

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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By Ashlee Tondre Bates

If you have been thinking about joining the chamber, now is the time because if you join in the last quarter of 2009, you get the rest of the year for FREE!! Yes I said Free. Join today and start taking advantage of all the benefits the chamber has to offer. For a business, membership is just \$100 for the whole year! With your membership you get advertising opportunities, networking opportunities, business opportunities and many other benefits. Plus you will be kept up to date on the latest happenings at the chamber and around Castroville through our weekly email newsletter. Join us for member luncheons every month and host a mixer at your place of business and we will advertise it for free! Plus, as a member, your business is on the tip of our tongues. We receive thousands of inquiries a year and we will be sure to recommend your business first! So don't waste another minute if you have thought about joining. Join the Castroville Chamber right now and receive the rest of 2009 for FREE!!

If you are wondering if your membership will pay off, just listen to this. Recently, a chamber member was looking for a locksmith, so they checked out the Chamber Member Businesses page at [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com). They noticed that Bear Claw Lock and Key was a member of the Castroville Chamber so they called them to come install some deadbolts. She said the woman who came was very efficient and friendly. Her total bill came to about \$170. So with just one call from a chamber member, her membership dues are paid for almost two years! That is a pretty good return on her chamber membership investment.

The Bluebonnet Children's Center is sponsoring their Playhouse Raffle and tickets are on sale now. For just \$5 a ticket or \$20 for 5, you can have a chance at this beautiful playhouse which was built by an Eagle Scout as a merit project. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support services provided to the abused and neglected children in Medina, Real and Uvalde counties that the Center services. The playhouse will be present at different business locations for the public to see or stop by our office to see a picture of it. The drawing will be held December 18<sup>th</sup> and you need not be present to win. They will deliver the playhouse within a 100 mile radius of their service area. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please call (830) 426-8848 or (830) 278-7733.

The Maize at Graff Family Farm is now open and ready for you to come enjoy a day of fun! Take a stroll through the 7-acre maze, enjoy a hayride, barrel train, duck races and so much more. They will even have pumpkins and trick or treat! Entrance fee is \$9 for 12 and up, \$7 for ages 4-11 and 65+. Children 3 and under are free. For more information call (830) 741-3968 or visit [www.southtexasmaize.com](http://www.southtexasmaize.com).

If you are wondering what to do this weekend, be sure to check out our calendar of events online at [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com). There is so much to do this weekend, your schedule will be packed. Thursday, start with Live Music at Cora's. Friday it's Friday Night Fever at Lundquist, the American Legion Scholarship Dinner at the American Legion Hall and Live Music by the MuddCatts at the Hotel Alsace.

Saturday offers plenty to do starting with the Farmer's Market at Alsace Hair Nails and Tan. When you're done there head to the Regional Park for the Volksmarch, a 10K/5K walk or run that is free to the public. After you've exercised for the day, head to the Market Trail Days at Houston Square to check out the local wares. Next, it's on to Hidden Treasures for their open house and 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary Sale-a-bration! End the day with a delicious Sausage Supper at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Sunday, head on over to the Moyer Retreat Center for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Heritage Day. There will be BBQ, a silent auction, children's activities, handmade arts and crafts, homemade desserts and live music! Finish off the weekend with a free movie and popcorn at the Shooting Star museum. So don't worry about what to do this weekend, just check out our calendar of events for more details. Have a great one!