

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

Another Building Update! This past week, the Chamber Building Committee met with City Public Works officials, our architect John Speegle and surveyor Paul Carey. After carefully reviewing the plat we submitted, there were just a few minor additions that needed to be made and Mr. Carey quickly made those. TXDot is currently reviewing the plat as well to be sure there are no changes to their right of way, since part of the property is located on Hwy 90. If there are no changes from TXDot, then the plat will be signed and sent to Medina County to be filed. This means we are even closer to starting the construction. Currently we are waiting for the public hearings to take place on our parking variance. Since we do not have enough parking located on the current city property, we have submitted a variance to be reviewed by the Zoning Board of Adjustments which states we will use city property just adjacent to the new building's location for additional parking. Once this is reviewed and approved, our plans will be sent to City Administrator Paul Hofmann for final approval and a building permit should then be issued.

Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Schmidt, says he sees nothing that should hold us back from getting our permit. Our plans are where they need to be and with the new plat, all the City Engineer's questions have been answered. For those interested in bidding on the construction of the new building, we will begin to pre-qualify all contractors within the next week or so. As soon as we have the pre-qualifying form ready we will let everyone know it is available for pick-up at the Chamber office. We are getting very excited at the prospect of a groundbreaking coming up in the next month or so. We know all our members are very anxious to see this happen since so many of you graciously donated to our "Grande Night to Remember" fundraising event which helped us get all the building process underway. We will keep you all posted as we move forward.

Tickets are now available at the Chamber Office for the Alexander Martin Rowland Charitable Foundation first Fundraiser "An Evening in Historic Castroville." The event, which will be held on Friday, July 16 at the Grande Hall at Hofmann Ranch, is raising money to build awareness of the deadly poison, carbon monoxide. Richard and Becky Rowland of Hondo, Texas, started this foundation after the loss of their three year old son, Alex, to carbon monoxide poisoning. They felt there was a need to educate people, hospitals and doctor's offices on the symptoms and dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. Tickets are \$50 each or a table of 10 can be purchased beginning at \$1,000. If you'd like to learn more about the foundation, please visit their website at www.amrfoundation.org.

There is plenty to do this 4th of July weekend right here in Castroville. This Thursday, start the fun early and head out to Cora's for some live music by Greg Walden. Friday is stocked full of fun beginning with the 13th Annual 4th of July Picnic at Castroville State Bank. From 11am to 1pm, they will be serving hotdogs, chips and cold drinks. You can also register for a free prize drawing. For dinner, head on over to the American Legion Hall. They have moved their monthly scholarship dinner to the first Friday of the month beginning at 5pm. Afterwards, head up Fiorella Street or over to Paris and enjoy Fiorella Friday. All the shops and restaurants will be open late and they will have a few vendors set up as well as live music!

Saturday starts with the 10th annual Fourth of July Parade on Houston Square. There will be plenty of floats, trucks, tractors and more for all to enjoy. The parade will weave through downtown Castroville and make its way to Houston Square where the Chamber will be set up with plenty of cold water and watermelon. This event is always a fun one for all to enjoy. The parade starts at 9:30 so get there early to get a great seat! Have a fun and safe 4th of July everyone! See you at the parade!