

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

Within the Chamber of Commerce, we have several committees that are chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. Recently, Board Member Bette Hamby decided it was time to get her committee started and has initiated the organization of an Economic Development Committee. We have had several meetings and are currently putting together an Advisory Board which will help guide us as a committee and determine short and long-term goals of the committee. We know this is something Castroville needs, especially during these tough economic times. The committee plans to prioritize what is most important for Castroville's imminent growth including such topics as creating jobs for locals, recruiting new businesses to town, improving the quality of life, creating a historical district and many other issues. We will keep you posted on what the committee is doing and plans to do. If you'd like more information, please do not hesitate to contact committee chairman, Bette Hamby at (830) 931-1200.

Talking of this new committee brings me to something we feel needs to be addressed. Several people have already called the Chamber to ask what we are going to do about the Bill Miller project. Here at the Chamber we are very supportive of new businesses coming to town. Because of this, we feel responsible to work on a resolution with Bill Miller so that they will still consider Castroville for their next location. Chamber President Sallie Harborth has contacted the Bill Miller representative and is trying to find out what exactly we can do to help the situation. During the Director's meeting this week we will be discussing this issue further with all Directors to get their input. Please be aware that we are doing everything we can to get this issue resolved and see Bill Miller's BBQ build in Castroville.

And now to the other item we have been working very tirelessly on. This week we will have what we hope to be our final Building Committee meeting to finalize the plans for the new Chamber Building which will be located just south of the Steinbach House in Steinbach Park. If all plans are approved this week, we should send out for bids by mid July and have the project awarded by the end of the month. We are so excited to finally be where we are with the new chamber building. It has been a long time coming. The new building will have a very Alsatian feel with stucco walls, a high-pitched metal roof, and a large porch on the front. We will have plenty of storage room, which we desperately need, and a large foyer for the many visitors that come to Castroville. There will also be a multi-purpose room to be finished in the future which can be used for Chamber functions or to possibly be rented out. And with the Park and Ride being relocated to the edge of town, we will have plenty of parking for staff and visitors. We will keep you all posted and have something in the newspapers as soon as the bid packages are ready to be picked up.

Just a reminder that there is plenty to do this weekend for the 4th of July. Friday starts with the Castroville State Bank's 12th annual July 4th Picnic. This event is always free to the public and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. they will be handing out free hotdogs, chips, cupcakes and cold drinks. There will also be a drawing for flag sets and super soaker water guns. For more information please contact the bank at (830) 931-2201.

We just got a call from Tractor City that they regret to inform everyone that they have cancelled the Tractor Show this year due to lack of participation and news from their headquarters that the store will be closed on the 3rd. But you can still enjoy a festive evening at Fiorella Friday. There will be plenty of free goodies as well as vendors. Enjoy dinner at the Castroville Café and some live music on September Square!

And don't forget about the Independence Day Parade, which will be held on Saturday, July 4 at 9:30 a.m. on Houston Square. This year's parade theme is "Red, White and Blue – Flying High." Come see the beautifully decorated floats, trucks and more!