Park  
Nightly Fee \$5  
(Teams formed each night.)

Monday nights...August 7th-October 9th  
from 6:00pm to 8:30pm  
**\*\*Must be at least 18 yrs. old to play\*\***

Contact us by email at [chowchillaadultrecreation@gmail.com](mailto:chowchillaadultrecreation@gmail.com)  
or on Facebook at [facebook.com/chowchillaadultrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/chowchillaadultrecreation)