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Twinning Ceremony Makes History in Castroville

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Special points of interest:

- Chamber Luncheon—April 7, 2009, 12 noon at Sammy's Restaurant.
- Don't miss the Chamber Wine Fest, Friday April 17th
- Free yoga classes at Grace Community Church, Monday & Wednesday evenings, 6:15-7:15.
- Want to put something in the Newsletter? Email us and let us know: chamber@castroville.com

It was history in the making on Saturday, March 21 as Castroville and Ensisheim, France became sister cities.

Thirty-two visitors from Alsace, along with several hundred Castroville citizens, looked on as Mayor Bob Lee of Castroville and Mayor Michel Habig of Ensisheim joined the two cities as "sisters". It was a momentous occasion which took place in the historic and beautiful St. Louis Catholic Church.

The event started with a welcome by Mayor Bob Lee and the singing of the United States National Anthem, led by local Ashlee Tondre Bates. Our national anthem was then followed by the singing of the French National Anthem, La Marseillaise.

Speeches were then given by both mayors, with the help of interpreter Gilbert Hadey who translated to French for the Alsatians and to English

for us Castrovillians.

Mayor Lee stated how it has been over 165 years since "The Little Alsace of Texas" was first settled by Henri Castro and his settlers from the Alsace Region. There is so much history between Castroville and Alsace and we are very proud to continue these relationships.

Mayor Lee asked those who were direct descendants of the original settlers to raise their hands and it was amazing how many people raised their hand, mine included.

Following Mayor Lee's speech, Mayor Habig spoke of his love for Castroville and considered us to be their family.

As all watched, Mayor Bob Lee read the proclamation and both mayors signed separate proclamations, one for each city.

As a customary gesture, gifts were then presented by each

mayor. The City of Castroville gave a beautiful Castroville-themed painting done by local artist Lorna Francis as well as a mayor's gavel. Mayor Habig then followed by giving Lee a book with beautiful pictures of Alsace, France and a commemorative coin from Ensisheim.

Following the presentation, Msgr. Lawrence Stuebben gave a speech on the importance of this ceremony and the history between the two cities.

A grande celebration was had by all following the ceremony at the Grande Hall at the Hofmann Ranch. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Castroville Café and some good old country music provided by the Crooked Toe Band.

This was truly a historic event and we look forward to having the Alsatians back for many more visits.



Don't Miss Out on the Chamber Wine Fest



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Even with the possibility of rain and having to move the location, last year's Chamber Wine event was a huge success. This year, we want to make it bigger and better.

There are only 2 more weeks to purchase your tickets to this year's Wine Fest, "A Taste of the Vine," which will be held Friday, April 17th at the Hotel Alsace.

Tickets are just \$40 per person which includes wine, appetizers, a chance at the

raffle, and plenty of fun! Or make it a full night by enjoying our special hotel package that includes a one night stay for two and two tickets to the event for \$150 plus tax.

This year, we will feature five French, Italian and Chilean wines which are sure to quench your pallet. Along with the wines, the Alsatian Restaurant will be on hand to serve up some tasty appetizers to compliment the wines.

Tim & Teri Barrow will be back again by popular demand with the cigar bar. There is an extra cost to purchase a cigar.

And be prepared to be entertained by our talented auctioneer, Terry Dickerson, who will lead our Live Auction.

So stop by the Chamber Office today and pick up your tickets to the event before they are all gone. It is sure to be a smashing night!

Castroville State Bank Celebrates 50 Years

Allen Wurzbach
Owner



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On April 2, 1959, Castroville State Bank opened its doors for the very first time and they have been graciously serving the Medina County area ever since.

Starting the first bank of Castroville was no easy task, but the Castroville Chamber of Commerce and a group of local citizens saw the need for a banking facility in the growing town.

The process began in March of 1958, when Chamber board members brought it to the Board's attention that a bank was needed. They quickly got a team together and began working on getting a bank charter.

In July of 1958, Dr. Robert R. Eckert led a delegation to Austin to apply for a State

Bank Charter with the Texas Banking Commission. The delegation included Mayor Frank Ducos, City Attorney Joe E. Briscoe, Frank J. Keller, Louis E. Hart, Sr., and Bernard Fitzsimon.

These men, along with others, worked long and hard to make sure Austin approved their charter and on Thursday, January 8, 1959, their dream of opening a bank in Castroville was finally coming true.

Remodeling plans for the old Hagan's Place building were quickly drawn up and opening date was getting closer and closer.

At a stockholder's meeting on February 21, 1959, the founding directors of Castroville State Bank were

elected. They were: Bernard Fitzsimon, president; W.A. Ulbricht, executive vice-president; and Mayor Frank Ducos, Dr. Robert R. Eckert, Louis E. Hart, Sr., Herbert Tondre Raymond Schuchart and Joe Briscoe would serve as board of directors.

With assets totaling \$100,000, the bank opened for business Thursday, April 2, 1959 and the only thing they try not to change, is knowing their customers.

To commemorate 50 years, the Bank would like to invite everyone to a mixer Thursday, April 2nd beginning at 5pm. Enjoy entertainment, food, door prizes, a raffle and much more. Hope to see you there!

