

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

This weekend will be a momentous one for Castroville, especially for those who can trace their heritage back to the original settlers from Alsace, France. On Saturday, March 21st, Castroville will become sister cities with Ensisheim, France in a ceremony that is sure to be historic. Thirty-two Alsatians will be traveling from the Haut Rhin region in Alsace to take part in this joyous occasion. Families in Castroville will be hosting the group who will be here from the 20th through the 23rd.

The group will be touring Castroville and all its historic buildings and residences as well as participating in the civil ceremony to twin the cities at St. Louis Catholic Church. The ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. with Mayor Bob Lee officiating and Msgr. Lawrence Stuebben participating. Immediately following the ceremony, a celebration will take place at the Grande Hall at the Hofmann Ranch. Tickets are still available for the celebration which will be catered by the Castroville Café and have live music by the Broken Toe Band. Tickets are just \$25 each and can be purchased at the Castroville Chamber of Commerce or City Hall. Please help us celebrate this wonderful occasion and show the Alsatian visitors some great Castroville hospitality.

I know I've mentioned it before, but so many people are drawn to the Steinbach House. I guess it's the way it looks from the road. It is just so quaint and cute and seems so out of place in our modern world. Last week we had several visitors from Alsace who were passing through and just could not believe their eyes when they saw the house right here in Castroville. One young man, Nicholas Larchet, decided to visit the United States and upon entering a visitor's center in Texas up north, saw the Castroville brochure with the picture of the Steinbach House on it. He just had to see it with his own eyes so he drove all the way to Castroville just to see this house. He thought the story about the house was very interesting and could not wait to tell his family back home.

Later last week a couple came in who had heard about Castroville where they live in Alsace. They decided to visit Texas and were sure to make Castroville one of their stops. They toured the Steinbach House and really enjoyed seeing all the items on the second floor from Alsace. They even decided to buy tickets for the Twinning Ceremony since they were still going to be in town. So as you can see, this house is definitely an important piece of Castroville and its history. If you have never stopped in to take a look at the house, please do so. We are here Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We would love to show you around.

Don't forget to check out the live music at Cora's this Thursday night and every Thursday night. Taste some of the best nachos in Texas and listen to some good music! Also this Friday try your hand at some golf at the Medina Valley AFJROTC Golf Tournament at the Alsatian Golf Course. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. with lunch following at 11 a.m. and a shotgun start at 12 noon. Those interested in participating can contact Mark Warren at 210-421-5099. Hope everyone has a great weekend and enjoys the beautiful weather!