

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

---

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

The Rotary Club of Medina Valley has received its charter and is officially recognized by Rotary International! Rotary International is the world's first service organization with over 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide. Rotary club members are volunteers who work locally, regionally and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace, and eradicate polio under the motto Service Above Self. The Medina Valley Club is just getting started and is already working to help our community. They will have an official Induction Ceremony on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Mary Gray Event Center. Food will be catered by the Old Alsatian Steakhouse. For anyone who is interested in joining this new organization, please contact Sergeant at Arms Bette Hamby at (830) 931-1200 or stop by one of their meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Old Alsatian Steakhouse at 11:45 a.m. We'd love to see the chapter continue to grow!

We've just received word that Vital Signs is moving to a new location in Castroville. Owner and operator, Lou Ann Butler, said she will be moving the office this week and next to 609 Hwy 90 W, directly across from Dziuk's Meat Market. She felt it was a location that would be better seen by the public and offers more space. The shop is still open during the process of the move, but they will officially open in the new building on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. So stop by and see what all they have to offer which includes signs, printing, t-shirts, promotional items and much more.

We received an interesting call on Monday morning from a lady in North Carolina that just couldn't wait for their annual trip to Castroville. She stated that for many years, she and her husband have been traveling to Castroville from Salem, North Carolina to stay for an entire week. This year they will be bringing their son and daughter-in-law with them to enjoy our wonderful city. She said she just loves the small town quaintness of Castroville and always have a wonderful time enjoying the shops, restaurants and historic area. We are very excited to have them back again this year and we hope they have a wonderful trip!

Also on Monday we had a woman and her two children come in to see the Steinbach House. They were from the Alsace region and were visiting the woman's sister who lives near D'Hanis and had moved here because some of her ancestors had come to this area long ago. The woman was very interested in the reason why the Steinbach family chose to store their home and then give it to Castroville. We explained to her that Castroville was chosen because of our strong ties with Alsace and how it was a project begun by Paul Dulin, a Professor at the Agricultural School in Rouffach. She was very interested and was also going to tour the Garden of Roots in the Regional Park that was built by professor Dulin and his students.

This weekend, head on over to Hondo for their Crusin' God's Country which happens on the fourth Friday of every month, April thru October. Beginning at 5:30 along 18<sup>th</sup> street there will be plenty of cars, food, and music to enjoy. The event is free to the public and local shops and restaurants nearby will be open late. Saturday morning don't miss the wonderful Farmer's Market located in front of Alsace Hair Nails and Tan which is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Try to keep cool everyone!