New Members since March 1, 2009

Bear Claw Lock & Key, Christine Ledger
Castroville Quick Lube, Keith Echtle
Fantastic Flowers, Mary Alice Galicia
Debbie Martinez
Harold Owens, Jr.
Mary Alice Owens
Stephanie's on the Plaza Salon & Spa, Stephanie Zinsmeyer

Newsletter Information

Editor: Ashlee Tondre Bates

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April Calendar of Events

Here's what's happening in Castroville in April. All details can be found on the calendar of events at www.castroville.com. If you have an event to add, please email all the information to the web mistress at ashlee@castroville.com.



- Every Thursday:** Live Music at Cora's by Greg Walden, 6 - 9pm
Every Wednesday: Free Computer class at the American Legion Hall, 9-11am
Every 2nd & 4th Wed.: Rotary Club of Medina Valley, 11:45am, Old Alsatian Steakhouse
- 02:** Castroville's Nip & Tuck Silent Auction, Castroville Café, 5pm, 931-2525
02: Castroville State Bank 50th Anniversary Mixer, 5pm, 538-2201
03: Fiorella Friday, live music, artisans, wine tasting and much more, 6-9pm
04: Concert in the Country with Gabe Garcia, Hofmann Ranch, 426-7886
07: Chamber Luncheon, 12 noon, Sammy's Restaurant. **All Members invited!**
08: WOW Social, MV Methodist Church, 12 noon to 3pm, cards, games and fellowship
10: Friday Night Fever, Lundquist Automotive, 6-10pm, evening of cars, trucks, bikes, food, music and shopping, 931-2479
10: American Legion Scholarship Dinner, 5-7pm, American Legion Hall, 538-9182
10: Fourth Friday Featured Business, Fantastic Flowers, 5:30pm, 538-9569
10: Wine and Dine with Guillermo, 538-3200
11: Market Trail Days, Houston Square, 9am-4pm, (830) 538-2316 or Contact: (830) 931-2161
11: Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt, MV United Methodist Church, 8:30am, 931-3533
12: Easter Sunrise Service, Houston Square, 931-2826
12: Movies at Shooting Star Museum, 6pm. FREE!! 931-3837
12-18: National Library Week
17: **Chamber Wine Fest, Hotel Alsace, 7-10pm, Wines, food, cigar bar, live auction, live music and raffle, 538-3142**
22: WOW Social, MV Methodist Church, 12 noon to 3pm, cards, games and fellowship
23: "Fiesta on London Street" Mixer, Hardt Realty, 806 London, 931-6300
25: Rio Medina Community Yard Sale, 8am, 538-2441
25: Renaissance Fair, MV United Methodist Church, Fair, Re-enactors, petting zoo, games, quilt raffle, catapult, vendors, live entertainment
26: Hondo-D'hanis & Medina Valley Rotary Clubs 1st Annual Golf Tournament, Alsatian Golf Club, 12 noon registration, 1pm shotgun start, 931-7485
28: Chamber Director's Meeting, Old Alsatian Steakhouse, 12 noon

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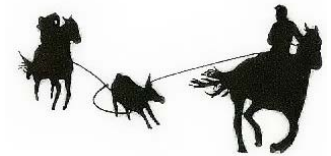
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Castroville's Nip & Tuck to Hold Silent Auction

This Thursday, April 2nd, Castroville's Nip & Tuck will hold their annual Silent Auction at the Castroville Café beginning at 5 pm.

This low cost spay and neuter program helps those living in the 78009 zip code afford to

sterilize their pets.

With over 7 million animals destroyed a year and billions spent on shelters, the importance of spaying and neutering your animals is very high.

Please support this group by getting out those check books and bidding on one of their fabulous items.

For more information about the event or the non-profit program, contact Kyle McVay at 830-931-2525.

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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www.castroville.com



Business of the Month - Home Sweet Home Guesthouse

Looking for a place for your out of town guests to stay? Then look no further than the Home Sweet Home Guesthouse Bed & Breakfast owned and operated by Janice Bell.

Opened since October of 2008, this is not your typical guest room, it's an entire house which can host your entire family!

Located on the beautiful Alsatian Golf Course, this 1,650 square foot house features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, living area with comfy sofas and television, private garage for parking, and a patio complete with charcoal grill.

The house sleeps up to six adults in the 3 bedrooms. The master bedroom features a queen sized bed while the two guest rooms have a full size bed in one and two twins in

the other. The third bedroom also features an exercise bike and other equipment so you don't have to miss out on your workout.

You will never have to share this house with someone you don't know. Rent the whole house for your family or group of friends who come to enjoy historic and beautiful Castroville.

Janice just loves hospitality and will make sure your stay is comfortable and that your every need is met. She lives right next door so she is only steps away if you need anything at all.

Each morning you will enjoy a delicious breakfast including cereal, fruit, bread, pastries, orange juice, milk, coffee, etc. Janice even takes requests on special breakfast treats.

"If I can bake it, it will be my

pleasure to make it for a guest," says Janice.

Janice feels that in today's financial market, having a place close enough for a weekend getaway is more ideal than spending hundreds of dollars flying to a vacation resort. Stay at Home Sweet Home Guesthouse and experience the peace and quite of the beautiful country setting Castroville has to offer.

So next time you need a place for your out of town guests to stay or maybe you just want a little getaway for yourself, think of Janice Bell and the Home Sweet Home Guesthouse Bed & Breakfast.

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