

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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By Ashlee Tondre Bates

Can you believe it's already April 1<sup>st</sup>? I know I can't. It seems like these months are just flying by. I am still getting used to writing 2010 and before we know it, it will be 2011. With April upon us that means it's time for Easter! This Friday the Chamber offices will be closed for Good Friday, but you will want to head on over to Fiorella Street for Fiorella Friday. The event, which is held the first Friday of every month March through December, is getting bigger and better every year with more and more businesses along Fiorella getting involved. All the businesses are open late and some will have artisans set up along the street selling items not available in the stores. Plus enjoy some great live music throughout the night. Have dinner at Castroville Café or Medina Valley Café or take a short walk to the square and dine at the Old Alsatian Steakhouse. Other businesses that participate are Albros Casa y Garden, 1201 Fiorella, LLP, Antiques and More, Bippert's Bottle Shop...and then some, Chateau Lafayette, Castroville Pottery, Old Standby Saloon, Shirts N Stuff, Station Creek Windows and Doors and Stephanie's Salon & Spa.

Easter is the most important annual religious feast in the Christian liturgical year. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb after he was crucified by Pontius Pilate. In many places, Easter is celebrated over a three day period called Easter Triduum (Latin for "Three Days"). Right here in Castroville, there will be much celebrating in anticipation of Easter. Starting on Saturday morning, the Medina Valley United Methodist Church will hold their annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt at 8:30am. The Church is located at 1108 Country Lane.

And to celebrate all weekend long the Hillside Chapel will host the Second Annual Resurrection Celebration. I know I mentioned it last week but I felt I needed to let everyone know about this special celebration that will be taking place at the Castroville Regional Park. There will be plenty of fun for kids and adults of all ages to enjoy on Saturday with live Christian Music, skits, games, a petting zoo, and dramas going on throughout the day. Plus there will be plenty of food, popcorn, candy and prizes given throughout the day between 10am and 9pm. Sunday morning begins with an Ecumenical Easter sunrise service at 7am which will be held at the First Baptist Church of Castroville. There will also be a Community Service in the Regional Park at 9am for all those who aren't able to make it to the sunrise service. Afterwards there will be more fun for the whole family including live reenactments of Jesus' journey by Christian actor Troy Drollinger and an Eggstravaganza for kids of all ages. Billy Schneider, a professional videographer, will be on hand throughout the day to film the event. So if you are looking for a fun and spiritual way to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, head on out to the Castroville Regional Park and enjoy yourself!

Don't forget that the Fourth Annual Chamber Wine Fest is coming up this month on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be held again at the Hotel Alsace and Spa which offers you a beautiful view of the city while enjoying your wine. This year we will feature five wines selected by Castroville's wine connoisseur, Charlie Suehs. He has chosen a wonderful Zinfandel, a Sauvignon, a white and red Bordeaux and a Sparkling Wine. And to go along with the wines, the Alsatian Restaurant will cater the event with a large selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres. The popular live auction will be back again this year with several large items to choose from including a hotel spa package, Castroville Café package, and more. Tickets are just \$40 per person and can be purchased at the Chamber office located in the Steinbach House across from Sammy's Restaurant. Or purchase the special event hotel package which includes a one night stay for two at the Hotel Alsace and two tickets for the event all for just \$182. Have a great Easter Weekend everyone!!