

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

It's time for this year's Annual New Teacher Luncheon that the Chamber has hosted for the past four years. This event was started to help welcome new teachers to Castroville and let them know what all we had to offer. This year's luncheon will be held on Friday, August 13 at 11:30am at the Medina Valley Middle School Cafeteria. Letters and emails will be going out this week to each Chamber business/individual asking for sponsors for each teacher from Medina Valley and St. Louis Schools. The cost will be \$30 per teacher which includes lunch and a polo shirt with their school logo embroidered on it. Sponsors can also attend the lunch for \$10 each. We will also be asking for donations to include in the goodie bags for the new teachers. Everyone loves a giveaway so if you have items you would like to donate, we expect to have approximately 35 teachers. We will also accept donations for door prizes as well. Each new teacher will receive a membership to the Chamber for the rest of the year for free. This will allow them to know what is going on in town and what businesses we have to offer. So if you are interested in sponsoring one or more teachers, please look for our email or letter this week.

This weekend is the first big fundraiser for the Alexander Martin Rowland Charitable Foundation and they are expecting a large crowd. The foundation was first created when Richard and Becky Rowland of Hondo lost their three-year old son to carbon monoxide poisoning. They decided that they wanted to make sure this type of tragedy does not happen again. The foundation's sole purpose is to educate others on the dangers and signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. With the money raised from their fundraisers, they will travel to different venues and help teach nurses, emergency rooms, realtors, and others the signs and symptoms of this deadly poison so that the information can be passed on to others. The event will be held this Friday night at the Grande Hall at Hofmann Ranch and will include dinner, musical entertainment, live and silent auction and a discussion on the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. If you would like to donate to this cause, please visit their website at www.amrfoundation.org.

Although it's over a month away, the St. Louis Catholic Church is gearing up for the 128th Annual St. Louis Day Celebration which will be held on Sunday, August 22nd at Koenig Park. This huge festival is considered to be the "Granddaddy of Festivals" in this area and attracts people from all over the world. The delicious barbeque beef and Alsatian sausage lunch will be the highlight of the day, served from 11am to 2pm. They will have plenty of live entertainment, the big silent auction, games and rides in the Kiddie Korner, food and drink booths, the doll booth, bingo, trash and treasures, arts and crafts, plants, horseshoe and washer pitching tournaments and so much more. So be sure to mark your calendars and be ready to party on August 22nd!

Do you have visitors coming to town for the summer? Want to get them something to remember their trip by? Stop by the Chamber office today and check out the many items we offer that are unique to Castroville. We offer Castroville caps, mugs and t-shirts, pins, postcards and totebags as well as several items from Alsace, France. Or if you have a book lover, check out the books we have for sale, most of which are provided by the Castro Colonies Heritage Association. We also have a beautiful Castroville Coverlet and Castroville Charm provided by the Castro Garden Club. All of these items make lovely gifts for your next visitors or maybe a family member that lives far away but wants to remember Castroville. These items are available at the Chamber office during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. Have a great weekend everyone! Try to stay cool!