

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

The Chamber is proud to announce that we are another step closer to seeing the new Chamber Building get started. At last Thursday's meeting the Design and Review Board approved the Chamber's Building plans for the new building. This comes after the recent approval of the plans by Brian Chandler, the Historic Preservation Officer for Castroville. Because the Chamber building will be next to the Steinbach House, it affects an historic property. In order to move forward we had to have approval from Mr. Chandler before we could go before the DRB. The DRB had no problems with the building, but they were concerned about lack of parking. Within the new building we will have a multi-purpose room which can be rented out for parties, showers, meetings, etc. We plan to add a few more parking spaces to the existing parking lot, however, the DRB was concerned it may not be enough if there were to be a large event held there. We are currently waiting to hear back from the City Engineer, which is the last step before we can go out for bid. If the engineer sees there is no problem with the parking, then we will send out notification that bid packets are ready. So those interested in bidding on the project should keep a close eye out for that information to be released soon!

This coming weekend, on February 27th, a group of 110 ladies from Boerne will be in Castroville for a Women's Ministries Retreat which will be held at the Grande Hall at Hofmann Ranch. The ladies will have some free time to shop and eat in town so we would love for you all to welcome them with open arms to our wonderful little town. Let's show them what a great place Castroville is so they will bring their friends back to eat, play, shop and stay!

The chamber and I would like to thank Martha Ortiz of Margo Graphics for her recent help with the Chamber website. As you may know, before I came to work at the Chamber, Martha took care of the Chamber's website. She has been a huge help when I run into a problem I have never encountered. This past week I was having a problem with the home page loading slowly and Martha was able to quickly solve my issue. Thank you Martha for all your help!

This past week a group of 28 students and two professors from Texas A&M University visited Castroville as part of a project they are working on for a class. All of the students are Architectural Design majors in their fourth year of school. They met at City Hall on Friday morning with several city officials, area organization members and business owners who welcomed them to Castroville. The group has been working closely with the city on the possibility of beautifying Houston Square and September Square. The students have done extensive research on Castroville and it's demographics, history, and needs and hope to come up with something that will make areas in town look even better. While here the students stayed in host homes and enjoyed eating at some of the local restaurants and visiting some of the shops. They will be coming back in April with their proposed plans for the city. We look forward to having them back!

This weekend is the last chance to see the Quilt Exhibition at the Landmark Inn. The exhibit is open 8am to 5pm and admission is \$4. On Saturday, the 27th, the Medina Valley Moose Lodge will be hosting a Yard Sale and BBQ Lunch. The sale will run from 9am to 3pm and lunch will be served from 12 noon to 4pm. Plates are just \$7 each and include BBQ Chicken and all the fixins. For more information or for tickets call (210) 421-7331 or (830) 538-2401 after 6pm. Hope everyone enjoys the last weekend in February!