

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

For most of us it is hard to imagine being homeless, which many people in the world today are. We wonder if there is anything we can do to help. Well Castroville Pottery is doing their part to help San Antonio's homeless. Owner, Tim Kelly and his crew are teaming up with the San Antonio Potters Guild to host a "Bowl-a-thon" this weekend, March 6, 7 and 8. The Bowl-a-thon will support the Empty Bowls fundraiser, which is put on each year by SAMMinistries, one of San Antonio's largest charities that provides services to the homeless. The potters will be working each day from 9am to 7pm to make 300 bowls for this event, which has been held for the past nine years. Each bowl will be available for purchase for just \$15 each during the Empty Bowls fundraiser which will be held May 3rd at Southwest School of Arts and Crafts at 300 August, San Antonio. Along with your purchase, each guest will receive a glass of water as well as a serving of soup and bread donated by local, popular restaurants and caterers. The meal is intended to signify the meal of a homeless person. There will be a silent auction featuring items donated by some of the region's most talented artists. All proceeds are donated to SAMMinistries to help the homeless. For more information, please contact Tim Kelly at (830) 538-9705.

Dairy Queen is officially open!! This Monday, March 2, was opening day for the new Dairy Queen Restaurant here in Castroville. Co-owner Troy Gates let us know that this restaurant is very different from the previous one. For one thing, it is much larger with over 4,200 square, which means plenty of room for not only the customers but for the kitchen. The atmosphere of the new restaurant is much more inviting with tile embellishes, new tables and booths and a more casual style dining feel. Gates and his business partner David West plan to have a huge Grand Opening later this month so look for more details on that.

This is the last week to get in your membership dues for 2009 if you want to be included in the 2009 Membership Directory. Joan Tinar of JT Advertising will be publishing the directory for us this year and we are working hard to get it printed as soon as possible. Dues can be mailed to us or dropped by our office at the Steinbach House. We are here Monday – Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. All members will be mailed a new directory once they have been printed.

This weekend starts out with Fiorella Friday on and around September Square. One of the sponsors, Tot Albro, let us know that in the future the city of Castroville will handle the vendors that want to set up on September Square. There may be a minimal fee to set up, which will be paid to the city. But for this week's event, it is still free and you can set up, first come first serve. Chateau Lafayette, one of Fiorella's sponsors, will be back open for business this weekend and will have plenty of cheese for you to sample. His new shop is located at 1201 Fiorella Street, located in the old L.M. Tondre Store, which has recently been renovated and expanded. So stop by and visit with all the Fiorella folks. Drink some wine, taste some cheese and enjoy dinner at Castroville Café.

On Sunday don't forget about movies at the Shooting Star Museum. The movies are always free and so is the popcorn and ice cream. The movie will begin at 6pm. For more information call Pat Wagner at (830) 931-3837. Hope everyone enjoys this beautiful weather!