

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ruth B. Pollard

If you have been reading the chamber column or checking the our website calendar, you already know how busy April is with community wide events. A couple of more events have been added, so it is busier than ever, and the first couple of weekends in May are already jam packed! Those events will be highlighted next week. If you are a regular library patron, you already know that since the chamber office moved out of the building last September, director Deborah Queen and her staff and many volunteers have been very busy giving the library a completely new and updated look. It is beautiful and they will show it off with an open house and rededication event and visitation on Saturday, April 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Be sure and take some time to stop by; if you haven't been at the library in the past few months, you won't recognize it!

If you love yard sales, be sure and check out the one up at the Rio Medina Store at 3980 FM 471 North on Saturday, April 26th starting at 8:00 in the morning. Member Bonnie Jaks called and said they welcome vendors; just bring your own table and set up at no charge.

Ribbon cuttings you won't want to miss this week are the second location of Castroville Computers on Thursday the 18th at 1160 18th St. in Hondo, right next to Radio Shack at 5:00 p.m. and the Magnolia Blossom gift shop located at the Mary Gray Event Center on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

If you have a pet that needs vaccinations, you can take it to the Community Building at Medina River West from 9:00 to 12:00 on Saturday, April 26th. It only costs \$10 and is sponsored by the Animal Medical Clinic. And your dog might even win a gift certificate for grooming and two nights boarding.

Another "Post Cards Home" from Michelle Newman's trip to Castroville has been posted to blogs.mysanantonio.com/weblogs/cards/. This one is called "Eating your way around Castroville in five easy steps" and features Dan's and Dzuiks's fresh sausage, The Castroville Café, LaNormandie, Haby's Bakery, Sammy's Restaurant and the Alsatian Restaurant, all of whom are long time chamber members. Some great photos are posted, including one of beautiful hand decorated flower-shaped cookies from Haby's.

The featured Business of the Week this time is State Farm Insurance, with agent Hazel Russell. Hazel is a native Castrovillian and graduated from MVIDS in 1981. She earned a BBA from Southwest Texas State University at San Marcos and graduated Summa Cum-Laude, an awesome achievement! She was working as a senior credit analyst for Frost Bank in San Antonio when a State Farm agent in Devine opened her eyes to the possibility of starting her own business in her home town. Since she and her husband, Richard Russell, wanted to raise their family in Castroville, the idea of owning her own business really appealed to her, so she took the plunge in February of 1990. Hazel says what she really likes about her business is the opportunity to talk to so many people and to help them with their insurance and financial needs. The thing she likes best is counseling students when they turn 16 about the risks of driving, and she feels like she really makes a difference in their lives. Hazel and her husband are very involved in their community and are active chamber supporters.

Watch for Annie's Coffee Corner coming soon! I'll talk to you next week.