

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

It is official! The Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce is beginning to work on the 2009 Visitor Guide. It has been 4 years since we did the last publication and so much has changed since then. Our plan is to update the new Guide which is a useful tool to the many tourists who visit Castroville each year. We plan to print 20,000 copies which are mailed out anywhere in the U.S., sent to tourist centers in San Antonio and around Texas, given to local businesses and used in the Chamber Office for tourists/visitors coming to town. If you currently own a business and would like to advertise in the 2009 Visitor Guide, please contact Ashlee at the Chamber Office at (830) 538-2142. You can also visit www.castroville.com to download an ad rate sheet. Just click on the banner at the top of the home page. Also, if you have helped with the Guide in the past or just have suggestions for the new Guide, please contact us at the office. All suggestions will be taken into consideration. If you own a home currently on the Walking Tour or if you own a historic home and would like to be added to the Walking Tour, please contact us to discuss this. We hope to have the new Guide out some time this fall. All your help in getting your ads and information to us quickly will help us in producing the Guide that much sooner!

This past week we had some very special visitors to Castroville. Four members of the Rotary Exchange group from France came to Castroville and were welcomed with opened arms. The Medina Valley and Hondo-D'hanis Rotary Clubs were very gracious in hosting the group and scheduling a packed week for them. While in Castroville, they enjoyed a restful stay at 3 Cedars Ranch B&B courtesy of Bette & Lou Hamby and Charles & Gladys Clark. They enjoyed quick but nice tours of the Steinbach House, Landmark Inn, City Hall, Albros Casa y Garden, the Old Standby Saloon, the Castroville Police Department, and St. Louis Catholic Church. Mary Margaret Burges was even on hand in her authentic Alsatian wardrobe which the ladies just adored. That evening, they enjoyed a delicious meal and reception at the Old Alsatian Steakhouse complete with wine, hors' devours, fresh fruit, tender prime rib or sirloin steak sliced on top of a bed of choice greens and toasted pecans with goat cheese, their great bread and a wonderful desert of strawberries bathed in liqueur under a cloud of fresh whipped cream topped with more toasted pecans. A huge thank you goes out to Kenneth and Arlene Smith who provided the food. The ladies were then off to visit Hondo, D'hanis and even enjoy a mini rodeo. The Rotary Clubs would like to thank Evelyne and Ron Barbutti of the Hondo-D'hanis Club and all rotary club members that participated. You all made the ladies feel very welcome.

So many of you have seen the sign and have been asking when the new Urgent Care Center will be opening in Castroville. Well the wait will soon be over. On Monday, May 18, the Urgent Care Center of Castroville will have its grand opening and ribbon cutting beginning at 10 a.m. Located at 1501 Houston Street, the new facility will be open to the public and provide acute care to walk-ins. Dr. Max Best, Jr., Dr. Benson Hausman and Dr. Richard Neel are opening the practice together and will be the doctors on hand. They will have both x-ray and lab services on site as well as physical and occupational therapy. The facility will be open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. A physician will be in house during those hours and they hope to expand their hours and service over time. So please join us in welcoming them to Castroville on the 18th and take a tour of the new facility.

The Chamber would like to thank Priscilla Garrett who stopped by last week to weed our flower beds. She spent hours weeding and trimming as well as spreading mulch. It was much needed and the flowers beds now look great. Thanks Priscilla! Hope everyone has a stupendous weekend!