

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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By Ashlee Tondre Bates

Extra, Extra, read all out it! The 2009 Castroville Visitor Guides are here! We are very excited to have these guides which help us not only promote the town but show off some of Castroville's wonderful history through the Historic Walking Tour and the many invaluable stories provided. It's been four years since this guide has been updated so we made sure all new tourist businesses were listed in the guide. These guides will not only be given to the visitors who come to town, but they can also be mailed out all over the U.S., will be sent to tourist centers in San Antonio and other Texas cities and will be given to local businesses. So stop by the Chamber office today and pick up a bundle or two. But be sure to call the office first to make sure we have them here. If not, we will meet you at our storage so we can load you up! These are great tools to send to family and friends to entice them to visit Castroville. Call us today and come pick up your guides!

Even with the cold weather and the threat of being a cloudy day, Old Fashion Christmas was a great success this year and it turned out to be a beautiful day! The crowd of people making their way through Houston Square to do their early Christmas shopping was huge and we at the Chamber couldn't be happier. And so were our vendors. Many of them that we talked to said they did great at the show. They were worried with the weather and the economic times being not so great, but most of them said they did better than they expected. We had some great entertainment come out as well this year and we want to thank them for braving the cold and keeping us entertained throughout the day. Santa Claus was, of course, a big hit with the kids. The line was so long that Santa stayed an extra hour just to make sure he didn't leave anyone out. We'd like to thank Tom Campbell and his Model T group for bringing out their antique cars for all to see. And a huge thank you goes out to the Old Fashion Christmas committee and the Chamber Directors for helping with this event. Without them, this event would not be what it is today. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2010.

The deadline to submit your nomination form for the community awards which will be presented at the 2010 Chamber Banquet is this Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. This year we will be giving awards for Citizen of the Year, Jr. Boy and Girl Citizen of the year and the newly created Business of the Year. The person, couple or business may be nominated by another person or by themselves and they must reside in the Castroville area. To be eligible for the Business of the Year, they must be a Chamber member. This is the perfect opportunity to nominate someone from the community who you feel needs to be recognized for their dedication and hard work. If you did not receive an application, please stop by the Chamber office and pick one up today. Don't miss the deadline this Friday!

Castroville Café would like you to know that during the month of December they will have special holiday hours. They will be open for lunch Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 2pm and open for dinner on Friday and Saturday from 5pm to 9pm. They will also have live music on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Stop by today and try one of the delicious items on their holiday dinner menu including salmon filet, homemade meatloaf, chicken cordon bleu, lasagna and much more.

It's another busy weekend in Castroville with a Holiday Open House at Community National Bank starting it off on Thursday evening from 4-7pm at the Castroville location. Spend your Friday night over at Lundquist Automotive for Friday Night Fever and check out the cars and trucks they have on display. Saturday morning head over to the Castroville Regional Park for a Super Saturday Work Day. Wear your gloves and bring your shovels and shears! Afterwards, head over to Market Trail Days on the Square to check out some great Christmas items. End your evening with a Musical

Theater performance of “A Christmas Cinderella” at the Connection at Grace Community Church at 7pm. Tickets are on sale now. Sunday head on over to the Shooting Star Museum for their annual Christmas Toy Show which features toys of past and present. Then stay for the free movie beginning at 6pm. With so much to do in town, there’s no need to drive far. Have a great weekend everyone!