

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

It is official, the Chamber's 27th Annual Old Fashion Christmas (OFC) will be expanding to a two-day event this December. The OFC Committee met earlier in the year to decide if there would be any changes to this year's events and it was decided to expand the event to include Friday evening. Our first step was to go to the City of Castroville to make sure it would be possible to expand the event and use City Property. We recently received word that we have been approved and the two-day event is going to happen.

The expansion to Friday night will have a new route heading down Paris and Fiorella Streets. We will work in conjunction with Fiorella Friday to have booths set up along these streets in the evening hours of Friday, December 3rd between 6pm and 10pm. The main event will still take place on Saturday, December 4th from 9am to 4pm along these streets and on Houston Square as in the past. Along with the extended hours we plan to have a walking parade Friday Night with carolers and more that will lead to Houston Square where we plan to have a lighting of a large Christmas tree on Friday night.

Along with the lighting of the tree, we also plan to light several other parts of the town to possibly include the Hwy 90 Bridge, Houston Square and September Square. We will also encourage all businesses and individuals along Hwy 90 and the new Old Fashion Christmas route to decorate for the Christmas season. We feel the beautiful display of lights will bring more people to our wonderful town for the holiday season. And with more people in town, that means more business for our local shops, restaurants and accommodations. We plan to come up with a marketing package that will let everyone know of all the wonderful things happening in Castroville that weekend and all our town has to offer. Application for previous years vendors will go out on July 1st and they will have the option to set up both Friday and Saturday or on Saturday only. Anyone interested in getting on the waiting list for this year's event can contact the chamber office at (830) 538-3142 or email ashlee@castroville.com. Waiting list applications will go out September 1st.

This Friday is the last day to get your application in to be judged for the 10th Annual Fourth of July Parade which will be held on Saturday, July 3, 2010. Judging will begin at 8:30 am and will end at 9:15 with the parade starting at 9:30. A registration form can be picked up at the Chamber Office or City Hall. Late registrants may participate in the parade but will not be judged. You may register beginning at 7:30am the morning of the parade at the southeast corner of Houston Square (in front of Dan's Meat Market). This year's theme is "God Bless America" and entrant's will be judged on theme adaptation, patriotic influence and originality. Participation is free and trophies will be awarded in all categories. Each child participating will receive a participation ribbon. Categories to be judged are children's float, family float, float-other, trucks, tractors, cars, child-general and equestrian. So if you want your entry to be judged, be sure to register by this Friday, June 25th.

This weekend will be a quiet one around Castroville but if you're into bird watching then head on over to the Regional Park on Sunday morning for a Bird Walk sponsored by the San Antonio Audubon Society. The Society is a conservation and birding club that has been around since 1954. The walk will begin at 7:30am at the pool parking lot at the Park. It will be guided by Georgina Schwartz. It's a fun and free outing and everyone is welcome to join in. For more information on the San Antonio Audubon Society, check out their website at www.saaudubon.org. Hope everyone has a relaxing weekend.