

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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By Ashlee Tondre Bates

Old Fashion Christmas is just a little over a week away and we are working to get everything together. This is the 26<sup>th</sup> year for the arts and crafts fair and we will have plenty for everyone to do and see. With over 250 vendors this year, there is sure to be something for everyone. I hope you have your Christmas list ready because you are going to want to have it with you as you stroll through the many booths. If you are looking for that special item, I bet you will find it here. Some of the many items to be featured include handmade woodwork, metal art, handmade jewelry, Children's toys and clothes, women's and men's accessories, handmade knives, pottery, and of course handmade Christmas décor including wreaths, tree skirts and so much more. These are just a few of the items you will find at this year's event. And of course there will be an abundance of food booths for you to sample. Enjoy everything from brisket tacos and fajitas to hamburgers and pizza. Or maybe you're in the mood for an Italian Ice or shrimp kabobs. With twenty booths to choose from, you won't be disappointed. Don't forget to visit the center of the square throughout the day to see and hear some great entertainment. The Castroville Line Dancers will start us off in the morning followed by Monica Wallace. The Scottish Bagpipes and Drums will be back again marching throughout the square. Check out some great moves from Texas Cheer & Tumbling and enjoy some great Christmas music from the Medina Valley High School Choir and the MV Methodist Church Choir. Four Points Gym will be here to put on a show and we will close out the day with David Suehs and his group. Antique cars will be on display and of course Santa will make his yearly visit at 1pm for all the kids to take their picture. The Jolly Trolley will be here again for the kiddos to ride and we will have face painting, balloon animals and airbrushed tattoos. So mark your calendars now and invite all your friends and family to the biggest arts and crafts far around. You are sure to have a blast!!

It's that time of year when we here at the chamber are seeking nominations for both the Outstanding Citizen of the Year and the Outstanding Jr. Boy and Girl Citizens of the Year. Each year we look forward to recognizing local individuals who have made significant contributions to our community. Also this year, we have added a Business of the Year category. We are looking for a Chamber member business who is active in the community and who gives unique service to Castroville. If you are a chamber member, you should have received a nominating form via email or snail mail. If you have not received one, please contact us at the office and we will get one to you. The winners will be announced at the Chamber Banquet which will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at the Grande Hall at Hofmann Ranch. More details and tickets to the event will be available soon. So get your nomination in today and let us know who you think deserves one of these prestigious awards!

This past week we had a special visitor from Ignacio, Colorado. Flow Marie Zerr came to town to research her family. A few years back she got a phone call from someone in this area who had found her name on an organization's membership list. They wanted to see if they were related. This sparked Mrs. Zerr's curiosity so when she was visiting her son in Louisiana, she decided to take a trip out to Castroville and Hondo to see if she could find some of her relatives. She enjoyed her trip to the Steinbach House and couldn't wait to tell her family back home all about Castroville.

Happy Thanksgiving from everyone here at the Chamber! Be safe and have fun!