

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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By Ashlee Tondre Bates

We have the results!! The Chamber would like to congratulate the three new Directors. Jeff Lundquist, Hazel Russell and Stephanie Zinsmeyer have been chosen to serve on the Board from January 2010 to December 2013. It was a close race this year and we had some really great nominees. We are very excited for these three individuals who will serve on the Board and help the Chamber continue to work for Castroville and the businesses in our great town. Their first official meeting will be on Monday, January 5, 2010. They will be introduced to the current Board and then be formally introduced at the Annual Banquet which will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2010. We are very glad to have them all on Board and we hope you will welcome them with open arms!

Time to get excited!! Old Fashion Christmas is this weekend! Can you believe it? I know I can't. Seems like just yesterday we started planning it and here it is this weekend already. For the second year in a row, we will have over 250 booths for you to enjoy. With that many booths, you are sure to find something to meet your needs. The fun begins at 9am on Saturday morning on Houston Square. Be sure to stop by the Chamber booth for your Shopper's Guide. We will also be selling commemorative Old Fashion Christmas shopper's bags and other items such as Castroville mugs, t-shirts and caps. The kids will have plenty to do with the Jolly Trolley, face painting, balloon animals and temporary tattoos. Don't worry parents, they wash off. And don't miss Santa Claus who will arrive at 1pm. Plus for those of you who are car enthusiasts, there will be several antique cars to check out. There will be plenty of live entertainment in the square to check out in between your shopping. So get your Christmas lists out and be ready to shop till your drop this Saturday! Afterwards enjoy a free Christmas concert at St. Louis Catholic Church beginning at 7pm.

And if you are looking for even more things to do this weekend, then you are in luck. Friday begins with Fiorella Friday at 5pm. There will be plenty of wine to taste, artisans, live music and much more. The Hotel Alsace and Spa is hosting a Wine and Dine on Friday night beginning at 6:30pm. Enjoy four wine samplings paired with a delicious five course meal. Tickets are just \$45 each or enjoy an overnight stay for two and two wine tasting tickets for just \$195. On Saturday, after you've shopped at Old Fashion Christmas, head over to Zion Lutheran Church for their Women's Christmas Bazaar from 9am to 2pm. Check out their handmade crafts and baked goods. Then enjoy a delicious ham dinner at their annual Christmas Dinner from 11am to 3pm. Plates are just \$6 each, dine in or carry out. Once you've finished there take a tour of some beautiful historic homes in the Candlelight Open House. Tickets are limited so please contact the chamber for details. Finish the night with the free Christmas concert at St. Louis. Finally, end the weekend by having your photo taken with Santa Claus at the Hotel Alsace and Spa. Santa will be posing for pictures from 11am to 3pm on Sunday and you won't want to miss him.

Have a safe and wonderful weekend and we hope to see you all out at Old Fashion Christmas!