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Chamber Recognizes Locals at Annual Banquet

Inside this issue:

<i>Chamber Recognizes Locals at Annual Banquet</i>	1
<i>Quilt Exhibition Coming to Castroville</i>	2
<i>Treat Your Valentine to a Castroville Weekend</i>	2
<i>New Members since January 1, 2010</i>	2
<i>February Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>New Classifieds Page Featured on Chamber Website</i>	3
<i>Business of the Month: 1201 Fiorella, LP</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Chamber Luncheon— February 2, 2010, 12 noon at Sammy's Restaurant.
- Congratulations to those celebrating their anniversary this year:
 Alsatian Care Enterprises-1 yr
 Fantastic Flowers-1 yr.
 Salon TLC-1 yr.
 Ballard Realty-15 yrs.
 Castroville Rental-15 yrs.
 State Farm, Hazel Russell-20 yrs
 Castroville Vet Clinic-30 yrs.

On Thursday, January 21, 2010, the Chamber of Commerce held their Annual Banquet to recognize individuals in the area who are active in the community and boy did we have some very surprised people!

The evening began with Chamber President Sallie Harborth and MC Chris Schuchart welcoming all our guests. The Texas 20009th AFJROTC from Medina Valley presented the color and Boy Scout Troop 471 led us in the pledge of allegiance. The National Anthem was sung by Ashlee Bates and the invocation followed, led by Pastor Stephen Schur of Quihi Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

While the meal was served, which was catered by the Castroville Café, Chris introduced us to the Jr. Boy and Girl Citizens of the Year, Ian O'Donnell and Kristyn Kempf. Both of them are active in the community and wrote an essay on what their community means to them.

Polly Edlund and Marvin Dziuk with Medina County ESD #1 were on hand to recognize the Medina County EMS and Fire Chiefs for the hard work they have done over the past year serving the city of Castroville and

surrounding area.

Next came a special honorary award that the Board felt needed to be given to an individual and his wife who have been involved in the Chamber and the Red Vest Committee for well over 25 years. Wilburn and Willie Jean Schott were extremely surprised to hear their name called and were too speechless to say anything.

Another surprised individual was Arnie Dollase who was chosen by Sallie Harborth to receive the President's Award. He thought he was just there to speak on the Castroville Area Economic Development Council but was surprised to actually receive an award for this work he has done to get the Council up and running.

The newest award this year, the Business of the Year, was awarded to Castroville Pottery and owners Tim and Gloria Kelley. They had absolutely no idea they were receiving this award and graciously accepted. Tim and Gloria have done many things for Castroville including renovating their historic home and Hans compound which now houses Castroville Pottery.

The most prestigious award of the night, the Citizen of the Year, was presented to Ms.

Kyle McVay, who thought she was only there to serve wine. Kyle is very active in numerous community projects, services and organizations. She is always willing and ready to volunteer, has served on City Council for many years and her non-profit organization provides low cost spaying and neutering to community pets.

The evening ended with recognition of our outgoing directors, Bette Hamby, Chuck Kierce and Gregory Zinsmeyer, for their hard work these past years. Sallie also introduced the newest Board Members, Justin Haby, Justin Johnson, Hazel Russell and Stephanie Zinsmeyer as well as chamber staff Ashlee Bates, Pat Davila and Kimberly Frangesh. New officers for 2010 are President Gary Carter, Vice President Teri Barrow and Secretary/Treasurer Janet Bednarz.

The night ended with a few words from 2010 President Gary Carter and the ever popular raffle where 36 prizes and one grand prize were given out.

Thank you again to all of our Banquet Sponsors, raffle donors and staff who helped make this year's banquet another successful one!

Quilt Exhibition Coming to Castroville

Starting on Sunday, February 7th and running until Friday the 26th, the Friends of the Landmark Inn will be hosting their fourth annual Quilt Exhibition.

Numerous hand made quilts from Castroville private collections will be on display for all to see. The exhibit will be open daily from 8am to 5pm.

Admission to the exhibit is just \$4 per person. Children under 12 are free.

All proceeds will benefit the preservation of the Landmark Inn State Historic Site.

On Saturday the 13th, you won't want to miss special guest Marcia Kaylakie, a quilt and quilted textile appraiser certified by the American Quilter's Society. She will give a lecture beginning at 10am and give oral appraisals beginning at 1pm. The fee for an oral appraisal is \$20. The fee for this special event is \$5

which includes an entrance fee for the Landmark Inn.

If you've never visited the Landmark, please take the time to do so. The site is very beautiful, along the Medina River, and has a nice museum as well.

The Landmark is also the home of the oldest grist mill around and they offer eight beautifully decorated rooms for your Castroville visitors. Be sure to stop by during this exhibit and check out the site.



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Treat Your Valentine to a Castroville Weekend

Valentine's Day is almost here and I bet you haven't decided what to do yet. Well look no further than a romantic weekend right here in Castroville, Texas.

Start by booking a night or two at one of our many accommodations in Castroville including the Hotel Alsace and 10 beautifully decorated bed and breakfasts.

Take your sweetie out to lunch and dinner and choose from a plethora of delicious food

establishments right here in your own backyard. With everything from Alsatian and Italian to steaks and seafood, you are sure to find something you can both enjoy.

And how about a little shopping for her? Send her out to one of the many gift and antique shops we have around town and let her have a grand time.

Looking for something to treat him with? Send him over to the Alsatian Golf Club or the Golf Club of

Texas to enjoy a round or two of golf.

