

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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By Ashlee Tondre Bates

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday with your family and friends, but its back to work for us here at the Chamber. The New Year brings some changes here at the Chamber office. Of course our big change is our new building which we absolutely love! It's been great getting all settled and organized in our new place. Another change for us is that our Finance Coordinator, Patricia Davila, has decided to retire, for the second time! She is truly going to be missed by so many of us and definitely me as she is my right hand lady. We recently hired a new person to take her place and we'd like you to help us welcome Brenda Kempf to the Chamber Office Staff. Brenda is starting with us this week and will be training with Pat whose last day is December 30<sup>th</sup>. We will all miss Pat, but know that with Pat's training, Brenda will be able to step right in and continue where Pat left off.

Due to the New Year's Day holiday we will be moving the January Chamber Member's Luncheon to Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at Sammy's Restaurant. We know many you will be off on the Monday following New Year's Day so that Tuesday will be a busy one. We hope to see you all at the luncheon on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Now that the holidays are settling down you can take the time to look at your 2012 calendar and see what events you want to attend this year. We hope you all have marked down Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and plan to attend the Annual Chamber Banquet which will be held at the Grande Hall at Hofmann Ranch. Each year we look forward to hosting this event where we are able to honor local individuals for the hard work they contribute to our community throughout the year. Tickets for the event are \$30 per person and include the get acquainted mixer with drinks and appetizers at 6pm followed by dinner and an awards ceremony.

We are currently looking for Banquet Sponsors at the levels of \$100, \$250 and \$500. \$100 level will receive two tickets to the banquet and printed recognition. \$250 level will receive 2 tickets to the banquet, a banner hung in the hall and printed recognition. \$500 level will receive 4 tickets to the banquet, 4 extra raffle tickets, a banner hung in the hall and printed recognition. If you are interested in being a banquet sponsor or purchasing tickets to the event, please contact the Chamber office at (830) 538-3142 or stop by our new location at 1115 Angelo Street.

This weekend there is plenty to do right here in Castroville to help celebrate the New Year. The Alsatian Restaurant and Hotel Alsace will once again host their New Year's Eve Celebration on Saturday evening. Enjoy a fun night of hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, sangria, champagne, a DJ and dancing. Anyone who purchases tickets for the celebration will receive 15% off an overnight stay at the hotel. For more details, or to purchase tickets, contact the Hotel Alsace at (830) 538-3200.

Several of our local restaurants will be offering New Year's Eve Dinner specials including Le Chat Noir and the Old Alsatian Steakhouse who recently sent us their menus. Be sure to check with your local eateries for their specials and spend the New Year right here in Castroville.

This weekend is the last weekend to enjoy the Christmas Toy and Quilt Show at the Shooting Star Museum. Check out toys and quilts from past and present and enjoy a relaxing stroll through time at this one of a kind exhibit. Admission is always free and the show runs from 1pm to 5pm at the Museum located at 5445 CR 5710 in Devine. The Son'Shine Coffee House will host a free music concert at 7pm on Sunday evening featuring Kasi Nicole and Thy Kingdom Come. Enjoy some great music and tasty pastries. Wishing you all a Happy New Year!