

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

I can't believe Christmas is already this week! Boy has time just flown by. Before we know it, it will be 2010. If you're like me and you need a last minute gift or two, head over to Iron Haus Fitness and pick up a gift certificate for a massage while they have their Christmas specials. Get a one hour Swedish Relaxation Massage for just \$50 or a one hour Hot Stone Massage for \$65. And if you purchase one regular priced one hour Swedish Massage Gift Certificate (\$65) you get the second one for just \$35. What a deal! So treat someone special in your life to the gift of massage, or heck, treat yourself! You deserve it.

Another great last minute Christmas gift idea is the new *Castroville A to Z* book that was put together by the Castroville Public Library's 2009 Summer Reading Program participants. The book covers subjects related to the history of Castroville and it would make a great gift for someone in your life. The books are \$11 each and can be purchased at the Library, City Hall or the Chamber Office. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Castroville Public Library and go towards next year's summer reading program. For more information, please contact the library at (830) 538-4095.

During this time of year, we see more and more families who need a little assistance. The Home of Mercy Extended San Antonio has opened a new Food Pantry that will serve Bexar and Medina Counties. They are in need of donations so they can continue to help families in these areas. You can help by making a cash donation, sponsoring a food drive, donating items to be sold or volunteering. For more information or to donate, please contact Steve Newton at (210) 787-8102.

Chamber members can expect to get their 2010 membership dues invoices in the mail this week so be sure to keep a look out. We know you are busy with Christmas coming up so feel free to wait until all your family leaves before you send us your payment. New fees this year are business - \$100, Individual and Non-profits - \$40, over 65 - \$25 and Couple - \$50. If you turned 65 this year, be sure to pay the discounted rate. Couples, be sure to take advantage of our new couple rate. And businesses have the opportunity to upgrade their membership. For just \$500 for the year, you get all the great benefits of being a chamber members as well as an ad in the monthly newsletter every month. These newsletters are emailed out to over 350 people and will be inserted in the Castroville Bulletin each month. Space is limited so those interested should let us know today!

Don't forget to get your tickets today for the "Taste of Castroville" fundraiser hosted by the Friends of the Landmark Inn on December 29, 2009. Local restaurants will be contributing their favorite dishes for everyone to enjoy at the Landmark Inn. Tickets are just \$20 per person, but are limited, so stop by the Landmark Inn today and get yours. Enjoy the gorgeous scenery of the Landmark Inn while you feast of some of the culinary tastes of Castroville.

We want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas from everyone at the Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you all in the New Year. Have a safe and Happy Christmas!