End the evening with a couples massage at one of several massage places located in Castroville.

And if being outdoors is what your in to, take a relaxing stroll through Castroville and enjoy the historic walking tour and its many structures or the beautiful Regional Park.

With so much to do right here, why go any place else. Stay, Eat and Play in Castroville!

New Member since January 1, 2010

Century 21 United Northside, Debbie Martinez & Lisa Klein
 Ed Garcia Services, Ed Garcia
 Jenn's Beer Wine & Spirits, Jennifer Black
 Medina River West POA, Teresa Rangel-Cranfield

Newsletter Information

Editor: Ashlee Tondre Bates
 Asst. Editors: Pat Davila & Kimberly Frangesh



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February Calendar of Events



Here's what's happening in Castroville in February. 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 Wed: Rotary Club of Medina Valley, 11:45am, Old Alsatian Steakhouse

Every Monday & Thursday: Free Computer Class at the Library, courtesy of American Legion

- 01: Chamber Board of Directors Meeting, 12 noon, Castroville Cafe
- 02: **Chamber Luncheon, 12 noon, Sammy's Restaurant. All Members invited! Christi Griggs will be our speaker.**
- 05: Fiorella Friday, live music, artisans, wine tasting and much more, 6-9pm. This month Sid Fly will be playing live music and try the special Valentine's wines at Bippert's.
- 06: St. Louis School PTC Rummage/Bake Sale & Raffle, 8am-4pm, (830) 931-3544
- 07: St. Louis Pancake Breakfast, 8-10:30am, David DeCock Gym, (830) 931-3544
- 07-26: Quilt Exhibition, Landmark Inn, 8am-5pm daily, \$4 entrance, (830) 931-2262
- 10: Breast Cancer Support Group, 6pm, United Methodist Church in Hondo, (830) 741-7190
- 10: WOW Social, MV Methodist Church, 12 noon to 3pm, cards, games and fellowship
- 12: Friday Night Fever, Lundquist Automotive, 6-10pm, evening of cars, trucks, bikes, food, music and shopping, (830) 931-2479
- 12: American Legion Scholarship Dinner, 5-7pm, American Legion Hall, 538-6483
- 14: Movies at Shooting Star Museum, 6pm. FREE!! (830) 931-3837
- 14: Bird Walk, Castroville Regional Park, 8am, meet at the Pool
- 21: Boy Scout Troop 831 BBQ Benefit, 11am-1pm, MV United Methodist Church, 830-444-1057 or 210-336-3671
- 21: St. Louis Anniversary Dinner, following 10:30am Mass, Braden Keller, (830) 931-2826
- 24: WOW Social, MV Methodist Church, 12 noon to 3pm, cards, games and fellowship

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New Classifieds Page Featured on Chamber Website

Ever wonder how you can advertise that home you have for rent or sale or how to let someone know you are hiring? Well look no further than the Chamber's new Classifieds page on our web site.

Here at the chamber we receive quite a few calls regarding homes for rent or jobs in the area so we decided it was time to have a place where our members

could post those.

Members have the opportunity to post job openings, homes for sale or rent, or commercial leases. And this is all a free benefit to our members.

Simply email ashlee@castroville.com with your posting and after review, your submission will be posted at our discretion. Potential lookers and job

seekers will then have a place to check for the most recent classifieds. We will also use this new tool to let those that call know what is available to them.

So send us your listing today and we will get it added. And be sure to contact us when your house has been sold/rented or the job has been filled. That way we can keep our information as accurate as possible.

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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Business of the Month: 1201 Fiorella

Castroville is becoming a popular spot to book your next wedding, baby shower or event. And why wouldn't it be? We have beautiful facilities and now we have one more to add to that list. 1201 Fiorella, the newly renovate office/retail space and event center located in the heart of Fiorella Street.

Troy and Christi Griggs have several passions: At the top of the list are their kids, family, architecture/design and giving back. Both are UTSA graduates with degrees in the building and design fields.

With Troy being born and raised in Castroville and a part of the WR Griggs Construction family and Christi having been here since junior high, they have become rooted and interested in giving back and improving the community.

That is what made the redevelopment of 1201 Fiorella so exciting. It is born from all

of their passions. So, in putting together a family partnership (the Griggs, Gouard, Hans and Kinnett families) 1201 Fiorella was recreated by uniquely combining today's modern building requirements with the restoration of its historical significance.

The property was purchased in 2007 and restored/refurbished over a two year period. After nearly 20 years of being vacant, the building is now in full operation, housing Chateau Lafayette and Station Creek Windows and Doors on the bottom floor and an upstairs event center.

The building was originally built in 1860 and was the Kiefer Brewery. It was purchased by Philip Wernette, who operated it as a saloon and added the second floor to house a dance hall in 1907, becoming what was referred to as the Wernette Opera House. The property

was later purchased by Louis Tondre who, along with his sons, operated it for many years as a grocery, lumber and dry goods store.

The upstairs event center is ready to provide a beautiful, historic backdrop for your next wedding reception, retirement party, graduation party or other event. It can seat up to 160 people for dinner and can house 225. The building features a beautiful 2-story atrium and landscaped courtyard, an elevator and new restrooms.

The original red brick walls and renovated wood ceiling complement each other perfectly to make for a beautiful setting.

There is currently one retail space available for lease on the bottom floor of the building.

For more information or to book an event, you can call Christi Griggs at (210) 912-4324.