

Chamber News

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ashlee Tondre Bates

Well it was bound to happen sometime and now is the time. After ten years at the same rate, the chamber will increase our membership fee slightly for the upcoming year. Beginning the last quarter of 2009, the Chamber membership fee will increase for all new businesses joining and the increase will take effect for current members in 2010. The new fees will be as follows: Business - \$100, Individual - \$40, Couple - \$50, Non-Profit/Church - \$40 and Over 65 - \$25. As you can see, we increased the business fee by just \$25, the individual and non-profit fee by \$5 and the under 65 fee stayed the same. We also added a new membership category. Now a couple can join together for a discounted rate. You will be listed as one member, but both will have voting rights. Churches will also now be responsible for paying the non-profit fee to be a member. In researching other area chambers we felt these were very fair fees. Where else can you get advertising and referrals for under \$9 a month? Please be sure to check the Chamber Benefits on our website to make sure you are taking full advantage of your membership. Invoices for 2010 will be sent in the mail in December.

The Chamber takes great pride in making sure our website is up to date with the latest events, news and happenings. We want to make sure that a visitor coming to Castroville can check out our website first and see just what there is to do in our wonderful little town. To better help those tourists out, we have added two new pages to the Chamber website. Visit www.castroville.com and check out the "Things to Do" and "Places to Shop" pages. These two pages will help those visiting know just what they can see and do while here in Castroville. Plus, it's just one more way we as your Chamber can advertise for your business here in town. Don't see your business listed? Then you must not be a Chamber member. Join today and we will add your business to our website which receives over 3,500 hits per month. We also have the "Place to Stay" and "Places to Eat" pages which really allow visitors to know all we have to offer. Please check out our website today. And if you have friends or family coming to visit, have them check out the site beforehand and plan what they want to see and do while here.

The Medina Valley Disciplinary Alternative Education Program is looking for guest speakers in the community to come talk to their students on their weekly "Career Day." On this day the students wear a dress shirt and tie and host a guest speaker. This is your opportunity as a business owner to let these students know what your expectations for them are as future employees and community members. If anyone is interested in being a guest speaker, please contact Antonio Sanchez at Medina Valley by calling (830) 931-2243 or emailing him at santonio.sanchez@mvisd.com.

This weekend there is plenty to do, so don't go too far. Thursday night starts out with Live Music at Cora's with Greg Walden. Saturday is a busy day starting at 9am with the Farmers Market in front of Alsace Hair Nails and Tan. Sarah Naegelin and her husband David have plenty of fresh fruits and veggies for you to try. Then for all you golfers, the Medina County Crime Stoppers are holding their annual Golf Tournament on Saturday at the Devine Golf Course. Registration begins at 12 noon with a shot-gun start at 1:30pm. The format will be a Florida Scramble with adjusted team handicaps. Registration is \$50 for Devine Golf Course members and \$75 for non-members. This includes 2 mulligans, golf, food and drinks. Prizes will be given to 1st place through 5th place. For more information call (830) 665-9943.

On Sunday don't miss the Annual Fajita Dinner at Medina Valley United Methodist Church. From 11am to 1pm, they will be serving delicious fajita plates for just \$6 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from church members before. Desserts will be available for purchase. Hope you all have a great weekend!